



UNITED WORLD WRESTLING OCEANIA

2025 Annual Report

Presented to the UWW Technical Assistance and Development Commission

1. Overview

The year 2025 represented one of the most successful and transformative periods in the history of United World Wrestling Oceania (UWW Oceania). It was marked by the successful delivery of major international competitions, the strengthening of educational programs, and the expansion of wrestling's footprint across the Pacific region.

Through the combined support of UWW, Olympic Solidarity, and the National Wrestling Federations, Oceania achieved its most active competitive and educational calendar to date—hosting three major continental and regional events and two large-scale development initiatives.

These achievements reflected UWW Oceania's growing organizational capacity, strengthened regional cooperation, and continued commitment to developing wrestling at every level across the Pacific.



2. 2025 Oceania Wrestling Championships – Pago Pago, American Samoa

The 2025 Oceania Wrestling Championships, held in Pago Pago, American Samoa, marked a historic milestone as the first continental wrestling event ever hosted in the territory. Conducted in March 2025, the Championships featured the U17, U20, and Senior divisions and brought together athletes,



coaches, and referees from across the Oceania region.

Key Highlights

- **Return of Beach Wrestling:** Beach Wrestling was contested at the Oceania Championships for the first time since Hamilton, New Zealand (2016).
- **Reintroduction of Kiribati:** Wrestlers from Kiribati competed in Oceania competition for the first time since 2014, representing an important milestone for smaller island nations.
- **Technical Development Initiatives:** A Referee Technical Course and a Level 1 Coaches Course were held alongside the Championships to strengthen officiating and coaching standards.



- **Oceania Wrestling Camp – Samoa:** Following the Championships, a regional training camp was organized in Apia, Samoa, with participation from Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, Samoa, Palau, American Samoa, and the Marshall Islands.



This integrated approach to competition and education created a holistic platform for regional development and reinforced Oceania's commitment to the sport's technical and organizational advancement.



3. 2025 Pacific Mini Games – Koror, Palau

The 2025 Pacific Mini Games, held in Koror, Palau, represented a major breakthrough for wrestling in the Pacific. For the first time since the 2007 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa, wrestling returned to the Pacific Games program, signaling the sport's successful reintegration into the regional multi-sport framework.



Key Highlights

- **Return to the Games:**
Wrestling was contested for the first time in 18 years at a Pacific Games event.
- **Debut of Beach Wrestling:**
Beach Wrestling was introduced for the first time in any Pacific Games or Mini Games, creating new pathways for participation and athlete development.
- **Strong Regional Representation:** Athletes from nine countries—including American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Nauru, Palau, French Polynesia, and Samoa—competed across Freestyle, Greco-Roman, Women's, and Beach Wrestling divisions.



- **Referee Development:** Six regional referees were appointed to officiate, including one UWW Instructor and multiple Category III officials, highlighting the region's technical growth.
- **Organizational Milestone:** The event was successfully delivered under full UWW competition standards, demonstrating Palau's growing capability to host international-level wrestling events.

The Pacific Mini Games reaffirmed wrestling's place in the Pacific sports calendar and set a strong foundation for future multi-sport inclusion, especially with the introduction of Beach Wrestling as a permanent feature.



4. Regional Education and Development Program (REDP) – Sydney, Australia

The Regional Education and Development Program (REDP) and Oceania SuperSeries Competition were conducted in Sydney, Australia, from 20–25 October 2025, in collaboration with Wrestling Australia Ltd.

This initiative represented one of the most comprehensive education and competition events ever held in Oceania, combining technical training, certification, and competition into a single integrated framework.

Program Achievements

- **Comprehensive Training Model:** The REDP included a youth athlete training camp (U15–U20), a Level 2 & 3 Coaches Course, a Level 2 Referee Course, and a National Federation/Administration Workshop.
- **Oceania SuperSeries Competition:** The program concluded with the Oceania SuperSeries, which served as a practical competition experience for athletes and a live evaluation platform for coaches and referees.
- **Technical Assistance & Inclusion:** Participation from across the region was made possible through the UWW Development Department and Olympic Solidarity, which jointly funded accommodation, meals, and local transportation for one coach, one referee, and one athlete per federation.





This level of support ensured record participation from island nations, significantly enhancing regional inclusivity. The program was widely recognized for its professional execution and the positive impact on regional readiness for international qualification and development. The REDP has since been viewed as a model for education-driven development, emphasizing UWW's commitment to long-term sustainability, inclusivity, and technical excellence.

5. A Landmark Year for Oceania Wrestling

The 2025 calendar year was unprecedented in its scope and execution. Oceania successfully delivered a combination of competitions, educational programs, and technical development opportunities that exceeded all previous regional activity levels.

Key Events Hosted in 2025:

1. Oceania Wrestling Championships – American Samoa
2. Oceania Wrestling Camp – Samoa
3. Pacific Mini Games – Palau
4. Regional Education and Development Program – Australia
5. Oceania SuperSeries – Australia



This alignment of initiatives reflected the collective commitment of UWW, Olympic Solidarity, and National Federations to elevate wrestling's standards, accessibility, and visibility throughout the region.

6. Outlook for 2026 and Beyond

The momentum achieved in 2025 will continue into 2026, with several major international and regional initiatives already confirmed.

2026 Oceania Wrestling Championships and Oceania Open – Apia, Samoa

The 2026 Oceania Wrestling Championships will be hosted in Apia, Samoa, from March 19–21, 2026. Samoa will continue the tradition of including Beach Wrestling as part of the Championships, reinforcing its commitment to the discipline's growth in the Pacific.

Following the Championships, Samoa will also host the inaugural Oceania Open from March 26–28, 2026. This new event will mark the first time



teams from outside Oceania are invited to compete in the Pacific region, expanding the international profile of Oceania Wrestling.

The Oceania Open will feature the same styles and age categories as the Oceania Championships, including Beach Wrestling, creating back-to-back competition opportunities for regional and international athletes.

Between the two tournaments, Samoa also plans to organize a UWW Oceania Development Program, which will include:

- A regional training camp for athletes,
- A Coaches Education Course, and
- A Referee Development Course.

This approach reflects Samoa's growing leadership role in wrestling development and its strong alignment with UWW's global education and competition strategy.

Beach Wrestling at the 2026 Oceania Championships should also serve as a key qualification reference for athlete selections toward the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, Senegal, providing invaluable competitive experience for emerging Pacific athletes.

Regional Leadership and Advocacy

Samoa's role in regional wrestling development continues to strengthen under the leadership of Mr. Jerry Wallwork, President of the Samoa Wrestling Association.

In 2025, Mr. Wallwork was elected as President of the Samoa Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee (SASNOC), positioning wrestling with a powerful advocate within the Oceania NOC community.

Mr. Wallwork also serves as President of the Samoa Weightlifting Federation, under which he successfully established one of only five International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) Olympic Training Centers in the world—based in Apia, Samoa.

With this proven record of success in high-performance sport development, Mr. Wallwork has expressed a vision to create a joint UWW-endorsed Wrestling Training Center in Samoa. This initiative aims to replicate the IWF model by providing a permanent regional base for athlete and coach development across Oceania.

His leadership and collaboration across multiple international federations position Samoa as a key development hub for both wrestling and Olympic sport in the Pacific region.





2027 Pacific Games – Tahiti, French Polynesia

Wrestling has been officially confirmed for inclusion in the 2027 Pacific Games, to be held in Tahiti, French Polynesia.

Plans are currently underway to also introduce Beach Wrestling as part of the Games program—continuing the momentum established in Palau and reinforcing wrestling’s presence as a core sport within the Pacific Games framework.

7. Conclusion

The accomplishments of 2025 established a strong and sustainable foundation for the future of wrestling in Oceania. The year demonstrated unprecedented levels of cooperation, competition, and technical development across the region.

With Samoa set to host the 2026 Oceania Wrestling Championships and Oceania Open, and wrestling confirmed for the 2027 Pacific Games in Tahiti, the pathway ahead for Oceania Wrestling is marked by growth, opportunity, and regional unity.

The leadership of Mr. Jerry Wallwork—now serving as President of both the Samoa Wrestling and Weightlifting Federations and the National Olympic Committee—has created a powerful platform for expanding wrestling’s influence and infrastructure across the Pacific. His ongoing initiative to establish a joint UWW-endorsed regional wrestling training center represents a bold and forward-looking vision for the future.

United World Wrestling Oceania remains fully committed to supporting this growth through collaboration, capacity building, and a shared goal of elevating Oceania’s athletes, coaches, and officials to the world stage.