



New York Wrestling Association for Youth Background Screening Policy

In 2013, the NYWAY Board of Directors approved a resolution endorsing a requirement for mandatory background screening on all NYWAY member Sanctioned Club Head Coaches, NYWAY Board Members of state association national and regional teams. Presently, NYWAY has a Safe Sport Policy in place, and mandatory background screening as an extension of that policy. In August of 2025, it became mandatory for all Sanctioned Coaches, Assistant Coach(s), Volunteer Coaches, NYWAY Travel Team Coaches, and Officials to also complete the background screening. NYWAY will continue to require the implementation of a background screening program for all NYWAY Board Members (Executive and Regional), State Officials, Sanctioned Club Head, Assistant, and Volunteer Coaches for the purpose of determining eligibility for NYWAY member coaches, officials and state association national or regional team volunteer members, and anyone who is authorized to be in a position of authority over athletes in our Sanctioned Clubs or on Boards. Background screening has been implemented by NYWAY to promote a safe and supportive environment in which youth athletes can pursue their athletic goals. These background checks are also designed to provide an environment where parents of children can feel good about allowing their child to participate in wrestling activities. Please note that the screening is not intended to serve as a pre-employment background screening program, nor can screening guarantee that incidents of abuse may occur. The cost for the background screen required by NYWAY is presently \$35.00. This fee will be paid by NYWAY for all Board members (Executive & Regional), NYWAY Travel Team Coaches, and one (1) sanctioned club head coach per sanctioned club. All other club coaches (Assistant & Volunteer listed on the Sanctioned Club COI request) must be paid by the participant at a fee of \$35.00.

Program Guidelines

The background screening performed on the members is based on the members' name, date of birth, address history and social security number.

The program is designed to:

- 1) Protect the confidentiality of information and the privacy of NYWAY members.
- 2) Review members and prospective members screening on the screening criteria established by NYWAY.
- 3) Provide those members who have been screened with an opportunity to challenge incorrect information found in the screening process before a result is forwarded to NYWAY.
- 4) Allow individuals in the case of a failed result, based on the NYWAY screening criteria and any action in those instances where the screening results produce disqualifiers to membership, to have the negative results forwarded to NYWAY's Director of State for additional investigation.

NYWAY Screening Required

- NYWAY shall conduct screening of individuals as follows:
- All members of the NYWAY Board of Directors, and each member of a NYWAY committee and Travel Team Coaches shall be screened upon their election or appointment to the position and then shall be re-screened every two (2) years.
- All NYWAY employees shall be screened as a condition of their employment and then shall be re-screened every membership year

Options for failed background screening

NYWAY web-based interface to display passed or flagged. The background check review committee shall not know the identity of the individual in question during the appeal process. The decision is rendered by the background check review committee on any appeal shall be final without further appeal. Information management and exchange.

If the applicant does not meet NYWAY's background screening criteria, the applicant will receive an email notification from the Vendor indicating that he/she does not meet the criteria and the reason. NYWAY's Executive Director or designee will also receive a copy of this email. The email will state that the applicant has 5 business days to respond to the email and if he/she fails to respond the Vendor will consider it as an automatic withdrawal and will update NYWAY web-based interface to reflect as such. NYWAY's Executive Director or designee will be provided with a reason for this withdrawal.

Additionally, in this notification email, the applicant is required to log into his/her account at the Vendor and follow the instruction outlined in his/her account and resolve the issue with his/her screen. The applicant will be offered the following three options to resolve his/her screening results: 1) withdraw his/her application from the screening process; 2) dispute the accuracy of the search report; or 3) request a waiver acknowledging the results of the search and requesting an appeal to NYWAY's Background Check Review Committee. However, if the research reveals that the applicant does not meet the NYWAY background screening criteria, the results will be forwarded to NYWAY's Executive Director or designee. The Vendor will send the applicant another email informing the applicant that he/she fails to meet the NYWAY background screening criteria.

The applicant will have 5 business days to respond to this email and if he/she fails to respond, The Vendor will consider it an automatic withdrawal and will update the NYWAY web-based interface to reflect as such. Also, in this email, the applicant will be asked to log into his/her account at the Vendor and follow the instruction outlined in his/her account and resolve the issue with his/her screen.

Additionally, the applicant is offered the following two options in this email to resolve his/her screening results: 1) withdraw his/her application from the screening, in which case The Vendor will update NYWAY web-based interface to show that applicant has withdrawn his/her screening application; or 2) request a waiver acknowledging the results of the search and requesting an appeal

to a NYWAY Background Check Review Committee.

The NYWAY Background Check Review Committee shall be composed of two members selected approved by the NYWAY President, two NYWAY Board members as selected by the NYWAY President, one active athlete member selected by the NYWAY President and the NYWAY Executive Director or designee. The President shall designate the chairperson of the committee and an alternate chairperson.

This program places the responsibility for information management and retention on the screening provider. Except in those few instances where an applicant's background screen returns information that makes him or her ineligible for membership or provides reason to suspend or terminate his/her membership, and he/she then chooses to appeal the membership decision, NYWAY will not be privy to or store the information returned in an applicant's backgroundscreen.

In all cases above, the information regarding a member's status on the web-based interface shall only be accessible by the NYWAY Executive Director or his/her designee(s).

Updated: September 2025