

## Unintended Consequences of Poor Rules

By Ira Fleckman

**T**his article may better be titled, "One Official Misrules." It may be the case that this author should stick to writing and not venture onto the mats to adjudicate matches and apply rules from the National Federation Rule Book or maybe it is the rules that are poorly written. Each reader can judge for himself.

The district tournament is the first step in the state tournament series and after a conference among the officials it was determined that every effort be made to eliminate penalties. At the weigh-ins the wrestlers were checked very carefully and instructed to cut their hair short in the back, clip their nails closely, shave and be sure that sideburns were not too long. They

were told to rid themselves of jewelry and rubber bands around their wrists to make certain that their underwear wasn't going to show below the hemline of their singlets. The head official took care to repeat these warnings to the coaches assembled at the seeding meeting and placed special emphases on the requirement to secure shoelaces properly.