



U23 TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA 2025

January 2025

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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 2025 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 completion of the 2025 U23 Canadian Wrestling Championships to the start of the 2026 U23 Canadian Wrestling Championships. The final rankings from the 2025 U23 Canadian Wrestling Championships will determine priority order for all National Team Events.

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

Situations related to 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 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 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, available on WCL's website: <https://wrestling.ca/policy-manual/>.

- 2025 WCL Wrestle-Off Procedures;
- 2025 WCL Athlete Agreement;
- WCL Code of Conduct and Ethics;
- WCL Discipline and Complaints Policy;
- National Team YTP; and
- WCL Appeal Policy.

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 2025 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;
 - Permanent Resident with an approved Sport Nationality Transfer from UWW, effective 2024, OR;
 - Canadian citizen with an approved Sport Nationality Transfer from UWW, effective 2025
- 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;
- Be in compliance with any other major Games franchise holder regulations and requirements (where applicable).

Please refer to specific event information for eligibility / entry requirements and any other conditions of eligibility.

5 – EVENT FUNDING

Event funding is determined by the WCL 2025-26 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.

All Greco-Roman events and activities are self-funded.

6 – WCL RANKING EVENTS

6.1 – 2025 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): 50 kg, 53 kg, *55 kg, 57 kg, *59 kg, 62 kg, *65 kg, 68 kg, *72 kg, 76 kg
Men's Freestyle (FS): 57 kg, *61kg, 65 kg, *70kg, 74 kg, *79 kg, 86 kg, *92 kg, 97 kg, 125 kg

*indicates non-Olympic weight classes

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. **Please note there are no wrestle-offs for the U23 age class.**

Note: there are no Championships for Men's Greco-Roman wrestling.

7 – GRECO-ROMAN

NOTE: Application deadline for intent to participate in international events is after the 2025 U23 Canadian Wrestling Championships, by July 11, 2025.

Athletes who wish to participate in an international Greco-Roman event must follow the procedure outlined below as well as meet the criteria described hereunder. It should be noted that nomination to

participate in an international Greco-Roman event is subject to the approval of the HPD. Athletes intending to compete in Greco-Roman must have a suitably qualified coach with Greco-Roman experience.

Male athletes will NOT be permitted to compete in both Freestyle and Greco-Roman styles if they are nominated and selected to both teams.

Criteria:

- Top ranked athlete in Weight Class specific category in the Greco-Roman style at the 2025 Senior Canadian Wrestling Championships who is still of age to meet UWW 23 age requirements;

Process:

- Athletes and their coaches must apply to the HPD. Applications must include the following:
 - Training history pertinent to Greco-Roman;
 - Greco-Roman competition history and results;
 - 2025 Training plans and YTP pertinent to Greco-Roman submitted as part of the event application process.

8 – 2025-26 U23 NATIONAL TEAM EVENTS

The following ranking will be used to select athletes for U23 National Team events (with the exclusion of U23 Pan American Championships and U23 World Championships).

Olympic and Non-Olympic Weight Categories (Order of Priority) – weight class specific:

1. 2025 U23 Canadian Wrestling Championship Gold Medallist
2. 2025 U23 Canadian Wrestling Championship True Second, following all Wrestle-Offs
3. 2025 U23 Canadian Wrestling Championship Third Place Ranked Athlete following all True Second Matches and Wrestle-Offs
4. HPD discretion

Greco-Roman (Self-Funded):

1. 2025 Senior Canadian Wrestling Championships Gold Medallist and meets UWW U23 age requirements
2. HPD discretion

9 – 2025 U23 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Freestyle (Women and Men)

The 2025 top ranked U23 eligible athlete (after all true-second matches are completed), who has an International Winning Consistency (IWC) of 2.0 at U23 or senior level events will have first right of refusal of selection. Second right of refusal of selection will be given to the next highest 2025 nationally ranked U23 eligible athlete (after all true-second matches are completed), who has an IWC of 2.0 at U23 or senior level events. If the top two ranked athletes decline participation, a performance-based decision will be made by the HPD. The HPD has discretion to evaluate the international performance of any athletes who have not met the established standard, for the purpose of team selection.

*NOTE: All athletes must meet eligibility requirements and be medically approved to compete no later than September 1st, 2025, for roster finalization.

10 – INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS FOR NOMINATED TEAM MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES

Selected team members and alternates will be required to demonstrate a commitment to an HPD approved and mandated training and competition program, leading into and throughout the 2025 competitive season, as defined by the National Team YTP and any additionally communicated events by the HPD.

WCL mandated 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.

11 – 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.

12 – 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 the WCL Code of Conduct and Ethics or WCL Discipline and Complaints Policy;
- If the athlete has not adhered to his/her anti-doping responsibilities;
- 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.

13 – 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 2025 U23 Canadian Wrestling Championships or with HPD discretion. 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 2025 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.

14 – 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.

15 – 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.

16 – DOPING CONTROL

Doping control will be conducted throughout the 2025 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.

17 – 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 (as amended from time to time).

18 – APPEALS PROCEDURE

WCL nominations may be appealed in accordance with the procedures set out in the WCL Appeal Policy (as amended from time to time).

19 – 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 and athletes in general via a Town Hall Zoom Meeting.

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.

20 – 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 selection criteria, 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.