

Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)

Selection Policy

1. National Coaching Camps

- Participation in the National Coaching Camp is mandatory for all wrestlers, including elite and iconic athletes.
- To be eligible for the camp, a wrestler must have won a medal in the National Championship of the concerned year.
- Once selected, wrestlers are required to train exclusively at the designated national camp. No athlete is permitted to train independently at any other venue.
- Any wrestler who fails to attend the camp will be ineligible to participate in the selection trials.
- In exceptional circumstances, the President of WFI may permit a wrestler with a proven international record, who missed the National Championship for valid reasons, to join the camp. Such approval must be granted in writing.
- A list of reserve wrestlers (one per weight category) will be maintained. These reserves, typically medallists from the Federation Cup or other WFI, recognized competitions of the same year, may be called up in cases of injury or non-reporting of selected wrestlers.

2. Eligibility for Selection Trials

- Past performances will not be considered for selection trials.
- To be eligible, a wrestler must have won a medal in at least one of the following competitions of the concerned year:
 - National Championship
 - Federation Cup
 - Any other WFI-recognized competition
- WFI will issue circulars from time to time specifying the detailed eligibility criteria for participation in selection trials.

3. Selection Committee

The Selection Committee of the WFI shall be chaired by the President, WFI, and comprise:

- Secretary General / Vice Presidents, WFI
- One Arjuna Awardee / Dhyanchand Awardee / Dronacharya Awardee
- Chief Coach (of the respective wrestling style)
- Foreign Expert (if applicable)

Additionally, the President may nominate Associate Members from the region where the trials are conducted.

4. Selection of Wrestlers for International Competitions

Selection trials are mandatory for teams representing India in major international competitions such as the Olympic Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Continental Championships, and World Championships.

Objectives of Conducting Selection Trials

1. **Fair Opportunity:** To provide every eligible wrestler an equal chance for selection based purely on current performance.
2. **Assessment of Current Form and Fitness:** To ensure only wrestlers in peak physical and technical condition represent the country.
3. **Transparency and Credibility:** To maintain integrity by preventing bias, favoritism, or subjective judgment.
4. **Accountability:** To make the selection process answerable to athletes, sports authorities, and the public.
5. **Merit-Based Representation:** To ensure that only the most deserving and competitive wrestlers represent India internationally.

a) Olympic Games

- Olympic quotas are awarded **to the nation**, not to individual athletes.
- WFI reserves the discretion to conduct trials for Olympic participation.
- If trials are conducted:
 - The **quota winner** will not compete in the initial rounds.
 - The **winner of the initial trials** will face the quota winner in a final bout.
 - If the quota winner loses, they will be granted **one additional re-bout** to reclaim the quota.

b) Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Continental & World Championships

- Selection trials will be mandatory **across all weight categories**.
- Only wrestlers who **regularly attend the national camp** will be eligible.
- No athlete outside the camp, or relying solely on past performance, will be allowed to participate.
- However, wrestlers not in the camp but who have won a medal in any **WFI, recognized competition** during the concerned year may be considered.
- WFI may, at its discretion, conduct **separate trials** for Olympic and Non-Olympic weight categories.
- Detailed eligibility criteria will be notified through official WFI circulars.

c) Ranking Series & Other International Tournaments

Selections will be made keeping in view the following considerations:

- The need to provide exposure to potential Olympic and Asian Games medal contenders.
- The importance of building bench strength by offering opportunities to second and third-ranked wrestlers.
- The goal of giving international experience to young and promising athletes.

Participation in such events is not a right. The Selection Committee will decide the final composition of teams for each competition.

d) Selection Trial Guidelines

- All trials will be conducted under UWW Rules and will be videographed.
- Only qualified International Referees or National Technical Officials will officiate.
- In case of a controversial bout, the Selection Committee may order a second bout after adequate rest and make a final decision based on both results.
- The decision for a re-trial must be made on the same day as the trial. Once the result is declared, it shall be final.
- All information regarding trials will be disseminated via official WFI circulars, shared with SAI, and uploaded on the WFI website.

5. Selection of Coaches

This policy aims to ensure transparent, merit-based, and objective selection of coaches for national wrestling teams under the WFI.

Eligibility Criteria

- Hold an NIS qualification (any grade).
- Have successfully completed a UWW Level Coaching Course (Level I, II, or III) conducted by WFI.
- National sports awardees (Dronacharya, Dhyanchand, or Arjuna Awardees) will be given priority consideration. For these awardees, an NIS diploma is not mandatory, but completion of a UWW Level Coaching Course is required.
- For Senior National Teams, preference will be given to awardees and coaches with proven success working with senior or elite wrestlers.
- For Under-17 and Under-20 Teams, coaches must have at least 3-4 years of experience at recognized levels and prior participation in national camps or federation programs.
- For Under-15 Teams, WFI aims to promote emerging coaching talent who demonstrate potential, commitment, and knowledge of modern training methods.
- No coach will be appointed who fails to meet the above criteria.

6. Selection of Support Staff

WFI will identify and empanel qualified professionals in the following categories:

- Physiotherapists
- Doctors
- Masseurs / Masseuses
- Weight Trainers
- Nutritionists
- Sports Psychologists

After verification of credentials, the panel of support staff will be submitted to SAI for empanelment.

7. Selection of Referees / Technical Officials

As per United World Wrestling (UWW) standards, referees are classified as follows:

- **IS (Olympic Category Referee):** Eligible for Olympic Games and World Championships (selection subject to UWW recommendation).
- **Category I:** Eligible for U23, U20, U17 World Championships, and Continental Championships.
- **Category II:** Eligible for U20 and U17 Continental Championships with UWW's special approval.
- **Category III:** Eligible for U15 Continental Championships and select international tournaments.

Final selection of referees accompanying Indian teams will depend on UWW requirements and event-specific needs.

8. Miscellaneous Provisions

- The Chief Coach may recommend barring any wrestler from trials for indiscipline or poor attendance. The Selection Committee may uphold this recommendation.
- WFI reserves the right to take disciplinary action against wrestlers found overweight during international competitions.
- All selection-related circulars will be endorsed to SAI and uploaded on the official WFI website.

9. Implementation and Review

This policy shall be implemented by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). WFI reserves the right to review, modify, or amend these criteria as deemed necessary, in line with the evolving needs of Indian wrestling and directives of the WFI Executive Council.