UNITED WORLD WRESTLING

TO ALL NATIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATIONS

Corsier-sur-Vevey, 5th November 2026/cr

Subject: Clarification to rules – Change of Nationality Regulations

Dear President and Secretary General,

The UWW Bureau approved earlier this year some clarifications to the existing rules of the *Change of Nationality Regulations*. These clarifications were necessary in view of the new OG qualifying system.

You will find these rules here attached (clean and redlined version). They enter into force on the date of this circular.

These clarifications concern the following:

1) Introduction and definitions: revision of the definition of "naturalized wrestler". A "naturalized wrestler" is a wrestler who has changed nationality "under these rules". Three exceptions:

- Article 7: 1st time international UWW licence for dual nationals, with at least 3 national licenses for three of the past five years, who either had the nationality in question before 10 years old or who reside in the corresponding country**.** In other words, those who, when purchasing a UWW licence for the 1st time, demonstrate residence in their new country or nationality acquired before the age of ten (10).

- Wrestlers whose change of nationality was granted under a version earlier than the October 2024 version are not naturalized wrestlers, provided they comply with Article 16 (obtention of their passport). This replaces the treatment in the circular of 10 March 2025, under which these athletes counted in the competition quotas even after obtaining their passport.

- Article 7 para. 4: first-time international UWW licence with dual nationality, without a national licence for three of the past five years.

2) Article 2: clarification that the Olympic Charter applies to the Olympic Games only, no longer to the qualifying tournaments.

3) Article 7 - 1st time licence applications with dual nationality: upon recommendation by the UWW Legal Commission, which considered that article 7 serves a legitimate regulatory objective — distinguishing between genuine cases of dual nationality involving a real connection to the new country, and cases of passport acquisition without any authentic sporting link —, the evidence to prove either the nationality held "at birth or before the age of ten" or the "residence" has been further clarified:

- **Residence:** Proof of habitual residence: an official document issued by the local city council or, where no such document is issued, by another competent public authority (where such documents cannot reasonably be obtained, other equivalent evidence may be accepted), and a second supporting document, such as tax residency certificate, educational record, employment documentation or other evidence of sustained physical presence (utility bill. insurance document, etc.).

- **Nationality at birth or before 10 years old.:** in accordance with the domestic law of the country concerned and evidenced by an official attestation from the national competent authority.

UNITED WORLD **WRESTLING**

4) Article 9 – Participation in competition : paragraph 4 **limiting the participation in qualifying events to two naturalized wrestlers** per style across all qualifying events has been further clarified, considering the new qualifying system.

- *« For the LA28 Olympic qualification cycle (2027 and 2028), a national federation may designate a maximum of two (2) naturalized wrestlers per style for the entirety of this cycle. The designation shall be made in writing by the national federation to UWW before the start of the first event forming part of the qualifying system and shall be binding for its entirety. Only those designated athletes may compete in any event forming part of the Olympic qualification system (2027 Ranking Series, 2027 Senior Continental Championships and Games*, 2027 Senior World Championship, 2028 Ranking Series, 2028 Senior Continental Championships and Games*, 2028 Continental Qualification tournaments, 2028 World Qualification tournament). This restriction constitutes an eligibility condition and, in the event of a breach, the athlete shall not be permitted to participate. Any result achieved in breach of this condition shall be subject to disqualification in accordance with UWW's applicable disciplinary framework. This restriction applies solely to the categories of competition covered by Article 9 and is without prejudice to the exceptions expressly provided under Article 5 para. 5 of these Regulations, including in particular the Veterans category.*

  At the Senior Continental and World Championships, paragraph 2 and the present paragraph apply cumulatively: only designated naturalized wrestlers may be entered, within the limits and conditions of paragraph 2.

  **If added to the ranking events ».*

The designation concerns only the Senior qualifying events; in 2027 and 2028 paragraph 2 alone applies in the other age categories.

It is also noted that the obligation to enter two times the number of national wrestlers (article 9 paragraph 2) apply to 2027-2028 Continentals and Worlds only, but not to 2027 and 2028 Ranking Series. A national federation may enter its two designated naturalized wrestlers in 2027 and 2028 Ranking Series without entering twice the number of nationals, but it shall do so for continentals and worlds these years.

Further information will be provided on the method to be used for designating your two "naturalized wrestlers" per style (if applicable) and, subject to approval by the Bureau, on rules for replacements and withdrawal.

Finally, although Article 16 (formerly Article 17) has not been amended, we remind you that wrestlers who do not yet fully comply with these Regulations, in particular those without a passport of their new country, may maintain their sports nationality only until 31 December 2026. From 1 January 2027, they may represent a country only when in full compliance with these Regulations.

I thank you for your attention.

Sincerely Yours,

Carlos Roy
UWW Secretary General

Attachment : as mentioned.

United World Wrestling
Rue du Château, 6, 1804 Corsier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland
T. +41 21 312 84 26