

UNITED WORLD WRESTLING

Referee Education Pathway



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WRESTLING

MESSAGE

From United World Wrestling President, Nenad Lalovic

In view of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, now is the time to review and renew our referee education system. Thanks to the great work of the Refereeing Commission and Expert Group for Referee Education, I'm delighted to inform the United World Wrestling family that the Referee Education Pathway is now available.

The United World Wrestling Referee Education Pathway offers all of our National Federations the possibility to enhance the standard of their referees, both now and in the future.

This programme has the ability to change the perception of refereeing whilst providing equitable and fair opportunities to all our National Federations. Importantly, the development of such a programme is a clear indication of the progress we are making in our sport in line with the requirements set out by the Olympic Charter.

In this brochure, you will find valuable information on the Referee Education Pathway, including an overview of the Pathway itself, as well as an insight into how the education of referees is monitored, supervised and evaluated.

Should you have any comments or queries regarding the Pathway, please don't hesitate to contact us. On behalf of United World Wrestling, I thank you for your continued valuable contribution to the development of wrestling worldwide.



Nenad Lalovic
President of United World Wrestling
Member of the International Olympic Committee

Part I:

Referee Education Pathway Overview

Wrestling rules must be interpreted and applied with absolute consistency wherever and whenever a competition is taking place. United World Wrestling (UWW) has therefore developed a training and education system for our referees to ensure that refereeing standards continue to improve and the rules of the game are consistently applied.

The newly improved Referee Education Pathway provides a clear career path for wrestling referees to advance their levels internationally. Centred on building practical skills and improving their overall performance, this new system allows wrestling referee education in compliance with the international education standards and ensures a persistently high level of quality across the globe.



Pathway at a Glance

The new Referee Education Pathway comprises the following:

- 'Introduction to Refereeing' module aimed at national level referees
- Four levels of international referee certification courses
- One annual global course for the top-level (IS) referees

Competency-based theoretical examinations and practical evaluations are applied to assess each of the referees attending the course holding or wishing to obtain a valid UWW license for refereeing internationally. Specific training and experience requirements must be met.

A schedule of UWW Referee Courses will be published in January each year.

Table 1: Overview of UWW Referee Education Pathway



Main Learning Competencies

Clear and well-defined standards are in place to ensure that referees will learn and demonstrate through theoretical and practical applications at all levels in the pathway.

These include:

- Unbiased Judging
- Safety of the Athletes
- Evaluation of Holds
- Proper Referee Mechanics
- Communication
- Referee Team Duties
- Tournament Protocol
- Passivity
- Management skills



EDUCATION PATHWAY

INTRODUCTION TO REFEREEING (NON-CERTIFICATION COURSE)

This introductory course focuses on the basics of the refereeing system and includes practical sessions with simulated wrestling matches. The participants will be evaluated and will be given a participation certificate after the course is completed. This course is not intended to provide a UWW referee license but act as a foundation to apply for such a license in the future.

This is a 3-day course divided into 9 sessions which will test theoretical knowledge, practical performance, bout and video analyses, and teamwork skills.

This introduction course is organised by National Federations based on their development needs. Only UWW certified Referee Educators may conduct these courses.

'Introduction to Refereeing' could also be incorporated as a Referee Module in the Olympic Solidarity Technical Courses.

Language: as requested by the hosting country





LEVEL 1 COURSE – UWW CATEGORY III LICENSE

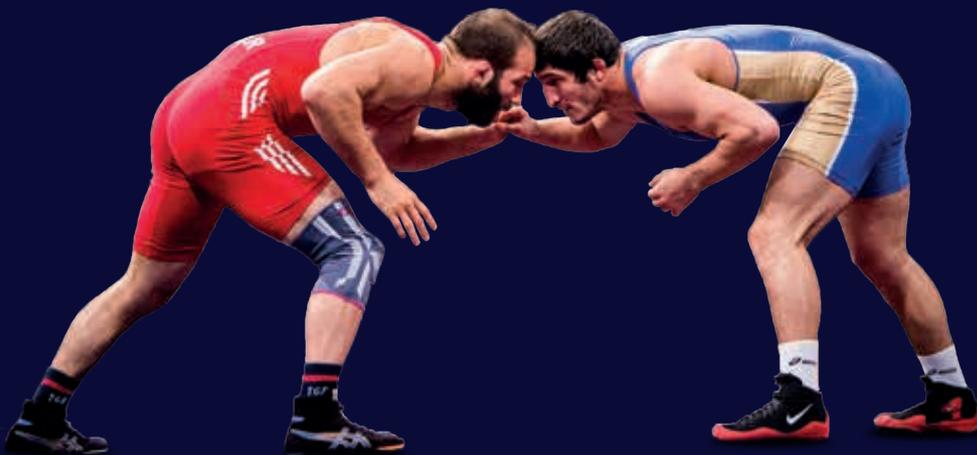
This is the first step in obtaining the UWW Referee License. Candidates must attend a 2-full-day course which is organised prior to a UWW international tournament competition.

Candidates who successfully pass the written, video and pairing exams, as well as the practical exams based on their performance during the competition, will be awarded a UWW Official Referee Category III license.

Category III referees are permitted to officiate at all the international tournaments under UWW's control except for the Olympic Games, World Championships, World Cups (all age groups) and Continental Championships (all age groups).

Language: available in multiple languages with a primary focus on English

Pre-requisite: UWW online rules test





LEVEL 2 COURSE – UWW CATEGORY II LICENSE

Candidates who obtained the Category III license and wish to advance in wrestling refereeing are required to attend a 2-day Level 2 Course, which incorporates both theoretical lessons and practical exercises. The content is based on the Level 1 Course with a greater emphasis on certain critical aspects of refereeing.

These courses are organised prior to UWW competitions.

Candidates who successfully pass the written, video and practical exams, as well as the practical evaluations during the competition, will be awarded a UWW Official Referee Category II license.

Category II referees are entitled to officiate at all the international tournaments under UWW's control except for the Olympic Games, World Championships, World Cups (all age groups) and Continental Championships (determined based on individual continents).

Language: available in multiple languages with a primary focus on English

Pre-requisite: Minimum 1 year of experience as Cat. III

LEVEL 3 COURSE – UWW CATEGORY I LICENSE

This is a high-level referee category and requires a higher level of training. Candidates must attend a 2 full-day theoretical course which is organised prior to a UWW International tournament or at a Cadet or Junior Continental Championship. The focus of this course is to improve technical and practical skills and ensure the referees are highly-equipped to perform at international elite competitions.

Candidates must successfully pass the written and video exams and practical evaluations during the competition to be awarded a UWW Official Referee Category I license.

Category I referees are authorised to officiate at all competitions under the UWW's control with the exception of Olympic Games, European Games, Senior European Championships and Senior World Championships.

Language: English only

Pre-requisite: Minimum 1 year of experience as Cat. II

LEVEL 4 – UWW CATEGORY IS LICENSE

This 2-day course comprises both theoretical and practical evaluations organised prior to a UWW competition. Participating referees must pass both tests to be upgraded to a Category IS referee. This is a very high-level referee category and requires candidates to be able to demonstrate an elite level of refereeing skills in complex situations and perform as Mat-Chairman at competitions.

The content of the course focuses on improving referees to work at Junior and U23 Continental, Senior Continental and World Championships.

Category IS referees are authorised to officiate at all competitions under UWW's control as well as the Olympic Games, for which a merit-based and transparent selection process will apply subject to a fix quota agreed with the International Olympic Committee

Language: English only

Pre-requisite: Minimum 2 years of experience as Cat. I

IS REFEREE SEMINAR

This annual global IS referee evaluation course is held in January with a focus on improving international wrestling refereeing standards. Attendance is mandatory for all IS Referees.

The content of the course will be adjusted each year and will be based on the overall referee performance at the Junior and Senior World Championships. Match analysis, areas for improvement and points of emphasis for the upcoming year will be discussed. Referees will take a written and video exam at the end of the course. This course will also provide the referees with information and presentations that can be used when they are acting as neutral referees or referee delegates at UWW competitions. This will help to provide consistency in the application of rules, and allow for rules to be reviewed in a coherent manner throughout the year.

Language: English only

Table 2: Summary of the UWW Technical Courses for Referees

Level	Award	Duration	Pre-requisite
Introduction	Non-certification	3 days	Online rule test
Level 1	Category III	2 days	Online rule test
Level 2	Category II	2 days	1-year experience of Cat. III
Level 3	Category I	2 days	1-year experience of Cat. II
Level 4	Category IS	2 days	2-year experience of Cat. I
IS seminar	Category IS	2 days	Working English Vocabulary and Satisfactory Results from the Junior and/or Senior World Championships

Part II:

Monitoring, Supervision and Evaluation Mechanism in Referee Education System

A fair and transparent monitoring and supervision mechanism is essential to ensure excellence in the education of referees, and improve accountability to ensure that a high quality is attained at all levels of the UWW referee development.





UWW Refereeing Commission

The Refereeing Commission oversees the Referee Education Pathway developed by the Expert Group for Referee Education. The Commission schedules the annual UWW referee certification course calendar, assigns appropriate referee experts (excl. non-certification courses) and awards referee category licenses based on the evaluations and evidence provided by the referee educators.

The UWW Refereeing Commission is also responsible for the approval of referee educators.

Expert Group for Referee Education

The Expert Group for Referee Education is the main body in charge of the development of the referee education curriculum and ensures that all courses meet the set standards.

This expert group manages the evaluation of the Referee Experts and provides annual appraisals of the current referee educators to the UWW Refereeing Commission, the UWW Sport department and UWW Development department.

The Expert Group for Referee Education, together with the UWW Sport department and Development department, are in charge of organisation of Referee and Educator courses each year.

Referee Educators

Referee Educators are a group of Category I and IS referees with representatives from all continents. These Educators take chief responsibility for conducting UWW referee courses, including the non-certification programme: 'Introduction to Refereeing'.

Referee Educators are responsible for the assessment of the referees taking certification courses and/or practical evaluations, and provide reports to UWW Refereeing Commission for official awards.

These Educators must attend and successfully pass the Educator Course to be able to deliver UWW referee courses. Each year, more educators could be proposed by the National Federations to the UWW Refereeing Commission if their referees meet the criteria. We especially encourage all National Federations to put forward their female candidates who meet the requirements.

Criteria for UWW Referee Educators:

- Current Cat. I or IS referees or Former Cat. IS referees (or Instructor)
 - Category I referees are allowed to conduct courses up to Level 2 (inclusive)
 - Category IS referees are allowed to conduct all courses
- Attitudes: dynamic speaker, flexible, positive, good inter-personal skills
- Basic Computer Skills: Microsoft Office and basic video editing
- Language: must be able to speak and understand English (common language among all educators)
Any additional languages would be advantage
- Flawless history as a referee

Educator Course for Referees and Coaches is organised once a year and managed by the UWW Development Department based on the approved candidate list provided and approved by the UWW Bureau and Refereeing Commission. This offers an opportunity for coaches and referees to work together, share experiences and exchange knowledge.

Language Requirements

To ensure clear and effective communication between referees at UWW international competitions, starting in 2020, all category I and IS referees must officiate in, express themselves in, and understand English comprehensively. Evaluations will be held during major competitions as of 2019. Referees who do not satisfy the language requirement will be downgraded to a lower category.

To be selected for the 2020 Olympics, referees must speak and understand English.

This document is a referential of the New Referee Education Pathway and it is subject to changes and modifications.



For more information, please contact United World Wrestling

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