

Dear MVKWA Referees:

The MVKWA teams, coaches, wrestlers and meets are part of USA Wrestling. That provides the necessary insurance for all involved. USA Wrestling now has been mandated by a Federal Government bill (see: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/534/text>) to require those officiating at the MVKWA meets to have a USA background check, USA Wrestling Safe Sport certification and a USA Wrestling membership (either a \$0 Event Volunteer membership card or a \$35 Limited Wrestling Leader membership card). Or, for any high school wrestlers officiating at the MVKWA meets, they can satisfy the USA Wrestling requirement by having a \$15 USA Wrestling Limited Folkstyle membership card.

When the USA Wrestling National office explained the above requirements at the September MVKWA meeting, the total cost were \$70 to accomplish the above (\$20 for the background check and \$50 for a Wrestling Leader card). Per feedback from the MVKWA teams, USA Wrestling has reduced that to \$0 for the referees officiating at MVKWA meets. (Or, optionally \$35, if a referee chooses the Limited Wrestling Leader membership.)

The steps for getting the Federal Government /USA Wrestling requirements:

- First, create a USA Wrestling account and login:
 - View the 2 minute video “Creating a free account” from <https://www.usawmembership.com/help>
 - This will show you how to setup your USA Wrestling account, user login and password.
- Then, create a USA Wrestling Profile:
 - View the 1 minute video “Creating a Profile” from <https://www.usawmembership.com/help>
 - This will show how to get your USAW ID number that you will need below.
 - Your USAW ID number will be the first item in in the first row of your “My Profile” data.
- Then, get your USA Wrestling background check:
 - View the 2 minute video “How Do I Get My Background Check” from <https://www.usawmembership.com/help>
 - No other background check will work. You have to get the USA Wrestling background check.
 - There is \$0 payment for those in Ohio.
 - It will take 3-14 days for the background check to be processed.
 - You will get an email once your background check has been completed.
- **Once you get the background check “completed” (aka “passed”) email, get your SafeSport certification:**
 - **You will need to get an email that you have passed your background check before you can take the SafeSport class.**
 - The online SafeSport class takes about 90 minutes.
 - View the 3 minute video “How Do I Get My SafeSport Certification” from <https://www.usawmembership.com/help>
 - You will need your USAW ID number from above to create a SafeSport login and password.
 - The SafeSport certification has 3 modules, where you will get a test and certificate for each.
 - You will need all 3 certificates to pass the class.
- Once you passed the background check and SafeSport certification, get your USAW membership:
 - View the 3 minute video “Purchasing a Wrestling Leader Membership” on <https://www.usawmembership.com/help>
 - The same video can be used for purchasing an Event Volunteer Membership.
 - The \$35 Limited Wrestling Leader membership has some USAW insurance with it:
 - USAW insurance info: <http://content.themat.com/forms/Insuranceinfo.pdf>
 - Or via <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Wrestling>
 - Then Membership/Login > Insurance Information > Insurance Coverage
 - The \$0 Event Volunteer also satisfies the Federal Government/USAW for refereeing MVKWA meets.
 - It is your choice on the \$0 Event Volunteer or the \$35 Limited Wrestling Leader. Either works.
- You can print your USAW membership card during the above step, or you can re-print it later.
 - View 1 minute video: Print a Membership Card Online

The overall web link for getting the USA background check, USAW SafeSport certification and USAW membership is <https://www.usawmembership.com/> (or www.themat.com, then Membership/Login). And, as a quick reference, the link to all the help videos noted above is: <https://www.usawmembership.com/help> If something comes up where you still need assistance, you can call the USA Wrestling National office at 719-598-8181 and ask for Shonna Vest or whoever is available to help you in member services.

Thanks for refereeing our youth wrestlers at our MVKWA meets. Our parents, coaches and wrestlers thank you for providing this very valuable service.

Thanks,
Mark Gerhard
MVKWA Director