



## DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT REPORT 2025

### I: 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 can compete at a high level.

Key areas that wrestling collaborates with the Olympic Solidarity on:

- **Athlete Support:** 2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympic Games Scholarships for Athletes, as end of 2025, in total 99 applications received from 46 National Olympic Committees.

	No. NOCs	No. Applications
Africa	14	21
Americas	6	8
Asia	12	30
Europe	10	26
Oceania	5	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>99</b>

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

18 Olympic Solidarity Technical Courses for Coaches were organized in all 5 continents:

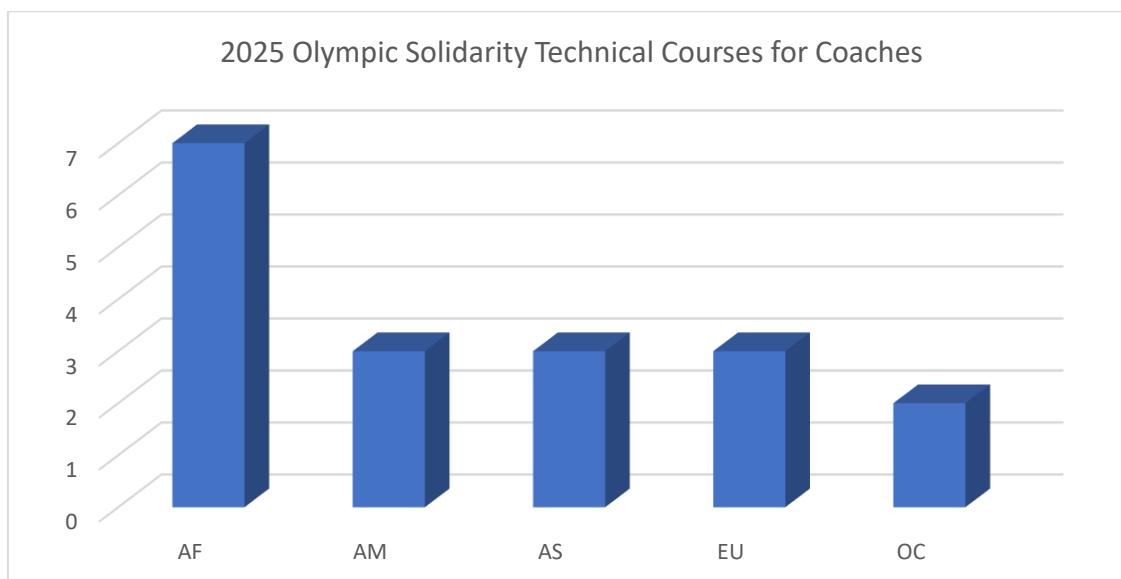
Date	Country	City
21-31 March	ARM	Yerevan
25 -30 May	IRQ	Baghdad
18 - 24 March	ASA	Pago pago
16 - 22 June	ZAM	Lusaka
15 - 19 April	COL	Medeline
21 -25 May	CRO	Porec
30 Jun - 5 July	NAM	Windhoek
19 - 24 AUG	MRI	Port Louis.
4 - 10 August	KEN	Nairobi
23 -30 July	BDI	Gitega
20 - 25 Oct	AUS	Sydney
28 Sep - 2 Oct	JOR	Amman
24 - 31 Oct	LBA	Tripoli
24 - 29 Nov	MDA	Chisinau
22 - 30 Nov	BEN	Porto-Novo



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10 - 15 Dec	THA	Sriracha
7 - 12 Oct	BRA	Rio
3- 8 Nov	CHI	Santiago
<b>Total</b>		18

Africa hosted the most courses in 2025, with a total of seven courses. Additionally, Colombia hosted an all-female regional course for Spanish-speaking countries.



9 scholarships for coaches were awarded to individuals from the following countries:

NF	CONTINENT	NAME
NZL	Oceania	Tayla FORD
VEN	America	Doriannimar SUCRE GOMEZ
ALG	Africa	Moustafa BENCHABANE
CHI	America	Yanny Ailin GAJARDO MENESSES
JOR	Asia	MUS'AB ABU JAFAR
NGR	Africa	BLESSING OBORUDUDU
BEN	Africa	ARIANE JUDITH BANIGBE AMOURO
CAN	America	Danielle LAPPAGE
ALG	Africa	HOURIA BOUKRIF

- Sport Development:** Provides funding and resources for projects aimed at improving sports facilities, organizing training camps, and developing sports programs at the grassroots level.

5 Development of National Sports System programs were awarded for the sport of wrestling, including: SLE, AUT, MGL, RSA and ITA.

- Youth Athletes Development Program** - UWW Training Opportunities 2025 Oceania was successfully organized in Sydney, Australia from 20 - 25 October.



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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.

## II: NATIONAL FEDERATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUNDING PROGRAM

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

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.

<i>NF</i>	<i>Program Type</i>	<i>Planned Activities</i>	<i>Duration</i>
<i>CRO</i>	Multi-level Development: Camps, Competitions, Education	International training camps (U15-Seniors), Wrestling Festival Tournaments (U15/U17), Adriatic Trophy (U20), UWW Level 3 Coaching & Referee Courses, Erasmus+ Admin Education, Gala Ceremony	May 9 - June 10, 2025
<i>ESP</i>	Referee & Coach Education + Development Support	Level 2 Referee & Coaching Course in Madrid, national integration of certified referees/coaches, support of ongoing training programs and women's wrestling	2025
<i>GBS</i>	Wrestling in Schools / Youth & Gender Inclusion	Introduction of wrestling in 10 rural schools, teacher and coach training, competitions, facilities setup, awareness campaigns, inclusion of girls, adapted uniforms and mentorship	2025-2027 (3 years)
<i>MAD</i>	Wrestling in School (Pilot Project)	School-based wrestling training cycles, coaching education, cultural integration with traditional wrestling, medical support, social inclusion, equipment and media engagement	2 years (2024-2026)
<i>PHL</i>	High-Performance Coaching, National Structure Development, Scholarships, Free Grassroots Youth Programme	Coaching & referee courses, regional hubs, online platform, scholarships for athletes, wrestling in schools and community centers, free youth clinics and mentorship, equipment purchase, mentorship networks, M&E framework, long-term sustainability planning	4 years (2025-2028)
<i>THA</i>	Regional Competition & Training Development + School & Gender Inclusion	Thai Open Wrestling Tournament (Aug 5-9, 2025), international training camp, participation of elite wrestlers from Japan, China, Central Asia; technical assistance request (mats), development of school wrestling programs and gender equality projects in partnership with schools	2025 (August-December)
<i>CAN</i>	School & Youth Programme + Coach Education	Intro events, coaching development, training for learning facilitators & coach developers, workshops in 6+ provinces	April 2025 - Dec 2026



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KOS

Youth Development Camp +  
Coach Education

5-day camp and educational seminar in Pristina,  
technical and theoretical training, gender  
inclusion, coach mentoring, social activities,  
certification

June 18-22, 2025

## III: 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, 252 athletes and their coaches benefited from the program. Detailed lists are available on the official UWW website.

Competition	No. NF	No. Athletes & Coaches
2025 Senior World Championships	41*	113*
2025 African Championships U17, U20, & seniors	17	50
2025 Senior Asian Championships	15	44
2025 Senior Pan-American Championships	9	35
2025 Oceania Championships U17, U20 & seniors	1	2
2025 Central American & Caribbean Championships	2	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>252</b>

*\*Included the Refugee Athletes support*

- UWW Training Camps:** training camps were organized and financially supported by UWW in connection with the above-mentioned UWW Championships. In addition, a dedicated elite women's wrestling training camp was organized in Nagoya, Japan. In total, over 260 athletes and their coaches benefited from these UWW training camps.

Date	Hosting Country	City	Age Cat.	Event	No. NF	No. Participants
20 - 27 Apr	MAR	Casablanca	U17, U20 & seniors	African Championships Training Camp	10	32
23-29 Jun	BRA	Rio de Janeiro	U17	More than Medals Training Camp - Americas	11	56
27 Jun - 2 Jul	VIE	Vung Tau	U17	More than Medals Training Camp -Asia	9	61
5 - 12 Sep	CRO	Porec	Seniors	World Championships Training Camp	29	86
31 Oct - 11 Nov	JPN	Nagoya	Seniors	Elite Women's Wrestling Training Camp	13	25



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Furthermore, additional training camps were organized in conjunction with UWW Regional Educational Development Programs and UWW-affiliated Training Centers.

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

- **Wrestling Mats Donations:** In partnership with Taishan Sports Ltd., 19 wrestling mats were donated to 8 countries, supporting the development of wrestling programs worldwide.

NF	No. competition mats	Mats cost (USD)	Shipping cost* (USD)	Total cost (USD)
IRQ	2	15'000	6'000	21'000
MAR	3	22'500	6'000	28'500
GBS	2	15'000	9'600	24'600
VEN	2	15'000	6'000	21'000
PLW	2	15'000	N/A	15'000
VIE	3	22'500	6'000	28'500
THA	3	22'500	6'000	28'500
ARM	2	15'000	6'000	21'000
8	19	142'500	45'600	188'100

\*Estimated cost only

## IV: TRAINING AND EDUCATION

UWW is committed to providing accessible educational and training services related to wrestling. Through collaboration with the Olympic Solidarity, accredited institutions, relevant commissions, pedagogical experts, and renowned wrestling figures, UWW has developed practical development pathways for developing countries, with a focus on coaches, referees, administrators, and athletes. The organization aims to encourage the ongoing education of individuals and organizations, fostering a continuous improvement to advancing the sport of wrestling.

- **UWW Educators Course and National Federation Courses:** The UWW Course for Educators 2025 was held from 23 to 25 January in Divčibare, Serbia. A total of 40 selected coaching and refereeing experts from around the world participated in the course, which focused on updating and strengthening pedagogical competencies.

In addition, in collaboration with National Federations, 8 National Federation Courses for Coaches and Referees were organized across two continents.

Dates	Continent	Country	Course
27 June - 1 July 2025	Asia	IND	Inspire Institute - Level 2 Coaching Course
23-29 March 2025	Africa	MAR	UWW Africa Seminar - Level 1 Coach Course
25-29 March 2025	Africa	MAR	UWW Africa Seminar - Introduction to Refereeing
18-21 December 2025	Asia	IND	Level 1 Coaching Course
24-28 August 2025	Asia	KSA	Level 1 Coaching Course



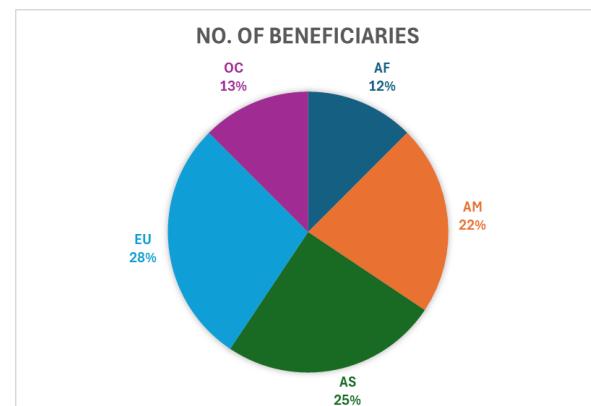
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26-30 September 2025	Asia	KSA	Level 2 Coaching Course
10-14 November 2025	Asia	KSA	Introduction to Refereeing Course
21-26 July 2025	Africa	CMR	Level 1 Coaching Course

- **More Than Medals:** The Development Department organizes the annual “More Than Medals” training camps in collaboration with the host nations of the U17 Continental and World Championships. These camps are held following the competitions and are co-founded by the IOC Sports Department. In 2025, three U17 “More Than Medals” training camps were organized across three continents, benefiting 21 National Federations and a total of 119 athletes and coaches.  
See above ‘UWW Training Camps’ for details.
- **Referee Scholarship Programs 2025:** The goal of the Referee Scholarship Program is to support referees from developing countries and to provide financial assistance to women referees, enabling them to attend the competitions required for category promotion or for maintaining their current category status.

In 2025, 32 referees received financial assistance through the Referee Scholarship Program. Of the 32 selected referees, 14 were female and 18 were male. 7 referees received a full scholarship (flight ticket and accommodation), while 25 referees received half-scholarship (accommodation only). In total, 28 National Federations benefited from this program.

Continent	No. of beneficiaries
AF	4
AM	7
AS	8
EU	9
OC	4
Total	32



## V: GENDER EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ACTIVITIES

Endorsed by the United World Wrestling Gender Equality Commission, the fifth edition of the **Women in Wrestling Global Forum** was organized by United World Wrestling in collaboration with the Mongolian Wrestling Federation and the Mongolian National Olympic Committee from 7 to 11 October in Ulaanbaatar.



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30 participants from 21 countries, including athletes, referees, coaches, and administrators, took part in the Forum.

This biennial event marked a significant milestone in the global journey toward inclusion, empowerment, and leadership in sport.

In addition, a **Para-wrestling survey** aimed at promoting the inclusion of para-athletes was conducted in 2025, yielding positive results.

The WISH Programme beneficiaries were Houria BOUKRIF (ALG) and Blessing OBURUDUDU (NGR) as part of the IOC GEDI objectives; the WISH programme is dedicated to increasing the number of female coaches in Olympic sports. The programme is designed to equip women coaches with the potential and ambition to gain roles at elite coaching levels within their sports. The programme is specifically designed to help coaches develop their sport-specific skills, leadership skills and behaviours and build confidence. United World Wrestling is participating along with other IF's and is being supported by Olympic Solidarity, the University of Hertfordshire, and Females Achieving Brilliance (FAB).

## VI: LEGACY AND PARTICIPATION

These programs are committed to leaving a lasting mark on communities, transcending the boundaries of the mat. Whether it's through upgraded wrestling facilities, a thriving wrestling culture, or enhanced community well-being, the legacy of wrestling initiatives seeks to enrich lives long after the final match has concluded.

At the heart of these programs is a dedication to encouraging participation in wrestling. Inclusivity is a cornerstone, breaking down barriers to entry and inspiring individuals of all ages and backgrounds to embrace the sport. From organized leagues to community wrestling events, the focus is on promoting a healthy and active lifestyle through the powerful medium of wrestling.

- **Regional Educational Development Programs:** UWW Regional Educational Development Programs are structured initiatives designed to grow the sport at a regional level, with a strong focus on education for coaches, referees, and athletes. Rather than focusing solely on competition, these programs combine competition, athlete training, coach and referee education, and talent identification.

In regions where wrestling is comparatively less developed, these programs place greater emphasis on building the foundational structures of the sport rather than focusing on elite performance. They are primarily implemented in conjunction with Olympic Solidarity Regional Coaching Courses to ensure that the available UWW funding is used efficiently and effectively.



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7 REDPs were organized across four continents, details are as follows:

Start Date	End Date	Continent	NF
23 Nov 2025	30 Nov 2025	Africa	BEN
07 Oct 2025	12 Oct 2025	America	BRA
20 Oct 2025	25 Oct 2025	Oceania	AUS
10 Dec 2025	15 Dec 2025	Asia	THA
04 Aug 2025	10 Aug 2025	Africa	KEN
26 May 2025	30 May 2025	America	GUA*
30 Jun 2025	05 Jul 2025	Africa	NAM

\*UWW funding only

## VII: ACTIVITIES AT UWW AFFILIATED TRAINING CENTERS

In 2025, UWW Affiliated Training Centers delivered training camps in collaboration with the UWW Development Department, contributing to athlete preparation and capacity-building across the three Olympic wrestling styles.

The full-boarding accommodation costs for participating teams were covered by UWW.

- **National Institute of Sport, Expertise, and Performance (FRA):** 3 training camps were held in 2025 for 3 wrestling styles:

Date	Style
17 - 28 February	Freestyle
24 February - 7 March	Greco-Roman
20 - 30 March	Women's Wrestling

- **UWW Training Center Guatemala (GUA):** Since its establishment, the Guatemala Training Centre has hosted training and educational activities for neighboring nations, including El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Panama. In 2025, the center hosted a UWW Regional Educational Development Program (Pat Shaw) Training Camp from 26 to 30 May.
- **Inspire Institute of Sport (IND):** 2 women's wrestling training camps (seniors) were held in 2025 in collaboration with the training centre, attracting top female athletes and coaches from around the world. The camps took place from 15 to 30 January 2025 and 3 to 13 July 2025.

These activities supported high-performance development objectives and facilitated international training opportunities in a structured and supervised environment.

## VIII: UWW ACADEMY UPDATES

The UWW Academy continued to expand in 2025, providing enhanced educational resources for coaches, wrestlers, referees, and fans. In collaboration with the Referee Commission and with the



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objective of improving rule knowledge and application, **three new referee-focused courses** were added to the Academy.

The first course, **Evaluation of Holds**, provides background information and scoring criteria for most wrestling actions. The second course, **Evaluation of Out of Bounds**, addresses one of the most challenging areas for referees and stakeholders, offering detailed explanations and practical examples of various scenarios. The third course, **Evaluation of Takedown and Control**, replaced an existing Academy course and was significantly enhanced with additional examples and clearer clarifications regarding takedown and control during a bout.

Further courses are planned for addition in 2026, and the Referee Commission is currently exploring the use of these courses as part of the initial requirements for obtaining a UWW referee license.

In addition to new content, all existing Academy courses were updated in 2025 to reflect the latest rule changes and clarifications. Course content will continue to be reviewed and updated as the rules evolve.

The Academy also expanded its educational resource library. Newly added materials include the International Sport Coaching Framework from the International Council for Coaching Excellence (ICCE), which provides guidance for the design, benchmarking, and enhancement of coach education and development programmes. The latest e-journal from the International Journal of Wrestling Science was also added, offering scientific research related to wrestling training and athlete development.

Finally, a new **Coaching Education Programme** was approved by the Coach Commission and published on the UWW Academy. This programme outlines a structured pathway with multiple coaching levels aimed at supporting long-term coach development. The programme will be officially launched in 2026 and will be delivered through the UWW Academy by expert coaches and educators from around the world.

## IX: MISCELLANEOUS

In 2025, following the retirement of five-time Olympic gold medalist Mijaín López (CUB) in Paris, UWW Development appointed him as Wrestling Development Global Ambassador. In addition, his long-time coach, Raúl Trujillo Díaz – the recipient of the 2025 International Olympic Committee Coaches Lifetime Achievement Award – also signed a development contract with United World Wrestling.

Both individuals will contribute to the growth and development of wrestling under the auspices of UWW Development.

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