



# Standard Specification for Competition Wrestling Mats<sup>1</sup>

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## 1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers competition wrestling mats used at the high school and college levels. All mat constructions are included, except felt-core mats enclosed in sewn covers. The intended use of this standard is for the qualification of construction designs.

NOTE 1—The known constructions, as of the issuance of this specification are: (1) closed-cell foam cores with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or PVC copolymer coatings, or both, which are integral parts of the mat; (2) closed-cell foam cores with attached fabric cover; (3) foam cores, either open- or closed-cell enclosed in sewn, loose covers, and (4) molded open-cell PVC foam with a dense skin on one surface which is an integral part of the mat.

NOTE 2—There is no known ISO equivalent to this standard.

1.2 This specification covers mats used in the two major styles of wrestling: U.S. collegiate or high school, and international free style.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use. See Note 6 for specific hazards statements.*

1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F08 on Sports Equipment, Playing Surfaces, and Facilities and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F08.12 on Gymnastics and Wrestling Equipment.

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## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>2</sup>

D412 Test Methods for Vulcanized Rubber and Thermoplastic Elastomers—Tension

D1056 Specification for Flexible Cellular Materials—Sponge or Expanded Rubber

D1682 Test Method for Breaking Load and Elongation of Textile Fabric (Withdrawn 1992)<sup>3</sup>

F355 Test Method for Impact Attenuation of Playing Surface Systems, Other Protective Sport Systems, and Materials Used for Athletics, Recreation and Play

2.2 National Collegiate Athletic Association Document:<sup>4</sup>  
NCAA Official Wrestling Rules

2.3 U.S. Wrestling Federation Document:<sup>5</sup>  
International Wrestling Rules, Freestyle, and Greco-Roman

2.4 National Federation of State High School Associations Document:<sup>6</sup>  
Official High School Wrestling Rules

## 3. Terminology

### 3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *coating*—Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or PVC copolymer, or both, or other suitable polymeric materials.

3.1.2 *cure*—Evaporation of solvents from coating and coated foam mats only.

## 4. Classification

4.1 Classify mats in accordance with the style of wrestling being performed.

4.2 The classifications are:

<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

<sup>3</sup> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

<sup>4</sup> NCAA, Shawnee Mission, KN 66222.

<sup>5</sup> US Wrestling Federation, 405 West Hall of Fame Ave., Stillwater, OK 74074.

<sup>6</sup> National Federation of State High School Associations, P.O. Box 20626, Kansas City, MO 64195.

- 4.2.1 *Type I*—U.S. collegiate or high school style wrestling.  
 4.2.2 *Type II*—International free style wrestling.

7.3 Mats of the coating/foam construction shall not be used if any areas of the coating are missing. (**Warning**—Areas of mats of coating/foam construction having missing coating are considered health hazards.)

NOTE 5—Mats should be cleaned and sanitized daily, or after each use, as recommended by the manufacturer.

## 5. Significance and Use

5.1 The mats shall be constructed to yield the values listed in **Table 1** throughout the mat area under the conditions of the manufacturer’s warranty.

5.2 Special requirements for the mats shall be subject to purchase agreements. Special requirements shall never reduce any of the basic requirements listed in this standard.

5.3 Good manufacturing practices shall be used in the construction and inspection of the mats.

## 6. Performance Requirements

6.1 The requirements listed in this section and in **Table 1** are minimal for new and reconditioned mats.

### 6.2 Shock Absorption:

6.2.1 Determine the shock absorption properties of the mats in accordance with Procedure A of Test Method **F355**.

6.2.2 The maximum  $g_{max}$  values for the mats shall be as listed in **Table 1**.

NOTE 3—Under the specified test conditions (that is, missile size, impact velocity, etc.), lower  $g_{max}$  values indicate better shock-absorbing properties.

6.2.3 Replace or recondition the mats when the  $g_{max}$  in the visibly deteriorated areas exceed the values listed in **Table 1**.

### 6.3 Thickness:

6.3.1 The thickness of the new or reconditioned mat shall be sufficient to provide the shock-absorption properties listed in **Table 1**, but never less than the minimum values in **Table 1**.

6.3.2 Replace or recondition the mats when the thickness in the visibly deteriorated areas falls below the values listed in **Table 1**, or fails to provide the necessary shock absorption. It is strongly recommended that the mat owner test the mat periodically to determine when to replace or recondition a mat.

NOTE 4—Contact the manufacturer if help is needed in testing the mat.

6.4 The surfaces shall be smooth and free of step-offs or depression greater than  $\frac{1}{16}$  in. (1.6 mm).

## 7. General Requirements

7.1 Competition wrestling mats normally are produced in sections which are assembled prior to use. These sections shall be fastened securely together, using an adhesive coated tape or other means, to prevent their becoming separated during use.

7.2 A mat shall have a maximum of 20 sections, unless otherwise specified.

## 8. Dimensions

8.1 The mats shall meet the requirements for minimal dimensions and markings given in the rules of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the U.S. Wrestling Federation, and the National Federation of State High School Associations.

8.2 The length and width dimensions of the mats shall be as given in the appropriate rule book.

## 9. Workmanship, Finish, and Appearance

9.1 The mats shall be made using manufacturing procedures which ensure that the bonds between the strips or sections, or coating, or all three, are complete and secure.

NOTE 6—The finish shall be uniform in color for each color used normally with a semi-glossy finish for the coatings.

9.2 On mats with sewn covers, the cover may be loose (that is, not adhered to the foam), but should have no wrinkles or seams exposed that will injure the wrestlers or cause them to trip.

9.3 Sectional mats shall have sections that fit together securely, so they do not separate in use, with maximum step-offs between sections of  $\frac{1}{16}$  in. (1.6 mm) for new mats.

## 10. Specimen Preparation

10.1 The test specimens may be a finished mat, a section cut from a finished mat, or a smaller sample made at the same time and with the same construction and materials as the mat.

10.2 Coated mats must be aged to “cure” the mats before testing. This is necessary to ensure the evaporation of solvents from the coating and foam core. (**Warning**—Unreliable data will result from mats containing solvents.)

NOTE 7—Curing is affected by environmental factors.

10.2.1 The length of the “curing” time will vary and should be determined by consultation with the mat manufacturer.

10.2.2 This “curing” time is in addition to the environmental conditioning prior to testing.

## 11. Test Methods

11.1 Conduct the tests at a temperature of  $73.4 \pm 3.6^\circ\text{F}$  ( $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ) and  $50 \pm 5\%$  relative humidity, unless otherwise specified.

11.2 The shock absorption properties of the mats shall be determined using Test Method **F355** with the following conditions:

11.2.1 Procedure A, cylindrical missile.

11.2.2 Impact velocities of  $167 \pm 8.6$  in./s ( $423 \pm 22$  cm/s).

NOTE 8—Impact velocity, rather than a drop height, is specified to eliminate the problem of friction on the guide rails of the missile. Minor amounts of friction can be overcome by simply increasing the drop height.

**TABLE 1 Performance and Physical Property Values for Wrestling Mats**

Property	Section	Test Method	New	Reconditioned	Used-Rejection Level
$G_{max}$ at $167 \pm 8.6$ in./s ( $423 \pm 22$ cm/s), max	13.2	<b>F355</b>	100	100	...
Thickness, in. (mm), min	13.3	<b>D1056</b>	25 (1.00)	25 (1.00)	20 (0.80)