



**U17-CADET TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA:
2026 PAN-AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

November 2025

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1 – INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the process and procedures to be used by Wrestling Canada Lutte (WCL) for selecting the athletes, coaches, and staff that will be nominated to represent Canada at the 2026 U17-Cadet Pan-American Championships (the 'Championships') in Panama City, Panama. Being selected does not mean the athlete, coach or staff member will be nominated to participate.

WCL's objective for the Championships includes supporting all qualified athletes to achieve their best international performance and providing international experience.

WCL is under no obligation to send complete teams to the Championships. 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.

All deadlines noted herein are subject to change based on United World Wrestling (UWW) timelines.

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

2 – DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY

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

The process outlined in this document was drafted and prepared by the HPD in consultation with the U17 Program Lead. Oversight was provided by the Athlete Council and the High Performance Advisory Committee (HPAC – comprised of coaches and athletes). Final approval of the policy was made by the WCL Board.

The High Performance Manager (HPM) will support the HPD in ensuring that the process outlined in this document is properly followed when making any selection decisions. The final decision-making authority for team selection remains with the HPD.

During the actual competition period onsite at the Championships, all final decision-making authority will reside with the designated Team Lead.

3 – PERTINENT DOCUMENTS

The following documents are relevant and may be applied during the selection process and / or after athletes are selected to the Championships. WCL documents can be found on the WCL website under Resources: <https://wrestling.ca/policy-manual/>.

- WCL Agreement;
- National Team YTP;

- WCL Coach Selection Policy;
- WCL Code of Conduct and Ethics;
- WCL Discipline and Complaints Policy;
- WCL Appeal Policy.

4 – QUOTA SPOTS

WCL is sanctioning participation at the Championships in the following UWW weight classes:

- Women (WW): 36 -40, 43, 46, 49, 53, 57, 61, 65, 69, 73 kg
- Men’s Freestyle (FS): 41-45, 48, 51, 55, 60, 65, 71, 80, 92, 110 kg

Quota per country per event:

- Women: 1 in each weight class
- Men: 1 in each weight class
- Total: Maximum of 20 per country

5 – ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

To be considered by WCL for nomination and team selection, all athletes must meet the following requirements at the time of entry to any selection event(s), and maintain these requirements through the completion of the Championships:

- 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 with an approved Sport Nationality Transfer from UWW, effective 2026
- Hold a valid Canadian passport that does not expire on or before December 31, 2026;
- UWW U17 age eligibility:
 - 16 to 17 years of age (born in 2009, 2010)
 - Athletes 15 years of age (born 2011) may compete, however parental authorization and a medical certificate are required
- Be a participant in good standing and hold a valid (current) WCL licence;
 - Must not be under suspension, or other sanction, for any doping or doping-related offense;
 - Must not be under suspension, or any sanction for any WCL Code of Conduct or Discipline Policy offense or any other relevant WCL policy;
 - Must sign and comply with the Athlete Agreement as required by WCL;
 - Must not have any outstanding invoices with WCL;
- Be a member in good standing of their respective PTSO;
- Be in compliance with all WCL regulations and requirements;
- Be in compliance with all relevant United World Wrestling (UWW) regulations and requirements;
- Alternate athletes must also comply with all items contained in this document and must ensure that all administrative and financial obligations are fulfilled by the required timelines;

- Athletes named to compete in the Championships will be required to comply with the dress code regulations of WCL.

6 – FUNDING

Funding is determined by WCL’s 2026-27 budget. As such, athletes may be required to self-fund all or part of their participation in the Championships and may be required to contribute to costs for referees, coaches, and medical staff. Funding will be communicated prior to the Championships.

Any funding that is allocated to athletes for this event will be specific to that opportunity only.

7 – WCL SELECTION EVENTS

WCL will be evaluating performances from the following tournaments (best two finishes overall) towards a performance-based decision on selection:

- 2025 U17 Canadian U17-Cadet Championships (Edmonton May 2025)
- 2025 Matmen Classic – Dec 13-14 (Brampton, ON)
- 2026 Jurassic Classic – Jan 3 (Calgary, AB)
- 2026 Western Canada Age Class – Jan 23-25 (Richmond, BC)
- 2026 Eastern Canadian Championships – Feb 1 (Fredericton, NB)
- 2025/2026 all other outstanding performances
- 2025/2026 head-to-head matches with opponents registering for the same weight class

Performance-based considerations for team selection will also include:

- All current domestic and international results;
- Yearly training plan (YTP);
- Previous competition experience;
- Assessing the suitability of the level of competition;

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.

Athletes wishing to be considered for selection to the Championships must submit their name, date of birth, UWW weight class and tournament results to Kale Whitton, High Performance Manager, kwhitton@wrestling.ca, no later than February 7th, 2026.

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Men’s & Women’s Freestyle

The top ranked athlete from the above selection of tournaments in each weight class will have first right of refusal of selection. In the event of a tie, the HPD will make a performance-based decision based on the

considerations noted in section 6. Where the top ranked athlete declines their selection, the second ranked athlete may be considered for a performance-based selection, or no selection may be made.

NOTE: Selection to the 2026 U17-Cadet Pan-American Championships does not qualify the athlete to be selected to the 2026 U17 World Championship Team. That selection will be based on results from the 2026 U17-Cadet Canadian Championships.

9 – PERFORMANCE READINESS & INJURY

Nominated 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 Championships. WCL identified training camps and competitions are a necessary part of an athlete's preparation program and are, therefore, mandatory.

Athletes are also expected to undergo regular monitoring against the WCL Gold Medal Profile (GMP), so programming can be adjusted to address identified gaps. The HPD will work closely with the nominated athletes and their personal coaches to ensure that their program has the required elements for success.

All nominated athletes will have their injury/health status assessed by WCL approved medical staff after nomination to ensure a proper approach to their health management.

Both athletes and personal coaches must communicate with the HPD, HPM and IST Manager to collaborate on best practices and ensure optimal preparation for the Championships.

Once nominated to the Championships, athletes who do not remain competitive 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 at the Championships. Notification must be sent to the HPD.

10 – REMOVAL OF AN ATHLETE ONCE SELECTED

The HPD reserves the right to withdraw an athlete from nomination or selection:

- If the athlete has not fulfilled their responsibilities with respect to mandatory training camps, testing, and competitions;
- If the athlete has not fulfilled their responsibilities as identified in the WCL Athlete Agreement;
- If the athlete is found to be in breach of the WCL Code of Conduct by a duly appointed disciplinary panel in accordance with the WCL Discipline Policy;
- If the athlete has been found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation by an Anti-Doping Organization with jurisdiction over the athlete. For the avoidance of doubt, this could include the CCES, UWW, the IOC, or a National Anti-Doping Organization from the country in which the athlete is located and is subject to doping control;
- If the athlete is unable to perform due to injury, illness or other medical reasons as supported by the WCL Chief Medical Officer (CMO).

If an athlete is removed, it is WCL's intention to have the alternate in the specific weight class fill the spot if they have met all athlete eligibility criteria, competitive readiness and WCL is able to meet any late replacement process/timelines. If no suitable alternates are found, the HPD reserves the right to not select or fill a team spot.

11 – ANTI-DOPING

Athletes may be requested to submit to doping control by any Anti-Doping Organization that has testing authority over them. This includes the CCES, any National Anti-Doping Organization of the country in which the athlete is located, UWW, WADA and the IOC. Athlete Support Personnel, which includes, inter alia, coaches or any other person who is working with, treating or assisting an athlete, are also subject to the anti-doping rules of relevant anti-doping organizations, such as the CCES, UWW, WADA or the IOC.

Should an athlete, coach or other athlete support personnel commit an anti-doping rule violation, that individual, in addition to other sanctions, will be removed from the Championship Team.

Team members may be required to complete the CCES e-learning course prior to competing internationally.

12 – STAFF SELECTION

The staff will be selected on the principle of sending a team of specialists that are best capable of assisting and supporting the athletes in achieving a podium performance at the Championships as well as contributing to a winning well team culture.

Any decisions on the distribution of accreditations falls within the authority of the HPD. The HPD may make changes to the team staff as necessary to maximize athlete opportunity for success.

Staff selections will follow the principles of WCL's Coaches Selection Policy and may include, but not limited to the following:

- Team Leader
- Designated Lead Coach
- High Performance/Designated Support Coach
- Medical support personnel

All Coaches must meet the following requirements:

- Competition Development Certification Status or higher (NCCP)
- Be a participant in good standing with WCL and hold a valid (current) WCL licence;
 - Must not be under suspension, or other sanction, for any doping or doping-related offense;
 - Must not be under suspension, or any sanction for any WCL Code of Conduct or Discipline Policy offense or any other relevant WCL policy;
 - Must sign and comply with the WCL Agreement;
 - Must not have any outstanding invoices with WCL;
- Be a member in good standing of their respective PTSO;

- Be in compliance with all WCL regulations and requirements;
- Be in compliance with all relevant United World Wrestling (UWW) regulations and requirements.

13 – 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).

14 – 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.

15 – MODIFICATION OF THIS DOCUMENT/UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

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

This clause shall not be used to justify changes after a competition or selection event which formed part of this document unless it is related to an unforeseen circumstance as described immediately above. This also allows for changes to this document that may become necessary due to a typographical error or a lack of clarity in a definition or wording before it has an impact on athletes.

In the event of a change to this document, WCL shall inform the membership of the changes and the reasons for those changes as soon as possible.

Further, situations may arise that do not allow these procedures 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 procedures, 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.