



UWW Regional Educational Development Programme 2025-2026

Concept:

Following the success of the REDP programme, the UWW Technical Assistance & Development Commission is renewing its regional educational development initiative for 2025-2026.

This programme has successfully introduced wrestling to developing nations across Central America, East and South Africa, Southeast Asia, and Oceania. With the support of Olympic Solidarity facilitated through hosting National Olympic Committees and National Federations the initiative exceeded expectations in its outreach and impact.

The programme originated from numerous requests by developing wrestling nations. Given its success, it has been extended through 2026, with a particular focus on preparing for the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026 and promoting the development of beach wrestling.

Launched after an in-depth study of wrestling development in these regions, the initiative aims to provide targeted support to existing and emerging regional tournaments and competitions while integrating educational programmes. Competition formats will be tailored to meet the specific needs of these developing wrestling communities.

These tournaments and competitions will not only feature educational and training programmes but also include organizational support, thereby strengthening the sport while enhancing UWW's global presence. National Federations facing economic challenges, limited wrestling education, or a wrestling culture primarily rooted in traditional styles have greatly benefited from this initiative.

Overall, the programme has contributed to increasing wrestling opportunities, expanding the number of competitions, and equipping National Federations with essential educational courses. It also provides guidance on organizing all-styles competitions, including beach wrestling.

The organization and participation in these events fall under the patronage of UWW's National Federations. Event organizers are responsible for submitting the required documentation and ensuring optimal conditions for hosting the competition.

While the regional educational development programme may include all age categories or focus on a specific one, ***UWW will cover the cost of licenses for the duration of the competition, according to the designated categories per region*** (detailed below).



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THE PROJECT AIMS THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPPING REGIONS:

- **Africa: West, East, Central and South (U15, U17, U20, Senior)**

Due to the extension of dates of the next Youth Olympic Games 2026 in Dakar, Senegal, these African regions, shall exceptionally benefit from the initiative for all categories.

- **Americas: Central, Caribbean and South America (U15, U17, U20, Senior)**
 - Pat Shaw - Guatemala (existing tournament)
 - Central and South America
- **Asia: Middle East and South East (U15, U17, U20)**
 - Southeast Asian Championship
 - Southeast Asian Youth Festival -(existing tournament)
 - Any event taking place in the SEA region
- **Oceania: Road to Brisbane 2032 - (U15, U17, U20) - only and mainly in Australia**
- **Europe: Monaco, Malta, Spain, Portugal, San Marino, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Ireland, Iceland, Great Britain and Denmark.**

Organisation and Organiser

National Federations from the above-mentioned regions that wish to host such competition/tournament, should submit their application/documentation to the UWW Sports Department at least 3-6 months prior the start of the event. Any hosting nation or organiser of such event is subject to UWW's requirements for the organisation of international competitions and to the rules and regulations of UWW.

Please consult:

https://unitedworldwrestling.org/sites/default/files/media/document/requirements_international_competitions_uww_v2_3.pdf

UWW shall include the regional, educational development competitions/tournaments to the official calendar once approved and shall provide recommendations to the organiser wherever needed. Furthermore, the event will be included in the Athena system for purpose of registration, licensing and listing of participants.

Organisation fee: Not applicable for 2025 & 2026 and not subject to point 5 of the UWW's requirements for the organisation of international competitions.



License and Athena:

It is mandatory for the event and participants to register in the Athena system.

National Federations are responsible **for creating the profile for each participant attending the event**. Each registered participant will obtain a license which includes medical and accidental insurance for the entire period of the event.

A medical certificate and a valid passport of each participant are required to obtain the license. In the case of the organizing country, the license can be obtained without a passport, only with the identity card of the participants, this is also valid for countries that do not need a passport to enter the organizing country.

UWW shall cover the licenses for U15, U17, U20, (senior*) categories only for these specific competitions/tournaments. The license is valid only for participants from the nations of the regions mentioned above, this does not disqualify the participation of National Federations that are not on this list, although they will not be eligible to apply for the free license. **The license is valid only for these specific events and dates.**

The procedure for obtaining these licenses is through the Athena system, as well as for the other UWW endorsed competitions. These licenses, free of charge, will be obtained after uploading the medical certificates of all participants, photo and identification (athletes, coaches, referees, FN representatives, etc.). UWW licensing is only valid for the time of the event and shall be cancelled at the end.

Referees:

Delegations with more than 3 athletes must be accompanied by at least one continental or international referee.

Participating referees must attend the referee courses **when organised** and will receive from the organiser and UWW the information on the course to prepare themselves in a timely manner.

Referees attending these events are subject to UWW's code of conduct and must abide by UWW rules and regulations.

Coaches:

Participating coaches must attend the coach courses **when organised** and will receive from the organiser and UWW the information on the course to prepare themselves in a timely manner.

Coaches are subject to UWW's code of conduct and must abide by UWW rules and regulations.

Branding: Not applicable to venue; the organiser may contract a local sponsorship for VIK only.



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Educational programme:

In collaboration with IOC/Olympic Solidarity a Technical Course for Coaches shall be organised, when possible and in agreement with the hosting nation. UWW shall provide funding for the referee course and the national federations' workshop.

Coaches Course: 5 to 7 days maximum prior or post event - Level 1-3

<https://unitedworldwrestling.org/development/uww-technical-courses-coaches>

Referee Course: 5 to 7 days maximum prior or post event

<https://uww.org/development/referee-education>

National Federation workshop: half or full day

<https://unitedworldwrestling.org/development/national-federation-workshops-0>

The above-mentioned courses/workshops shall be organised by the UWW Development Department and will be delivered by UWW Educators and/or experts.

For further assistance or clarification, please contact Ms. Deqa Niamkey, Development Director, at deqa.niamkey@uww.org

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