



WEST COAST SWISS WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

SCHWINGEN RULES UPDATE (MARCH 2025)

Purpose Statement for WCSWA Schwingen Rules Update March 2025

During Winter 2025 a subcommittee of all WCSWA clubs participated in a rules review for all WCSWA Schwingfests. The goal was to standardize the rules for every Schwingfest so that schwingers, judges, spectators and Swiss visitors know how the matches will be judged. The rules were also updated to include the current judging standards in Switzerland. This is a living document and will be reviewed at the end of each season.

At each Schwingfest following the initial pairing of wrestlers, the referee and scoring judges shall call all wrestlers into the wrestling ring for instructions. The following rules shall be reviewed with the wrestlers at that time.

Discretionary Scoring: A loss shall earn a score of 8.50 and a tie shall earn a score of 8.75. Discretion may be exercised by the two scoring judges plus the referee on each match and for each wrestler to award an extra 0.25 points for exceptional wrestling.

What is a 10?: If off a standing throw, 10 is awarded for a flat or a roll-through pin.

Judge Representation: Every club should nominate a list of potential judges to WCSWA including their contact information. Consider asking wrestlers participating from clubs/regions to be able to nominate a judge to represent their club/region.

Discretionary Pairings: Judges shall exercise discretion in pairing wrestlers for each round with equal points being a consideration but not mandatory.

Method of alerting wrestlers of 3-second vertical bridge count: Referee shall count out loud and use hand signals for crowd awareness.

Schwinghosen fit and pant legs rolled up: The referee shall check belt tension and tightness of pants for each match. A wrestler may ask the referee to check tension and fit of wrestler's pants at any stoppage of wrestling during a match.

Confirm loser of Schlussgang is assured a crown: The loser of a Schlussgang shall be assured of winning a crown.

Percentage of crowns awarded: The number of crowns awarded shall be at the discretion of the host club but should target 30% with the exception of when scores result in a tie with the score of the loser of the Schlussgang.

Time clock: The clock should be kept on the table and the time keeper should be sitting next to the announcer.

Wrestlers checking on scoring results: Wrestlers may view only their score at the end of each full round. Any complaining may result in a consensus of the judges issuing a 0.25 deduction to the wrestler's score.

Criteria for Calling Break at edge of platz while wrestling on the ground: The wrestlers shall be returned to the center of the ring when any part of a wrestler's torso, defined as from the belt of the Schwinghosen to the top of the head and from the shoulder- to-shoulder, passes outside of the wrestling ring.

What constitutes a pin: When 2/3rds of a wrestler's back is in contact with the sawdust, a pin shall be called.

When time is called mid-throw (Standing throw/wrestling on ground): For a pin to be called, the loser's shoulders must be in contact with the shavings when time is called. The timekeeper should count down audibly at the table with 5-4-3-2-1-Time (Time called on mic)

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Who makes the call away from the table or towards the table: The referee shall make the decision on a throw when the throw goes away from the table; the table makes the call when a throw is made towards the table. In the event a throw is made towards the table, the referee shall defer to the table. The table shall make the call timely and announce that call over the microphone.

Wrestler's "timeout" in the event of minor injury: In the event a wrestler is injured, the Judges may use their judgement to grant a "timeout" of any duration deemed appropriate to protect the health of the injured wrestler.

Scoring for wrestler when opponent Unfall occurs: In the event a wrestler is injured and unable to continue and no pin has occurred, the Judges will request a volunteer with approximately the same score to wrestle with the un-injured wrestler. That selected wrestler's score will count as their next round; If this occurs in the 6th round, a wrestler shall be selected to wrestle a 7th round and that wrestler shall receive an extra 0.25 point if they win.

Wrestlers who do not finish: Wrestlers who stop without injury are not eligible for prizes or money.

New wrestlers without normal 2-3 prior practices: Participation of new wrestlers, defined as having participated in less than 2 prior practices in their Swiss wrestling career, shall be a discretionary decision of the majority of the judges.

Timing for lunch break (what round): The decision to hold a break for lunch and the timing of said break is at the discretion of the host club. The duration of lunch break may also vary depending upon the needs of the club. Schwingers and judges should be allowed to proceed to the front of the food line.

If a wrestler "lays down" granting for their opponent, how is it scored: In the event the Judges deem that a wrestler has intentionally allowed themselves to be pinned, the Judges may award the winner an 8.75 and the loser an 8.50. Host clubs shall inform all wrestlers at the initial wrestler's instructions of this rule to promote good sportsmanship and competition on behalf of all wrestlers.

Rules Committee: Chair – Don Odermott

Committee: Don Odermott (Portland, Tillamook), Don Widmer (Ripon), Dom Reichmuth (Newark), George Morris (Imperial Valley), Urs Gwerder (Sierra), Joe Baur and Bob Holdener (Tacoma), Tony Odermott (San Diego), Patrick Richardson (Frances)

