

## 2025 GENERAL WORLD TEAM TRIALS PROCEDURES

### I. Eligibility

1. The World Team Trials are open to all athletes eligible to represent the USA at the World Championships as governed by United World Wrestling (UWW) and USA Wrestling (USAW) rules. Athlete must be eligible to represent USA prior to the qualifying event entered.
2. Each competitor must meet style specific qualifications to take part in the World Team Trials process. Style specific requirements may be found at:
  - a. <https://www.themat.com/team-usa/team-selection-criteria>
3. For purposes of defining the classification of an “World Team Member”, this individual can be either the Final World Team Trials Champion or the World Championships Participant.
4. The competition will be contested by UWW rules except as modified by this document.
  - a. These procedures are based on UWW rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in UWW rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Wrestling. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically have not accounted for every possible contingency.

### II. Acceptance of Automatic Berth for 2024 Senior Olympic or World Championship Medalists

1. A 2024 Senior Olympic or World Championship medalist, competing at the same weight class (Men’s Freestyle, Women’s Freestyle, Greco-Roman), will be granted automatic berth accordingly to each of the style specific procedures.
2. To receive an automatic berth in the World Team Trials, the 2024 Senior Olympic or World Championship medalist must declare, in writing via email to: [cbickley@usawrestling.org](mailto:cbickley@usawrestling.org) their intent to accept the automatic berth, as well as the weight they will compete at, by: **6:00 PM (Eastern Time) on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

### III. World Team Trials Challenge Tournament

1. Seeding
  - a. Seeding will be done by the USA Wrestling National Staff
  - b. Data that will be used when determining World Team Trials Challenge Tournament seeding, in no specific order:
    - i. USA Wrestling Performance Index (PIN)
      1. <https://www.themat.com/news/2023/september/29/pin-ratings-to-separate-athletes-at-national-and-regional-events-pin-of-all-members-available-through-sortable-online-database>
    - ii. Head-to-head matches
    - iii. Common opponents
    - iv. National/International performances (i.e. tournament finishes)
2. Bracketing
  - a. Format to be line bracket double elimination to third place.

- b. Byes will be placed with seeded wrestlers first, in order of seed. If any byes are remaining, they will be placed in the brackets in accordance with the accepted system in use by USA Wrestling.
  - c. In certain situations, athletes earn an automatic berth to the Final Wrestle-Off. Each style has its own set of criteria. Please see the style specific criteria for details.
  - d. The finals will be a best-of-three format.
3. True Third
- a. In weights where the second-place finisher from the US Open or World Team Trials Challenge Tournament (the last qualifying event for that weight) has not wrestled the third-place finisher from the US Open or World Team Trials Challenge Tournament, they will wrestle one match during Final X to determine a true third place for ranking on the National Team. This is only the case in weights that have an automatic berth to the final wrestle-off.
4. National Team (paid stipend) will be in rank order #1 - #3.
5. Schedule and Weigh-Ins
- a. Weigh-ins will be held the day of the competition and will be at scratch weight on day one and scratch weight on day two.
    - i. Any contestant, who makes the finals of the World Team Trials, will be required to make weight on day #2. If either finalist does NOT make weight, the other finalist will be declared the winner and there will be no advancement in the tournament or national team ranking.
      - 1. i.e. the semi-final loser from that event will not advance to the finals.
      - 2. For purposes of determining National Team ranking, the vacated spot will not be filled.
  - b. Any of the qualifiers may elect to change weight classes to compete at another weight at the World Team Trials Challenge Tournament only. The contestant should notify USA Wrestling in advance of this intention, but a change in weight may be made at weigh-in.
  - c. A minimum of 30 minutes rest will occur between championship matches and a minimum of 20 minutes rest will elapse between consolation matches.

#### **IV. Final Wrestle-Off**

- 1. The Final Wrestle-Off of all weight classes will be contested in a best-of-three format.
  - a. In weight classes where an athlete has earned an automatic berth to the Final Wrestle-Off, the US Open Champion or World Team Trials Challenge Tournament champion will face the automatic finalist and the winner will be the World Team Member, except in the situation where an athlete earning automatic berth into the Final Wrestle-Off has been granted a delay under Article V.
  - b. If an athlete who earns an automatic berth into the Final Wrestle-Off is granted a delay in accordance with Article V or fails to make weight.
    - i. If the athlete earning the automatic berth is granted a delay in accordance with Article V, the winner of the Trials Tournament will face the athlete granted the delay at a date and in a format in accordance with Article V.
    - ii. If the athlete earning the automatic berth fails to make weight, the winner of the US Open or World Team Trials Tournament is the 2025 World Team Member.

- c. Automatic berths to the Final Wrestle-Offs are only applicable to athletes who are a 2024 Olympic or Senior World Medalist. Please consult the style specific criteria for details on automatic berth to the Final Wrestle-Off for each of the respective styles.

## **V. Delays or Replacement Due to Injury or Illness**

- 1. Only a 2024 Olympic or Senior World Championship medalist (Men's Freestyle, Women's Freestyle, Greco Roman), who earned an automatic berth into the final wrestle-off, can request a delay for competing in Part Two for medical reasons at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled weigh-in time.**
  - a. The request must be submitted in writing to the respective Sport Committee Chair for review, to include a written certification of the injury or illness from a USA Wrestling approved medical doctor. USA Wrestling's approval of a medical doctor will not be unreasonably withheld.
  - b. If a certified medical doctor's note is provided within the appropriate timeframe to support a 2024 Olympic or Senior World medalist request for a delay, the request for a delay in competition will be granted. If a delay is granted, the National Coach and the two athletes involved shall determine the date for conducting the Final Wrestle-Off of the 2025 World Team Trials. If an agreement cannot be reached, then the style-specific Sport Committee will determine the date and place for the Final Wrestle-Off.
2. If a 2025 World Team member at any weight is incapacitated after the World Team Trials and prior to the World Championships, the style-specific Sport Committee shall assign the position to the next-ranked alternate at the weight in question up to and including the fourth-ranked wrestler from the World Team Trials, provided the next-ranked wrestler is able to make weight and is substantially completing World Team training requirements as determined by the Sport Committee and approved by the Executive Committee of USA Wrestling.
  - a. For the purposes of this provision, the term 'incapacitated' shall mean an athlete has an injury or illness, as certified by USA Wrestling medical staff, which inhibits peak performance at the Olympic Games.

## **VI. UWW International Transfers Rule**

1. In the case there are more than two athletes who have changed their sporting nationality, and each occupies the #1 spot; it must be determined which two athletes will be on the 2025 World Championship team. The following criteria will be used in rank order to determine the two athletes.
  - a. Senior World Championship medal within the last quad (years: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024).
  - b. U23 World Championship medal within the last quad (years: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024).
  - c. Senior World Military Championship medal within the last quad (years: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024).
2. If the above scenario, noted in #1 occurs, a special wrestle off will occur between the #2 and #3 ranked athlete for purposes of World Championship participation.
  - a. If the #2 and #3 ranked athletes met at the final trials event; that match will count in their best of three series to occur later at Final X.
3. For purposes of National Team rank and payment, all athletes will retain their National Team stipend as ranked following their Trials event.

## **VII. World Team Trials Officiating, Pairing, and Protest Procedures**

1. All bouts shall be officiated as prescribed by UWW rules, by an officiating team comprised of a referee, judge, and mat chairman. Their decision on all technical aspects of the bout shall be final and shall not be subject to protest.
  - a. Mat side video will be made available. Mat side review will be done in accordance with UWW rules, utilizing all USA Wrestling Challenge Modifications as stipulated in Attachment A of these Procedures. Upon review of action, the decision of the officiating team is final.
  - b. The mat side computer and video shall be accepted as the official result of the bout, unless the officiating team determines that an error has been made.
2. Requests for information concerning the recording of results, pairing of contestants or scheduling of bouts may be directed to the chief mat official and/or chief pairing master without the filing of a written protest.
3. Protests concerning eligibility of a contestant, adherence to the terms of this document, and other matters of procedure shall be reviewed by a Protest Committee comprised by the following individuals:
  - a. President of USA Wrestling, or his designee, who shall act as chairperson.
  - b. One or more members of the USA Wrestling Board of Directors appointed by the chairperson of the Protest Committee. Sport Committee members of the style being protested are ineligible to serve on the Protest Committee.
    - i. Any member of the Protest Committee shall disqualify him or herself from a protest hearing if they have personal ties to any contestant in the same weight.
    - ii. Any situation not specifically addressed in this document shall be resolved under standard procedures of USA Wrestling.

## **VIII. Drug Testing**

Testing for the use of drugs or other substances prohibited by the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), or UWW will be conducted as part of the World Team Trials process. Full cooperation of the athlete is mandatory.

## **IX. Athlete Ombudsman**

An athlete who has questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USA Wrestling, may contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman by telephone at 719-866-5000, or by e-mail at [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)

## **X. World Team Training**

1. All members of the USA Wrestling World Team will be required to follow the training schedule as established by the National Coach as referenced in the National Team Wrestler Agreement, whether or not the athlete signs the agreement. Failure to do so can result in fines and sanctions, including removal from the National Team and World Team.
2. All members of the USA Wrestling World Team will be required to maintain a proper weight management plan that is developed with the USA Wrestling National Coach and USA Wrestling

medical staff. Failure to maintain and follow the plan may result in the removal and replacement of the athlete up to the deadline of the athlete registration for the World Championships.

## **Attachment A**

### **Challenge Procedure**

#### **What it is:**

A “challenge” is a process where an athlete in a match or a coach representing that athlete is allowed to request that the match be stopped at the appropriate time and the jury and mat chairman review a replay of the action that they (athlete or coach) disagree with scoring made by the referee team. This process will be available at USAW events that are designated for video review.

#### **Who is on the jury?**

The jury will be comprised of 1 or 2 referees that are assigned to that bout or mat during the competition.

#### **Who will conduct the video review?**

This will be completed by the jury and the mat chairman for that designated bout.

#### **What is the process?**

1. The coach must issue a request for a challenge when they disagree with the decision of the referee team. This should be made from the coaching area on the mat. The coach is not allowed to walk into the wrestling area.
2. To request a challenge the coach must throw a colored object (challenge block) onto the mat to notify the referee team. The color of the object will correspond to the color of the athlete. The challenge block should not be thrown in an aggressive manner toward the referees or athletes. Failure to follow these guidelines could result in a yellow or red card for the coach.
3. A wrestler may also indicate his or her desire to challenge a scoring action once the athletes have come to a neutral position or there is a natural stoppage in the match by gesturing or asking the referee of their desire to challenge.
4. The mat chairman will indicate to the referee to stop the match to review the challenge as soon as the situation becomes neutral or there is no imminent scoring at that moment. Requesting a challenge does not require that a bout be immediately stopped.
5. If the wrestler disagrees with their coach’s challenge, he or she can reject the challenge by telling the referee or mat chairman they do not want to challenge, and the match will continue. If the coach requests a challenge after the athlete has rejected the challenge, the coach could receive a yellow card.
6. In the case of dispute between the referee team and coach or wrestler, the mat chairman is allowed to refuse the challenge only after the approval of the assigned jury member/s for that mat. If the size of an event is too large and not enough referees are available to act as jury members, the mat chairman will be allowed to deny a challenge as described below. The jury and/or mat chairman can refuse the challenge during the following situations:
  - a. Confirmed falls and/or situations where a fall was not confirmed by the referee team. Challenges can be requested for fouls that occurred that led to the fall.
  - b. Confirmed passivity.

- c. Challenges not made in a reasonable amount of time. Coaches must issue the challenge within a reasonable amount of time from when the scoring action occurred or when the points went onto the scoreboard. Wrestling is dynamic and this will be at the discretion of the mat chairman and jury. **IF A NATURAL STOPPAGE OCCURS IN THE MATCH AND THE CHALLENGE IS NOT OFFERED PRIOR TO RE-STARTING THE MATCH, THE CHALLENGE WILL BE DENIED.**
  - d. Challenges made after the match has ended. The only exception is when points are added to the scoreboard after the time was out or when an action occurred just before the end of the bout.
7. The video will be displayed on a big screen monitor, projector, or TV if one is available for the competition. If one is not available, the jury and mat chairman can watch the video directly on the mat side computer. Only the official video from the replay system available at the event will be utilized for review; no personal video (cell phone, tablet, etc.) or alternate video angles from any streaming service not available to the jury and mat chairman will be used during the replay process and is strictly prohibited.
  8. If there is a technical problem and video is not available, the original decision will stand, and the coach will be given back the challenge block.
  9. Each wrestler will be entitled 1 challenge per match.
  10. If after reviewing, the original decision is changed by the jury and mat chairman, whether it favors the challenging athlete or not, the athlete who challenged will be granted another challenge to be used during that match.
  11. If after review, the original decision made by the referee team is confirmed by the jury and mat chairman, that wrestler will lose the challenge and their opponent will be granted 1 point.
  12. Two challenge situations that could result in time being added back on the clock:
    - a. If a scoring action was determined to be a slip throw (“risk”) by the jury. The time will be reset to when the slip throw occurred. Any points scored after the slip occurred will be cancelled.
    - b. If a scoring action or confirmed fall was determined to be a direct result of an offensive foul by the jury, the time will be set when the foul occurred. Time will not be added back on the clock for any action determined to be a defensive foul.
  13. All decisions made by the jury and mat chairman will be final and will not be changed. Therefore, it is not possible to request a counter challenge.

### **Consultation Procedure**

The mat chairman has ability to watch the video with referee team during a consultation without a challenge being issued. This would not include the jury. After the decision of the consultation of the referee team, the action could be challenged and be reviewed by the jury and mat chairman.

At no time can the coach request a consultation by the referee team to review the video. Using video during consultations will be at the sole discretion of the mat chairman. If the coaches want to use video review for a situation, they must use their challenge.

In the case of a serious technical mistake not seen by the referee team (examples: timekeeper mistakes, wrong points or caution published on the scoreboard, mistake in resuming the bout in parterre or in standing position, declaration of incorrect winner, etc.), the jury member/s may interfere to correct the situation by consultation with match chairman or by video review. In no case may the jury member/s interfere with the refereeing team in regard to judgement situations such as how points were scored, passivity calls or negative wrestling calls.

### **Protest Procedure**

Protests can only be made if a clerical error was made during the bout. For example, points were added or removed, and the score was not correct. In this situation, if a mistake has been made that affected the results of the match, the bout will be re-wrestled from the beginning of the period when the score was incorrectly posted. This is the only situation that can be protested at events that operate the video review process. If the clerical error was made in the first period of a match, the entire bout will be re-wrestled.

### **Fleeing the Hold and 3rd Caution Procedure**

For Fleeing the Hold at the end of the match that would change the potential winner or for a 3rd Caution to an individual wrestler that would lead to disqualification from the match to be granted, only the mat chairman must confirm with either the referee or judge for this to be valid. They will no longer require a unanimous agreement for these to be assessed. This will be consistent with all the other cautions given. Both situations can be reviewed if a challenge is issued.