



TO ALL THE NATIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATIONS

Subject: Refereeing in 2026

Dear President,

We are pleased to share this circular, aimed at providing comprehensive information and guidance for referees in the year 2026.

1. 2026 Referees' List and Categories

We are pleased to inform you that the Refereeing Commission has completed the review of the international referee categories for 2026. Following a careful evaluation, the updated list is now available on Athena and published on our website for your review : <https://uww.org/development/referees>

2. Referee clinics

The list of referee clinics for 2026 is available on our official website. Please note that additional clinics may be added at the beginning of the year, so we kindly invite you to keep an eye on this page for updates : <https://uww.org/development/refereeing-courses>

Please note that proficiency in the English language is essential. Referees must pass the written exam in English, and no exceptions will be granted for those who do not meet this requirement. This policy will be strictly enforced in 2026.

3. Regulations for the International Refereeing Body

The Refereeing Commission has reviewed and updated the International Refereeing Body Regulations. While several updates introduce substantive changes, others are limited to clarifications and editorial adjustments.

Please find attached to this circular both the updated version of the regulations and a version showing the corrections highlighted for ease of reference.

Key updates include:

Inactivity (Articles 11 & 13):

- Category III referees lose their international title after two consecutive years without officiating at an international event.
- All other international referees receive a formal warning after two years of inactivity and automatically lose their title after three years.

Course Results (Article 15):

- Results for Levels I (from National to cat. III) and II (from cat. III to cat. II) clinics published quarterly, allowing referees to officiate immediately in their new category.
- Results for Levels III (from cat. II to cat. I), IV (from cat. I to cat. IS) and V (control for cat. IS) clinics are announced at the end of the year.



Limitations on the participating number of referees (Article 18):

- The host country exemption is clarified, allowing one additional referee per Levels I-III course.
- An additional quota is granted for Levels I-III courses when at least one female referee participates.

Sanctions (Article 25):

- A new provision introduces sanctions for the use of social media to communicate or disclose information related to wrestling actions or official procedures.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to all referees for their dedication and hard work, and wish you a joyful holiday season and a wonderful start to the new year.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Levent Sen".

Levent Sen
President of the Refereeing Commission
United World Wrestling

Corsier-sur-Vevey, 19th of December 2025/LS/TM