



UNITED WORLD  
**WRESTLING**

# INTERNATIONAL RULES FOR THE CHANGE OF NATIONALITY



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## **Introduction**

In principle any wrestler who participates in official competitions in the United World Wrestling calendar represents the country of which he/she holds the nationality.

For various reasons – professional, sports, family or political – athlete emigrate in other countries and obtain their nationality only after a few years and under strict conditions. This should not prevent wrestlers from carrying on an international sports career on the highest level in their country of adoption.

Accordingly, United World Wrestling admits, under certain conditions laid down in the present rules, that wrestlers obtain the sports nationality of the country of adoption without holding the nationality certified by an official passport.

The sports nationality is defined as the right granted to a wrestler by United World Wrestling to represent a country of which he/she does not necessarily hold the nationality.

## **Article 1 – General principles**

In order to participate in a competition in the United World Wrestling calendar, a wrestler must hold the international athlete's license issued by United World Wrestling and valid for the current year.

This license determines the wrestler's sports nationality and thus the country he/she represents in international competitions.

A wrestler has the possibility to change his/her sports nationality once during his/her career whatever the age and the wrestling style. In such case, the new sports nationality is granted definitively and the wrestler who has changed his/her sports nationality may not return to his/her previous sports nationality.

## **Article 2 – Scope of application**

The rules laid down in the present regulations apply, save exceptions and particular cases set forth therein, to wrestlers in the cadet, junior, senior and veteran age categories, to all types of competitions under the authority of United World Wrestling (international tournaments, continental championships and cups, world championships and cups) and to all styles (Olympic and non-Olympic) under the umbrella of United World Wrestling.

For Olympic Games and other Games applying the Olympic Charter, the rules of the Olympic Charter regarding nationality apply. Article 5 below describes the conditions for applying the present rules for Games qualifying competitions and Games.

For competitions under the authority of major events organizations (Multisport Games or other), the rules of the organizer apply.

The present rules apply to all wrestling styles administered under the authority of United World Wrestling.

The principles described in these rules do not apply to international transfers of wrestlers between clubs for interclub competition for which an authorization is granted temporarily by United World Wrestling or a continental council, without change of sports nationality.

## **Article 3 – Limitation of the number of sports nationality changes**

In order to prevent any abuse, a country may receive only one foreign wrestler who applies for a change of sports nationality by wrestling style per year in each age category (cadet, junior, senior, veteran).

The age category under which the change of nationality will be recorded shall be the wrestler's age category the year after the application for a change of nationality.

#### **Article 4 – Procedure for the grant of the new sports nationality**

The new national federation of a wrestler who wishes to change his/her sports nationality shall send a request in writing to United World Wrestling in the period between 1 and 31 December.

No change of sports nationality will be granted by United World Wrestling outside this period.

Notwithstanding the conditions listed hereunder, the authorization for the change of sports nationality will be effective from 1 January of the following year.

The applicant's Federation shall provide the following documents (together with an official translation in French or English):

- a) Official attestation by the left federation (signed by its president, on a letter with official header and seal) agreeing with the applicant's change of sports nationality;
- b) Official attestation by the host federation (signed by its president, on a letter with official header and seal) agreeing with the applicant's change of sports nationality;
- c) Copy of the wrestler's original passport (corresponding to the sports nationality waived by the wrestler)
- d) Copy of wrestler's new passport or his/her country's official residence permit where the applicant lives and for which he/she applies for the sports nationality;
- e) Copy of the country's official work permit where the applicant lives and for which he/she applies for the sports nationality;
- f) Proof of payment to United World Wrestling of the fee for the change of sports nationality set to 5.000 Swiss Francs.
- g) Proof of payment to the left federation of a training compensation of 5.000 Swiss Francs.
- h) A parental authorization for minors (under 18 years old)

Where a licence is granted by United World Wrestling for the first time to a wrestler based on a residence and work permit (letter d and e here above), it will be considered as a change of nationality and the present rules and requirements apply except letter a) and g) of the present article.

United World Wrestling's authorization for the change of sports nationality shall be sent to the host federation with copy to the left federation.

#### **Article 5 – Nationality rules for the Olympic Games and other Games' qualifying tournaments**

##### **I. Olympic Games:**

- a) For 1<sup>st</sup> phase qualifying tournaments, the following applies:

A wrestler who has represented one country in the Olympic Games, Olympic Games qualifier(s), World, Continental or Regional Games or in World or Regional Championships recognized by UWW and who has changed his nationality or acquired a new nationality, may participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase qualifying tournament to represent his new country provided that, at the time of the Olympic Games, at least three years have passed since he last represented his former country in one of the above competitions (excluding UWW international tournaments<sup>1</sup>).

A valid passport of the new country is mandatory to be eligible to the 1<sup>st</sup> phase qualifying tournament.

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<sup>1</sup> International tournaments are understood as all competitions registered in UWW calendar except the World Championships, Continental Championships, Olympic Games qualifying tournaments, Olympic Games, Regional, Continental or World Games.

- b) For 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> phases qualifying tournaments, the nationality rules of the Olympic Charter applies:

*“A competitor who has represented one country in the Olympic Games, in Continental or Regional Games or in World or Regional Championships recognized by the relevant IF, and who has changed his nationality or acquired a new nationality, may participate in the Olympic Games to represent his new country provided that at least three years have passed since he last represented his former country”<sup>2</sup> (including UWW International Tournaments<sup>3</sup>).*

A valid passport of the new country is mandatory to be eligible to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> phase Olympic Qualifying tournaments.

## II. Other Games:

Where UWW sanctioned events serve as qualifiers (for example Continental Championships), the UWW rules apply:

A wrestler who has represented one country in the Olympic Games, Olympic Games qualifier, in World, Continental or Regional Games or in World or Regional Championship recognized by UWW and who has changed his nationality or acquired a new nationality may participate in the qualifying event to represent his new country if, at the time of the Games, at least three years have passed since he last represented his former country in one of the above competition (excluding UWW international tournaments<sup>4</sup>).

A valid passport of the new country is mandatory to be eligible to the qualifying event.

### **Article 6 – Training compensation**

When an application for a change of sports nationality is submitted by an Olympic Games medallist, a world or continental medallist, the left federation may ask for a training compensation to the host federation according to the scale hereunder. It must obligatorily inform United World Wrestling when such a compensation is requested.

This compensation may only be requested for wrestlers in the junior and senior age category at the time of the application.

To determine the compensation, only the results obtained in the age category the year of the application to United World Wrestling will be taken into account.

Whether a training compensation has been requested or not according to paragraph 1 of the present article, 10% of the compensation amount calculated according to the scale here below will be automatically invoiced by United World Wrestling to the host federation.

#### Scale:

- Olympic & World gold medallist	Swiss Francs	300'000.-
- Olympic & World silver or bronze medallist	Swiss Francs	200'000.-
- Continental championship gold medallist	Swiss Francs	100'000.-
- Continental championship silver or bronze medallist	Swiss Francs	50'000.-

A medal obtained in a continental championship has not the same value from a continent to another if one considers the number of participants in each category. Accordingly, the above scale shall be adjusted in function to the participation rate in a category and considering as a reference the continental championship with the highest number of participants in the year and category considered<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Olympic Charter (as of 26 June 2019), Bye-law to rule 41.

<sup>3</sup> See note 1.

<sup>4</sup> See note 1.

<sup>5</sup> Example: Change of nationality of a gold medalist in the African Championship 2014 in FS (74 kg) :  
Number of 74 kg FS wrestlers in the European championship: 40  
Number of 74 kg FS wrestlers in the African championship: 10  
Compensation = 100.000 / 4 = 25.000

### **Article 7 – Dual nationality**

Any wrestler with dual nationality may obtain the international license for only one sports nationality.

If he/she wishes to change for the other nationality or for another, the rules and conditions laid down in these rules shall apply in the same way as for any sports nationality change.

### **Article 8 – Expiry of the contract with the former federation**

Any binding contract between a wrestler and his/her federation of origin is deemed terminated by the signing by its president of the federation's official attestation as provided by article 4, letter a here above.

In case the federation of origin is opposed for any reason to a wrestler's change of sports nationality, he/she will obtain the new sports nationality only after a period of twenty-four (24) months from the date of application for a change of sporting nationality to the United World Wrestling secretariat. Passed this period the authorization of the federation of origin will not be required anymore.

During this 24-month period the wrestler may only take part in international tournaments<sup>6</sup> with the federation of origin. In case a wrestler takes part in a continental championship, a world championship, one or several Olympic Games qualifying tournaments, the Olympic Games, Regional, Continental and/or World Games and World Cups during this period, the twenty-four (24) months period described above will be counted again from the participation date.

### **Article 9 – Disputes**

In case of a dispute between the applicant wrestler and a national federation regarding a change of sports nationality or between two federations regarding a change of sports nationality or the payment of the compensation provided in article 6 here above, United World Wrestling's Secretary General shall settle the dispute. He may also refer the case to the Disciplinary Chamber of United World Wrestling.

Any proceedings of dispute settlement regarding a change of sports nationality may be accompanied by the suspensive effect against the applicant wrestler.

### **Article 10 – Information duties between federations before a change of sports nationality**

A national federation which want to hire a wrestler shall inform in writing his/her current federation of its interest before starting the negotiations with this wrestler.

Any direct or indirect contact with the wrestler, orally or in writing, in violation of the above-mentioned obligation will lead to disciplinary consequences.

The United World Wrestling disciplinary committee shall decide on the necessary sanctions based on these rules, the United World Wrestling Disciplinary Procedure and Dispute Resolution rules as well as the nature of the case considered.

### **Article 11 – Appeals**

The Secretary General's or the Disciplinary Chamber's decision (article 9) may be subject to a complaint in accordance with the complaint procedure described in the *Disciplinary Procedure and Dispute Resolution Regulations*.

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<sup>6</sup> International tournaments are understood as all competitions registered in UWW calendar except the World Championships, Continental Championships, Olympic Games qualifying tournaments, Olympic Games, Regional, Continental or World Games.

### **Article 12 – Persons entitled to appeal**

The national federations and the wrestlers directly concerned by the General Secretary's or the Disciplinary Chamber's decision may appeal. The appealed decision may be upheld, quashed or modified.

### **Article 13 – Deadline to appeal**

The deadline to appeal is 21 days. It starts from the day the appealed decision has been notified to the parties by United World Wrestling's secretariat.

### **Article 14 – Revocation and annulment of a change of sports nationality**

Once the authorization for a change of sports nationality is given by United World Wrestling, no revocation for any reason (doping case, illness, injury, change of style or age category, etc.) may be granted by United World Wrestling.

However, an annulment may be pronounced for cases of deception in the conditions for granting the sports nationality.

### **Article 15 – Other disputes**

All situations not provided in the present rules may be settled definitively by United World Wrestling's Executive Committee.

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Last amendments approved by the UWW Executive Committee on 29 June 2019 (previous amendment on 18 October 2018).