



## TO ALL NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

Corsier-sur-Vevey, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 /cr

### Change of nationality - New rules adopted

Dear President, dear Secretary General,

As announced during the Congress in Tirana, the rules concerning the change of nationality have been revised to align with the principles of the Olympic Charter in this regard.

In 2014, UWW had adopted rules allowing wrestlers to compete for another country on the basis of a passport of their new country or on the basis of a residence permit. These rules have allowed a number of athletes to continue their sporting career in a country where they emigrated under more flexible requirements.

At the same time, we have witnessed that this more permissive regime has been overused by several federations to gain an advantage rather than to address situations of athletes who emigrated for family, work or other reasons.

Acknowledging that this excessive use of the rules has negatively impacted the participation in, and the development of our sport for nationals in many countries, the UWW Bureau has set up a working group to review the situation and build stricter rules that are aligned with the nationality principles of the Olympic Charter.

The proposal of the working group was submitted to the Bureau, which approved these new rules.

The main principles are the following:

- **A valid (new) passport** is mandatory to be eligible for a change of nationality. All licences will be delivered only on the basis of a valid passport. Residence permits will no longer be accepted.
- **1 change of nationality per gender** are allowed per year per National Federation (1 man, 1 woman) across all age categories (e.g. 1x Senior FS + 1x U20 WW // 1x U17 GR + 1x Senior WW// 1x Veteran GR + 1 U20 WW, etc.).
- **3 years** must have passed since the last representation of the former country in Continental or World Championships, Ranking Series, Cups, as well as Olympic, Continental or Regional Games.
- **Period of administration:** all applications processed between 1 October and 20 December. If all conditions are met, the change will be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January of the following year. For 2025, applications will exceptionally be accepted until 19 January 2025.
- **Fees:** administration fee to UWW & training compensation have been revised (article 5).
- **Dual nationality:** an athlete with double passport who chooses to represent a different country from the one he/she held a national licence for 3 years in the past 5 years (or whose passport shows a place of birth in a different country) shall produce a proof of residence in that country or a proof of nationality at birth/before 10 years old.

This rule addresses situations where an athlete has been trained and competed for a country **A** on the **national level**, and then chooses to represent a country **B internationally**. In that case, a genuine link with the country **B** shall be evidenced either by a proof of residence or by a proof of the **B** country nationality at birth or before 10 years old. A compensation fee for country **A** applies if the athlete competes nationally at least three years in the last five years.



# UNITED WORLD WRESTLING

In order to address the situation created by the current rules, the Bureau decided to implement measures to promote the training and participation of nationals, compared to new nationality holders:

- **Limitation** to the participation of New Nationality Holders (“**NNH**”) compared to national athletes (“**Nationals**”) in championships (article 8):
  - 2025 & 2026: (per style) Entry of 2 **NNH** maximum if 2 **Nationals** minimum are entered .
  - 2027 & 2028: (per style) Entry of 2 **NNH** maximum if at least twice the number of **Nationals** is entered.
  - From 2029: (per style) Entry of 1 **NNH** maximum if at least 4 times the number of **Nationals** are entered.
  - OG qualifiers In 2027 & 2028: 2 **NNH** maximum.  
From 2029: 1 **NNH** maximum.
- **Transitory provisions** have also been adopted (article 15) to allow for a transitory period and solution for those who currently compete for a nation without holding the passport of this nation.

Finally, the Bureau adopted rules regarding “releasing federations”

- **Releasing federations:** NFs of origin can grant authorization of maximum 3 athletes per gender per year, across all styles and age.

These new rules are in force and apply immediately.

I thank you for your attention and remain

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carlos Roy', with a large flourish extending from the end.

Carlos Roy  
UWW Secretary General

Attachment: Change of Nationality Regulations