

A Zero Tolerance Policy Against Poor Sportsmanship

By Ira Fleckman

There must be absolutely no tolerance for any behavior that can be remotely defined as unsportsmanlike. That includes any action by an athlete or coach that even suggests disapproval of a call made by an official, it includes facial expressions, mumbling

under one's breath and gestures made with the body, arms, hands or fingers. It includes celebrations after a victory and crying and whining after a defeat. The rules in each style of wrestling call for specific procedures prior to the competition and after the completion of each bout and

these procedures should be performed exactly as the rules describe without any modifications.

At the World Championships the vast majority of wrestlers behaved with the greatest sportsmanship. These matches were conducted at Madison Square