



UNITED WORLD
WRESTLING

REGULATIONS FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL REFEREEING BODY





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CHAPTER 1 - OBJECT

Article 1 - Introduction

These Regulations have as their aim to determine:

- conditions of attribution of the title of international referee
- rights, duties and positions of the international referee
- categories and zone of competence of the international referee
- methods of assessment of improvement of the international referee

They lay down the statute of the body of international refereeing and the obligations which result from it for the people concerned and their National Federations as well as for United World Wrestling. It defines the conditions of use of the refereeing body during Championships and competitions organised by or under the control of United World Wrestling.

CHAPTER 2 - ATTRIBUTION OF THE TITLE - CONDITIONS

Article 2 - Competent authority

United World Wrestling is the only qualified body which can give the title of international referee for the sport of wrestling and can issue referees' licences and badges.

Article 3 - Candidature

Only national referees who possess the highest qualification laid down in the Regulations of their National Federation and who have their country's nationality can be presented as candidates for the international examination by their National Federation.

Article 4 - Preliminary conditions

Any candidate for the title of international referee must be an individual who have followed and passed a training course in his own country during which he must have covered all the significant matters in the international referee examination programme. Candidates needs to be at least 18 years old. He can be maximum 40 years of age in the calendar year in which he applies for the course. He must have a basic knowledge and communication skills in either English or French language. A referee who has not a sufficient knowledge in English or French will not be selected.

Article 5 - Conditions of attribution

The title of international referee can be awarded to any candidate who has fulfilled conditions from articles above and who has followed a special training course organised by United World Wrestling, who has satisfied the tests which follow and has satisfactorily refereed an official competition.



Article 6 - Exam

The examining panel for the examination outlined in article 5 is composed of United World Wrestling nominated instructors. The exam consists of:

- a. an oral test on basic fluency in English or French
- b. a written test, consisting of:
 - i. theoretical questions relating to the technical wrestling Regulations
 - ii. pairing tables test
 - iii. test on video examples
- c. a practical test: judgement and refereeing of matches on the mat during an official international competition

Any candidate for the title of referee needs to have a referee license of the current year.

Article 7 - Nomination

The examination candidate having successfully refereed an official competition will be awarded the title of category III referee.

It is however specified that a wrestler or an active trainer cannot be allowed to pass an international referee examination during a competition in which he or she is participating.

CHAPTER 3 - RIGHTS, DUTIES AND POSITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL REFEREE

Article 8 - Rights

The duly accredited United World Wrestling international referee who meets the requirements of the various Regulations, has the right:

- a. to wear the United World Wrestling badge and the regulatory emblem on his uniform
- b. to be nominated by United World Wrestling to referee international competitions
- c. to be nominated United World Wrestling to act as mat chairman, instructor
- d. to be promoted to a higher category, depending on his competence, at the time of the training courses organised for this purpose by United World Wrestling
- e. to receive personally, decorations, diplomas, badges, medals, golden whistle etc.
- f. to receive from event organisers, when he is assigned as neutral referee assigned by United World Wrestling, the reimbursement of accommodation and travelling expenses and to receive an allowance per day for representation expenses (refer to Financial Regulations) for the duration of the competition, plus two days before the competition and one day after the competition, in a convertible currency. However, this provision is not applicable to the Olympic Games and other Games.
- g. to open procedures outlined in the United World Wrestling Disciplinary Regulations in case of dispute he is involved (serious infringement noticed in exercising his/her duties).



h. Waiver request:

- a. In case of pregnancy, Women referees can request a two-year maximum waiver.
- b. Any referee can request a one-year waiver in specific cases.

Such requests need to be made by the National Federation of the referee in question and must be approved by the United World Wrestling Refereeing Commission.

Article 9 - Duties

When working as such, international referees do not represent their country, but are only United World Wrestling nominated referees.

In addition to his duties and being the subject of the provisions applicable to the function of referee as defined in the International Rules of Wrestling, the international referee must:

- a. always be able to present his/her license, validated for the current year
- b. wear the UWW homologated Uniform
- c. permanently be available to the qualified officials and the mat chairman for the duration of the competition
- d. carry out the tasks which he is given in the pure spirit of justice and impartiality, and demand the integral compliance with the International Rules of Wrestling
- e. lead the national competitions of his Federation and also work as referee at these competitions
- f. be available as often as possible as referee for international competitions he is capable of refereeing
- g. Respect all the conditions and obligations written in the International Wrestling Rules (Article 19, 20 and 21) for the Referee, Mat Chairman and Judge.

Article 10 - Permanent ending of function

Besides death, the function of international referee ceases irremediably and the title is withdrawn in the following cases:

- when the referee reaches 60 years of age (note: age limit for Instructors is set to 65 years of age) By example, a referee who is born in 1960 stopped his career the 31st of December 2020
- resignation of the interested party
- removal from the official list of international referees following the provisions of the United World Wrestling Disciplinary Regulations being applied
- removal of the interested party by his National Federation (note: the Instructors are nominated by United World Wrestling. They are therefore independent from their National Federations and their term ends upon the decision of United World Wrestling)

Article 11 - Temporary suspension of function - consequences

The international referee who voluntarily ceases his activity or has been removed from the list of referees by his National Federation and who wishes to referee again must pass the examination mentioned in articles 5 and 6 above in order to be able to get back his international category and thus benefit of the corresponding rights.

If a category III referee doesn't participate in at least one International Tournament during a period of two consecutive years he will lose his International Category.



Article 12 - Honorary membership

The international referee who participated in 4 Senior World Championships or once in the Olympic Games and who is willing to cease his refereeing activity has the possibility of receiving, at the suggestion of his National Federation or of the United World Wrestling Refereeing Commission, the honorary title of honorary referee, giving him the right to an honorary referee card.

On presentation of its card, he will have free access to all the competitions organised under United World Wrestling's control (except the Olympic Games and all other Games).

Article 13 - Particular positions of the international referee

Notwithstanding article 10 above, the title of international referee can be withdrawn on a provisional basis and be temporarily removed from the official list of international referees, in the cases outlined in the United World Wrestling Disciplinary Regulations or if the international referee has not settled his annual licence fee for more than two consecutive years.

The international referee whose licence is not validated for the current year will not be able to referee.

IS category international referee will be demoted to the lower category if he does not take part in minimum two control competitions organized by and under United World Wrestling's control during the calendar year. The category I S referee will have to participate in at least two of the following competitions: the Senior Continental Championship of his own Continent (Mandatory), World Cups, Cadet, Junior or U23 World Championships otherwise he will be downgraded to a lower category. For Senior World Championship, IS referees will be selected.

Category I referee must take part (minimum) either two international tournaments or one of the following championships : Cadet, Junior, U23, Senior Continental and World Championships (except Europe and World Senior) organized by and under United World Wrestling's control during the calendar year otherwise he will be downgraded to a lower category.

Category II referee have the obligation to participation in at least one International Tournament organized by and under United World Wrestling's control during the calendar year otherwise he will be downgraded.

Category III referee have the obligation to participate in at least one International Tournament in calendar year. If he doesn't participate in any International Events during two-year period, he will lose his International Category and will be removed from the International Referee list.

The International referee whose refereeing activity is recognised as insufficient or as unsatisfactory is demoted by one category at the suggestion of the Refereeing Commission and by decision of the United World Wrestling Executive Committee.

A Category IS referee can't be a National Coach.

The referees who were demoted to a lower category needs to work minimum one year in the present category before attending the corresponding promotion examination.



CHAPTER 4 - CATEGORIES - CONDITIONS OF OBTENTION AND ZONE OF COMPETENCE

Article 14 - Classification

Following the suggestion made by the Refereeing Commission, international referees are classified, by decision of the United World Wrestling Executive Committee, in the categories indicated hereafter, in descending order:

- a. Category IS referee
- b. Category I referee
- c. Category II referee
- d. Category III referee

Article 15 - Conditions for obtaining categories

a) Candidate Course

The national referee who wishes to obtain the title of international referee must fulfil the conditions described in Article 4 and 5 of these Regulations, attend a level I course and successfully pass the exam (described in Article 6 of these Regulations).

b) Promotion course

The international referee who wishes to be promoted by one category must attend a course especially set up for this purpose by United World Wrestling (level II, III and IV) during competitions and pass the exam.

The referees who were demoted to a lower category needs to work minimum one year in the present category before trying to be promoted again.

c) Control courses

International referees can remain in their category, after decision of the Executive Committee, depending on the marks awarded by the Refereeing Commission during competitions in which they referee. On the basis of the same criteria, they can be demoted.

d) Selection course for Olympic Games

A specific Qualification pathway will be prepared for the referee selection for the Olympic Games.

Article 16 - Zones of competence

The international referee is qualified to referee according to his category:

- a) **category IS** all competitions under United World Wrestling's control: Olympic Games*, World Championships and Cups, Continental Championships and Cups, Regional Games and Continental Games (all age groups) and all International Tournaments.
- b) **category I** all the competitions under the United World Wrestling's control except Olympic Games, European Games, Senior European Championship and Senior World Championship.
Exceptions can be only made by United World Wrestling



- c) **category II** all the international tournaments under the United World Wrestling's control except for the Olympic Games, World Championships and Cups (all age groups) and Continental Championships (all age groups). However they will be authorised to referee at these competitions if a promotion course to category I is organised or if it is specifically stated in the Competition Regulations.
- d) **category III** all the international tournaments under the United World Wrestling's control except for the Olympic Games, World Championships and Cups (all age groups) and Continental Championships (all age groups). However they will be authorised to referee at these competitions if a promotion course to category II is organised or if it is specifically stated in the Competition Regulations.

* For the Olympic Games, the category IS referees will be selected according to the evaluation received and on the basis of a quota fixed by United World Wrestling on the occasion of a specific exam.

Article 17 - Means of nominating referees

Any National Federation remains free to choose in the list of its qualified referees the candidate of its choice for Championships and competitions, subject to satisfying imperatively the nature of the competition: article 16 above must be followed, as must the requirements of the Regulations for International Championships and Competitions which lay down the number of referees of one country who can be presented.

At the Olympic Games and Senior World Championship, only referees who are on the list drawn up by the United World Wrestling can work.

Any National Federation willing to invite a referee from another country to attend a national or international competition organised by the said Federation, must seek approval from the UWW Refereeing Commission prior to the event. Any referee attending such event without approval will be subject to disciplinary actions.

Article 18 - Limitations on the participating number of referees

During official United World Wrestling events, there are limitations on the number of referees from one country allowed to participate at the competition. These limitations differ for various levels of competitions, as follows;

- For the Olympic, Continental Games and Senior World Championships, only the referees on the list drawn and approved by United World Wrestling are allowed to participate
- For the U23, Junior, Cadet and Veteran World Championships and Senior European Championships a maximum of 1 referee per mat and per country can participate. For the other Continental Championships and Senior World Cups a maximum of 2 referees per mat from the same country can participate, provided that they satisfy the conditions laid down in Article 16.
- For all Level I - Level V official referee courses see the table in APPENDIX - LEVEL OF COURSES FOR REFEREES for detailed explanation of maximum number of referees allowed to participate. Only the host country organizing Level I - II - III refereeing course is excluded from this limitation providing that they satisfy the conditions laid down in Article 16.
- For all other United World Wrestling International tournaments and competitions maximum of three referees per mat from same country can participate. Only the host country organizing this type of competition is excluded from this limitation.



Article 19 - International obligations

Although the National Federations remain entirely responsible for their referees who have acquired the international qualification, the composition of the refereeing body planned for the various competitions organised by or under the control of United World Wrestling must meet the following requirements:

- a. In international tournaments where there are three countries or more participating, in addition to the competent referees of participating countries as is mentioned above in article 16, a neutral referee who will work as coordinator and mat chairman, must obligatorily be nominated by United World Wrestling.
- b. If the organiser does not register in the United World Wrestling calendar a competition which is under the United World Wrestling's responsibility and if he does not inform United World Wrestling of its organisation in due time, the organising Federation will be sanctioned as provided in the United World Wrestling General Regulations for International Championships and Competitions, the United World Wrestling Disciplinary Regulations and United World Wrestling Financial Regulations. In addition, the international referees who have accepted to referee the competition will be sanctioned as stipulated in the Regulations in force.
- c. Concerning a match between two nations, United World Wrestling will not delegate a referee, unless the Federations concerned ask for one.
- d. The United World Wrestling nominated referee must provide the competition report for the competition which he referees, within 2 days after the competition by email at the United World Wrestling Headquarters (sports@unitedworldwrestling.org).
- e. The United World Wrestling nominated referees are designated at the beginning of each year by United World Wrestling. However, for international tournaments which do not appear on the calendar, the organisers must ask United World Wrestling to designate referees mentioned in paragraphs a) and b) above, at least three months before the tournament in question. This request must be presented in writing to the United World Wrestling Secretariat. The time limit is reduced to two months if there are just two countries participating (paragraph c), above.
- f. The United World Wrestling nominated referees, when no Technical Delegates are assigned, must control that all participants have a valid licence in order to be able to compete.
- g. The organising federation of international tournaments which are covered by this article and which does not register his international tournaments to the United World Wrestling Calendar will be liable to sanctions as laid down in the Disciplinary Regulations because United World Wrestling won't be able to assign a Neutral referee for this event.
- h. The assigned referee must make sure that the organizer send the results to United World Wrestling by e-mail - address: sports@unitedworldwrestling.org at the end of each session in order to be able to include them immediately in United World Wrestling site as well as the program and the match list for the following day in advance. Moreover, the referee delegate needs to send the complete results to United World Wrestling in the three days which follow the end of the competition.



CHAPTER 5 - REFERENCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL REFEREES

Article 20 - Reference

For reference purposes, United World Wrestling keeps a record of the international referees and the evaluation they received. Referees are filed according to their activity and their competence. This facilitates application of the provisions of articles 10 and 13 above.

Article 21 - Means of control

For the Olympic Games, World and Continental Championships, World and Continental Cups, a reference system has been drawn up and which comprises members of United World Wrestling Bureau and the Refereeing Commission.

International referees who take part in events and competitions organised by their National Federation, under United World Wrestling's control, are examined and evaluated during the events by the designated persons or, depending on the nature of the competition, by the United World Wrestling designated referees (as mentioned above in article 19).

The evaluation and comments are recorded by United World Wrestling and are used to establish the annual classification of international referees.

Article 22 - Consequences of the technical control

The international referee who is the subject of a complaint for infringement of the officiating rules of wrestling will receive a warning if the complaint is recognised as justified by the competent authority. If the offence is repeated, the referee will be demoted to a lower category. However, if the offence is serious, the referee could be suspended for the duration of the competition or be immediately demoted by the Executive Committee.

The international referee who makes an unjust decision under pressure or in agreement with someone, and who is thereby covered by the provisions of the United World Wrestling Disciplinary Regulations will be disqualified and excluded for life.

Suspension can be imposed during the competition in which the offences were noted.

The final sanction will be the subject of a decision by United World Wrestling Bureau on the basis of the results of an ordered investigation.

Article 23 - Improvement, courses and examination

National Federations must attach particular importance to national training courses as a means of improvement. Bearing in mind provisions of article 15 above, an international referee will be examined for his improvement and for possible promotion to a higher category during special examinations run by United World Wrestling during competitions indicated for this purpose in the international calendar.

The international referees' exam must take place without regard to the category of the referees concerned and is governed United World Wrestling Refereeing Commission.

It is organised at the same time as an international competition.



It must be preceded by theoretical training in order to standardise the refereeing.

The National Federations which enter candidates for the course must ensure they have entered enough international referees of the correct level to referee the competition concerned. As far as possible, such training courses will take place on the different continents.

Article 24 - Information during major competitions

Independently of the provisions laid down in article 23 above, in order to obtain the most homogenous refereeing body at major competitions such as the Olympic Games, World Championships and Cups, Continental Games and Championships, a training course for participating referees will obligatorily take place run by the instructors appointed by the Refereeing Commission.

For all major events, the UWW referee assignment software has to be used with ARENA. In case of the use of another service provider for the results (during Games or Multi-sport events), a similar software has to be developed to fulfil this task.

In addition, each day, the person in charge for the refereeing body at the competition will convene the referees, the judges and the mat chairmen to make an analysis of any litigious points which may have occurred.

In addition to the reminder of major refereeing rules, video films on delicate refereeing situations will be showed and the referees will be questioned on their interpretation of these situations.

It is reminded that the referee, mat chairman and judge cannot be of the same nationality as the competing wrestlers.

CHAPTER 6 - OTHER PROVISIONS

Article 25 - Penalties against the Refereeing Body

The UWW Bureau, which constitutes the supreme jury, shall collectively have the right to take the following disciplinary measures against the member(s) of the refereeing body technically at fault, upon report by the competition delegates:

- Warning
To be given if the referee:
 - disregards the official schedule
 - acts disruptively
 - harms other referees or any personnel
 - performs poorly on the mat (insufficient knowledge of rules, lack of concentration etc.)
 - is present in areas of the venue where he is not allowed to be
- Suspension from one or more of the competition's sessions
To be pronounced if the referee:
 - repeatedly acts as described above
 - makes during a bout several mistakes that must be subsequently corrected by other members of the refereeing body
 - criticizes the decisions of other officiating referees
 - applies inappropriately the weigh-in procedure



- Suspension from the competition
To be pronounced if the referee:
 - repeatedly acts as described above
 - makes mistakes that directly influence the outcome of a bout
 - acts contrary to fair play and the UWW Disciplinary regulations
 - is strongly suspected to have intentionally acted as to manipulate the result of a bout (disciplinary steps should be taken immediately)
 - adversely affects the prestige and spirit of refereeing
 - shows in his behaviour or speech disrespect against the decisions of authorized persons
 - misinforms third parties about refereeing decisions

Other sanctions as decided by the UWW Disciplinary Chamber may apply depending on the seriousness of the fault.

Article 26 - Rewards for the Refereeing Body

a) Objective

Considering as an essential elements to all wrestling competitions, the neutral referees must acquire more and more knowledge, be honest and blameless.

In order to stimulate the work and the development of the international refereeing body, United World Wrestling sets up a system reward.

This system, while being educational instruments, will annually reward those who will be the best in the world in their particular field.

b) Nature of the reward

On the occasion of each Senior World Championship or Olympic Games, will be awarded:

- Maximum 3 gold whistles per year, based on the performance.

This award will be given at the World Championship or the Olympic Games, as it is the last major event of the year.

Article 27 - Scope of regulations

International referees depend on the Financial Regulations with regard to their financial obligations and on the Disciplinary Regulations with regard to sanctions and penalties.

Article 28 - Distinctive insignia

International referees in all categories have a special insignia.

Article 29 - Field of application

The provisions of these Regulations apply to all the international referees and to all the affiliated National Federations.

It is recommended that the National Federations follow the spirit of these Regulations so that their referees offer quality refereeing which conforms to the United World Wrestling Rules and Regulations.



Article 30 - Miscellaneous

In the event of a question concerning the interpretation of any of the articles in these Regulations, only the United World Wrestling Bureau is qualified to interpret them. In addition, the same Bureau has the right, with a view to the Constitution, to make any changes it deems necessary in order to improve the smooth running of international refereeing.

APPENDIX - TYPES OF COURSES FOR REFEREES

Level	Description of the course	Referees authorised to participate	Duration (in days)
I	promotion from National to Category III	Max 2 referees per country and per mat	2
II	promotion from category III to category II	Max 2 referees per country and per mat	1
III	promotion from category II to category I	Max 2 referees per country and per mat	2
IV	annual control for category I and promotion to category IS	According to Article 18 above	1
V	annual control for category IS and selection course for Olympic Games	According to Article 18 above	1



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