

Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Officials Association

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

To whom it may concern:

This letter is meant to address the current safety issues present at many different tournaments throughout the wrestling season. It is in everyone's best interest to maximize safety for the athletes during competition at each venue. There are many gymnasiums that do not meet the requirements to facilitate the proper mat size (including the protection area) as outlined in the CAWA rulebook. Many of the wrestling mats in use, across the province, do not have sufficient protection area. It then becomes vital for the safety of the athletes to ensure additional crash mats are securely taped or fastened to all areas of concern around the wrestling mat. Proper barricading should also be used to keep spectators off the mat surface (including the protection area). This is to ensure the safety of all spectators (small children) as well as the athletes competing. There are obvious liability issues, especially when the mat surface extends up a wall, or when the floor is only inches away from the edge of the mat. Our association would like to see improvements made when venues are being setup. It is important that we address these areas of concern before an incident arises. We as officials will assess the venue setup before each tournament and if it does not meet the standard of safety, for our own liability protection, tournaments will be delayed until these areas of concerns have been addressed.

Sincerely,

Ryan Forsberg (Pres.) & Josh Wiebe (V. Pres.)

on behalf of SAWOA.