



UNITED WORLD
WRESTLING

CHANGE OF NATIONALITY REGULATIONS



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Version October 2024

Introduction

Any wrestler¹ in a United World Wrestling (hereinafter “UWW”) sanctioned event must be a national of the country of the National Federation which is entering such wrestler.

All matters relating to the determination of the country which a wrestler may represent in a UWW sanctioned event shall be resolved by the UWW Bureau.

Article 1 - General principles

In order to participate in a competition in the UWW calendar, a wrestler must hold the international athlete’s license issued by UWW and valid for the current year.

This license determines the wrestler’s nationality and thus the country he/she represents in international competitions.

A wrestler has the possibility to change his nationality once during his career whatever the age and the wrestling style. In such case, and unless stated otherwise in the present rules, the new nationality is granted definitively and the wrestler who has changed his nationality may not return to his previous nationality.

Article 2 - Scope of application

The provisions laid down in the present rules apply to wrestlers in all age categories and to all types of competitions under the authority of UWW (international tournaments, Ranking Series events, continental championships and cups, world championships and cups), save exceptions provided in these rules.

For Olympic Games and Olympic games qualifying tournaments, the rules of the Olympic Charter apply.

For competitions under the authority of major events organizations (Continental Games, Multisport Games, or other and qualifying tournaments for these competitions), the rules of the organizer apply.

The present rules apply to all wrestling styles administered under the authority of UWW.

The principles described in these rules do not apply to international transfers of wrestlers between clubs for interclub competition for which an authorization is granted temporarily by UWW or a continental council, without change of nationality.

Article 3 - Limitation of the number of nationality changes

In order to prevent any abuse, a country may receive only one foreign wrestler who applies for a change of nationality per gender per year across all age categories.

¹ The male pronoun is used for brevity in these rules but applies equally to wrestlers of all genders.

Article 4 - Procedure to obtain a new nationality

1. A wrestler who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may represent either one of them, as he may elect. However, after having represented one country in a competition under the authority of UWW as defined in article 2, or in Olympic, Continental or Regional Games, a wrestler may not represent another country unless he meets the conditions set forth in paragraph 2 below that apply to persons who have changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality.
2. A wrestler who has represented one country in any competition under the authority of UWW as defined in article 2, or in Olympic, Continental or Regional games, and who has changed his nationality or acquired a new nationality, may participate in any competition under the authority of UWW to represent his new country provided that at least three (3) years have passed since the wrestler last represented his former country in Continental or World Championships, Ranking Series, Cups, or in Olympic, Continental or Regional Games.

This period may be reduced or even cancelled, with the agreement of the National Federations concerned, by the UWW Bureau, which takes into account the circumstances of each case.

3. If an associated State, province or overseas department, a country or colony acquires independence, if a country becomes incorporated within another country by reason of a change of border, if a country merges with another country, or if a new National Federation is recognised by UWW, a wrestler may continue to represent the country to which he belongs or belonged. However, he may, if he prefers, elect to represent his country or be entered in a competition under the authority of UWW by his new National Federation if one exists. This particular choice may be made only once.
4. Furthermore, in all cases in which a wrestler would be eligible to participate in a competition under the authority of UWW, either by representing another country than his or by having the choice as to the country which such wrestler intends to represent, UWW Bureau may take all decisions of a general or individual nature with regard to issues resulting from nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of any wrestler, including the duration of any waiting period.
5. A wrestler who wishes to change his nationality shall send a request in writing, through his national federation, to UWW in the period between the 1st of October to the 20th of December. No change of nationality will be granted by United World Wrestling outside this period.

Notwithstanding the conditions listed hereunder, the authorization for the change of nationality will be effective from 1 January of the following year.

6. The applicant's Federation shall provide the following documents (together with an official translation in French or English):
 - a) Official attestation by the left federation (signed by its president, on a letter with official header and seal) agreeing with the applicant's change of nationality.
 - b) Official attestation by the host federation (signed by its president, on a letter with official header and seal) agreeing with the applicant's change of nationality.
 - c) Copy of the wrestler's original passport (corresponding to the nationality waived by the wrestler).
 - d) Copy of wrestler's new passport for which he/she applies for the nationality.

- e) Proof of payment to UWW of the fee for the change of nationality set accordingly with article 5 of these rules.
 - f) A parental authorization for minors (under 18 years old).
7. UWW's authorization for the change of nationality shall be sent to the host federation with copy to the left federation.
 8. UWW has 90 days to fulfill these procedures since the date it has received the complete request process.

Article 5 - Training compensation

When an application for a change of nationality is submitted by any wrestler referred in the scale hereunder, the left federation may ask for a training compensation to the host federation according to it. It must obligatorily inform United World Wrestling when such a compensation is requested.

This compensation may only be requested for wrestlers in the U17, U20, U23 and Senior age category at the time of the application. A wrestler who has been granted a change of nationality in the Veterans category may only compete in this age category. Should he participate in a senior event, the compensation will be due and all other rules applicable to a change of nationality as a senior wrestler (including quotas for nationality changes) will be enforced.

To determine the compensation, all results obtained in all age categories will be taken into account.

Whether a training compensation has been requested or not according to paragraph 1 of the present article, 10% of the compensation amount calculated according to the scale here below will be automatically invoiced by United World Wrestling to the host federation. A minimum fee of 10'000.- Swiss Francs will be due to UWW.

Scale (only best result considered):

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|---|------------------------|
| • Olympic & Senior World gold medalist | Swiss Francs 300'000.- |
| • Olympic & Senior World silver or bronze medalist | Swiss Francs 200'000.- |
| • Senior Continental championship gold medalist | Swiss Francs 100'000.- |
| • Senior Continental championship silver or bronze medalist | Swiss Francs 50'000.- |
| • U23 World gold medalist | Swiss Francs 300'000.- |
| • U23 World silver or bronze medalist | Swiss Francs 200'000.- |
| • U23 Continental championship gold medalist | Swiss Francs 100'000.- |
| • U23 Continental championship silver or bronze medalist | Swiss Francs 50'000.- |
| • U20 World gold medalist | Swiss Francs 210'000.- |
| • U20 World silver or bronze medalist | Swiss Francs 140'000.- |
| • U20 Continental championship gold medalist | Swiss Francs 70'000.- |
| • U20 Continental championship silver or bronze medalist | Swiss Francs 35'000.- |
| • U17 World gold medalist | Swiss Francs 150'000.- |
| • U17 World silver or bronze medalist | Swiss Francs 100'000.- |
| • U17 Continental championship gold medalist | Swiss Francs 50'000.- |
| • U17 Continental championship silver or bronze medalist | Swiss Francs 25'000.- |
| • Senior, U23, U20 or U17 World Team member for another NF | Swiss Francs 25'000.- |

- Senior, U23, U20 or U17 Continental Team member for another NF Swiss Francs 20'000.-
- International license for another NF Swiss Francs 15'000.-
- National license² for another NF (minimum of 3 years of the past 5) Swiss Francs 10'000.-

Article 6 - Dual nationality

Any wrestler with dual nationality may obtain the international license for only one nationality.

If the wrestler chooses to represent a different nationality from the one he held a national license² for a minimum of three (3) years of the past five (5), he must present a valid and recognized proof of residence of the country which nationality he chose to represent, or proof that he had such nationality at birth or before ten (10) years of age.

In case the wrestler is not able to produce these proofs, it shall be considered as a change of nationality and the present rules shall be applied strictly. If such proofs are produced, it shall not be considered in the quota of nationality changes, however the federation of origin is entitled to a training compensation according to the scale above.

If the wrestler never held a national license for minimum of three (3) years of the past five (5), it shall not be considered as a change of nationality and thus, shall have no effect on the quotas described under article 3, on the possibility for a future change of nationality or on any other prescription provided in these rules. UWW shall validate the licence as soon as the above proofs are produced.

For wrestlers of 13 and 14 years old, with dual nationality, only the new passport and a proof of residence shall be presented (no authorization from the left federation, no compensation).

Article 7 - Expiry of the contract with the former federation

Any binding contract between a wrestler and his federation of origin is deemed terminated by the signing by its president of the federation's official attestation as provided by article 4, letter a here above.

In case the federation of origin is opposed for any reason to a wrestler's or referee's change of sports nationality (to be confirmed in writing), the change will still be granted if, or until after a period of three (3) years since the last participation in any international competition as defined in article 2 (excluding international tournaments) has elapsed. In such case, the training compensation fee and the fee to UWW will be due.

Article 8 - Participation in competition

1. In order to prevent any abuse, for the years 2025 and 2026, a country may only participate in a competition under the authority of UWW, such as Continental or World Championships, with a maximum of two (2) wrestlers who changed their nationality, providing they enter at least the same number of wrestlers who did not change their nationality, per style, per age category and per event.
2. In order to prevent any abuse, for the years 2027 and 2028, a country may only participate in a competition under the authority of UWW, such as Continental or World Championships, with a

² Or any official equivalent system. In case a National Federation does not have a licensing system, the participation by the athlete in three competitions sanctioned by another NF in the past 5 years shall be considered as equivalent.

maximum of two (2) wrestlers who changed their nationality, providing they enter at least two (2) times the number of wrestlers who did not change their nationality, per style, per age category and per event.

3. In order to prevent any abuse, for the year 2029 and following years, a country may only participate in a competition under the authority of UWW, such as Continental or World Championships, or Ranking Series events, with a maximum of one (1) wrestler who changed their nationality, providing they enter at least four (4) times the number of wrestlers who did not change their nationality, per style, per age category and per event.
4. In order to prevent any abuse, for the year 2027 and 2028, a country may only participate in any Olympic qualification event with a maximum of two (2) wrestlers who changed their nationality, per style and considering all Olympic qualification events.
5. In order to prevent any abuse, for the year 2029 and following years, a country may only participate in any Olympic qualification event with a maximum of one (1) wrestler who changed their nationality, per style and considering all Olympic qualification events.
6. In order to prevent any abuse, any federation of origin can only allow a maximum of three (3) males and three (3) female changes of nationality, per year, considering all styles and all age groups.

Article 9 - Change of nationality for Referees

As for wrestlers, applications for nationality changes for referees (all levels) must be submitted by the National Federations. Referees may change nationality only once. Unlike as applied for wrestlers, they may be submitted to UWW anytime during the year, but at least 45 days before a planned competition. The change shall be effective immediately.

The following rules apply for referees:

1. Official letter by the host federation (signed by its president, on a letter with official header and seal) applying for the Referee's change of nationality;
2. Official confirmation by the left federation (signed by its president, on a letter with official header and seal) whereby it agrees with the applicant's change of nationality;
3. Mandatory copy of the Referee's passport of the new country and proof of residence in the new country;
4. Proof of payment to United World Wrestling of the administrative fee of 1'500 Swiss Francs;
5. Proof of payment to the former federation of a solidarity fee for education costs of 2'500 Swiss Francs.

For referees with double passport, the above rules apply if a licence is taken for the other country.

To be eligible for the Olympic Games, a Referee who has changed his nationality shall observe a three-year waiting period since the last competition as a referee for the former country.

UWW shall implement an internal process to ensure the Refereeing Commission is informed of any change of nationality to avoid assignments in matches involving Athletes of their former country.

Article 10 - Disputes

In case of a dispute between the applicant wrestler and a national federation regarding a change of nationality or between two federations regarding a change of nationality or the payment of the compensation provided in article 5 here above, UWW's Secretary General shall settle the dispute, or choose to refer the matter to the Bureau.

Any proceedings of dispute settlement regarding a change of nationality may be accompanied by the suspensive effect against the applicant wrestler.

Article 11 - Information duties between federations before a change of nationality

A national federation which wants to hire a wrestler shall inform in writing his current federation of its interest before starting the negotiations with this wrestler.

Any direct or indirect contact with the wrestler, orally or in writing, in violation of the above-mentioned obligation will lead to disciplinary consequences.

The United World Wrestling disciplinary committee shall decide on the necessary sanctions based on these rules, the United World Wrestling Disciplinary Procedure and Dispute Resolution rules as well as the nature of the case considered.

Article 12 - Appeals

The Secretary General's decision (article 8) may be subject to a complaint in accordance with the complaint procedure described in the *Disciplinary Procedure and Dispute Resolution Regulations*.

Article 13 - Persons entitled to appeal

The national federations and the wrestlers directly concerned by the General Secretary's decision may appeal. The appealed decision may be upheld, quashed, or modified.

Article 14 - Deadline to appeal

The deadline to appeal is 21 days. It starts from the day the appealed decision has been notified to the parties by United World Wrestling's secretariat.

Article 15 - Revocation and annulment of a change of nationality

Once the authorization for a change of nationality is granted by UWW, no revocation for any reason (doping case, illness, injury, change of style or age category, etc.) may be granted by United World Wrestling.

However, an annulment may be pronounced for cases of deception in the conditions for granting the nationality.

Article 16 - Transitory provisions and special situations

1. All the wrestlers that have a certain nationality, but do not fully comply with the terms of these International Rules for the Change of Nationality, can maintain their sports nationality, under the current terms, until the 31st of December 2026. After the 1st of January 2027 they can only represent a country when in full compliance with these International Rules for the Change of Nationality, as all other wrestlers.
2. The wrestlers that are referred to in article 16.1, in the situations that they do not get a passport from their current sports nationality, may represent their original country, providing they possess a passport of such country and they comply with all the other rules concerning the obtention of a UWW international license, without having to pay any additional fees for returning to their original country.
3. An individual may only represent one country per year. So, if one individual, one wrestler, already represented one country in a competition under the authority of United World Wrestling, such as Continental, World Championships, or Ranking Series event, or at the Olympic Games, continental or regional games, he may not represent another country during that season.

Article 17 - Other disputes

The present International Rules for the Change of Nationality come in force on September 19, 2024. All situations not provided in the present rules may be settled definitively by UWW's Bureau.

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