

To: Secretary/ Presidents – SAWF Wrestling Associations
SAWF Executive Management

8 February 2019

SAWFCC CIRCULAR 05/2019 – CRITERIA FOR THE 2020 UWW CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS AND PARTICIPATION IN THE 2019 NATIONAL TRAILS.

We would like to announce the criteria and requirements for participation in the National trials on 27 and 28 September 2019 for the 2020 African Continental Championships.

We kindly request that all SAWF Wrestling Associations distribute and share the abovementioned criteria with all wrestlers and coaches within their Association. We need your support to ensure that all clubs, wrestlers and coaches are informed and understand the importance of the requirements set in the criteria. It is impossible for the Federation to communicate effectively with every member of the Federation without your support and cooperation. There are still some wrestlers that claim they didn't receive the information as distributed during 2017 and 2018 with regards to the criteria and General Selection Policy of SASCO.

We have included a bigger selection of Open Tournaments to choose from in future providing more flexibility, although, that in itself creates certain challenges, but we want to make it as attainable as possible for every wrestler to qualified for participation in the National trails. The requirements stay the same as approved by the SAWF General Management on the 27 May 2017, except for the bigger selection of Open Tournaments to choose from.

General Background, Overview and Information:

The information in the letter is important to every wrestler, coach and official who plans to represent South Africa internationally. It is important that management members of wrestling associations and clubs, coaches and parents support the SAWF General and Executive Management by distributing and explaining the information to all members of the SAWF.

There is general perception amongst some members that inclusion and selection to official National SAWF teams for international participation represents the same process as selection and inclusion for provincial or regional teams. Preparation for international participation and performance requires dedicated to continuous development, preparation and participation over a period of 8-12 years and is not a short-lived effort to be selected to a National team merely to obtain national colours.

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Coaches and wrestlers are responsible to carefully plan in which wrestling style and weight category they should participate at the National trials. Participation and preparation should focus on competitive international participation and not on finding open weight categories during the National trials in order to be selected to a National team. The SAWFCC and SAWF Executive Management will monitor this specific aspect and selection to a specific team will be based on wrestlers' readiness and safe competitive participation at international events.

It is important to beware of the SASCOC requirements for the Multi-Coded Games as these requirements should be included in the planning cycle to ensure compliance. The SASCOC Policy on General Eligibility and Selection Criteria for Multi-Coded Games (2017 – 2024) available at <http://wrestling.org.za/selection-criteria/>, describes the general requirements for the eligibility and selection of SASCOC teams for the Multi Coded events as set out in the document. The detailed requirements are set out in the policy, but it is important to highlight the following aspects since this is where most of the misunderstanding arise as well as changes from the previous policy.

- The requirements and criteria are applicable for the next 8 years, 2017 – 2024, i.e. the following two Olympic Quadrennials. Wrestlers and coaches should include the requirements and criteria in their individual planning, as qualification requires multi-year participation and development.
- Wrestlers must participate and compete in the Federation's annual National Championships to be eligible for teams.
- In addition to the General requirements, specific qualifying requirements are set out for each of the listed Multi Code events listed in the policy.
- The SAWF's criteria and requirements must be aligned with and support SASCOC's criteria and requirements to assist and enable wrestlers to qualify.
- Wrestlers must have an international participation record that supports motivation by the SAWF for inclusion in SASCOC teams. It is important to participate in tournaments scheduled and recognised by UWW. Individual performance is not the only consideration for final team selection by SASCOC various other factors are important.
- *Compliance with the qualification criteria as set for the specific multi-code event in the SASCOC General Eligibility and Selection Criteria for Multi-Coded Games (2017 – 2024) does not guarantee inclusion in the team. Final motivations by the SAWF, will be considered by SASCOC in terms of the composition requirements for the whole SASCOC team, the number of allocated places by the relevant governing body as well as the compliance with the policy in respect of previously disadvantaged people.*
- No re-allocation, wildcard or universal places will be considered by SASCOC.

Requirements and criteria for 2019/20:

Local wrestlers: (Wrestlers who live and prepare in South Africa)

Specific requirements for participation in the National trials and election to 2019 UWW Continental Championships teams: (The National trials on 27 and 28 September 2019 will only be used for selection of the 2020 Continental Championship teams accept if SASCOG and UWW final selection policies for the 2020 Olympic Games require us to arrange it differently)

1. Participation in the National trials are limited to **one style per wrestler**. Wrestlers in the men's category must choose in advance in which style he wants to participate and can only be entered in **one style** for the National trials.
2. Participation in the National trials in the specific wrestling style, age and weight category in which the wrestlers will participate internationally, is compulsory.
3. Placement in the first three wrestlers at the national trials will not serve as automatic admission to any National team, final selection to National teams will be on recommendation of the SAWF Coaches Council and approval by the SAWF Executive management. **The final recommendation if a wrestler is ready for international participation will be considered by the Coaches Council for final approval by the SA Executive Management. This is applicable to any international participation or team.**
4. Wrestlers who wants to participate in the National trials on **27 and 28 September 2019** to qualify for the above Championships must participated in both of the following events during 2019.
 1. Any **two (2)** of the following seven (7) calendar Open Tournaments as scheduled on the 2019 SAWF official calendar. **Please note only wrestlers with long term injuries will be considered for exemption from participation in Open Tournaments. In case of normal short-term illness wrestlers have the opportunity to select another Open tournament or championship scheduled on the calendar. (Please note - Two of the listed tournaments must still be scheduled on the 2019 SAWF calendar)**
 1. Eastern Gauteng Open Championship – **16 February 2019**
 2. Gertjie van der Merwe Tournament – **6 April 2019** (Will be placed on 2019 SAWF Calendar)
 3. Mpumalanga Open Championships – **27 April 2019**
 4. Abraham Geldenhuys Open Championships – **11 May 2019**
 5. Winter Open Championships – **1 June 2019**
 6. Fabian Rassie Tournament - **13 July 2019** (Will be placed on 2019 SAWF Calendar)

7. Johnny Reitz Open Championships - **4 Augustus 2018**, and

2. **One (1)** of the following SAWF Championships as scheduled on the 2019 SAWF official calendar. Participation in the National Championships must be in the specific wrestling style and age category in which the wrestlers will participate internationally. *Please note: Wrestlers that are too young to participate in the specific age category in which he/ she intends to participate internationally must participate in the SA Championships of his specific age group at the time of the SA Championships.*

1. SA Presidents Championships on 15 and 16 March 2019 (Will be considered for Cadet and Junior wrestlers only)
2. SA Senior, Junior and Cadet National Championships 21 and 22 June 2019
3. SA Youth Championships 27 and 28 September 2019
4. National Trails for 2019 on 9 February and 9 March 2019

The abovementioned events are set as a minimum requirement. Where wrestlers participate in more than the total number of events required, the SAWFCC will consider these individual cases on merit if communicated timeously with the SAWFCC.

Please note:

Wrestlers that couldn't participate in the stipulated SA Championships or National trials due to medical disability, must apply for exception on the following conditions:

- The wrestler should have entered for the SA event beforehand, withdrawing by handing in a valid doctor's certificate.
- Wrestlers busy with long term recovery from a serious injury had to inform the SAWFCC beforehand of their injury. Only doctors' letters and evidence from specialist doctors for treatment and/or surgeries will be considered.
- Applications for medical exemption must be submitted to the SAWFCC, before the closing date for entries to SA National trials. The closing date for entries to the National trials **will be 28 days before the scheduled date on the SAWF Calendar, except where otherwise indicated for specific ad hoc trials.** SAWF application form (attached) for medical exemption must be completed with all the supporting documentation.
- Wrestlers will be responsible for the enrolment fee of the SA event.
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

- All applications for exemption will be considered and approved by the SAWFCC. Submission of applications will not mean automatic exemption.
- Medical exemption is only applicable to SA Championships and National trails and not calendar Open tournaments except for serious long-term injuries.

Wrestlers selected for official SAWF teams, busy with preparation and/or competition abroad or mandatory local predeparture camps for SASCOC, will be exemption for the relevant SA event.

5. Wrestlers must attend, participate in and complete at least 60% of the scheduled national training sessions and training camp sessions. This requirement will be for the period from the 10 February 2019 up and until **28 (Twenty-eight days)** before the date of the national trials for cadet, junior and senior teams.
6. Wrestlers selected to the 2020 UWW Continental Championships teams must attend at least 80% of the scheduled National training sessions and physically participate and complete the workout. The attendance requirement will be applicable from the National trials on 27 – 28 September 2019 up to and including the date on which the above Championships takes place.
7. All scheduled National training camps for wrestlers selected to the 2020 UWW Continental Championships teams are compulsory. The attendance requirement will be applicable from the National trials on 27 – 28 September 2019 to and including the date on which the above Championships takes place.
8. Wrestlers that wants to be considered for participation in other UWW events for 2020 must conform to the requirements as stipulated in paragraph 6 and 7 above after the Continental Championships for 2020.
9. Placement in the first three wrestlers at the 2020 UWW Continental Championships will not serve as automatic admission, selection or participation in any UWW events for 2020, final selection to National teams will be on recommendation of the SAWF Coaches Council and approval by the SAWF Executive management. The final recommendation if a wrestler is ready for international participation will be considered by the Coaches Council for final approval by the SA Executive Management. This is applicable to any international participation or team.

Note Please on the following:

1. Junior, cadet and U/15 youth wrestlers that participate in a higher age category are expected to win their own age category before he/ she will be considered for selection in the higher age category for international participation. Men must participate in the same style in both age categories. The SAWF Coaches Council will make a final recommendation to the SAWF Executive Management regarding the possible selection in a higher age category irrespective of the wrestler's

final placing during the trials. The safety and well-being of the wrestler is first priority. **(The requirement set out in paragraph 3 above remain applicable)**

2. No wrestler will be allowed to participate in a different style or category during any international competition but in the style and category in which the wrestler was selected, without the express consent of the SAWF Executive Management.

Overseas wrestlers: (Wrestlers who live and prepare overseas)

Specific requirements for participation in the National trials and election to 2020 UWW Continental Championships teams: (The National trials on 27 and 28 September 2019 will only be used for selection of the 2020 Continental Championship teams accept if SASCOC and UWW final selection policies for the 2020 Olympic Games require us to arrange it differently)

1. Wrestlers who reside and train overseas must inform the SAWF of their circumstances before **15 February** each year. Information with regards to the name of their university, college, club and contact information of their overseas coach. Details of their annual exercise program regarding strength and conditioning, fitness, periodisation in respect of competition must also be provided. Wrestlers that starts training overseas during the year must inform the SAWFCC of the circumstances within 14 days of their arrival overseas.
2. Wrestlers must send a monthly report on their training activities and attendance to the SAWF Coaches council. These reports must be handed in from January each year.
3. Participation to the National trials are limited to one style per wrestler. Wrestlers in the men's category must choose in advance in which style he wants to participate and can only be entered in one style for the National trials.
4. Participation in the National trials in the specific wrestling style, age and weight category in which the wrestlers will participate internationally, is compulsory.
5. Placement in the first three wrestlers at the national trials will not serve as automatic admission to any National team, final selection to National teams will be on recommendation of the SAWF Coaches Council and approval by the SAWF Executive management. The final recommendation if a wrestler is ready for international participation will be considered by the Coaches Council for final approval by the SA Executive Management. This is applicable to any international participation or team.
6. **One (1)** of the following SAWF Championships as scheduled on the 2019 SAWF official calendar. Participation in the National Championships must be in the specific wrestling style, and age category in which the wrestlers will participate internationally. Participation. *Please note: Wrestlers*

that are too young to participate in the specific age category in which he/ she intends to participate internationally must participate in the SA Championships of his specific age group at the time of the SA Championships.

1. SA Presidents Championships on 15 and 16 March 2019 (Will be considered for Cadet and Junior wrestlers only)
2. SA Senior, Junior and Cadet National Championships 21 and 22 June 2019
3. SA Youth Championships 27 and 28 September 2019
4. National Trails for 2019 on 9 February and 9 March 2019

Please note:

Wrestlers that couldn't participate in the stipulated SA Championships or National trials due to medical disability, must apply for exception on the following conditions:

- The wrestler should have entered for the SA event beforehand, withdrawing by handing in a valid doctor's certificate.
- Wrestlers busy with long term recovery from a serious injury had to inform the SAWFCC beforehand of their injury. Only doctors' letters and evidence from specialist doctors for treatment and/or surgeries will be considered.
- Applications for medical exemption must be submitted to the SAWFCC, before the closing date for entries to SA National trials. The closing date for entries to the National trials **will be 28 days before the scheduled date on the SAWF Calendar, except where otherwise indicated for specific ad hoc trials.** SAWF application form (attached) for medical exemption must be completed with all the supporting documentation.
- Wrestlers will be responsible for the enrolment fee of the SA event.
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
- All applications for exemption will be considered and approved by the SAWFCC. Submission of applications will not mean automatic exemption.
- Medical exemption is only applicable to SA Championships and National trails and not calendar Open tournaments except for serious long-term injuries.

Wrestlers selected for official SAWF teams, busy with preparation and/or competition abroad or mandatory local predeparture camps for SASCOC, will be exemption for the relevant SA event.

7. Placement in the first three wrestlers at the 2020 UWW Continental Championships will not serve as automatic admission, selection or participation in any UWW events for 2020, final selection to National teams will be on recommendation of the SAWF Coaches Council and approval by the

SAWF Executive management. The final recommendation if a wrestler is ready for international participation will be considered by the Coaches Council for final approval by the SA Executive Management. This is applicable to any international participation or team.

Please note the following:

1. Junior, cadet and U/15 youth wrestlers that participate in a higher age category are expected to win their own age category before he/ she will be considered for selection in the higher age category for international participation. Men must participate in the same style in both age categories. The SAWF Coaches Council will make a final recommendation to the SAWF Executive Management regarding the possible selection in a higher age category irrespective of the wrestler's final placing during the trials. The safety and well-being of the wrestler is first priority. **(The requirement set out in paragraph 3 above remain applicable)**
2. No wrestler will be allowed to participate in a different style or category during any international competition but in the style and category in which the wrestler was selected, without the express consent of the SAWF Executive Management.

General eligibility requirements (applicable to local and overseas wrestlers):

South African Wrestling Federation:

1. Must be a South African Citizen in possession of a legal identification document and a valid passport. All u/18 wrestlers must be in possession of a valid unabridged birth certificate.
2. Must be registered with a legally affiliated wrestling club of the SAWF. Late registrations will be considered on merit, only where wrestlers weren't registered in the previous registration period. Please note the eligibility requirements as stated in the SASCOC Policy on General Eligibility and Selection Criteria for Multi-Coded Games (2017 – 2024) available at <http://wrestling.org.za/selection-criteria/> for a particular Multi-coded event has to be adhered to and can't be waived by the SAWF.
3. Wrestlers and coaches may not be the subject of a disciplinary investigation or disciplinary suspension for any violation (including but not limited to illegal substances) during the period of his selection to the team.
4. Wrestlers must comply with the Rules and Code of Conduct of the SA Wrestling Federation and adhere to these rules at all times.
5. Wrestlers must comply with the Rules and Code of Conduct of the International Federation United World Wrestling.

6. Must have participated in the required National tournaments as well as other qualification tournaments as determined in the selection criteria.
7. Comply with the requirements for attendance of the National training and training camps as determined in the criteria.
8. All wrestlers will be required to pass a fitness and skill test as determined by the SAWF Coaching Council within the norms and standards of the testing protocol for Olympic Wrestling performed by an accredited institution. Attached please find the current protocol.
9. Respect and uphold the principals of sportsmanship as well as the principal of no violence.
10. Respect and uphold the rules of “World Anti-doping Agency” as well as the South African Institute for Drug Free Sport.
11. The SAWF Coaches Council may at any time make a recommendation to the SAWF Executive Management with regards to the readiness and fitness of a wrestler for participation in an international level tournament considering the well-being and safety of the wrestler.
12. To ensure the well-being and safety of wrestlers and team members wrestlers must be within a 5% allowance of the weight category before departure in which he/ she will participate in during the competition.
13. SAWFCC will monitor the weights of wrestlers on eTMS before National trials and make specific recommendations regarding wrestlers that reduce too much weight for National trials.
14. The S.A. Executive Management will consider the requirements as set by SASCOC and SRSA as a priority during the selection of teams.

South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee:

In case of selection for teams administered by SASCOC wrestlers must conform to the selection policies and criteria as stipulated by SASCOC.

General requirements for wrestling who living overseas:

1. Wrestlers who reside and train overseas must inform the SAWF of their circumstances before **15 February** each year. Information with regards to the name of their university,

college, club and contact information of their overseas coach, as well as, details relating to their annual training program with regards to fitness, strength and conditioning and periodisation with regards to competition must be provided. Wrestlers that starts training overseas during the year must inform the SAWFCC of the circumstances within 14 days of their arrival overseas.

2. Wrestlers must send a monthly report on their training activities and attendance to the SAWF Coaches council.
3. The results of competitions in which wrestlers participated must be sent to SAWFCC.
4. Wrestlers must participate in at least one (1) SAWFCC approved tournament in the selected style annually. Wrestlers must inform SAWFCC in advance with regards to the plan participation as well as the results of the competition. The selection of the tournament depends on the age category and level and expertise of the specific wrestlers and the appropriate tournament will be approved by SAWFCC.
5. Qualify and participation in the SA National Trails.
6. Wrestlers need to be available for international training camps as determined by the SAWFCC.
7. Wrestlers need to be available for selection to National team participating at international competitions.
8. Wrestlers are required to be registered in terms of the requirements for Foreign based wrestlers as determined by UWW.

Regards

Coaches Council

Nico Coetzee