



UNITED WORLD WRESTLING

Referee Development Programme Report 2023

UWW Development Department in collaboration with the Sports Department and the Referee Commission had a busy year and exciting year. There were over 20 referee courses held for national federations or a part of regional course. A course was organized for the IS Referees at the start of the year. There was a new women's referee course conducted. There was a move to more online education of referees prior to competitions. Lastly, the most referee scholarships were given since the beginning of the programme.

Most of the referee courses were conducted for national federations as part of the programme with Olympic Solidarity and their Technical Course for Coaches. A few of the courses were conducted as regional courses and involved referees in that area or within the continent. This year there was an emphasis on hosting national competitions at the conclusion of the courses. UWW Development Department made a commitment to help financially so those competitions could be held. This enhanced the courses because it provided great practical experience for the referees that attended the course. There was also an emphasis in courses in three regions (Arab - Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Oceania). All three of these regions saw a big increase in courses and UWW provided additional funding for experts and technical assistance.

The number of courses delivered each year continues to increase. This year, there were 20 Referee Courses that were conducted around all continents.

Course List for Introduction to Refereeing in 2023

Date	Country	City	Course
23 - 29 Jan	Iraq	Baghdad	Asia
26.02 - 02.03	KSA	Jeddah	Asia
13 -17 March	THA	Chiangmai	Asia
21-26 May	KUW	Kuwait City	Asia
28.05-02.06	QAT	Doha	Asia
24 -28 May	CRO	Porec	Europe
3 -9 April	CGO	Brazzaville	Africa
18 -23 July	COL	Medellin	Pan- America
21 -29 April	MAD	Tananarive	Africa
15 -18 Jun	LTU	Druskininkai	Europe
9-15 Oct	KEN	Nairobi	Africa
21 - 29 June	INA	Jakarta	Asia
30.06 - 04.07	NAM	Windhoek	Africa



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30 July - 6 Aug	AUS	Canberra	Oceania
26 -30 June	NOR	Oslo	Europe
1-5 Oct	KSA	Riyadh	Asia
16 - 20 Oct	MDA	Chisinau	Europe
13 -19 Nov	CAF	Bangui	Africa
4 - 9 Dec	CHI	Santiago	Pan- America

There were two additional courses held this year. The first course was the IS Seminar that was held



IS Referee Course - Antalya, TUR

Antalya, TUR. At that seminar, all the IS referees met to prepare for the upcoming year. This course included theoretical and practical sessions. The second course was a Women's Referee Course that was held in Istanbul on 19-23 June. This was a selected course that included 22 women referees. This course combined theoretical and practical sessions and was held in conjunction with the Yasar Dogu international competition. The competition provided value international experiences.

Online Digital Training

Referee education prior to competitions began to utilize an online learning platform called Nearpod. The move to online learning is in line with the UWW 2022-2026 Strategy to improve Digital Transformation. Lessons were created and sent to referees before competitions. This allowed the referees to complete the theoretical sessions prior to attending the competition and thus reducing the number of days at the competition. The lessons were also available in all languages to reach more referees. The lessons could be checked prior to the competition to address any learning gaps. This was a good first step to using digital online learning tools for training.

Referee Scholarship Programme

This programme is designed to provide opportunities for referees in developing countries to attend competitions with financial assistance. The goal is to provide referees with opportunities to attend higher level competitions so that they may improve their skills and get promoted. This programme continues to grow each year. This year 21 referees received scholarships that ranged from full



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scholarships which included their flight and accommodations to half scholarships that included only accommodations. Below is a list of candidates that benefited from the programme.

Country	Name	Gender	Competition	Scholarship
ARG	Ignacio D'Alessandro	M	Senior WC	Full
AUS	Taylor Maree Flatman Bateman	F	Oceania Championship	Full
AUS	Stefan Rudevics	M	Senior WC	Full
BRA	Gisele Sabrina Lucas Da Silva	F	U20 WC	Full
CAN	Marcia Chiasson	F	Senior WC	Half
CUB	Marvin Fuentes Herrera	M	U20 Pan Am	Full
CUB	Yunior Sosa Naranjo	M	Senior WC	Full
EGY	Hossam Sarhan Hussein El Ganzour	M	African Championships	Half
GER	Ramona Scherer	F	Senior European	Half
GRE	Pavlina Georgiou	F	Senior Europe	Full
GRE	Evangelia Patetsou	F	U23 European	Half
IRQ	Hadi Hasan Ismael	M	Senior WC	Full
ISR	Olga Leshchynska	F	U17 Europe	Full
JOR	Ali Althunibat Ghaith Nawaf	M	Senior Asian	Full
KGZ	Kuvat Akhmetov	M	U15/U20 Asian	Half
KOR	Jiwoo Lee	F	Senior Asian	Full
PUR	Jose Ramos Andino	M	U20 Pan Am	Half
RSA	Margaretha Piccioli	F	African Championship	Full
RSA	Willem Giliomee	M	U23 WC	Full
SRI	P.L. AMBAWALAGE	F	U15/U20 Asian	Full
SRI	LPW. Thenne Gedara	M	U15/U20 Asian	Full

A total of 21 referees, 10 female and 11 male 48%/52%



Jiwoo Lee (KOR) was awarded the Golden Whistle Award at the 2023 World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia. In addition, Belkacem Train (ALG) was also awarded the Golden Whistle Award. Belkacem has been a previous scholarship recipient.

Jiwoo Lee (KOR) and Nenad Lalovic, UWW President

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