



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

**REFEREES' COUNCIL**

## **ANNEXURE 7**

# **REFEREES' COUNCIL RULES**

**RULES OF THE REFEREES' COUNCIL OF THE SAWF- 12th February 2005 & 12th August 2006 & 1st NOVEMBER 2008 & 18 AUGUST 2012 & 24 October 2014 & 16 April 2016, 13 January 2018 & 12 January 2019 & 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 & 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

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

It is the Vision of the Referees' 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 REFEREES' COUNCIL**

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

**Article 3 OBJECTIVES**

It is the objective of the SAWFRC 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 Referees/Judges 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 programs for Referees/Judges, 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 referees to accompany teams to represent South Africa in the RSA and abroad.
- 3.10. To establish, maintain and manage a transparent recognition system for referees/judges.

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

- 4.1. Membership is compulsory to all referees/judges.
- 4.2. Referees/judges must reregister on or before a pre-determined date as set by the SAWF referees' 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 referee/judge in the year ~~after~~ he/she turns 16 years.
- 4.4. A referee/judge 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 referees' council, to ensure that he/she fulfils the requirements of an active referee/judge. Referees/judges over the age of 65 years do not pay registration fees.
- 4.5. Registration fees will be determined by the executive management of the SAWF and the referees' council will make recommendations in this regard.
- 4.6. Members of the referees' council are exempted from paying registration fees to the SAWF.

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

- 5.1. The Referees' Council comprises the Chairperson, and 4-6 members elected from nominations during the annual general meeting for councils.
- 5.2. A Vice Chairman and secretary will be appointed from the 4-6 members.

- 5.3. Nominees for the council must be in possession of at least a National 3 grading as referee/judge and must have attended 50% of SA events during each of the previous 2 years.
- 5.4. The referees' council may co-opt members to the council to execute specific duties, as and when required,

## **Article 6 GRADING OF REFEREES**

- 6.1. A referee may be upgraded in a specific year if he/she has, during the course of the year:
- 6.1.1. attended at least one National clinic;
  - 6.1.2. completed the online modules;
  - 6.1.3. completed at least one practical upgrading evaluation at SAWF National Championships
- 6.2. The pass rate for evaluation is as follows:
- 6.2.1. Provincial 3 to National 1 : 70%
  - 6.2.2. National 1 to National 2 : 80%
  - 6.2.3. National 2 to National 3 : 90%

A referee/judge must obtain the minimum of 90 % to qualify for the National 3 grading at the end of that year, a National 3 referee must be able to present a clinic for referees 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:

- 80 practical
- 10 Completion of Modules
- 10 Video Test

A referee 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. A referee/judge (Provincial A and higher) must attend at least 1 (one) SA level tournaments, 1 (One) provincial open championships as well as 6 provincial /club level tournaments for a possible upgrading.
- 6.4. At National level a referee/judge 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 referees' council, on the retirement of referee, holding a National 3, who has distinguished him/herself over a period of 10 (ten) years. He/she must have done exceptional work as referee/judge.

6.6. Demoting of referee to a lower grade

- 6.6.1. The referee/judge who, without any acceptable reason, fails to meet the required appearances as stipulated in 6.3, may be demoted.
- 6.6.2. The referee/judge who fails to be evaluated for the year may be demoted.
- 6.6.3. Referees/judges will be evaluated on their discipline on and around the mat.
- 6.6.4. Any referee/judge who does not pass his/her practical evaluation, will be brought to the attention of the chairperson of the referees' council, who will then ensure that the decision is justified.
- 6.6.5. The referee/judge 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 an evaluation will determine the grading of the referee for the next year but such grading will not be higher than the grading which was held previously. It remains the responsibility of the referee 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 referee/judge 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 a referee wishes to upgrade, he/she must pass one upgrading, pass the written exam and must fulfil the attendance requirements. A referee/judge who wishes to be nominated for the South African referees' council, must have attended SA events during each of the previous two years.
- 6.8. **LTPD** - Persons aged 13 may register as referees in the Long-Term Development Program (LTPD), under supervision of adult referees. They will be allowed to officiate only after attending a Provincial Referees' Course. In the year he/she reaches the age of 16, LTPD Referee may register as Provincial C Referee (a Provincial B grading may be awarded on condition that such referee 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 utilized 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 referee but not in the Referee category, may register as a Judge. These referees 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. Anybody who has the physical strength and ability who wishes to transition 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 1 | – | Score board and time keeping       |
| 6.11.2. Provincial 2 | – | Score board/time keeping and Judge |

- 6.11.3. Provincial 3 – As above and assisting with training on association/provincial level.

#### **National Grading**

- 6.11.4. National 1 – Score board and time keeping at SA Championships (Pass 70%)
- 6.11.5. National 2 – As above and judge (Pass 80%)
- 6.11.6. National 3 – As above and Mat Chairman (Pass 90%)

### **Article 7 COMPETENCE**

- 7.1. The chairperson of the referees' 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 enough members of the council present at an event, the chairperson of the council may, after consultation with the members, appoint other referees for the purpose.

### **Article 8 DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

A referee whose actions are contrary to the objectives of UWW or the SAWF

- 8.1. A referee/judge whose behaviour is detrimental to other referees.
- 8.2. A referee/judge who makes derogatory remarks, shouts at or advises competitors.
- 8.3. A referee/judge who publicly criticizes his/her fellow referee(s).
- 8.4. A referee/judge who does not apply the rules or acts partially.
- 8.5. A referee/judge 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. A referee/judge 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 referees' 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 referees' 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 referees' 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 referees' council, the executive management of the SAWF may award honorary membership to referee/judge 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 referee/judge at SAWF calendar events.
- 10.2. The association/province where the referee/judge was registered must make the necessary application for such award, accompanied by the relevant motivation.

## **Article 11     DISCONTINUANCE AS REFEREE**

The following circumstances may lead to the referee's/judge's permanent discontinuance as a referee/judge:

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

- 11.3. At the request of the association where the referee is registered. This request must however be justified and include confirmation that the referee/judge 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 referees' council, to a referee after maintaining the grading as a SA 2 referee/judge for 1 year.
- 12.2. The colours awarded will be endorsed with the following wording: "Referee" or "Judge".
- 12.3. No referee/judge who has been suspended, or is currently serving a suspended sentence, will qualify for colours.
- 12.4. The referees' council will check their register, which is continuously updated, verify the information and submit recommendations for colours to the SAWF Executive Management.
- 12.5. The referees' council has the mandate to submit recommendations for other awards to the executive management.
- 12.6. International referees who received UWW grading can wear a green jacket with the SAWF Logo with the words "International Referee" written under the logo.
- 12.7. International referees who received a UWW Cat 1 or Cat IS grading and represented SAWF at a U/17, U/20, U/23 or Senior World Championship can wear a green jacket with the SAWF Logo with the words "International Referee" written under the logo with a laurel wreath and a cap to be presented at the bi-annual capping ceremony.

## **Article 13 HONORARY COLOURS**

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

## **Article 14 SPECIAL STIPULATIONS**

- 14.1. The referee/judge who neglects to keep his/her license up to date will not be allowed to participate during club, province or SAWF events.
- 14.2. To enable the referee to participate at international events, the referees' council will provide the executive management with the names of those referees who qualify. To be considered, the referee 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 referee with a grading corresponding to that grading which is required at that international event.
- 14.3. A referee must be 40 years or younger and shall hold at least a National 2 grading in South Africa before registering as a UWW referee.

## **Article 15 RULES**

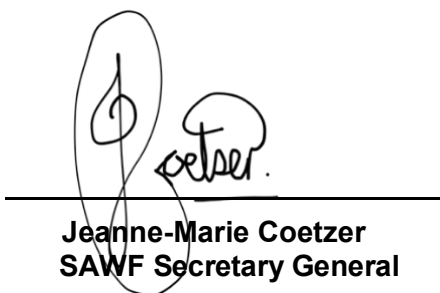
- 15.1. Every referee/judge and the members of the referees' council, are at all times subject to the prescripts of these rules.
- 15.2. These rules may only be amended with the deliberation of the referees' council via the executive management of the SAWF, except where these rules are in conflict with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

Amended by the referees' 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, 13 January 2018, 12 January 2019, 2 November 2024 and **24 May 2025**.

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



**Sakkie Bosse**  
**SAWF President**



**Jeanne-Marie Coetzer**  
**SAWF Secretary General**

**24 May 2025**  
**Date**