

# UWW DISCIPLINARY CHAMBER

## DECISION

### Case

United World Wrestling (“UWW”)

v.

2025 U17 World Championship  
Local Organizing Committee (represented by Mr. Stergios Leonakis, President,  
Hellenic Wrestling Federation), hereinafter the “LOC”

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### Single Judge:

Mr. Belcho Goranov

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## I. Introduction

1. This is the final Decision of the UWW Disciplinary Chamber in the case between United World Wrestling (“UWW”) and the LOC regarding breaches of the applicable UWW rules and regulations, and the Disciplinary Procedure & Dispute Resolution Regulations (“Disciplinary Regulations”).
2. United World Wrestling (UWW) is the international governing body for the sport of wrestling, located in Corsier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland.
3. The LOC is the committee responsible for the organisation of the 2025 U17 World Championship (“the event”), represented by Mr. Stergios Leonakis, President of the Hellenic Wrestling Federation, a national federation regularly affiliated to UWW. As such, and as a signatory of a contract with UWW for the organization of the event, it is bound by this contract and by all applicable UWW rules and regulations.

## II. Facts and Procedure

4. Following the organization of the U17 World Championships in Athens (2025), the UWW Secretariat was informed of alleged multiple breaches of organizational obligations under the *Host Contract* (signed between UWW and the LOC on 31 December 2024), *General Regulations for Championships and International Competitions*, *IT Requirements*, and the *Field of Play Regulations*.

5. These breaches included:

- Incomplete venue dressing on the first day of competition (missing sponsor's toblorone, uncovered coaches' boxes, absent entry arch, and improperly branded scoreboards).
  - Management of LED panels was outsourced without proper oversight.
  - Inappropriate and heated exchange occurred between LOC officials and UWW IT staff.
  - The competition platform measured only 60 cm in height, below the 80 cm minimum as per UWW requirements.
  - A hotel was added to the official list without UWW's prior inspection or agreement.
  - Training and warm-up mats were insufficient: only 3 warm-up mats and 2 training mats were provided instead of the required 3 and 4 respectively.
  - The competition mats were not homologated. An invoice confirmed that they were manufactured with a non-approved foam.
6. The case was referred to the UWW Disciplinary Chamber, which decided to open proceedings for potential violation of the UWW rules and requirements for the organization of UWW events.
7. On 29 August 2025, the UWW Secretariat sent a Notice of Non-Compliance to the LOC concerning organizational breaches during the U17 World Championship in Athens.
8. The LOC was granted until 12 September 2025 to provide its written observations.
9. Upon its request, the LOC was granted an extension of the deadline. On 15 September 2025, the LOC provided its answer.
10. In its answer, the LOC addressed several organizational matters and feedbacks. The LOC acknowledged initial venue deficiencies due to miscommunication with the marketing company, which were promptly resolved with the help of the competition manager. The LOC also emphasized mutual respect and collaboration with the UWW IT team. It was noted that the federation helped cover some operational gaps, such as supplying laptops lost at a prior event. Tensions arose briefly over the playing of the Greek National Anthem, but these were resolved quickly, culminating in a joint dinner where explanations were shared and, according to the LOC, cooperation restored. About the competition platform, it acknowledged that the regulatory height was not followed to maximize audience visibility. Concerning the use of an hotel that was not planned, visited and approved, the LOC said that, with a 30% increase in participation, this extra hotel was sourced and approved by the TD, and received by teams without complaint. According to it, the hotel matched the quality of other team hotels. About the non-compliance with the required number of mats for training and warm-up, the LOC said that all was made in agreement with the UWW official to reduce transfers of wrestlers. Finally, regarding the competition mats, the LOC refuted claims that mats were worn or uncertified, stating they were new purchases from Foeldeak, a UWW-certified supplier. However, he admitted the mats should have been explicitly certified for competition and apologized for the oversight, noting new certified mats have been ordered for future events.

### **III. Applicable Regulations**

#### **11. UWW General Regulations for Championships & International Competitions**

*Art. 4.3:* The organizer must comply with UWW rules, standards, and contractual obligations.

*Art. 12.1.2:* Platform height must be a minimum of 80 cm.

*Art. 14.3.2:* Competition mats must be new, homologated, and conform to UWW safety specifications.  
*Art. 18.4:* All official hotels must be inspected and approved by UWW before use.

## **12. UWW Disciplinary Regulations**

*Art. 3:* Federations are responsible for compliance with UWW regulations and contractual duties.  
*Art. 15:* Sanctions may include warning, reprimand, fine, or suspension from organizing international competitions (1 month to 3 years).  
*Art. 17:* Mitigating circumstances include cooperation, good faith, and corrective measures.

## **IV. Assessment**

13. The Single Judge has carefully examined the allegations raised in the Notice of Non-Compliance dated 29 August 2025, together with the detailed explanations and supporting information submitted by the Hellenic Wrestling Federation on 15 September 2025.
14. It is apparent from the documentation that several operational and procedural deficiencies occurred during the organization of the U17 World Championships in Athens. While some issues were promptly resolved or mitigated in cooperation with UWW officials, others represent clear breaches of the obligations imposed under the General Regulations for Championships & International Competitions.

### **1. Venue Preparation**

The Single Judge acknowledges that the venue dressing was incomplete at the opening of the Championships, with several branding elements missing. Although the Federation swiftly took corrective action following intervention by the UWW Competition Manager, this remains a breach of the organizer's obligation to have the venue fully prepared before the start of competition. The Chamber therefore finds this to constitute a minor infraction, mitigated by the organizer's cooperation and the rapid rectification of deficiencies.

### **2. LED Panels**

No evidence has been provided to the Single Judge to suggest that the LED panels malfunctioned or that their management affected the competition's presentation. As such, this allegation is not established.

### **3. Conduct with the UWW IT Team**

The Single Judge notes the existence of a moment of tension between the local organizing committee and UWW's IT staff during the opening ceremony. While the situation was quickly resolved and professional relations were restored, the Judge emphasizes that respect and professionalism are fundamental obligations of all organizers. The matter constitutes a minor disciplinary issue but is not deemed to warrant further sanction beyond a reminder of expected standards of conduct.

### **4. Competition Platform Height**

It is undisputed that the competition platform was built at a height of 60 cm rather than the required 80 cm under Article 12.1.2 of the Field of Play Regulations. Although the explanation provided—relating to audience visibility—is noted, the Single Judge finds that the rule admits no discretionary interpretation by organizers. This therefore constitutes a technical non-compliance.

## **5. Hotel Inspections**

The Single Judge accepts that the additional hotel was introduced due to an unforeseen increase in participation. However, the absence of formal written approval from UWW, as required under Article 18.4 of the General Regulations, represents a procedural breach. While no complaints were reported and the accommodation was of appropriate quality, organizers must ensure that all official communications regarding hotels are approved in writing by UWW prior to use.

## **6. Training and Warm-up Mats**

Although not in full compliance with applicable rules, the Single Judge is satisfied that the total number of mats available (five) was adequate and that the arrangement—partly at the venue and partly at the hotel—was agreed upon by the UWW Technical Delegate. This allegation is therefore partially dismissed.

## **7. Competition Mats**

The Single Judge finds this to be the most serious breach among those alleged. It is undisputed that the mats used during the competition were not homologated by UWW, and that the Federation failed to verify their certification status before use. The use of non-approved mats contravenes Article 14.3.2 of the General Regulations, which explicitly requires that all **competitions** [emphasis added] mats used in UWW competitions be new, UWW-approved, and compliant with safety standards.

15. Although no injury was reported and the Federation has since taken corrective steps by ordering new certified mats, the Chamber stresses that such non-compliance could have had grave consequences. In the event of a serious injury, UWW, the Federation, and the local organizing committee could all have faced significant legal and reputational repercussions. The Chamber therefore considers this infraction as a serious organizational failure, aggravated by its potential impact on athlete safety, even though mitigated by the absence of actual harm and the Federation's cooperative attitude.
16. In light of all the above, the Chamber recognizes the good faith of the Hellenic Wrestling Federation and its evident willingness to cooperate and improve organizational standards. The Chamber also notes the successful execution of the competition in many respects and the positive feedback from participating delegations.
17. However, compliance with UWW's technical and safety requirements is not a matter of discretion. The confirmed breaches—particularly concerning the non-homologated mats—demonstrate lapses in oversight that are incompatible with the professional and safety standards expected of a World Championship host. These violations, though mitigated, justify a disciplinary response to ensure strict adherence in future events.

## **V. DECISION**

18. After considering the evidence, responses, and applicable regulations, the UWW Disciplinary Chamber decides as follows:
  1. The Hellenic Wrestling Federation (GRE) is found in breach of Articles 4.3, 12.1.2, 14.3.2, and 18.4 of the UWW General Regulations.

2. In light of mitigating factors (cooperation, remedial actions, absence of harm, and overall success of the event), the Chamber imposes the following sanctions under Art. 15 of the UWW Disciplinary Regulations:
  - Official Reprimand, and
  - Fine of CHF 3,000, payable within 30 days.
3. The Federation is reminded that any future breach involving competition equipment or safety standards may result in suspension from hosting rights under Art. 15(3).
4. This decision shall be communicated to the Hellenic Wrestling Federation and recorded in the Federation's compliance file.

## **VII. Right to Appeal**

19. The conditions for appeal are specified in the UWW Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Regulations.

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**Beltcho Goranov**  
Sole Member  
Chairman of the UWW Disciplinary Chamber

Sofia, 11 November 2025