



# **WRESTLE-OFF PROCEDURES 2025**

July 2024

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1 - INTRODUCTION..... 3

2 - DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY ..... 3

3 - ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA..... 3

4 - APPROVED WRESTLE-OFFS ..... 4

5 - GENERAL ..... 5

6 - COMMUNICATION ..... 6

7 - APPEALS PROCEDURE ..... 6

8 - MODIFICATION OF THIS DOCUMENT/UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES ..... 6

## **1 - INTRODUCTION**

This document outlines the procedures to be used by Wrestling Canada Lutte (WCL) to determine how and when sanctioned wrestle-offs will be held.

Wrestle-offs will be conducted for senior Olympic weight classes ONLY (Men's & Women's Freestyle). There will be no wrestle-offs for senior non-Olympic weight classes, or any weight classes for U23, U20, or U17-Cadet age categories as part of Team Selection Criteria.

## **2 - DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY**

The High Performance Director (HPD) is responsible for the development and implementation of a selection process that is fair and equitable for all candidates, including these Wrestle-Off Procedures and its implementation within the selection process. The HPD retains ultimate decision-making authority regarding wrestle-offs conducted pursuant to these Wrestle-Off Procedures.

In the event of an injury provision wrestle-off request, the request will be reviewed by the WCL Chief Medical Officer. The WCL Chief Medical Officer will advise the HPD, who retains ultimate decision-making authority.

Additional oversight of the development and implementation of these Wrestle-Off Procedures will be provided by the High Performance Advisory Committee (HPAC). Final approval of the policy is by WCL's Board of Directors.

## **3 - ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

### **Men's & Women's Freestyle**

Any athlete who is unable to compete at the 2025 Senior Canadian Wrestling Championships, or a WCL approved international selection event, due to injury or competition at another approved and eligible event, may still be considered for nomination to a team through a wrestle-off, providing they meet the criteria and satisfy the conditions stated in Sections 3.1 and 3.2 below.

#### **3.1 - INJURY:**

3.1.1 The official WCL "Inability to Participate Medical Form" must be completed by an approved WCL physician and submitted to the HPD no later than the Coaches' Technical Meeting (Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025). Upon request, the injured athlete may be subject to additional examination by the WCL Chief Medical Officer. The athlete must also clearly indicate, in writing, at the time of the submission, the weight class he / she is submitting an injury provision wrestle-off request for and, according to the approved WCL physician, when they will be able to realistically return to competition.

3.1.2 Performance Benchmarks:

### **Women's Freestyle:**

- a) Has placed in the top 8 at the 2024 Olympic Games or top 3 in a non-Olympic weight class at the 2024 Senior World Championships (non-Olympic weights), with a minimum of two wins (not by forfeit or those injury matches that never started).

OR

- b) Has placed top 3 in an Olympic weight class or top 2 in a non-Olympic weight class at the 2024 U23 World Championships, with a minimum of two wins (not by forfeit or those injury matches that never started).

OR

- c) A minimum value of IPI of 2.5 in the qualification period 12 months prior to the selection event (i.e. May 30, 2024 – May 30, 2025 for the Senior Canadian Wrestling Championships occurring May 2025).

### **Men's Freestyle:**

- a) Has placed in the top 8 at the 2024 Olympic Games or top 5 in a non-Olympic weight class at the 2024 Senior World Championships (non-Olympic weights), with a minimum of two wins (not by forfeit or those injury matches that never started).

OR

- b) Has placed in the top 5 in an Olympic weight class or top 3 in a non-Olympic weight class at the 2024 U23 World Championships, with a minimum of two wins (not by forfeit or those injury matches that never started).

OR

- c) A minimum value of IPI of 2.0 in the qualification period 12 months prior to the selection event (i.e. May 30, 2024 – May 30, 2025 for the Senior Canadian Wrestling Championships occurring May 2025).

**Note: Any wrestler who meets the performance benchmark in an Olympic weight class may challenge the same Olympic weight class or may challenge one Olympic weight class above or below. Any wrestler who meets the performance benchmark in a non-Olympic weight class may challenge one Olympic weight class above or below.**

## **4 - APPROVED WRESTLE-OFFS (SENIOR OLYMPIC WEIGHT CLASSES ONLY)**

There will be no weight allowance for wrestle-offs.

The date, time, and location for the wrestle-off will be determined by the HPD taking into consideration the following factors:

- The wrestle-off will take place as early as possible, but no later than six (6) weeks prior to the start of the 2025 Senior World Championships;
- The most economical and cost-effective location, preferably in conjunction with another event;
- The injury status and any other restrictions of the athletes involved (if applicable);
- Nomination requirements and deadlines for selection;
- Appropriate preparation time for the athletes concerned;
- Neutral locations will be preferred, where possible;
- The athlete requesting a wrestle-off will be required to pay a fee of \$1,500 CAD within seven (7) days of receipt of confirmation of the wrestle-off. This fee contributes to covering associated costs with the wrestle-off (venue, officials, staff). Due to the exceptional nature of wrestle-offs, there is no guarantee that WCL will be able to cover all costs for affected parties.

#### *WOMEN'S AND MEN'S FREESTYLE*

#### **Senior Canadian Wrestling Championships Wrestle-Off Request or any International Selection Event with AAP Ranking Implications**

The wrestle-off will be conducted as follows:

- The athlete requesting the wrestle-off (challenger) will wrestle the true second ranked athlete in a single match;
- If the challenger is successful against the true second ranked athlete, the wrestle-off will then continue between the number one ranked athlete from the Senior Canadian Wrestling Championships and the challenger in a best two (2) of three (3) matches. The number one ranked athlete from the Senior Canadian Wrestling Championships will be credited with one match up.

#### *FINAL RANKING AND CARDING POINTS FOR ALL INVOLVED ATHLETES*

- For a challenger to receive ranking or carding points, they must win over, at a minimum, the current true second ranked athlete (i.e., if they do not win a match they will not be ranked).
- Ranking and carding points awarded will be determined on the challenger's final ranking from the wrestle-off.

#### **International Selection Event without AAP Ranking Implications**

The wrestle-off will be conducted between the number one ranked athlete from the International Event Selection and the challenger in a best two (2) of three (3) matches. The number one ranked athlete from the International Event Selection will be credited with one match up.

## **5 - GENERAL**

Once the date of any wrestle-off is set, if either wrestler misses the wrestle-off, the wrestler who has missed the match will forfeit that match. If both wrestlers miss the 1<sup>st</sup> wrestle-off, the number one will be nominated for team selection.

If more than one wrestler is eligible for a wrestle-off in the same weight class then those eligible for the wrestle-off must first compete against one another, in a single elimination, one match wrestle-off, before having the opportunity to challenge the designated athletes as defined above.

## **6 - COMMUNICATION**

Once a wrestle off has been approved, the HPD will communicate this to the affected parties via email, along with the details of the wrestle-off as specified in Section 5 above.

## **7 - APPEALS PROCEDURE**

The decision by WCL to grant an athlete a wrestle-off 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](https://wrestling.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Safe_Sport_Policy_Manual-January-2023-1.pdf)).

## **8 - MODIFICATION OF THIS DOCUMENT/UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES**

In the event of a circumstance that prevents the fair implementation of these procedures as written, the HPD reserves the right to determine an appropriate course of action, which will be reviewed by the HPAC, and which may include the right to review and change any part of these procedures in the case of, but not limited to, a rule or policy change from United World Wrestling (UWW), UWW Americas, other major Games franchise holders, or WCL.