



NWT Amateur Wrestling Association (NWTAWA) Major Games Athlete and Coach Selection Policy

December 2006

MISSION STATEMENT:

To promote the sport of wrestling as both a recreational and competitive sport in the NWT, with an emphasis on the betterment of the physical, social, and mental wellbeing of youth in the North.

GOALS:

1. The public is aware of, and supports the sport of wrestling.
2. Competitive teams are entered in each major games (Arctic Winter Games, Western Canada Games, Canada Games, North American Indigenous Games).
3. Wrestling is a recreational sport for male and female athletes.
4. Wrestling is a competitive sport for male and female athletes.
5. Skilled coaches are available for each local and major games team.
6. Skilled officials are available for each local and major games team.
7. The NWTAWA remains financially viable.

MAJOR GAMES SCHEDULE:

Arctic Winter Games:	2008	2010	2012	2014
Western Canada Games:	2007		2011	
Canada Games:		2009		2013
NA Indigenous Games:	2008		2011	2014

ELIGIBILITY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR TEAM SELECTION:

The athletes must meet the age requirements as set out for the games. For the 2007 Western Canada Games the athletes must have been born in 1991, 1992, and 1993. For the 2008 AWG athletes must have been born in 1990, 1991, or 1992.

GENERAL SCHEME:

Selection of major games team wrestlers is normally done via a tournament. The results of the tournament determine the male and female wrestlers that are selected for each weight category, with the gold medalists being selected to the team. A challenge system exists whereby one of the other medalists in a weight class that did not initially qualify for the major games team can challenge the winner during the trials tournament to replace them on the major games team. When challenges are submitted a wrestle-off will occur as soon as possible to determine the major games team wrestler for the disputed weight class. The winner of the wrestle-off will be the final wrestler chosen for the disputed weight category on the major games team.

When a tournament is not feasible a selection camp will be held to determine major games team selections. A wrestle-off in each contested weight class will be utilized during the camp to determine team selections. If there are more than two wrestlers competing for a weight class a round robin format can be used.

The major games are an opportunity for NWT athletes to participate in tournaments that are very competitive. The NWTAWA supports the development of high performance male and female wrestlers to compete at each of the major games. The development of a games team can commence several years in advance of a specified major games. The NWTAWA will endeavor to identify a group of promising male and female athletes as the “high performance wrestlers” or “rising stars” and endeavor to provide competitive opportunities as part of their ongoing training. It is intended that each yearly training plan include high performance development competitions and/or camps where the coaches/instructors are highly skilled coaches from the provinces, or the NWT. It is intended that each year’s tournament schedule include opportunities for the high performance and/or rising star wrestlers to participate in tournaments in the provinces and the NWT. Participation at these meets is a critical element in motivating individual athletes and in providing competitive opportunities against other high performance wrestlers.

ATHLETE SELECTION:

The NWTAWA will attempt to identify male and female wrestlers for selection to each eligible weight category. When a team is selected the first priority is to ensure the safety of the wrestlers. Wrestlers that are felt by the coaches to not be at a level where they are competitive enough or at an appropriate level of physical fitness may not be taken to a major games due to the risk of serious injury to that wrestler.

1. TRIALS TOURNAMENT:

Athlete selection for major games teams is usually a results-based process. Whenever possible the selection of NWT Wrestling teams will be done via a trials tournament with the gold medalists (or highest placing eligible wrestler) of the appropriate weight classes qualifying them to wrestle in matching weight classes for the upcoming major games (as identified by the technical packages for those games). The weight that the wrestler weighs in at for the trials

tournament is the weight class they will compete in at the major games. There can be one alternate identified, at the trials, for each weight class for the major games.

The trials tournament for a major games is normally held concurrently with the Territorial Championships.

2. CHALLENGES FOR WEIGHT CLASSES:

There is a challenge system in place whereby any wrestler that has made weight for a specific class and has placed second or third in that weight class will have the ability to challenge for the weight class spot on the major games team. When a challenge is issued a wrestle-off will ensue with the winner being the wrestler that wins two out of three matches.

The outcome of any matches between the major games team qualifying wrestler and the challenging wrestler during the trials tournament will count as the outcome of the first match of the best-of-three wrestle-off (i.e. the winner of the match during the trials tournament need only win one more match, while the loser of that match must win two in a row to replace the selected wrestler on the major games team). The wrestle-off will take place as soon as possible during the period of the trials tournament, and if a third match is necessary there will be an appropriate break time between matches of 20 minutes or more. A wrestler may also challenge the winning wrestler in one weight class above the one they competed in for the trials tournament using the same challenge system listed above.

Challenges for weight classes must be issued within 15 minutes of the end of the last match of the trials tournament, and challenge matches ensuing must occur during the trials tournament. Challenges may be issued verbally to the selected major games team wrestler and their coach up until the time specified above.

3. CAMP-BASED SELECTIONS:

Sometimes a trials tournament may not be feasible when there are very few eligible wrestlers competing for a spot in the designated weight categories for the major games team. In the event there are not enough eligible wrestlers competing, a camp may be used for selections instead of a trials tournament. This decision to hold a camp instead of a tournament for team selections will be at the discretion of the coaches of the athletes registered for trials for the major games.

When a camp format is necessary the wrestlers registered for the major games trials will be required to have a wrestle-off in any weight categories that have more than one competitor vying for the major games team. The results of the wrestle-off will determine team selections using the system listed in Section (1). The challenge system will also be in effect during the camp (i.e. challengers must win two matches in a row to replace the original qualifying wrestler).

4. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Performance standards may be utilized as part of the decision-making process for the selection of a major games team. This can be used for both a tournament-based selection process, and a camp-based selection process. An example of a performance standards test is included in Appendix A (this is provided as an example only and can be modified as required).

5. REQUIREMENTS TO REMAIN SELECTED

To remain selected to a major games team the wrestlers are required to:

- Remain in good standing with NWT Wrestling and Canada Wrestling
- Possess a valid passport at least one month before the major games tournament (if traveling out of the country)
- Meet the expectations and code of conduct as outlined by the Head Coach(es) and approved by the NWTAWA
- Show motivation and a commitment to training between the major games trials and the tournament

Failure to meet these requirements could result in removal from the major games team.

Several criteria may also be used by the Male and Female Coaches of the major games team to evaluate the team members and their readiness to train and compete effectively for the major games. These components include:

- Physical
- Technical
- Attitudinal
- Team Composition (i.e. trying to fill all weight classes)
- Others (as identified and communicated when the evaluation criteria are developed)

Evaluation of these components by the Male and Female Coaches may occur at any time between the selection of the team and the competition. If a wrestler is found to be significantly lacking in any areas it can be used as grounds for removal from the major games team. The Male and Female Coaches will endeavor to resolve any issues with the wrestler(s) and/or their coach and/or their parents before any removal from the team is determined.

6. NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION

Wrestlers will be advised of whether they have been selected to a major games team or as an alternate at the end of the process (either at the end of the tournament and any subsequent challenges, or at the end of a selection camp). All wrestlers will be provided direct feedback on their performance during the event. Alternates will be given the opportunity, whenever possible, to be included in any training camps or competitions taking place prior to the major games so they are prepared if called upon.

7. APPEAL PROCESS

Wrestlers and/or coaches that wish to appeal the team selection process must contact the NWTAWA President within 48 hours of the completion of the event. The appellant must submit in writing detailed reasons for the appeal. The President shall, within one week of receiving a written appeal convene a panel of three (3) independent coaches to evaluate the appeal and render a decision. The decision of the appeal panel shall be final. The decision will be communicated to the appellant in writing.

COACH SELECTION:

The coaching team attending a major games is a critical element to the success of the major games team. Coach selections for major games will be made by the Executive of the NWTAWA. Where possible, the coaching team will include a Male Coach, Female Coach, and a Manager.

When selecting the coaching team, the Executive of the NWTAWA will consider:

- The level of certification required by the organizers of the major games.
- The level of certification available among the coaches.
- The availability of the potential coaches/manager.
- The need to include male and female coaches on the coaching team.
- The need to develop new coaches.
- The level of participation and interest of the potential coaches during the wrestling season.
- The stated level of commitment to developing and adhering to a training and tournament schedule for the major games team.

Once a coaching team has been selected, the Male Coach and Female Coach will develop a training and tournament schedule that balances the needs of the wrestlers, the time remaining until the event, and the finances available. The Male Coach will be responsible for the major aspects of the male wrestlers and the Female Coach will be responsible for the major aspects of the female wrestlers. The Male and Female Coaches will endeavor to work closely together on all aspects involving the major games team.

The Executive of the NWTAWA will then monitor the coaches level of interest and participation in the training and tournament schedule. Should a coach/manager not participate sufficiently to prepare the major games team adequately for the upcoming games, the Executive of the NWTAWA are obligated to remove the coach/manager from the coaching team.