

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

8 February 2021

[SAWFCC CIRCULAR 07/ 2021 \(2021 UWW AFRICAN CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM INFORMATION\)](#)

We would like to inform you with regards to abovementioned UWW Championship for 2021 and the SAWF Team selection.

Due to the current worldwide Covid-19 restrictions on international travel and sporting events we are faced with uncertainty when making final arrangements e.g.

- The UWW Covid-19 Protocol for abovementioned championships has not been published, therefore we do not know what the Covid-19 testing requirements will be on arrival or in the case of a positive test during the competition what the quarantine requirements will be before leaving the country and on return to South Africa. This will have serious cost implication if someone must be isolated in a country aboard and event participation will be cancelled.
- Several airlines have suspended flights to and from South Africa until the end of February 2021. This will have an impact on the availability and cost of flights once these routes are open again.

We remain responsible for the safety of all members of the SAWF during National events including training camps. Participants at national training camps come from all over South Africa increasing the risk of Covid-19 transmission and infection. To minimise the risk, we are in the process of establishing a pre-camp Covid-19 testing protocol which will require participants to be tested before admission to National training camps. We will provide the necessary detail with regards to this requirement.

We will not be able present any sleep over training camps, participants will have to arrange their own accommodation. It will also be each individual's own responsibility to respect their team mates and training partners during this period, this means that despite their personal views on the pandemic, they take the necessary steps and adhere to all regulations set out by government to prevent and minimise the spread of Covid-19 thus minimising the risk to their teammates.

Lastly, several of our elite wrestlers chose not to enter the 2021 National trials due to impact of Covid-19 restrictions on their preparations and the ongoing effect of limited competition exposure. Serious questions were raised during the recent National trials with regards to the fitness, conditioning and physiological readiness of the participants and how it will impact on their performance at the Continental Championships.

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After taking the above into consideration, the SAWFCC will be conducting physiological testing with the assistance of the HPC team, on the weekend of the 19 - 20 February 2021. During this training camp we will be assessing the sport specific ability of all wrestlers who obtained a 1st place at the SAWF National Team Trials held on the 6th of February 2021. Once we have consolidated these results, taking into consideration the individual's experience and previous achievements, will the SAWFCC make recommendations to the SAWF EM on final team selections.

In the meantime all these wrestlers must attend the national training session for the next two week leading to the National camp.

Please note that the cost of the Covid-19 as well as the travel and accommodation arrangements for the abovementioned camps will be for the individual wrestler's account. The SAWF will cover the cost of the physiological testing.

Given the current situation, and taking into consideration the possible additional costs which may arise from the effects of the pandemic on our sport, we urge coaches, parents, and wrestlers to seriously consider their readiness during this time. Ultimately wrestlers must take responsibility for their own readiness and preparation and the current condition should not be an easy route to National Colours.

We would also like to thank those coaches and wrestlers you have taken the time and effort to ensure the readiness.

Kind Regards

Nico Coetzee - Chairperson SAWFCC