



United World Wrestling Safeguarding Athletes Report

2022-2024

Overview

During the last Olympic cycle from 2022 to 2024, United World Wrestling made significant steps in safeguarding athletes by prioritizing education, awareness, and establishing robust policies. The aim has been to create a safer environment for athletes at all levels of competitions and training.

Key Initiatives

Education and Awareness: UWW placed strong emphasis on educating athletes, coaches, referees and officials about safeguarding practices. The efforts to raise awareness have been carried out through various channels since 2022, including all 38 UWW-organized or financially subsidized training camps, 51 Olympic Solidarity/UWW educational courses for coaches, and promotional activities during the 2023 Senior World Championships in Belgrade.

Concrete Policies: UWW established and implemented a comprehensive **Safeguarding Framework at Events** to ensure consistent protection for athletes in the beginning of 2024. UWW Safe Wrestling Guidelines were also created in 2023. A "zero tolerance" policy against any form of abuse or misconduct was reinforced across all events and activities.

UWW Safeguarding Officers: Following the establishment of the UWW Safeguarding Framework at Events, Safeguarding Officers were appointed at UWW championships to oversee athlete welfare and ensure that safeguarding measures were actively implemented at competitions. This role was crucial in ensuring that safeguarding standards were maintained across all UWW sanctioned events.

Since the beginning of the year 2024, 20 UWW championships have been supported by dedicated staff from the Development and Sports Departments. The following individuals played a key role in implementing safeguarding measures at these events:

- Yuri Maier
- Lei Liang
- Vincent Aka
- Olzhas Beisembayev
- Carissa Holland



- Jane Mengel
- Ramil Ahmadov
- Betim Vrenezi

Collaborations: UWW collaborated with the International Olympic Committee Safe Sport Unit and National Olympic Committee welfare officers at the Paris Olympic Games, further strengthening its safeguarding efforts. Notably, there were zero cases reported in the sport of wrestling. Additionally, post-Games athlete support resources and online seminars were shared with National Federations (NFs) to promote a unified approach to athlete protection.

Areas for Future Enhancement

To further strengthen UWW's safeguarding efforts, the following areas will be prioritized moving forward:

- **Staff Training:** Ongoing training programs will be developed to equip UWW staff with the skills and knowledge needed to maintain high safeguarding standards.
- **Online Courses:** Expanding online training courses will ensure that safeguarding education reaches a wider audience, including athletes, coaches, and officials globally.

These initiatives will help ensure that UWW is well-positioned to enhance its safeguarding efforts, ensuring that athlete welfare remains a top priority in the years to come.

Conclusion

UWW's dedication to athlete safeguarding in the past Olympic cycle demonstrated a strong commitment to creating a safe, secure and supportive environment for all participants. By continuing to implement education, training, and collaboration, UWW aims to uphold the highest standards of athlete welfare in the years to come.