



***SOUTH AFRICAN***  
***WRESTLING FEDERATION***

***OFFICIALS' COUNCIL***

**ANNEXURE 7**

**OFFICIALS' COUNCIL RULES**

**RULES OF THE OFFICIALS' COUNCIL OF THE SAWF- 12th February 2005 & 12th August 2006 & 1st NOVEMBER 2008 & 18 AUGUST 2012 & 24 October 2014 & 16 April 2016.**

**Article 1 VISION OF THE SAWF'S OFFICIALS' COUNCIL**

It is the Vision of the Officials' Council to ensure that the standard of officiating in South Africa is of the highest quality, comparable to the best in the world.

**Article 2 MISSION OF THE SAWF'S OFFICIALS' COUNCIL**

The mission of the Officials' Council is to develop and maintain the best quality of registered Officials (Referees, Judges and Jury members), officiating on National level, by presenting officials' courses of high standard and evaluating the performance of the officials, ensuring support of the Vision.

**Article 3 OBJECTIVES**

It is the objective of the SAWFOC to align to the objectives of the SAWF and further thereto:

- 3.1. To be continually conversant and on par with the International Wrestling Rules of United World Wrestling (UWW).
- 3.2. To manage all issues regarding refereeing in the RSA.
- 3.3. To make recommendations to the SAWF Executive Management for awarding SA colours, for Officials qualifying therefore.
- 3.4. To manage, from time to time, all other issues necessary towards the promotion of refereeing.
- 3.5. To support the SAWF in developing refereeing in all styles of wrestling as described by UWW in the RSA and SADC countries as well as developing areas.
- 3.6. To support Wrestling Associations launching development programmes for Officials, especially amongst previously disadvantaged communities.
- 3.7. To actively contribute to the development of refereeing in all wrestling styles in the RSA.

- 3.8. To ensure strict supervision over and the correct application of wrestling rules at all National and identified Provincial Wrestling Calendar Events/Open Championships.
- 3.9. To select and nominate qualified officials to accompany teams to represent South Africa in the RSA and abroad.
- 3.10. To establish, maintain and manage a transparent recognition system for officials.

#### **Article 4 MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION**

- 4.1. Membership is compulsory to all officials.
- 4.2. Officials must reregister on or before a pre-determined date as set by the SAWF officials' council. Registrations after this date (except for new registrations), will be regarded as a late registration and a late registration fee will therefore be applicable.
- 4.3. A person may register for the first time as an official after he/she turns 16 years.
- 4.4. An official may continue to reregister after he/she turns 65 years of age, he/she will however be subjected to an evaluation system, as determined by the officials' council, to ensure that he/she fulfils the requirements of an active official.
- 4.5. Registration fees will be determined by the executive management of the SAWF and the officials' council will make recommendations in this regard.
- 4.6. Members of the officials' council are exempted from paying registration fees to the SAWF.

#### **Article 5 COMPOSITION OF THE OFFICIALS' COUNCIL**

- 5.1. The Officials' Council comprises the Chairperson, the vice-chairperson, the secretary and 4 members elected from nominations during the annual general meeting for councils.
- 5.2. An assistant secretary will be appointed from the 4 members.

- 5.3. Nominees for the council must be in possession of at least a Category 2 grading as an official and must have attended SA events during each of the previous 2 years.
- 5.4. The officials' council may co-opt members to the council to execute specific duties, as and when required,

## **Article 6 GRADING OF OFFICIAL**

- 6.1. An official may be upgraded in a specific year if he/she has, during the course of the year:
  - 6.1.1. attended at least one clinic;
  - 6.1.2. written and passed an examination;
  - 6.1.3. done & passed at least one practical upgrading evaluation;
  - 6.1.4. done at least one practical control; and
  - 6.1.5. complied with the minimum attendance
- 6.2. The pass rate for evaluation is as follows:
  - 6.2.1. Provincial A to SA 2 : 70%
  - 6.2.2. SA 2 to SA 1 : 75%
  - 6.2.3. SA 1 to Cat 2 : 80%
  - 6.2.4. Cat 2 to Cat 1 : 85%
  - 6.2.5. Cat 1 to Cat E : 90%

An official must obtain the minimum of 90 % to qualify for the Cat E grading at the end of that year, a Cat E (Exceptional) official must be able to present a clinic for officials and control a tournament.

A successful pass rate is the average between the theoretical (written) and practical evaluation for the specific year in the following ratio:

- 70 practical
- 30 theoretical (= 100%)

An official will be practically evaluated on the following:

- Knowledge and execution of the rules of wrestling
  - Dress and appearance
  - Discipline on and around the mat, general conduct
- 6.3. An official (Provincial A and higher) must attend at least 2 (two) SA level tournaments, 2 (two) provincial open championships as well as 6 provincial / club level tournaments for a possible upgrading. It is the responsibility of the

provincial associations to confirm the officials' satisfactory attendance. For control purposes every provincial association / club must keep a register of attendance which must be made available to the officials' council whenever required. A Provincial A official who wishes to be upgraded to a SA2 grading must have been registered for at least 3 years and has to pass the prescribed entry examination.

- 6.4. At National level an official may only be upgraded to the next higher grading once a year
- 6.5. **Honours Award** - The title "Honours" will no longer be regarded as a grading but will be an award. It will be awarded by the executive management of the SAWF, at the recommendation of the officials' council, on the retirement of an official, holding a Category 1 or Exceptional grading, who has distinguished him/herself over a period of 10 (ten) years (in either or both of these grades). He/she must have done exceptional work as an official.
- 6.6. Demoting of an official to a lower grade
  - 6.6.1. The official who, without any acceptable reason, fails to meet the required appearances as stipulated in 6.3, may be demoted.
  - 6.6.2. The official who fails to be evaluated for the year may be demoted.
  - 6.6.3. Officials will be evaluated on their discipline on and around the mat. This will form part of their practical mark of 70 points.
  - 6.6.4. Any official who does not pass his/her practical evaluation, will be brought to the attention of the chairperson of the officials' council, who will then ensure that the decision is justified.
  - 6.6.5. The official who has not been active for some time, but wishes to register again, will be allowed an opportunity to be evaluated, after he/she has attended the annual training course and has passed the annual theoretical examination, on the grading which was held at the time he/she stopped being active. The result of such evaluation will determine the grading of the official for the next year but such grading will not be higher than the grading which was held previously. It remains the responsibility of the official to be

evaluated at the first available opportunity and until such time will have one grading lower than that which he/she had before.

- 6.7. Every official must pass one control per annum, attend a clinic and obtain the required percentage in a practical evaluation to maintain his/her present grading. (This goes hand in hand with the required attendance). If an official wishes to upgrade, he/she must pass one control and one upgrading, pass the written exam and must have fulfilled the attendance requirements. An official who wishes to be nominated for the South African officials' council, must have attended SA events during each of the previous two years.
- 6.8. **LTPD** - Persons aged 13 may register as officials in the Long Term Development Program (LTPD) with the grading PO1 (1st year), PO2 (2nd year) and PO3 (3rd year). They will be allowed to officiate only after attending a Provincial Officials' Course. On reaching the age of 16 before the middle of the year an LTPD Official may register as an Provincial C Official (a Provincial B grading may be awarded on condition that such official has been registered for at least 2 years and has passed the prescribed Provincial Course).
- 6.9. **Physically Disabled Persons** - Persons with Physical Disability may register as Judges and be utilised to perform duties on the Scoreboard and at the Judges table.
- 6.10. **Judges** - Any person, aged 16 and older, who wishes to be active as an official but not in the Referee category, may register as a Judge. These officials will be trained in the use of the various electronic score boards currently in use as well as Judges. They will not be required to become referees or mat chairpersons. Anybody who has the physical strength and ability who wishes to translate from Judge to Referee may do so after passing the written examination and practical evaluation for a relevant grading.
- 6.11. Recommended Grading and Duties

**Provincial Grading**

- 6.11.1. Provincial C – Score board and time keeping  
6.11.2. Provincial B – Score board/time keeping and Judge

- 6.11.3. Provincial A – As above and assisting with training on association/provincial level.

### **National Grading**

- 6.11.4. SA2 – Score board and time keeping at SA Championships (Pass 70%)
- 6.11.5. SA1 – As above and judge (Pass 75%)
- 6.11.6. Cat 2 – As above and SA Grading/Trials (Pass 80%)
- 6.11.7. Cat 1 – As above and getting involved in training on National level (Pass 85%)
- 6.11.8. Exep – As above, utilised as Instructor (Pass 90%).

## **Article 7 COMPETENCE**

- 7.1. The chairperson of the officials' council takes complete control of every SA tournament and is assisted by the members of his council.
- 7.2. The vice-chairperson will, in the absence of the chairperson, be delegated to represent the chairperson.
- 7.3. Should the vice-chairperson also be unavailable, an acting chairperson will be appointed from one of the members present.
- 7.4. Should there not be sufficient members of the council present at an event, the chairperson of the council may, after consultation with the members, appoint other officials for the purpose.

## **Article 8 DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

An official whose actions are contrary to the objectives of UWW or the SAWF

- 8.1. An official whose behaviour is detrimental to other officials.
- 8.2. An official who makes derogatory remarks, shouts at or advises competitors.
- 8.3. An official who publicly criticises his/her fellow official(s).
- 8.4. An official who does not apply the rules, or acts partially.
- 8.5. An official who, as a result of alcohol use, the use of habit-forming drugs or other substance which he/she may be using becomes an embarrassment to wrestling, or discredits it.
- 8.6. Any official who has been demoted, or against whom disciplinary action has been taken, may appeal to the executive management of the SAWF.

## **Article 9 MEETINGS**

- 9.1. Meetings of the officials' council may be convened, by the chairperson of the council or by the executive management of the SAWF, for whatever reason.
- 9.2. For a meeting of the council to be constituted at least 50%, plus 1 (one) of the elected members will constitute a quorum. If there is no quorum, the members present may discuss the matters but all decisions made must be condoned at the next meeting of the officials' council where there is a quorum.
- 9.3. Voting by show of hands will be binding except if a secret ballot is requested by one of the members.
- 9.4. The appointed assistant secretary shall take proper minutes, and attendance, of every officials' council meeting, and distribute such minutes to the members, the president, the relevant vice-president and secretary-general of the SAWF.

#### **Article 10 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

- 10.1. At the recommendation of the officials' council, the executive management of the SAWF may award honorary membership to an official who, due to ill health, age or for another reason ends his officiating career. This award does not allow for the person to act as an official (outside his/her association/provincial boundaries).
- 10.2. The association/province where the official was registered must make the necessary application for such award, accompanied by the relevant motivation.

#### **Article 11 DISCONTINUANCE AS OFFICIAL**

The following circumstances may lead to the official's permanent discontinuance as an official:

- 11.1. Voluntary resignation.
- 11.2. Suspension of membership by the executive management of the SAWF, but only after the official has been granted ample opportunity to answer to allegations.

- 11.3. At the request of the association where the official is registered. This request must however be justified and include confirmation that the official was granted ample opportunity to answer to allegations.
- 11.4. Being found guilty of any serious transgression.

## **Article 12 COLOURS AND AWARDS**

- 12.1. National colours may be conferred by the executive management of the SAWF, at the recommendation of the officials' council, to an official after maintaining the grading as a Cat 2 official.
- 12.2. The colours awarded will be endorsed with the following wording: "Beampte/Official".
- 12.3. No official who has been suspended, or is currently serving a suspended sentence, will qualify for colours.
- 12.4. The officials' council will check their register, which is continuously updated, verify the information and submit recommendation for colours to the SAWF Executive Management.
- 12.5. The officials' council has the mandate to submit recommendations for other awards to the executive management.

## **Article 13 HONORARY COLOURS**

- 13.1. Colours of Honour (Honorary Honours/ Exceptional/Official) may be awarded by the executive management, at the recommendation of the officials' council, after cessation as an official.
- 13.2. The title of Honorary Honours/Exceptional Official will be awarded together with honorary membership to exceptional officials.

## **Article 14 SPECIAL STIPULATIONS**

- 14.1. Deleted
- 14.2. Deleted
- 14.3. Deleted
- 14.4. The official who neglects to keep his/her license up to date will not be allowed to participate during club, province or SAWF events.

- 14.5. To enable the official to participate at international events, the officials' council will provide the executive management with the names of those officials who qualify. To be considered, the official must have attended at least 50% of the events presented by the SAWF in the preceding 12 (twelve) months and he/she must be registered as a UWW official with a grading corresponding to that grading which is required at that international event.
- 14.6. An official must be 40 years or younger and shall hold at least a Cat 2 grading in South Africa before registering as a UWW referee.

## **Article 15 RULES**

- 15.1. Every official, and the members of the officials' council, are at all times subject to the prescripts of these rules.
- 15.2. These rules may only be amended with the deliberation of the officials' council via the executive management of the SAWF, except where these rules are in conflict with the constitution of the SAWF, when these rules shall be amended accordingly.
- 15.3. The official's council will function in accordance with articles 14.1 and 14.11 of the constitution of the SAWF.

Amended by the officials' council, recommended by the legal advisory committee and approved by the executive management on 12th February 2005, 12th August 2006, and 1st November 2008 18 August 2012, May 2014, 16 April 2016.

Original document signed and kept on file by the secretary-general.

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**MR SAKKIE BOSSE**  
**PRESIDENT (SAWF)**

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**MR HN VAN DEN BERG**  
**SECRETARY-GENERAL (SAWF)**

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**DATE**