

2019 OHIO U16 AND JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURE

This written procedure describes how U16 and Junior wrestlers may apply (i.e., petition) to become members of the 2019 Ohio U16 and Junior National Teams that will travel to Fargo, North Dakota, in July for the U16 and Junior National Championships. Please read this document carefully for a better understanding of the petition process.

One, two, or three wrestlers at each weight class will automatically qualify for the Ohio U16 and Junior National Teams from the USA Wrestling - Ohio State Championships (depending on the number of entries in their respective weight classes - see below). All other wrestlers (except those who qualified by placing in the top four at a USA Wrestling U16 or Junior Regional Tournament or top 8 in the UWW National Championship) **will be selected** for the remaining spots on the Ohio National Teams.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please see **Qualifying Q&A Information for Fargo** on the **National Teams – Qualifying Information** page of the USA Wrestling - Ohio web site (www.usawrestling-ohio.org) and later in this policy for an explanation of which wrestlers are automatic qualifiers and which wrestlers will be selected to be on the Ohio National Teams.

REQUIREMENTS TO SUBMIT A PETITION FORM

You **MUST** adhere to the following requirements in order to submit a petition form for the 2019 Ohio U16 and Junior National Teams. You **must** have purchased a 2019 USA Wrestling competitor's card prior to submitting your petition. You will be asked on the petition form for your card number, and this information will be verified through USA Wrestling - Ohio records if necessary. With no USA Wrestling card, you **MAY NOT** petition.

The criteria for a U16 wrestler is the same as a Junior wrestler. The criteria is explained below.

Wrestler Petition Process

A wrestler may petition for the Fargo team by completing the petition form, submitting the petition fee and has attended and completed a minimum of one USA Wrestling sanctioned event.

If you have not met these requirements, your petition will NOT be accepted.

SUBMITTING THE PETITION FORM

All petition forms **must** be completed, signed, and submitted with the petition fee to the head table at the State Greco/ Freestyle tournament by the end of the weigh-in time for each style.

The Greco petitioner must have their form completed with their petition fee turned into the head table by 8:00 am, Saturday, May 18th. Petition forms (with petition fee) for Freestyle must be submitted to the head table by 2:00 pm, Saturday, May 18th.

Petition forms are available on the USA Wrestling - Ohio web site or from the Greco or Freestyle Directors and Team Leaders. Forms will also be available at the Ohio State Championships.

PETITION FORMS MAY BE ACCEPTED THROUGH THE MAIL OR VIA FAX OR E-MAIL. BUT BY NOT HAND DELIVERING YOUR PETITION FORM YOU TAKE THE RISK OF IT NOT REACHING THE COMMITTEE BY THE TIME AND DATE SPECIFIED.

Wrestlers who want to submit petition forms for both styles (i.e., Greco-Roman and Freestyle) **must** complete **two separate petition forms**. If you did not participate in the respective State Championships for any reason, you **must** also submit a non-refundable petition fee of **\$50.00** along with **each** petition form. There is **no need** to submit a petition form if you compete in the State Championship and are not an automatic qualifier through a Regional or UWW Junior or U16 National Tournament – **as long as you fill out the information sheet on the state tournament entry form, you will be considered for selection to the National Team.**

All checks should be made payable to **USA Wrestling - Ohio** and marked in the bottom left corner that they are for the petition fee. This fee applies to **each** petition form that you submit and is **NON-REFUNDABLE**. Therefore petitions for both styles would require a \$100, non-refundable fee.

CONSIDERATION OF YOUR PETITION

USA Wrestling allows each state to qualify a **maximum of four (4) wrestlers per weight class** and a **total of fifty-one (51) U16 or forty-five (45) Juniors per style** through the state qualifying process. These limitations are established by the USA Wrestling National Office and **CANNOT** be changed.

U16 and Junior wrestlers may also qualify for their state's team by placing in the **top four** at a USA Wrestling Regional Championship or the **top eight** at the UWW National Championships.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Ohio U16 may compete and qualify at **ANY ONE OF SEVEN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS** or at the UWW U16 National Championships in Akron, Ohio on May 30st through June 2nd. Ohio Juniors may compete and qualify in any one of seven USA Wrestling Junior Regional Championships or at the UWW Junior National Championships.

Individuals who qualify through USA Wrestling Regional Championships or their respective UWW National Championships **DO NOT** count against the numerical limitations listed above for state teams (i.e., they are **“wild card”** qualifiers). “Wild card” qualifiers are not locked into the weight class they wrestled at the USA Wrestling Regional or UWW National Championship as are those who qualified through the state qualifying process.

IMPORTANT NOTE: When Ohio wrestlers finish in the top four at a Junior Regional, they qualify for the Ohio Junior National Team only. **Ohio U16 who wrestle as Juniors in a Junior Regional DO NOT qualify for the Ohio U16 National Team, only the Ohio Junior National Team.**

Since there are a pre-determined number of wrestlers who can qualify through the Ohio U16 and Junior State Championships, USA Wrestling - Ohio has established the following two ways for wrestlers to become a part of the Ohio National Teams:

- **“Automatic qualifiers”** are those wrestlers who finish **first or second** in their weight class (for weight classes with **fewer than twelve entries**), **first, second, or third** in their weight class (for weight classes with **twelve or more**), in their weight class. Normally approximately two-thirds to three-fourths of the allowable spots on each team are filled by “automatic qualifiers” from the State Championships.

- **All remaining spots** on each Ohio team are filled by a selection/petition process.

This year, the respective Greco and Freestyle Directors will appoint active coaches representing all areas of the state to serve as members of their respective Selection Committees. They (or their designees) will serve as Committee Chairperson and will have an equal vote to all other coaches on the Selection Committee. The National Teams Director and the Coaches Council Director will be on each committee.

Team Leaders are responsible for assembling all Informational and Petition Forms and presenting information about all candidates to the Selection Committee for consideration. Team Leaders will compile and organize information on all candidates and will assemble the selection and alternates list.

There will be separate Selection Committees for each style. These committees will meet immediately after the conclusion of wrestling at the Greco-Roman and Freestyle State Championships to consider **all** information and petition forms that have been submitted in a timely manner (see above for information about how and when to submit Petition Forms).

This list of alternates for the team will be known as the **Alternate List**.

The Selection Committee may also consider other factors such as, but not limited to:

- head-to-head performance in 2019 USA Wrestling - Ohio Qualifier Tournaments or 2019 USA Wrestling - Ohio State Championships and performance against other outstanding wrestlers
- accomplishments at one of the above listed events in a style other than that for which they are petitioning,
- participation and performance on 2018 U16 or Junior Dual Meet or National Teams,
- conduct (or misconduct) at USA Wrestling sanctioned events including, but not limited to, USA Wrestling - Ohio Qualifier Tournaments and State Championships,
- past violations of the USA Wrestling Rapid Weight Reduction Rule, and
- false claims of injuries or illnesses in order to withdraw early from 2019 USA Wrestling - Ohio Qualifier Tournaments or State Championships.

ULTIMATELY, THE COMMITTEE WILL MAKE THE DECISION BASED UPON THE BEST INTERESTS OF OHIO TEAM AND USA WRESTLING - OHIO

After these factors have been considered as appropriate, the Selection Committee may make adjustments in the ranking of the wrestlers (**Note: A majority vote of coaches is required to change any rankings.**). All open spots on the respective teams will then be filled according to the **final adjusted ranking** of wrestlers.

After the committee has filled all open spots on the teams, they will then rank a **minimum of thirty-five (35) to forty (40)** additional wrestlers including a **minimum of three (3) wrestlers at each "open" weight class** and a **minimum of two (2) wrestlers at all other weight classes**. These wrestlers will be placed on the list of alternates (i.e., the **Alternate List**) in the order that

they are ranked. The Alternate List will be used to select all replacements for spots on the teams that become open between the State Championships and July 5th, 2019, according to the procedure described below.

WRESTLERS WHO HAVE NOT SUBMITTED PAPERWORK IN A TIMELY MANNER WILL NOT BE PLACED ON THE ALTERNATE LIST.

NOTIFICATION OF SELECTED WRESTLERS

All successfully selected wrestlers (i.e., wrestlers who have been selected to fill open spots on the respective teams) will be notified of their selection by telephone, text message and/or e-mail within several days after the selection meetings. The complete composition of all Ohio National Teams will be posted on the USA Wrestling - Ohio web site as quickly as possible after it has been determined. The list of alternates and their rankings (i.e., the Alternate List) will also be posted on the web site and updated several times during the time period between the State Championships and July 5th 2018. A postcard, text message or email will be mailed to all wrestlers on the Alternate List. This postcard, text message, or email must be returned, or responded to, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE so that we know that you are still interested in being selected for the team and able to make weight. Anyone who does NOT RETURN THIS POSTCARD, OR RESPOND TO THE TEXT OR EMAIL, BY **JUNE 11th** WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE ALTERNATE LIST.

Replacement of Team Members Prior to July 5th, 2018

All team members will receive information from the Team Leaders about the cost of being on the team and other requirements and will be expected to adhere to published deadlines for submitting team deposits and fees. The first **deposit** of **\$200.00** for all team members is due by **May 30th, 2019**. Any wrestler not paying by this time risks being removed from the team! Because of the costs involved, injuries, prior commitments, and other personal reasons, some wrestlers choose to decline their spot on one or more of the National Teams each year.

Team members are expected to notify the Team Leaders **IMMEDIATELY** if they decide to relinquish their spot on one of the National Teams. As soon as the Team Leaders become aware of open spots on the teams, they **must** adhere to the following procedure to fill openings as quickly as possible:

1. Immediately notify the **highest ranking wrestler** on the Alternate List who is at an **“open”** weight class (i.e., a weight class with **three or fewer wrestlers** selected by the state qualifying procedure). Weight classes with **four wrestlers** already on the team who were selected by the state qualifying procedure are considered **“closed”** because we can only have a maximum of four entries at any weight class from our state qualifying procedure. Remember that “wild card” qualifiers from USA Wrestling Regional Championships or FILA National Championships **DO NOT** count against these numerical limitations.
2. Once spots become available on any of the teams, potential replacements will be given a brief amount of time (**no more than 24 hours**) by the Team Leader to decide whether they want to become a member of the respective Ohio National Team. At the end of that time, they **MUST** make a **binding decision** regarding their participation and **must** submit the required **deposit** of **\$200.00 IMMEDIATELY** to secure their spot on the team.
3. If the open spot is not filled by the **highest ranking wrestler** on the Alternate List, the Team Leader will immediately notify the next highest ranking wrestler on the list and offer

them the spot. All open spots are filled in this manner just as soon as they become open. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THE HIGHEST RANKING WRESTLER ON THE PETITION LIST AT AN "OPEN" WEIGHT CLASS MAY OR MAY NOT BE AT THE SAME WEIGHT CLASS AS THE WRESTLER HE IS REPLACING.**

4. **All** notifications to potential replacement wrestlers will be made and documented by the Team Leaders. **NO OTHER INDIVIDUALS ARE AUTHORIZED TO CONTACT WRESTLERS ON THE PETITION LIST REGARDING OPEN SPOTS UNLESS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED TO DO SO BY BRYAN MARCELLI OR JEFF KULLMAN.**

REPLACEMENT OF TEAM MEMBERS AFTER JULY 5TH, 2019

After July 5th, 2019, it may be necessary to replace a few members of the Ohio National Teams because of last minute injuries, "no shows" at the camp, or other reasons. If this happens, the Team Leaders will attempt to use the same procedure as described above to fill open positions (i.e., contact any remaining wrestlers on the respective Alternate Lists). However, this may not be practical in all cases. Team Leaders, after consultation with the respective Age Division Directors, Head Coaches and other USA Wrestling coaches around the state, may fill spots with other available and interested wrestlers who **may** or **may not** be on the Alternate List. If this is the case, initial deposits and team fees will be due as described below.

TEAM FEES AND DEADLINES

All wrestlers who will be participating on 2019 Ohio National Teams and have been selected **before** the beginning of the **REQUIRED** team training camps **MUST** have paid their entire team fees **IN FULL, no later than the start of the training camps**. Wrestlers who have not paid their fees **IN FULL** by this time will **not** receive team gear and will **not** be allowed to participate in the training camp until this situation is resolved.

Wrestlers who are not invited to participate on the team until after the training camps have started **must** pay the required team fees **IN FULL when they arrive at the camp**.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL ANY WRESTLER BE GIVEN TEAM GEAR OR BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRAINING CAMP UNTIL ALL OF HIS TEAM FEES HAVE BEEN PAID.

All questions regarding this policy should be directed to one of the National Teams Director (**Jeff Kullman**) or to one of the Team Leaders (**Jim Bostic, Paul O'Donoghue** or **Chris Kallai**). Their contact information is listed below:

Jeff Kullman	(330) 488-1115 or jkullman2@neo.rr.com
Jim Bostic	(330) 414-4285 or jbostic@drivemindgroup.com
Paul O'Donoghue	(216) 272-6262 or USAWrestlingOhio@aol.com
Chris Kallai	(330) 603-4574 or wrestlec_kallai@gmail.com