

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

13 January 2021

**SAWFCC CIRCULAR 02/2021 – CRITERIA FOR THE 2021 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 6 February 2021 for the 2021 African Continental Championships.

The Covid-19 pandemic continuous to have an enormous impact on our sport and in particular wrestling competitions at all levels, most noticeable the postponement of the 2020 Olympic Games together with the Oceania and African Continental Qualification Tournament. The SAWF is remains positive that the situation will improve, and wrestlers will once again have the opportunity to compete at all levels. However, it is important to acknowledge that Covid-19 regulations can change at short notice, which might impact on the 2021 wrestling competition schedule and consequent participation by wrestlers. The health and safety of our all our athletes remains the responsibility of the SAWF Executive Management therefore it remains a priority to mitigate risk factors with regards to transmission of Covid-19.

Due to Covid-19 regulations severely restricting sporting activities during 2020, monitoring wrestler's participation in national training sessions and camps, national and open tournaments and competitions was impossible. Therefore, the normal criteria for participation in National trials, which include abovementioned requirements cannot be used as part of our criteria for abovementioned National trials.

Although the SAWFCC could not include the normal participation and activity requirements in the criteria for the 2021 African Championship National team trials, we still have the responsibility to ensure that team members are prepared for safe participation at international level. 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.

UWW recognises the right of Senior wrestlers who participated at the 2020 Continental Championships to participate and qualify at the 2021 Continental Qualification Tournament by changing the Tokyo 2021 Qualification System accordingly. Therefore, the SAWF has taken a decision to support our 2020 Senior Olympic Qualification team in their efforts to qualify and prepare at the available opportunities during 2021, as they did not have the opportunity to do so during 2020. We want to give them the best possible opportunity to qualify for the 2021 Olympic Games. Due to lack of international competition and exposure

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during 2020 they will be afforded the opportunity to participate in the 2021 Senior African Championships following the Continental Qualification Tournament.

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 changes in the requirements as well as the responsibility to prepare and be competition ready. It is impossible for the Federation to communicate effectively with every member of the Federation without your support and cooperation

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.

Given the lack of training and exposure during 2020 and the limited time we have to prepare before the UWW 2021 African Championships, coaches and wrestlers are responsible to assess and decide on their readiness to participate in the 2021 National trials. Coaches and wrestlers should carefully consider and plan, in which wrestling style and weight category they should participate at the National trials.

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. Due to the lack of National competitions during 2020 participation in past and future National will be even more important towards final motivation to such 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 2021:

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

Specific requirements for participation in the National trials and election to 2021 UWW Continental Championships teams: (The National trials on 6 February 2020 will only be used for selection of the 2021 Continental Championship teams, with the exception of the Senior Olympic qualification weight categories for 2021)

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 must have been registered as a wrestler with the SAWF in any one of the previous two calendar years namely, 2019 or 2020.
5. Wrestlers selected to the 2021 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 6 February 2021 up to and including the date on which the above Championships takes place.
6. All scheduled National training camps for wrestlers selected to the 2021 UWW Continental Championships teams are compulsory. The attendance requirement will be applicable from the National trials on 6 February 2021 to and including the date on which the above Championships takes place.
7. Wrestlers that want to be considered for participation in other UWW events for 2021 must conform to the requirements as stipulated in paragraph 6 and 7 above after the Continental Championships for 2021.
8. Placement in the first three wrestlers at the 2021 UWW Continental Championships will not serve as automatic admission, selection or participation in any UWW events for 2021, 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, for U/15 wrestlers the SA Youth Championships results will be considered. 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 6 February 2020 will only be used for selection of the 2021 Continental Championship teams, with the exception of the Senior Olympic qualification weight categories for 2021)

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 start 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. Wrestlers must have been registered as a wrestler with the SAWF in any one of the previous two calendar years namely, 2019 or 2020.
5. Participation in the National trials in the specific wrestling style, age and weight category in which the wrestlers will participate internationally, is compulsory.
6. 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.
7. Placement in the first three wrestlers at the 2021 UWW Continental Championships will not serve as automatic admission, selection or participation in any UWW events for 2021, 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, for U/15 wrestlers the SA Youth Championships results will be considered. 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. 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. (Please note this requirement is applicable to year in which the National trials takes place, in addition to any other specific registrations requirement as stated in the specific requirements)
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 or methods) 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



SOUTH AFRICAN
WRESTLING FEDERATION



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