



DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT REPORT 2022 - 2024

1. Olympic Solidarity & United World Wrestling Collaboration

Olympic Solidarity World Programs are initiatives developed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to support the development of sports and athletes around the world, especially in countries with limited resources. The goal is to promote global sports development, strengthen the Olympic Movement, and ensure that athletes from all nations have the opportunity to compete at a high level.

Key areas that wrestling collaborates with the Olympic Solidarity on:

- **Athlete Support:** Provides financial assistance, training, and scholarships to athletes to help them prepare and qualify for the Olympic Games.

A total of 103 applications were received, with 94 being accepted and approved. The allocation of funds was managed by the NOCs, athletes, or UWW. In the past Olympic cycle, only two athletes from Africa were admitted to the UWW programs, and one of them successfully qualified for the Paris Olympic Games.

A total of 35 scholarship athletes have qualified for the Paris Olympic Games, including 9 female and 26 male athletes. These OS scholarship recipients represent approximately 12% of all athletes qualified for the Games.

Africa			America			Asia			Europe			Oceania Total			Total
W	M	Total	W	M	Total	W	M	Total	W	M	Total	W	M	Total	
2	2	4	0	3	3	4	6	10	3	14	17	0	1	1	35

Wrestling athlete scholarships amounted to a total of 1,880,984 USD during the past Olympic quadrennial.

- **Coaching and Technical Development:** Offers courses, training programs, and funding to develop high-quality coaches and referees.

A total of 49 Technical Courses for Coaches were held across all five continents: 15 in Africa, 7 in Pan-America, 12 in Asia, 14 in Europe, and 1 in Oceania. Over 1'200 coaches and referees took part in the trainings. These courses received a total funding of 680'716 USD from Olympic Solidarity.

8 scholarships for coaches were awarded to individuals from the following countries: BOL, CUB, MRI, PAK, TOG, PER, SRI, and MGL.



- **Sport Development:** Provides funding and resources for projects aimed at improving sports facilities, organizing training camps, and developing sports programs at the grassroots level. 8 Development of National Sports System programs were awarded, including 2 in Africa (GBS, MRI), 2 in Pan-America (PAR, CRC), 2 in Asia (CAM, LAO), 1 in Europe (MKD), and 1 in Oceania (AUS), totaling 287,251 USD for wrestling development.

In addition, the Youth Athletes Development Program - UWW Training Opportunities for 2023 and 2024 benefited 89 National Federations and received funding of 253'479 USD.

Working closely with Olympic Solidarity provides significant advantages for athletes, coaches, and national federations. The training programs offered enhance overall performance, promote best practices, and elevate sports programs to a higher standard. This partnership fosters a comprehensive approach to wrestling development, paving the way for future success on the international stage.

2. United World Wrestling Technical Assistance

The UWW Technical Assistance program is committed to providing technical guidance and financial support to member federations, with priority given to those facing significant challenges and lacking technical expertise. This approach ensures that assistance is effectively directed to areas where it is most needed, fostering growth and development within the wrestling community.

- **Technical Assistance for Competitions:** with the athletes at heart, the Technical Assistance for Competitions provides direct financial support for the National Federations to send their athletes to important competitions, particularly the continental and world championships. In total, 867 athletes and their coaches benefited from the program. Detailed lists are available on the official UWW website.

Year	Competition	No. NF	No. Athletes & Coaches
2022	Continental championships	31	135
	Senior World Championships	36	95
2023	Continental championships	57	216
	Senior World Championships	50	134
2024	Continental OG qualifiers	65	198
	U23 World Championships	35	89
Total		274	867

- **Training Camps:** training camps were also organized and financially supported by UWW for the above championships, with over 960 athletes and their coaches participating in these UWW championship training camps.



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In addition, U17 'More Than Medals' training camps were organized following the U17 continental and world championships, engaging a total of 417 young athletes and their coaches.

This initiative highlights a strong commitment to athlete development on a global scale, fostering international collaboration and promoting excellence in sports.

Year	No. NF	No. Athletes and Coaches
2022	34	149
2023	38	156
2024	28	112
Total	100	417

- **Wrestling Mats Donations:** In partnership with Taishan Sports Ltd., 49 wrestling mats were donated to 21 countries, supporting the development of wrestling programs worldwide.

Year	NF	No. Mats	Cost (USD)	Shipping Cost (USD)	Total (USD)
2022	CRC	2	15'000	7'750	22'750
	DOM	2	15'000	7'500	22'500
	COL	2	15'000	7'000	22'000
	ALB	2	15'000	12'000	27'000
	AUS	2	15'000	3'500	18'500
	JOR	4	30'000	5'300	35'300
	PRK	4	30'000	1'800	31'800
2023	KGZ	3	22'500	12'000	34'500
	NAM	2	15'000	3'500	18'500
	KAZ	4	30'000	N/A	30'000
	MDA	2	15'000	5'200	20'200
	PUR	2	15'000	5'700	20'700
	MKD	2	15'000	6'000	21'000
	IRQ	2	15'000	4'200	19'200
	AUT	2	15'000	N/A	15'000
	SRB	2	15'000	9'300	24'300
2024	ITA	2	15'000	5'000	20'000
	GUA	2	15'000	3'500	18'500
	PAN	2	15'000	3'300	18'300
	GHA	2	15'000	N/A	15'000
	KOS	2	14500	6'000	20'500
Grand total	21	49	307'000	108'550	475'550

3. National Federations Development Funding Programme

21 national federations implemented the development programmes with a mid-long-term impact focusing on engaging future generations to practice wrestling in a safe and healthy environment.



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The areas of focus, managed by the UWW Development Department are:

- a) Youth Engagement
- b) Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- c) High-Performance through coaching/mentorship/consultancy, expertise assistance for the NFs based on their objectives, in line with the UWW strategy and requirements.

ARG, CRO, LTU, MEX, POR, SLO, PAN, FRA and GEQ are implementing and delivering projects/programmes and a full reports shall be provided next year. The overall report and financial expenditures, are available on the UWW Website under

<https://uww.org/development/national-federation-funding-programs>

4. More than Medals

The Development Department organizes with the hosting nations of the U17 Continental and World Championships, the annual More than Medals training camps either post competitions. The overall programme is co-funded with the IOC Sports Department.

More than Medals:

A total of 12 camps were organized in 2022-2024 and delivered by UWW Development Department with a total of 468 participants (coaches, athletes, staff, doctors, etc.) The full week event dedicated to the U17 category achieves its objectives in line with the UN SDGs and Olympic Values. Youth across the world were gathered in an immersive experience of training, education, cultural and culinary experiences to promote wrestling values of respect, tolerance, friendship and humanity.

5. Referee Scholarship Programmes

The goal of the Referee Scholarship Programme is to help assist referees from developing countries and to provide women referees financial support to attend necessary competitions that would allow them to be selected for the Olympic Games, get promoted to a higher category or meet their category requirements. This year 24 Referees were given financial assistance as part of the Referee Scholarship Programme.

Of the 24 selected, 10 referees were given a full scholarship (flight ticket + accommodation) and 14 referees were given a half scholarship (accommodation only). The 10 referees given the full scholarships were all eligible to referee the Olympic Games. Of those 10 referees, 5 of them were selected for Paris. The half scholarships were given to referees to help meet category requirements and attend promotion competitions.

11 of 24 spots were awarded to women referees. Of those 11, 5 of them were selected for the Olympic Games in Paris. Those 5 that were selected were awarded full scholarships for this year.

10 of the referees that participated have been a part of the Referee Scholarship Programme in previous years.

The continental breakdown is as follows:

- Africa - 3 scholarships (1 full + 2 half) 1 women referee
- Americas - 6 scholarships (4 full + 2 half) 3 women referees
- Asia - 5 scholarships (2 full + 3 half) 1 women referee
- Europe - 7 scholarships (2 full + 5 half) 5 women referees
- Oceania - 3 scholarships (1 full + 2 half) 1 women referee



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This is the highest number of referees supporting this programme since its beginning.

In 2023, there were 21 referee scholarships awarded. Of those 15 were full scholarships and 6 were half scholarships. Of the 21 scholarships, 10 were for women referees. The continental breakdown is as follows:

- Africa - 3 scholarships (2 full + 1 half) 1 women referee
- Americas - 6 scholarships (4 full + 2 half) 2 women referees
- Asia - 6 scholarships (5 full + 1 half) 2 women referees
- Europe - 4 scholarships (2 full + 2 half) 4 women referees
- Oceania - 2 scholarships (2 full) 1 women referee

In 2022 there were 20 referee scholarships awarded. Of those 13 were full scholarships and 7 were half scholarships. Of the 20 scholarships, 8 of them were for women referees. The continental breakdown is as follows:

- Africa - 2 scholarships (2 full) 1 women referee
- Americas - 6 scholarships (4 full + 2 half) 5 women referees
- Asia - 3 scholarships (2 full + 1 half) 0 women referees
- Europe - 5 scholarships (2 full + 3 half) 2 women referees
- Oceania - 2 scholarships (2 full) 0 women referees

6. Regional Education Development Programme

The Regional Education Development Programme has become an undeniable development trailblazer since its establishment in 2022. Wrestling is now practiced on the five continents and at all development levels.

Tournaments and educational activities were conducted in GUA, MRI, CAM, VIE, THA, KEN and RSA gathering over 1500 participants up to date.

In Africa, the first ever East Africa regional event was organized in Kenya in July with the participation of 6 nations and over 100 participants. The first ever East Africa Beach Wrestling competition was organized and shall be renewed in the coming years.

Following the UWW Bureau decision, the first ever Southeast Asia and Oceania was hosted in Chang Mai, Thailand in September 2024. The event had over 350 participants with great participation of Oceania countries.

2024 concluded with the South African Intuthuko Tournament in December, with the participation of 5 neighboring nations and for most, first ever wrestling education and competition week.

Overall, the REDP programme is dedicated to the grassroots development of UWW NFs with the greatest needs.

7. Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion programmes and Forum

GEDI activities through National Federation direct funding programmes were awarded to KOS, MKD, AUS, AUT and CRO. The aim of the programmes is the development and growth of young girls and women active participation in wrestling.

In December 2023, the in-person GEDI Forum was held after a long break since 2019. The 35 participants including male participants across the five continents participated in the forum at the INSEP, Paris, France.

The Forum is dedicated to sustaining elite level participation growth, promote GEDI through national federations policies, foster education opportunities while building skills and concluding



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with an in-depth conversation, establishing long term objectives. The event is an educational opportunity for all UWW National Federations and stakeholders. The overall objective is to provide GEDI activities and opportunities to reach a sustainable balance withing UWW leadership. The Forum serves as a milestone towards the next UWW congress in Tirana 2024 and the following. Increasing the number of female and diversity in the leadership roles. As a result, at the 2024 UWW Congress marks the first ever edition with the highest rate of female candidates in the history of UWW.

8. Training Centers

The partner training centers delivered training camps and educational courses in collaboration with the UWW Development Department. Technical Assistance is provided to the participating nations covering their expenses for full boarding and lodging.

INSEP (FRA):

A total of 11 activities were organized in Paris, France in collaboration with the FFL and INSEP. Training camps, coaching courses, women in wrestling forum for all three Olympic styles.

Over 400 participants (athletes and coaches) benefited from the training and education programmes provided at INSEP.

KIMBA (HUN)

HUN NF hosted the SRI and SGP teams for various training camps in view of their Olympic preparation. Due to high constraints within the training schedule of the HUN Teams, they were unable to provide space for foreigners.

GUA (GUA)

Guatemala training centre hosted several neighboring nations such as: El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama for training and education activities throughout the years since its creation.

9. Education/UWW Academy

The UWW Academy has been adding additional courses and content. There were 2 new Beach Wrestling courses created and added to the Academy. The first course was an introduction and overview of beach wrestling. The second and more recent course was an advanced course that focused the rules, training, and referees

There is also an agreement with the Referee Commission to create 10 additional online courses over the rules for the Olympic styles. The first course (Attack vs Counterattack) has been created and is on the Academy platform. The second course (Evaluation of Holds) is being developed and expected to be completed in early 2025. Over the next year, the other 8 courses will be developed and added to the Academy. Here is a list of the courses that will be created.

- Attack vs Counterattack
- Out of Bounds
- Evaluation of Holds
- Risk vs No Risk
- Passivity
- Negative Wrestling
- Unsporting Behaviours
- Takedown and Control
- Being a Mat Chairman
- Points of Emphasis for 2025



Two additional resources were published on Academy that can benefit coaches and wrestling stakeholders. First, the International Sport Coaching Framework was added. This is directly from the International Council for Coaching Excellence, ASOIF, and Leeds Beckett University. The document helps to promote good practices by coaches. The second resource was the Performance Analysis for UWW Competitions. This provides competition data and reports from the major UWW events. This provides an insight into how matches are won, which techniques are successful for category and style, and trends for National Federations. It is a very useful tool for coaches. A referee education pathway was developed to provide national referees with a programme to help develop them to become UWW licensed referees. Prior to this year, only one course was offered alongside the coaching courses. That course was the Introduction to Refereeing. The structure was redesigned and now there are 3 levels over courses to help better train national referees.

The courses are as follows:

- Level 1 - Introduction to Referee Course (4 days)
- Level 2 - Referee Foundations (3 days + 1 day competition)
- Level 3 - UWW Ready (2 days + 2 day competition)

In the past 3 years, the coach education pathway finished and now consists of 4 courses. These were designed to be progressive courses where each one builds on the previous course. The first two courses are more introductory levels and the final two are for more advanced coaches. An additional, high-performance course has also been delivered. The high-performance courses are designed specifically for National Federations and specific styles.

The courses are as follows:

- Level 1 - Introduction to Coaching and Safety
- Level 2 - Introduction to Practice Planning
- Level 3 - Periodization and Coaching Philosophy
- Level 4 - Programme and Athlete Development
- High-Performance - Developed specifically for NF

In 2023, Wrestle4Fun was updated and improved. For that programme, new videos showing all of the games and activities were created and added onto the UWW Academy. The online format is now more user-friendly and easier to download the lessons. This content has been a focal point in our work with ISF (International School Sports Federation). The Wrestle4Fun curriculum has been introduced to coaches and PE teachers during online and in-person sessions at the ISF Gymnasiade events.

In 2023, there were 6 courses added to the Academy over Sports Administration. These courses were developed to help train and educate the leaders within National Federations. The courses are as follows:

- Organising an Olympic Sport Organisation
- Strategically Managing an Olympic Sport Organisation
- Managing Human Resources
- Managing Finances
- Managing Marketing
- Organising a Major Sport Event

There are also National Federation workshops that have been delivered that implement some of the concepts from these topics.

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