



## **UNIFIED RULES DEVIATIONS FOR REFEREES OFFICIATING YOUTH PANKRATION**

### **Understand age-based technique limitations.**

USFL utilizes a “sliding scale” of allowable techniques based on age. Referees should provide appropriate limitation instructions pre-bout.

### **Pre Bout handshake**

To facilitate respect and avoid potential awkward touching of gloves situations, referees should have both athletes exchange handshakes center mat under supervision just before starting the bout.

### **Have a good understanding of the point scoring system.**

Striking and Grappling Techniques earn specific points similar to BJJ/ Wrestling and Karate/ Taekwondo. Referees often rotate in as judges and should be just as knowledgeable in scoring.

### **Referees will need to make judgmental decisions when athletes are not attempting to score or submit and make appropriate stalling calls.**

Referees should give the command of “advance your position” prior to stand-up / re-start if stalling is perceived and award passivity points against the stalling athlete. Referees must also track when 3 properly executed ground strikes have been scored per position to trigger a similar warning to advance position.

**Referees should know when to halt the bout to evaluate an injury and/or summon doctor to help make stoppage call is necessary.** This prevents injured/ vulnerable athlete from being “finished off” while in distress and removes motivation to win via punishment.

**Referees must distinguish between a hard takedown from a slam.** Referee should also take preventative measures on elevated guard or submission attempts to prevent potential slams and other potentially dangerous situations.

**Referees must make the judgmental call to end the bout without tap-out.**

Referees allow appropriate reaction time to escape a submission but must also end the bout to prevent injury if an athlete does not tap.

**Referees must recognize and evaluate fouls.** All fouls including non-intentional fouls are punitive, intentional/ malicious fouls are disqualifying offenses and fouls where the actions of the “fouled” contributed to the action should have neutral consequences.

**Referees may pool other referees and judges.** To help make difficult calls such as disqualifications, the referee is permitted to pool ringside referees and judges on their perception on the action in question.

**Referees have the ability to issue “yellow or red cards”.** Understanding that youth sports must adhere to an enhanced code of conduct referees should enforce and help prevent athlete and coach conduct violations.