

## 6.4 SAMPLE FOR A WRESTLING CHALLENGE CRITERIA

### **Head-to-Head**

Head-to-head competitions occur when two non-redshirting wrestlers compete against each other either in a tournament or a challenge match in the room. If one wrestler beats the other wrestler handily (i.e. by a major, technical fall, etc), only one head-to-head competition is necessary for the victor to secure a spot over his competitor. If the head-to-head competition is close (i.e. by decision or pin in a close match), the two wrestlers will have to wrestle again to see who earns the spot. The first wrestler to win two matches secures the spot. If the wrestler who loses his challenge match(es) is allowed to challenge again, he is considered down by one match; therefore, he will need to win two matches in a row to earn the spot.

### **Competitions**

How an athlete competes also plays an important role in who wrestles in the starting spot. If an athlete wrestles much better in competition than the starting wrestler in his weight class, the coaches might place this wrestler in the starting spot over the original starter, regardless of head-to-head competition between the two. For this to happen, there must be a clear difference in the tournament between how the two wrestlers compete (i.e. the starter goes 1-2 while the other goes 5-0). If there is no clear difference (i.e. the starter goes 1-2 while the other goes 2-2), the starter retains his position.

### **Coaching Staff's Discretion**

The coaches have the right to replace any starter as they see fit with another athlete, even if the decision is not based upon the two aforementioned categories. The goal of the coaches in creating a starting line-up that is best for the team; they have the final say in this matter. The right to challenge for a starting spot is a privilege, not a right so it must be earned. In addition to being the best wrestler at the weight, a wrestler must also have solid grades, be a good teammate, and conduct himself in a manner consistent with our team's mission, vision, and values.

### **Scheduling Challenge Matches**

If an athlete wishes to challenge another athlete for a starting spot, he must inform the coaches of his wishes. Challenge matches after the Intrasquad meet will be scheduled three or four times during the season. After informing the coaches, the athletes must wait for these "Challenge Periods" to challenge the starter.

If more than two athletes are in a given weight class, the athletes below the starter may have to compete before one of them can challenge the starter. Again, this is up to the coaching staff's discretion.