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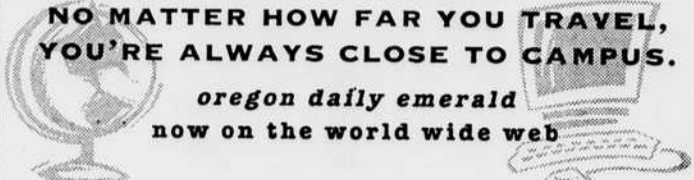


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## Rules: Home team benefits, Finley says

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rooms for dehydration.

Another NCAA rule that will only be in effect this season will be a seven-pound weight allowance added to weight classes, which already have a one-pound weight allowance.

This means, for example, that a wrestler who competes in the 134-pound weight class can weigh as much as 141 pounds. This was done, according to the NCAA, to keep wrestlers from switching classes and to allow them to compete without burning off pounds with the same severity as before.

In addition, wrestlers may only compete in weight classes that they competed on or before Jan. 7 of this year, and all weigh-ins will be held no more than two hours before a match.

A rule that Oregon's wrestlers are already familiar with.

On Friday, the No. 20 Ducks lost their first Pacific-10 Conference match of the season, and while the wrestlers thought the team was just mentally and physically exhausted before traveling to Corvallis, some did acknowledge the new weigh-in rule contributed to their disappointing finish.

"The rule certainly hit us hard," heavyweight Rich Polk-

*"Our feeling is that this is a positive change and that coaches feel this way as well."*

**Marty Benson**  
 NCAA Wrestling Rules Committee liaison

inghorn said. "It's hard to make a big change like that regarding weigh-ins in the middle of the week. I'm sure the new rule set us back a little bit. But I think that it's a positive step for the NCAA and the sport in the long run."

Also, the new rule will likely give home teams an advantage for the remainder of this season, said head coach Ron Finley.

"It will be interesting to see how the new rule works out," Finley said. "I'm pleased that the NCAA has taken this step, but I think there are going to be drawbacks this season."

The first drawback is that the late weigh-in doesn't give the traveling team much time to eat in the mornings prior to competition. And that, Finley said, can give home teams the advantage because their schedules are more concrete.

"This rule was something that needed to be done," Finley said. "It might only be a stop-gap ap-

proach, but it was needed to help wrestlers and the sport."

The second drawback is that wrestlers in the lighter weights have only two and three hours to replenish their bodies, where as middle and heavyweight wrestlers, those who compete at the end of dual matches, have more time to prepare for competition.

This puts more pressure on the lower weights to keep their weight consistent throughout the week.

"We aren't going to know much this season because wrestlers will just be trying to figure out what works and what doesn't," Polkinghorn said. "It'll be important for every wrestler to get the right amount of fluids, sugars and carbohydrates before each match."

The NCAA said the immediate concerns of the sport prompted the advisory committee to recommend the rule changes.

"Our feeling is that this is a positive change and that coaches feel this way as well," said Marty Benson, a playing rules liaison to the NCAA Wrestling Rules Committee. "Something needed to be done quickly to protect the sport and its athletes. The rules may not be as fair as they used to be, but I think the coaches feel, given the situation, they are."

## Men: No hard feelings about playing time

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**Team players**

Despite Oregon using its sixth different starting lineup of the season against Washington State, there is no sign of jealousy or resentment among the players about not getting enough playing time.

Nowhere is this more apparent than at the point-guard position. Mike McShane has been the starter in 14 of Oregon's 15 games this season. But against UCLA on Jan. 10, backup Yasir Rosemond played the majority of the minutes. On Saturday, Rosemond earned his first start of the year against the Cougars.

But late in the second half, Rosemond made some critical defensive mistakes that allowed Washington State to make two three-pointers to get within two points of the lead.

Kent sent McShane to the scorer's table to check into the game. But Rosemond hit a three-pointer to extend the Ducks' lead, and McShane turned to Kent and told his coach to leave Rosemond in.

"The word we created is called 'teamism,'" Kent said. "It's not in the dictionary, but that is what it's all about — for Mike to say 'Leave him coach.' We're coaches, and I'm going to listen to my players. That's the kind of relationship I want to have with them."

## Study: Universities must comply or face sanctions

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the NCAA Committee on Athletics Certification. Of those 120, 104 were put under the certified category, 15 were certified with conditions and one (Texas-Pan American) was not certified. Mike Marcil of the NCAA Compliance Services said last spring.

Should a university have certification problems, an emphasis is put on the university's plan to

correct the problem, Marcil said.

"We welcome this opportunity to demonstrate how athletics are woven into the fabric of the university," said University President Dave Frohnmayer in a released statement.

According to the NCAA's "Division I Athletics Certification Handbook," the purpose of the certification process is to "open the affairs of athletics to the university community," set stan-

dards for the operation of Division I athletics, put tough sanctions in place for institutions that fail to conduct a comprehensive self-study or to correct problems."

The NCAA will also study how the athletic department relates to the University's mission.

The self-studies, as of last spring, were to be completed by each member university every 10 years, Marcil said.

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