



UNITED WORLD WRESTLING

TO ALL NATIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATIONS
TO THE BUREAU MEMBERS

Corsier-sur-Vevey, 23rd of June of 2022

Subject: Tests of International Wrestling Rules

Dear President, dear Secretary General,
Dear Athletes,

We have repeatedly experienced serious anomalies in Greco-Roman style in which wrestlers of all age categories do refuse to involve in offensive Wrestling.

This is manifested as follows:

- Stopped body posture, where the wrestler does not take or maintains the „Chest to Chest“ position.
- No hooking, no control of hold and no intention to execute any action.
- Use of tactics to benefit from the last point criteria in 1:1 matches with only passivity points.
- Recently, the fans have unfortunately witnessed such poor wrestling in top events (Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and 2022 Senior European Championships), where both wrestlers completely refused any contact during the first period of the bout. This cannot be tolerated and must be severely sanctioned.

The UWW Bureau again strongly empathised, together with all responsible parties, the need to take all measures to promote offensive and attractive wrestling matches. We are aware that this goal can only be achieved through consistent education processes and training measures.

The transfer of responsibility from referees to wrestlers/coaches on the application of the 3rd passivity in GR has proven its value. Therefore, this rule must be maintained.

In order to improve the above-mentioned situation and encourage active wrestling, the UWW Bureau has decided to test the following measures:

- If both wrestlers, as described in the example above, do refuse any contact with the opponent, the bout is immediately interrupted and both wrestlers should receive a **yellow card**. In case this attitude persists, both athletes will receive a **red card** and will be disqualified from the competition. This procedure can also be applied if only one wrestler refuses the contact.
- By the application of the passivity, the referees are requested to give the passivity advantage if a wrestler is practicing an active and offensive wrestling. The referees are also requested to apply the passivity without any automatism (first red wrestler is declared passive, then the blue wrestler receives it or vice versa).

- The sanctions for negative wrestling provided by Article 47 of the *International Wrestling Rules* shall be strictly applied.

These measures will be tested at :

1. The Grand Prix of Spain (08-10.07.2022)
2. The Ziolkowski, Pytlasinski, Poland Open (20-24.07.2022)

Coaches will receive a detailed on-site training on these specific measures before the competition.

Once the tournaments are concluded, UWW will evaluate the results of the measures and communicate accordingly to all federations about the final decision.

We thank you for your attention and collaboration in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carlos Roy', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Carlos Roy
Secretary General