

2014 WORLD TEAM TRIALS PROCEDURES

I. Eligibility

A. The World Team Trials are open to all U.S. citizens eligible to represent the USA at the World Championships as governed by the FILA and USA Wrestling rules. Athlete must be a U.S. citizen prior to the qualifying event entered.

B. Each competitor must meet style specific qualifications to take part in the World Team Trials (except for athletes petitioning into the Trials). Style specific requirements may be found at www.themat.com or by contacting the National Team Coach.

C. The Competition will be contested by FILA rules except as modified by this document.

II. Trials Tournament

A. The Trials Tournament is the preliminary competition of the World Team Trials that decides the finalist(s) for the Final Wrestle-Off. The Final Wrestle-Off is a best of three series to determine the World Team Members (with noted exceptions).

B. Seeding

(1) Wrestlers will be seeded by a seeding committee. The top two finishers from the National Championships who are participating in the Trials Tournament will receive the top two seeds. Any other changes from the National Championship will require a majority vote from the seeding committee.

(2) The seeding committee shall consist of one coach or representative of each of the USAW registered clubs entered in the World Team Trials. Individuals not a member of a club will be represented by a member of the seeding committee designated by the President of USA Wrestling.

C. Bracketing

(1) Format to be line bracket double elimination to third place.

(2) 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 to the accepted system in use by USA Wrestling.

(3) 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.

(4) If an athlete who earns an automatic berth into the Final Wrestle-Off is granted a delay in accordance with IV (A) or fails to make weight, the finals of the Trials Tournament will be contested in a best of three format.

(i) If the athlete earning the automatic berth is granted a delay in accordance with article IV (A), the winner of the Trials Tournament will face the athlete granted the delay at a date and in a format in accordance with article IV (A).

(ii) If the athlete earning the automatic berth fails to make weight, the winner of the Trials Tournament is the USA Wrestling World Team Member.

D. Schedule and Weigh-Ins

(1) Weigh-ins for the Trials Tournament and Final Wrestle-Off will be held the day before the competition and will be at scratch weight.

(2) Any of the qualifiers from the National Championships may elect to change weight classes, giving up wrestlers ranking at the weight class in which the wrestler qualified in order to compete at another weight. Athletes qualifying into the World Team Trials through the other processes may also change weight classes. The contestant should notify USA Wrestling in advance of this intention, but the wrestler's final decision shall be determined at the weigh-in.

(3) A minimum of 30 minutes rest will be provided between matches.

III. Final Wrestle-Off

A. The Final Wrestle-Off of all weight classes will be contested in a best of three format.

(1) In weight classes where no athlete has earned an automatic berth into the Final Wrestle-Off, the finals of the Trials Tournament will decide the World Team Member in a best of three format. These matches will be held during the Final Wrestle- Off session.

(2) In weight classes where an athlete has earned an automatic berth to the Final Wrestle-Off, the Trials Tournament champion will face the automatic finalist and the winner will be the World Team Member, except in men's Freestyle when the weight class falls under the Winter Tour Champion scenario (posted on themat.com or contact the National Coach) or in the situation where an athlete earning automatic berth into the Final Wrestle-Off has been granted a delay under IV(A).

B. True Third

(1) In the weight categories where an athlete has earned an automatic berth to the Final Wrestle-Off, if the second-place finisher from the Trials Tournament has not wrestled the third place finisher from Trials Tournament, then they will wrestle one match during the Final Wrestle-Off session to determine a true third place for ranking on the National Team.

IV. Delays or Replacement Due to Injury or Illness

A. If, in any weight class or style, the athlete earning an automatic berth into the Final Wrestle-Off is unable to compete in the Final Wrestle-Off due to injury or illness, the wrestler may request of the style specific Sport Committee a delay of competition. The Sport Committee shall determine whether or not the delay shall be granted. The injury or illness must be certified in writing by a medical doctor approved by USA Wrestling. USA Wrestling approval of a medical doctor will not be unreasonably withheld. If a request for delay of the Final Wrestle-Off is made within 18 hours of the weigh-in, the athlete will be required to weigh-in and make weight at the qualified weight and have the illness or injury certified in writing by a medical doctor approved by USA Wrestling; provided, however, that the Sport Committee may excuse this weigh-in requirement if the basis for delay is determined by the Sport Committee to be due to unforeseen or extenuating circumstances. The date and place of wrestle-off will be established by the National Coach with agreement of the athletes involved. If agreement cannot be reached, then the date and place of the wrestle-off will be determined by the appropriate Sport Committee.

B. If a World Team member at any weight is incapacitated after the World Team Trials and prior to the World Championships, the Sport Committee shall assign the position to the next-ranked alternate at the weight in question up to and including the sixth-ranked wrestler from the World Team Trials; provided the next-ranked wrestler is present at and substantially completing the requirements of World Team training as determined by the Sport Committee and approved by the Executive Committee of USA Wrestling.

(1) 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 World Championships.

V. World Team Trials Officiating, Pairing, and Protest Procedures

A. All bouts shall be officiated as prescribed by FILA 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.

(1) Mat side video will be made available for officials' use only. Mat side review will be done in accordance with FILA rules. Upon review of action, the decision of the officiating team is final.

(2) The score sheets of the judge and the mat chairman, signed by the winning wrestler, shall be accepted as the official result of the bout, even if the scoring differs from that of numerical or electric scoreboard, unless the officiating team determines that an error has been made and that the score sheet must be corrected.

B. 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.

C. 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 as follows:

(1) President of USA Wrestling, or his designated agent, who shall act as chairperson

(2) One or more members of the USA Wrestling Board of Directors appointed by the chairperson of the Protest Committee. Members of the Sport Committee of the style that the protest is filed are ineligible to serve on the protest committee.

(3) Any member of the Protest Committee shall disqualify themselves from a protest hearing if they have personal ties to any contestant in the same weight class.

(4) Any situation not specifically addressed in this document shall be resolved under standard procedures of USA Wrestling.

VI. Drug Testing

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

VII. Athlete Ombudsman

An athlete who has questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USA Wrestling, may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman: John W. Ruger by telephone at (888) ATHLETE, or by e-mail at john.ruger@usoc.org.

VIII. World Team Training

A. 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 Athlete contract, whether or not the athlete signs the National Team contract. Failure to do so can result in fines and sanctions including the removal from the National Team and the World Team.

B. 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 can result in the removal and replacement of the athlete up to the deadline of the athlete registration for the World Championships.

* These procedures are based on FILA rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in FILA 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.