



U23 TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA 2024

November 2023

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1 – INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to set out the selection process and criteria that will be used by Wrestling Canada Lutte (WCL) to select or nominate athletes to 2024 U23 National Team events specified hereunder, as well as any other domestic or international training/competitive opportunities that will be part of the U23 National Team programs.

WCL is under no obligation to send complete teams to events. Fulfillment of team spots is subject to athletes meeting the necessary qualification and eligibility criteria as outlined by WCL and other external stakeholder agencies, where applicable.

This document will be in effect from the 2024 U23 Canadian Wrestling Championships to the 2024 U23 World Championships. The rankings determined herein will also be used for any other U23 National Team selection and programming not described, unless otherwise approved.

The High Performance Director (HPD) is responsible for the development and implementation of a selection process that is fair and equitable for all candidates.

WCL is carefully following the evolution of the coronavirus on the global and domestic level and how it may impact obtaining domestic nomination of athletes for international events. Unless otherwise required by exceptional and unforeseen circumstances related to the impact of the coronavirus, WCL will respect these published criteria as written.

However, situations related to the coronavirus or other pandemic viruses may arise that require these criteria to be modified. Any modifications will be made promptly and as often as required following developments that directly impact the criteria. In such circumstances, any modifications will be communicated to all affected individuals as soon as possible.

Further, situations may arise that do not allow these criteria to be modified or applied as written due to time constraints or other exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. In such situations, any decision, including nomination decisions, will be made by the individual(s) with decision-making authority, as stated in these criteria, in consultation with the relevant individual(s) or committee(s) (as applicable), and in accordance with the stated performance objectives and selection philosophy and approach as stated herein. Should it be necessary to make any decision in this manner, WCL will communicate with all affected individuals as soon as possible.

The selection criteria and process outlined in this document was drafted and prepared by the HPD in consultation with the HP and Club Excellence Coaches and the oversight of the High Performance Advisory Committee (HPAC). The HPAC is composed of athlete and coach representatives. Final approval of the policy is by WCL's Board of Directors.

For questions or clarifications on the contents of this document, please contact the High Performance Director (HPD): cwoodcroft@wrestling.ca.

2 – DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY

The High Performance Manager (HPM) will assist the HPD in ensuring that the process outlined in this document is properly followed when making any selection decisions.

Performance-based decisions on selection include:

- Reviewing current domestic and international results;
- Yearly training plan (YTP);
- International Performance Index (IPI);
- Previous competition experience;
- Assessing the suitability of the level of competition;
- Gold medal profile (GMP);
- If no suitable participants are found, the HPD reserves the right to not select or fill a team spot.

The final decision-making authority for selection remains with the HPD.

3 – REFERENCES

The following documents are referenced in this document:

- 2024 WCL Wrestle-Off Procedures;
- WCL Athlete Agreement;
- National Team YTP;
- WCL Appeal Policy; and

4 – ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible to be considered for selection or nomination, all athletes must meet the following requirements at the time of entry to any selection or ranking event(s), and maintain these requirements throughout the 2024 competitive season:

- Be eligible to represent Canada as governed by United World Wrestling (UWW):
 - Canadian citizen (no previous international representation with another country, i.e. not had a UWW licence with another country), OR;
 - Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident with an approved Sport Nationality Transfer* from UWW, effective 2024
- Hold a valid (not expired) Canadian passport or Permanent Resident card, as per above;
- Be a member in good standing of their respective PTSO and be a participant in good standing with WCL;
- Be in compliance with all WCL regulations and requirements;
- Be in compliance with all relevant United World Wrestling (UWW) regulations and requirements at the time of nomination;

- Be in compliance with any other major Games franchise holder regulations and requirements (where applicable) at the time of nomination.

Please refer to specific event information for any other conditions of eligibility or entry.

*Please contact the WCL National Office for details on completing a UWW Sport Nationality Transfer. Performance criteria will be used for decision-making where there are limitations on the number of transfers in any given year. All documentation and payment must be submitted to the WCL National Office no later than December 15, 2023.

5 – EVENT FUNDING

Event funding is determined by WCL’s 2024-2025 budget. Additional funding, should it be available, will be allocated on an events basis. As such, some athletes may be required to self-fund all or part of their participation in events. Any funding that is allocated to athletes for national / international training and/or competitive opportunities will be specific to that opportunity only.

Athletes participating in non-WCL sanctioned events will be required to cover the entirety of costs of their participation as well as any costs incurred from referees, coaches, and medical staff. Athletes participating on a self-pay basis in a WCL sanctioned event may be required to contribute to any costs incurred from referees, coaches, and medical staff. Funding policies will be communicated prior to each event.

6 – WCL RANKING EVENTS

6.1 – 2024 U23 Canadian Wrestling Championships

The U23 Canadian Wrestling Championships will be run using the ten UWW weight classes in both genders and will serve to determine ranking positions for all weight classes:

Women (WW): 50kg, 53kg, 55kg, 57kg, 59 kg, 62kg, 65kg, 68kg, 72kg, 76kg,
Men’s Freestyle (FS): 57 kg, 61kg, 65 kg, 70kg, 74 kg, 79 kg, 86 kg, 92 kg, 97 kg, 125 kg

Final ranking for team selection and carding in all weight classes will occur after all true second ranking matches are completed, unless otherwise specified in event specific WCL selection criteria.

Note: there will be no Championships for Men’s Greco-Roman wrestling.

7 – 2024 U23 PAN AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (TO BE CONFIRMED)

Freestyle Men and Women

The top ranked athlete from the 2024 U23 Canadian Wrestling Championships in each weight class will have first right of refusal of selection. Where the top ranked athlete declines their selection, the true second ranked athlete may be considered for a performance-based selection or no selection may be made. Participation at the 2024 U23 Pan American Championships will be a mandatory part of the selection

process for eligibility to the 2024 U23 World Championships. In exceptional circumstances, keeping the best interest and long-term development of the athlete in question, in consultation with the HPD and the athlete's personal coach, an alternate competition pathway may be considered.

8 – 2024 U23 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Freestyle Men and Women

The top ranked athlete from the 2024 U23 Canadian Wrestling Championships in each weight class may be selected to the 2024 U23 World Championships team. Selection decisions will be made following an evaluation conducted by the HPD following consultation with the personal coach, and will be based on the following performance criteria:

- Whether the athlete achieved a Top 3 ranking at the 2024 U23 Pan Am Championships;
- Performance evaluation at the various national and international training and competitions including the Pan Am Championships and commitment to the 2024 U23 National Team program

Where the top ranked athlete declines their selection, the HPD in consultation with the personal coach may make a performance-based nomination or no nomination may be made.

9 – INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS FOR NOMINATED TEAM MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES

Selected team members and alternates will be required to demonstrate a commitment to an HPD approved training and competition program, leading into and throughout the 2024 competitive season, as defined by the National Team YTP and any additionally communicated events by the HPD.

WCL Gold Medal Profile training camps and identified competitions are a necessary part of an athlete's preparation program and are mandatory. The HPD will work closely with the nominated athletes and their personal coaches to ensure that their program has the required elements for success.

Both athletes and personal coaches must maintain weekly communication with the WCL high performance and IST staff to ensure optimal preparation. Where the HPD deems that an athlete is not following the WCL mandated YTP, WCL reserves the right to remove that athlete from the team for a given event.

Once selected, athletes who do not remain competition ready because of lack of fitness, injury or illness may be removed from the team at any time. Athletes are required to immediately report any injury, illness, or change in training that could affect their ability to compete at their highest level. Notification must be sent to the HPD.

10 – INJURY / ILLNESS

All nominated athletes will have their injury / health status assessed by the approved Integrated Support Team (IST) after nomination and during the lead up to the event(s) for which they were selected to ensure a proper approach to their health management.

Once selected, athletes who do not remain competition ready because of lack of fitness, injury or illness, may be removed from the team at any time. Athletes are required to immediately report any injury, illness, or change in training that could affect their ability to compete at their highest level. Notification must be sent to the HPD.

11 – REMOVAL OF AN ATHLETE ONCE SELECTED

The HPD reserves the right to withdraw an athlete selected to a team pursuant to these criteria:

- If the athlete has not fulfilled his/her responsibilities with respect to mandatory training camps, testing, and competitions;
- If the athlete has not fulfilled his/her responsibilities as identified in the WCL Athlete Agreement;
- If the athlete has not fulfilled his/her responsibilities as identified in WCL regulations and requirements;
- If the athlete is unable to perform due to lack of fitness, injury, illness or other medical reasons as supported by the WCL Chief Medical Officer.

12 – CLUB ATHLETES ON WCL DESIGNATED TRIPS

Provincial / club athletes must be approved by the HPD prior to participating in WCL National Team trips. Considerations for approval include, but not limited to, having achieved a Top 3 ranking in an Olympic weight class or a Top 2 ranking in a non-Olympic weight class at the 2024 U23 Canadian Wrestling Championships. These athletes must demonstrate the ability to participate safely in the desired event and must comply with WCL and UWW regulations.

Athletes/coaches will be required to provide an athlete's recent competitive and training history, including the submission of 2024 training plans and YTP as part of the event application process. Where there is a restriction in registrants per weight class, priority will be given to athletes who are part of the WCL High Performance Program.

13 – CLUB ATHLETES PARTICIPATING IN NON WCL DESIGNATED UWW EVENTS

Any athletes intending to compete in a non-WCL designated UWW event must be sanctioned by the HPD prior to participating. Requests for consideration to the HPD must be received no later than two months prior to the event in question. These athletes must demonstrate the ability to participate safely in the desired event and must comply with WCL and UWW regulations to be considered.

14 – ADDITIONAL UWW SANCTIONED EVENTS

Where a new event not included in the present selection criteria is added to the UWW calendar and WCL considers that participation is warranted, selection criteria for the event will be clearly communicated to all eligible athletes prior to any nominating event(s) or nomination occurring.

15 – DOPING CONTROL

Doping control will be conducted throughout the 2024 competition season. Athletes selected to WCL teams are subject to doping control and may be requested to submit to doping control by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) in Canada and/or by any Anti-Doping Organization that has authority over the athlete in accordance with the relevant and applicable anti-doping rules. Should a doping violation occur, that individual may be immediately removed from any team for which they have been selected. Other sanctions may also apply.

16 – COACHING

National team events are overseen by WCL staff, including coaches. Additional coaches who wish to attend events should apply in writing to the HPD as outlined in the Coaching Selection Policy.

17 – APPEALS PROCEDURE

WCL nominations may be appealed in accordance with the procedures set out in the WCL Appeal Policy: https://wrestling.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Safe_Sport_Policy_Manual-January-2023-1.pdf.

18 – COMMUNICATION

This document will be circulated via email to all PTSOs as well as posted on the WCL website. WCL respectfully requests that the PTSOs share this document to their constituents by posting on their respective websites and email distribution. The responsibility of reading and understanding the policy lies with individual participants.

The policy will also be presented to the Athlete Council.

Should any subsequent amendments be made to these Selection Criteria, they will be circulated via email to all PTSOs as well as posted on the WCL website.

Communication of the final team (athletes and staff) and any changes in nomination will be posted on the WCL website and circulated via email to all PTSOs.

19 – MODIFICATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

In the event of circumstances beyond the control of WCL, including but not limited to changes made by UWW, COC, IOC or WCL, that prevents the fair implementation of these nominating procedures, as written, WCL reserves the right to determine an appropriate course of action, which may include the right to review and change any part of the selection criteria.

ANNEX A – 2024 U23 CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS SEEDING CRITERIA

The High Performance Director (HPD) will perform the seeding for the U23 Canadian Championships and present the seeding nominations to the coaches on a weight class by weight class basis according to the seeding criteria outlined below. Coaches will have an opportunity to identify any athlete(s) who meet the seeding criteria that may have been omitted.

Seeds are assigned 1 through 4 on a position-by-position basis.

- Minimum of two (2), a maximum of four (4) seeds per weight class
- Coaches cannot withdraw their athletes from seeding
- Criteria are weight class specific (unless otherwise noted)

Seeding criteria, in ranking order:

Olympic Weight Classes (weight class specific unless otherwise noted):

1. 2023 Canadian Wrestling Team Trials (aka Olympic Trials) winner (following all wrestle-offs)
2. Returning 2023 U23 Canadian Championships winner
3. 2023 Canadian Wrestling Team Trials (aka Olympic Trials) second ranked athlete (following all wrestle-offs)
4. Returning second (2nd) place ranked athlete (true second) at the 2023 U23 Canadian Championships
5. 2023 Canadian Wrestling Team Trials (aka Olympic Trials) third ranked athlete (following all wrestle-offs)
6. Returning third (3rd) place ranked athlete (after all rankings completed) at the 2023 U23 Canadian Championships

Non-Olympic Weight Classes:

1. 2023 U23 World Team Member – Non-Olympic weight class specific
2. 2023 U23 World Team Alternate – Non-Olympic weight class specific
3. 2023 U23 World Team Member – alternate weight class
4. 2023 U23 World Team Alternate – alternate weight class

Note: World Team Member is the number one ranked athlete following all wrestle-offs, even if they were not able to compete at the 2023 U23 World Championships.

If athletes are still tied after the above criteria, the following will be used to break the tie:

- Head-to-head matches from the 2023 Canadian Wrestling Team Trials and / or most recent Domestic Carding Tournament(s)
- Higher International Performance Index (from the past year (2023-24))
- A random draw will occur

ANNEX B – TRUE SECOND RANKING MATCHES

- Applicable for Women and Men’s Freestyle Wrestling.
- Round robin results stand (no true second ranking matches).
- The second ranked athlete in each weight class at the 2024 U23 Canadian Wrestling Championships will have a final ranking of 2nd place, unless s/he has not wrestled against the third ranked athlete during the Championships. In that case, a one match true second wrestle-off will be held between the second and third ranked athletes. The winner of the match will be ranked 2nd for carding and team selection purposes.
- True second ranking matches will take place following the finals each day of competition (same day).
- True second ranking matches are a continuation of the Championships; if an athlete is injured, they forfeit.