

Herpes Simplex Virus

Nature of Skin Infection

Your child/wrestler has been identified as possibly having an active oral Herpes simplex (cold sore) on or about his/her face/mouth that can not be adequately covered to ensure the safety of their opponent. The Herpes viruses are contagious. Contact may occur directly, or through contact with infected mats, razors, towels, dishes, and other shared articles. Once infected, the virus spreads to nerve cells and stays in the body for the rest of a person's life. It may intermittently reactivate and cause symptoms, or flares. Recurrences may be precipitated by overexposure to sunlight, fever, stress, acute illness, and medications or conditions that weaken the immune system. There have been multiple documented cases of permanent blindness from wrestling involving eye to cold sore contact. We have calculated the number of wrestlers who could come in contact with one infected individual through skin to skin or skin to mat contact at greater than 200 wrestlers for our State Finals. This potential for large scale infection is not worth the risk. In an effort to ensure all wrestlers' safety, the ISWA and its Sports Medicine Director have determined that individuals with active cold sores may not wrestle at ISWA State Finals events. If the lesion can be adequately covered and is not active, as determined by our trainer, the wrestler will be allowed to participate.

Example of Herpes Skin Infection

