

Frequently asked questions about becoming a MN/USA wrestling Greco/Freestyle official.

1. Q. Why is MN/USA requiring clubs to provide mat and pairing officials in 2010?
 - A. Over the past years the number of working officials has declined while the number of events has increased. At the conception of USA wrestling in Minnesota 25 plus years ago it was required that each club provides a mat and pairing officials for every 15 wrestlers in the club. We are currently working to working to get each club to provide just one official.
2. Q. Do I need to register if so how do I become a registered mat or pairing official?
 - A. To legally officiate you are required to register to with USA wrestling plus pass a background check. Registration can be done online at: <http://usawmembership.com/> Instructions for the online registration process and doing the background check can be found on the USWOA web site: http://www.uswoawrestlingofficials.com/uswoa_home.htm
You can also register by mail by filling out the form at the end of this document and sending it to the address at the bottom of the form. You still must log on and complete the background check.
3. Q. How much are the dues.
 - A. USWOA (USA Wrestling Officials Association) membership dues are \$25 a year. Background checks are \$17 and are currently good for 2 years. Many officials have their club pay these dues.
4. Q. What does the background check look for?
 - A. The process only checks for felonies especially crimes against children.
5. Q. I'm under the age of 18, do I need a background check?
 - A. No, but currently if you turn 18 during the competition year a background check will be required of you at that time.
6. Q. If I completed a background check as a registered coach, do I need to complete another?
 - A. No.
7. Q. Where can I find a rule book?
 - A. You will receive the international FILA rules book as a registered official in February of each year. You can however, find a printable rule book on the MN/USA website: <http://mnusa.wrestlingsystems.com/page/show/30723-officials-corner>
8. Q. Do Freestyle/Greco officials get paid to work tournaments?
 - A. Officiating at the kids level and all USA national tournaments, generally considered a volunteer position. MN/USA does reimburse at the end of the season for mileage and attending national level tournaments. You can find this info at the same web at the rule book that is listed above.
9. Q. Because of my inexperience I don't feel comfortable stepping on the mat and officiating right away?
 - A. You are not alone. Many beginning officials have the same misgivings. Pair up and work open tournaments with another official. You can help each other. Veteran officials are very willing to pair with new officials and coach/teach as they work together on the mat.
10. Q. I'm a new official and I'm required to work the state tournament for my club. Will I get help?
 - A. Absolutely. Our goal is to run "3 person mechanics" (3 officials) an all mats with one veteran official on each mat. This is actually a great learning environment and a great path to becoming a better official.
11. Q. What are the officials ranking categories and how do I get upgraded as an official.

- A. Officials begin at the category of M3 (mat officials) and P3 for (pairing officials). This is the category of a beginning official. You must remain at this category for at least 2 years. By working local, state and regional national competitions and receive good evaluations at these events gives you eligibility for an upgrade to M2.

M2 category officials should be confident at local, state and regional national competitions. Have good mat mechanics, have a good working knowledge of the rules and make very few mistakes on the mat. This person should also have the ability to chair a mat at these competitions. It is essential that an M2 official be able to remain calm and collected when dealing and conversing with an irritated coach or parent.

M1C category officials have worked many regional national and national competitions and have been recommended by numerous senior officials to move to the category of M1. The official must remain at this M1C category for one year and be evaluated at a major competition such as the Junior/Cadet national tournament.

M1 category is the highest category of USA mat officials. This category signifies that the official is very competent on the mat, shows a vast knowledge of the rules and the protocol of competition, possesses advanced communication skills in dealing with parents and coaches. Most important an M1 official is a teacher and mentor for other officials.

12. Q. Are the requirements for upgrades of pairing officials the same?

- A. No. Pairing officials have different requirements and have a testing procedure for upgrades. Contact Carrie Learn, MN/USA Pairings Director for more info: carrielearn@msn.com

13. Q. At what age can I register as an official?

- A. There is no minimum age to be a registered official but a mat official must be a minimum of 15 years of age to officiate a USA Wrestling Regional event and 17 to officiate at a USA Wrestling National event they are qualified for.

14. Q. What is the FILA officials' organization?

- A. This is an organization for international officials. If you are interested in joining this organization please contact Tom Kuisle.

15. Q. I have questions. Who should I contact?

- A. Tom Kuisle, MN/USA Mat Officials Director and member of the USWOA Board of Directors.
tkuisle@gmx.com
507-767-3002 (HP)

Other information can be found on the USWOA web page:

http://www.uswoawrestlingofficials.com/uswoa_home.htm

