

Referees' Council Information: 2026

Herewith the explanation of the information as applicable on all SAWF registered referees (including Judge's, Mat chairpersons, or as mentioned otherwise) for 2026.

Information in this document might be updated and /or changed with official communication from the SAWFRC.

The information, updates and rules can be found on the SAWF's website www.wrestling.org.za.

We also invite all referees and interested members of the SAWF to join the Referee Information group: "WhatsApp group": <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Ji7zwtiQqEMBt7r6mC0ueS>
SAWF Referee Discussion group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/D7heRsumlw1FAn8oUu002>

All communication to the above groups must only be referee and wrestling related.

Official referee communication must be emailed to: <https://wrestling.org.za/members-resources/>

Wrestling, like all other sports, obey the Rules that constitute the "Rules of the Game" and define its practice, the aim of which is to "pin" the opponent or to win on points.

Frequently modified and always subject to further modification, the Rules set forth herein must be known and accepted by all wrestlers, coaches, referees and leaders in wrestling.

They call upon those who practice the sport to fight totally and universally, with complete honesty and fair play for the pleasure of the spectators.

1. 2025 - 2028 REFEREES' COUNCIL

Position	Name & Surname	Cell phone number	E-mail address
Chairperson	Willem Giliomee	083 679 2410	referee@wrestling.org.za
Vice Chairperson	Danie de Wet	076 370 5274	dewet.danie99@gmail.com
Secretary	Leona Giliomee	083 648 4883	lonie@mweb.co.za
Additional Member	Donovan Davel	071 363 3902	donovan@ddmgroup.co.za
Additional Member	Maretha Piccioli	081 270 1145	mava@lantic.net
Additional Member	Charles Villet	072 364 7536	refereecharlesvillet@gmail.com
Additional Member	Albert van der Walt	083 370 3065	refereealbert1980@gmail.com

President: MHJ Bosse; Honorary President: M Luff; Vice President: A Patrick; Vice President: Vacant; Secretary General: JM Coetzer; Treasurer: G van Schalkwyk;
Chairperson Officials: W Giliomee; Chairperson Coaches: M Dekker; Chairperson Team Managers: E de Wet; Chairperson Tournament Admin: SSA Steenberg
; Chairperson HSSC: R Pieterse; Assistant Secretary General: D Sandenbergh; Chairperson Marketing & Media: Vacant

2. REGISTRATIONS

2.1 UNITED WORLD WRESTLING REFEREES

- 2.1.1 Nominations for new United World Wrestling referees are welcome. Closing date for nominations are 31 March 2026 and all nominations must attend as referee at the 0/17, Senior and Masters Championships on the 18th of July 2026 where their standard of refereeing will be evaluated to determine their readiness for international level. Minimum grading is National Level 2.

Nominations must be in writing and from the respective associations. SAWFRC reserves the right to approach individuals directly who they consider to be possible candidates for United World Wrestling. A referee who wants to register as a new United World Wrestling referee must be younger than 40 years of age.

Re-registrations for United World Wrestling referees must be confirmed by association's by November 2026.

2.2 SA REFEREES

- 2.2.1. Membership renewals for 2026 must be finalized on eTMS before the **31st of March 2026**. Renewals after this date will attract a late registration fee. No referee will be allowed to participate in any wrestling activities until fully registered on eTMS.
- 2.2.2. New registrations as referees can be made at any time in the year but only in the year when the referee turns 16 years of age.
- 2.2.3. LTPD referees may register from the age of 13 years but must perform their duties under the supervision of at least a Provincial Level 2 registered referee.
- 2.2.4. All referees and judges must ensure they obtain a **Police Clearance Certificate** prior to registering with the SAWF. This can be obtained via the traditional route at your local SAPS OR via an accredited *Afiswitch* agent. To find your local agent click on this link - <https://www.afiswitch.com>
- The *Afiswitch* process takes around 48 hours, and some agents are willing to travel to the clubs and associations to do everyone's clearances at once.
- 2.2.5 An Official who is registered as a judge is not allowed to take part as a referee at any tournament. If such a person decides to change from a judge to a referee he/she must first register as a referee on eTMS. Thereafter he/she will be evaluated at the next tournament by a Referee Council member to decide whether he/she retains his/her grading.

2.2.6 Ready to wrestle module

United World Wrestling has a short "*Ready to Wrestle*" Module which is an introduction to the history and basic rules of our sport. We suggest everyone wishing to register as a referee complete the module.

The module takes around 30 minutes to complete and is very interesting, especially for newcomers to our sport - <https://www.unitedworldwrestling.academy/?academy=7>

2.2.7 Grading Guidelines

Provincial 1 to 2: being a good judge that can referee on Provincial level

Provincial 2 to 3: being a good referee that can be a Mat chairperson on Provincial level

Provincial 3 to National 1: being an excellent judge that can be a referee on National level

National 1 to National 2: being an excellent referee that can be a mat chairperson on National level

National 3: being an excellent Mat Chairperson that's able to handle challenging situations on the mat on National level

3. SAWFRC ADMINISTRATION FEES

Course fees (anybody can enroll)	R440.00
Time Keeping and Scoreboard Course (anybody)	R220.00
Late entries for Championships/Courses (Additional)	R220.00
Failure to attend SAWF National Championships if entered by the association	R200.00
Insufficient referees at SAWF National Championships – per referee	R2 200.00
Withdrawal in writing by Association for the competition before 07H00 on the day.	free of charge
Practical Evaluation	free of charge

No cash will be accepted - Associations will receive an invoice from the SAWF Treasurer.

4. TOURNAMENT AND REFEREE QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- a. A referee who wants to officiate at any SAWF Championships/Trials must first attend the annual SAWFRC National Course which is scheduled at the beginning of the year. This applies to all referees including judges and scoreboard officials.
- b. 2026 referee-to-wrestler ratio applicable at all SAWF Championships is as follows:
 - i. National 2 – 3, Referees/Judges : 1 referee per 8 (eight) entries.
 - ii. Provincial 3 & National 1, Referees/Judges : 1 referee per 5 (five) entries.
 - iii. Provincial 1 & 2, Referees & Judges : 1 referee per 2 (two) entries.

- c. For Open Championships there must be one referee for every ten wrestlers. If there are not enough referees available to meet this ratio, challenges will unfortunately not be allowed by these clubs /associations as from the 1st of May 2026.
- d. Entries for courses and tournaments must be done on eTMS.

5. SAWF NATIONAL REFEREE COURSES

The following courses were scheduled for 2026:

No.	Course Date	Closing Date	Registration Time	Venue	Fee's
1	31 January	28 January	08:00	South	R440.00
2	7 February	4 February	07:30	North	R440.00
3	16 Sept	16 Sept	18:30	Zoom course	R220.00

6. ATTENDANCE & REPORTING

- 6.1. Referees must report and scan in on eTMS at least 15 minutes before weigh-in on the morning of the Championship.
- 6.2. Weigh-in will take place on the morning of the competition. Scale officials will be appointed once the entries have been finalized.
- 6.3 A compulsory Information - and Rule Discussion Session will be held for all officials directly after weigh-in.
- 6.4. Officials leaving early on the day of the championship will not be recognized for the day's participation.
- 6.5 Officials arriving after the scheduled time are required to report to the Referee Council and attend the rule discussion session in order to participate in the tournament.

7. REFEREE'S DRESS (During SA Championships and Tournaments)

- 7.1. Referees, Judges and Scoreboard Officials will wear black trousers with a black belt, black socks and soft soled black shoes.
- 7.2. Only the approved blue SAWFRC golf shirt and navy jacket will be allowed when officiating in any capacity at National Championships.

Information on how to order, please contact Laurika: cell number 083-4414038 or by email: office@ngwrestling.co.za

8. EVALUATION OF OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS AND TOURNAMENTS

The SAWFRC will evaluate the 2026 Open Championships as follows:

Event	Date	SAWFRC Member(s)
Tuks Open	14 February	Charles Villet
Ekurhuleni Open	28 February	Maretha Piccioli
Frank Joubert Open	7 March	Danie de Wet
Northwest Open	14 March	Charles Villet
Vikings Open	18 April	Albert van der Walt
Glow in the Dark	9 May	Danie de Wet
Reitz Open	16 May	Donovan Davel
Abraham Geldenhuys Open	23 May	Leona Giliomee
Freestate Open	23 May	Maretha Piccioli
Central Gauteng Open	6 June	Donovan Davel
Beast of the East	20 June	Danie de Wet
Johnnie Reitz Big 5 Open	8/9 Aug	Willem Giliomee
KZN Open	22 Aug	Albert van der Walt
Mpumalanga Open	5 Sept.	Danie de Wet

9. WRESTLERS SINGLET

- 9.1 Wrestlers must weigh in wearing a tight, one-piece singlet. No red on blue OR blue on red will be tolerated (except for the logo).
- 9.2 Associations may apply for approval to the SAWFRC in the case of special designed singlets. A colour print of the singlet, front and back must be sent to the SAWFRC for record purposes.
- 9.3 During SA Championships and Trials, no other country's singlets will be allowed.

- 9.4 All other coloured singlets, including those of other countries are allowed on club and provincial championships, if it complies to the red and blue requirements.
- 9.5 No wrestler is allowed to wear a SA singlet of another wrestler with that wrestler's name on.
- 9.6 During special calendar competitions, wrestlers can wear special designed singlets which are designed and approved by the SAWFRC and will only be valid for their applicable region. Wrestlers will not be allowed to wear those singlets on National championships.
- 9.7 Guidelines for singlets are available on the SAWF website – Members resources – Referees – SAWF Singlet Guidelines

10. TRAINING ON PROVINCIAL LEVEL

Referee Council members will assist provinces with their training of officials in all the provinces.

Maretha Piccioli	-	Northwest, Northern-Cape
Danie de Wet	-	Mpumalanga, KZN
Donovan Davel	-	Sedibeng, Central- Gauteng
Charles Villet	-	Northern Gauteng, Limpopo
Albert v.d. Walt	-	Ekurhuleni, Freestate
Leona Giliomee	-	Western Province
Willem Giliomee	-	Cape Winelands, Eastern Province

11. EXAMINATION, EVALUATION & GRADING

- 11.1 All National Officials will be evaluated during the course of the year during all Open Championships and SAWF National Championships.

Associations are welcome to propose and/or discuss issues with the SAWFRC in writing on an official letter head. We also welcome any invitation from associations for assistance by SAWFRC members at their referee courses – cost of this will be for the association's account. Should you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Kind Regards

SA Referee Council

2025 - 2028

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