



# UNITED WORLD WRESTLING

TO ALL NATIONAL FEDERATIONS IN EUROPE

Corsier-sur-Vevey, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 / cr

## U17 European Championship - Participation & Safety

Dear President, dear Secretary General,

As it was announced on the UWW website on April 4, 2023 *“the Bureau approved to immediately allow wrestlers in the U15 and U17 age categories to compete as neutral athletes in international competitions”*. This followed the [IOC's recommendations](#) for International Federations on the participation of athletes with a Russian or Belarusian passport.

The U17 European Championship will take place In Tirana, Albania from 12 to 18 June 2023 and is open to all young wrestlers in Europe, including from Russia and Belarus. Should the latter enter athletes in this competition, they would compete as neutral athletes (as “AIN”, French acronym for “International Neutral Athlete”), without flag, anthem and any other reference to these two countries. A vetting about any support to the ongoing war in Ukraine will also be carried out on these two delegations.

The Organizer has ensured UWW that the security measures will be reinforced to guarantee the safety and integrity of all participants in this competition. Any infringement, including from the spectators will trigger immediate measures.

This said, we ask every participant - athletes, coach, athlete support personnel, officials - to keep politics outside the field of play and **to refrain from any provocation**. Only sportsmanship should prevail during this competition.

For those federations considering withdrawing their teams for political reasons, thereby taking teenager athletes in hostage of their own agenda, UWW will consider initiating measures in line with its rules and regulations.

I thank you for your consideration and for upholding the unifying spirit of our sport.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nenad Lalovic'.

Nenad Lalovic  
UWW President

Copy: UWW Bureau; UWW Athletes Commission

**United World Wrestling**

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