



Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association

Procedures for Obtaining Sanction for Events

or for permission to have OAWA members
participate in school events.

and

Guidelines/Standards for Sanctioned Events

Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association

103 – 1 Concorde Gate, Toronto, Ontario M3C 3N6

Telephone: (416) 426-7274 Fax

Web Site: <http://www.oawa.ca> E-mail: admin@oawa.ca



Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association Event Sanctioning and Insurance Program

The OAWA wants to help event convenors to promote and host their events. Convenors/Event Hosts can apply for sanction for their event using the forms in this document, or by applying online using the following link (all requests should be at least 60 days in advance):

[APPLY FOR EVENT SANCTION](#)

Convenors/Hosts of Wrestling Tournaments in Ontario are asked to follow these guidelines. Failure to agree to follow the guidelines or failing to agree to follow these guidelines will result in the event not being sanctioned by OAWA, or removal of sanction if the failure is found after sanction has been granted.

All Wrestling events in Ontario must follow either:

1. OAWA Sanctioning Guidelines.
2. OFSAA/School Sanctioning Guidelines, or
3. An OFSAA/School Event that is co-sanctioned by OAWA (OAWA members allowed to participate in the event).
4. Apply to the Ontario Athletics Commissioner for sanction. See:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/amateur-combative-sports#section-3>

for information on Combative Sports in Ontario. Please note that OAWA Clubs/Members are not covered by OAWA Insurance for travel to or participating in events sanctioned by the Athletics Commissioner. Contact the convenor of the event in question to inquire about insurance.

Clubs: What does your OAWA insurance cover you for?

- Regular Training programs (practices, etc.).
- Use of Facilities (rental/other) – proof of insurance certificates available upon request, to request an insurance certificate, please go to the OAWA web site: 'About OAWA/Forms' section.
- Travel to and participation in **OAWA Sanctioned Events** – see Information on Sanctioned Events section below.

Please note that this insurance is for OAWA member clubs which are training and participating in amateur wrestling styles as recognized by the Wrestling Canada Lutte (WCL). This includes Freestyle Wrestling (both men and women), and Greco-Roman Wrestling (both men and women) and Beach Wrestling.

Clubs need to be aware that if they participate in any activity beyond amateur wrestling, they do so at their own risk as the OAWA membership insurance is void in these cases. Of course, there are activities which are acceptable for use in cross-training for amateur wrestling (running, swimming, for example). These are generally commonly referred to in coaching instruction manuals. However, this does not include instruction of or competition/participation in other combative activities such as Judo, Jiu Jitsu, Grappling, and so on. Any participation in Mixed Martial Arts, or what is currently being referred to as "Ultimate Fighting" or any other related combative activity nullifies your OAWA Insurance coverage. If you are unsure, please consult OAWA for confirmation of what are and are not approved activities.

Sanctioned Events:

The following types of events are those that OAWA membership and insurance covers members for participation in:

- OAWA Provincial Championships
- Wrestling Canada Lutte National Championships
- Events hosted outside Ontario which are sanctioned by the recognized Wrestling PSO in that Province/Territory (recognized PSO = recognized by Wrestling Canada Lutte).
- OAWA Regional Championships.
 - *Note: Where the Regional Championships is also a High School Event, OAWA Sanction is extended only for members of OAWA member clubs participating on behalf of their club. Where athletes are competing for their High School, their High School should extend coverage as **OAWA Insurance Does not apply.***
- Lastly, events that contact OAWA requesting Sanction and which require OAWA Memberships to participate in the event can be Sanctioned.

School Events

To provide service coverage to our members, the following will apply for School Events:

- OAWA member clubs may participate in High School Events which take place under the guidelines/rules as laid out by the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA). OAWA is extending this opportunity since OFSAA is a recognized Multi-Sport Organization (MSO) by the Government of Ontario/Ministry of Sport.
- To allow OAWA clubs to participate in their events, the High School Convenor must:
 - Contact the OAWA to request this, at least 60 days prior to their event.
 - Confirm that the event is a high school event running under OAWA guidelines and Wrestling Canada Lutte rules with approved OFSAA modifications.
 - Meet minimum standards for events:
 - Use only certified wrestling officials who are members of OAWA.
 - Employ a Skin Check
 - Use a weight verification system
 - Use the recognized Wrestling Canada Lutte (U-17) rules with the approved OFSAA modifications.
 - Upon confirming the above standards will be in place, the Convenor will be informed by OAWA that OAWA members may participate in their event.
 - Upon providing this confirmation, the OAWA will list the event on the OAWA Schedule/Calendar as an OAWA/OFSAA Sanctioned event.
 - Following the event, the Convenor is asked to send the OAWA:
 - Full copy of the event results
 - Copy of the weigh-in or weight verification sheet(s)
 - Copy of pre-event checklists signed by the event head official.

Please Note:

- *OAWA Membership insurance coverage for co-sanctioned events is extended only for members of OAWA member clubs participating with their club. Where athletes are competing for their High School, their High School should extend coverage as **OAWA Insurance does not apply.***
- *If athletes are attending High School Competitions with their Club, this should be with the knowledge and permission of the event convenor. Clubs are advised to obtain the permission of the athlete's school to attend.*

Event Sanctioning

The Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association is the Provincial Sport Organization for all styles of Amateur Wrestling as recognized by the Government of Ontario (Ontario Ministry of Sport).

Events Sanctioned by the OAWA run under the standards for event hosting as set out by the OAWA in these guidelines. To be sanctioned by the OAWA, the event must follow these guidelines, including ensuring that **all participants in these events (Coaches, athletes, officials, event organizers) are members in good standing of the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association.**

The OAWA mandates that OAWA member Clubs to host sanctioned events to ensure these events are covered through the OAWA Liability Insurance program.

The OAWA also recognizes that some School based events may also wish to allow for the participation of OAWA member clubs. These events will not be considered as sanctioned by the OAWA, but the Association will permit its members to participate in these events if the event hosts meet a minimum standard of care in the hosting of the event. To be eligible to have OAWA members participate in their event under the OAWA, the event must run under the guidance and guidelines of a government of Ontario recognized Multi-Sport Organization (MSO) such as the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) or Ontario University Athletics (OUA). For events such as these, run under the rules/guidelines of these MSO's, the OAWA recommends that students participate as part of their school, not on behalf of their club.

Note: Where OFSAA or OUA rules and regulations do not permit participation as Club members those rules are to be respected.

To assist with this process, this document has been produced both to outline the process for obtaining sanction for events, and to clearly outline what is expected of sanctioned events.

Written requests for sanctions are required for all events where registered OAWA Members are participating as members. All requests for Sanction are to be made using the OAWA Request for Event Sanction Form and sent to the OAWA office as noted. **NOTE THAT THERE IS A PENALTY FEE FOR LATE REQUESTS.**

Clubs are pre-sanctioned for: routine club activity such as weekly training/practices, fundraising programs and other routine club activities. Clubs are not sanctioned for any activities (eg. banquets) involving alcohol.

Sanction forms are available on the OAWA website or from the OAWA office and, after completed are to be returned to the office.

Please note:

- **PLEASE SUBMIT REQUESTS FOR EVENT SANCTION OR PERMISSION TO HAVE OAWA MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL EVENTS AT LEAST SIXTY DAYS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR EVENT. SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED LATE WILL BE SUBJECT TO A LATE FEE.**
- It is the responsibility of the Club President to request sanction from OAWA for an event they are hosting.
- For Event Sanction Requests, please include a Copy of the event information flyer.
- It is the responsibility of the event convenor for a School/OFSAA level event. OAWA Clubs may contact OAWA or the School/OFSAA level event convenor to ensure this has been done.
- These applications are legally binding contracts, please read them carefully!
- Clubs will be notified if their request has been granted by email and a copy will be kept in the OAWA office.
- Events granted Sanction by OAWA must include the following on their promotional materials (brochure, website, etc.):
 - *"This contest is sanctioned by the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association, an organization officially recognized by the Province of Ontario".*
- Following your event, please return the following to the OAWA:
 - Full competition results
 - Completed pre-event competition hosting guideline checklist (these will be provided to successful event sanction applicants).
 - Weigh-in or weight-verification lists (as appropriate – see guidelines)



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**School event request to allow Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association
(OAWA) members to participate
(OR APPLY ONLINE [HERE](#))**

A. Applicant Information:

Applicant's Name: _____
Club Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
Postal Code: _____ Phone (day): _____
Email: _____ Fax: _____

B. General Event Information:

Event Name: _____
Location (city): _____ Event Date(s): _____

Detailed Event Information (check all that apply):

- ☐ Event will use Certified Officials – list head official: _____
- ☐ Event will use weight verification as follows (check one): Random weight checks _____
Full weigh-in _____
- ☐ All Club participants will be OAWA members.
- ☐ For this type of event, please confirm that the _____
School/school board have been notified that _____ yes _____ no _____ (Sanction will not be provided if Board is not aware)
OAWA Members are participating _____ (check one)
- ☐ Event will be hosted according to OAWA Event Hosting Recommendations for School events: Use only certified officials, employ a skin check, and employ a weight verification system.
- ☐ Event will be hosted under rules as outlined by the Wrestling Canada Lutte, including approved OFSAA rule modifications where applicable.

I hereby request that the event be cleared for participation by members of the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association

Signature

Position

Date

OAWA use only:

Event Sanction is:	☐ Granted	☐ Rejected
Confirmed by:		
	Name	Signature
		Date

Insurance coverage for such events is only provided to cover loss/damage relating only to the participation of OAWA members. No other insurance coverage is provided. The school must be part of the 72 district school boards and 10 school authorities recognized by the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Please submit this form to admin@oawa.ca or apply online at least 60 days prior to your event



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Sanction Request Application

For use by Clubs running Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association (OAWA) Club events (OR APPLY ONLINE [HERE](#))

C. Applicant Information:

Applicant's Name: _____
Club Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
Postal Code: _____ Phone (day): _____
Email: _____ Fax: _____

D. General Event Information:

Event Name: _____
Location (city): _____ Event Date(s): _____

Detailed Event Information (check to confirm):

- ☐ Event will use Certified Officials – list head official: _____
- ☐ Event will use a full weigh-in (MANDATORY)
- ☐ All Participants will be OAWA members.
- ☐ Event will be hosted according to OAWA Event Hosting Guidelines
- ☐ Event will be hosted under rules as outlined by Wrestling Canada Lutte, including approved OAWA rule and safety modifications where applicable.

I hereby request that the event described above receive sanction from the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association. I am aware that this request obligates me to follow the OAWA guidelines and requirements for hosting this event. I am aware that this is a legally binding contract between the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association and me and that by failing to abide by the conditions set out herein I may be subject to disciplinary action by OAWA.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

- PLEASE NOTE: I REQUIRE A THIRD-PARTY CERTIFICATE FROM OAWA FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES. Name of Party(ies) to be named on the certificate (School Board, Community Centre, etc.):

OAWA use only:

Event Sanction is: _____ Granted _____ Rejected

Confirmed by: _____
Name Signature Date

Please submit this form to admin@oawa.ca or apply online at least 60 days prior to your event

Tournament Hosting Guidelines for Hosting an OAWA Sanctioned Event

MEMBERSHIP

For OAWA Sanctioned events, all participants must be current members in good standing of the OAWA. Convenors are required to ensure that all participants participating as a school team member are participating with the permission of their school and that the event host school's School Board is aware that OAWA members are participating under their club. **OAWA Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all club members participating in such events are current OAWA members.**

HEAD OFFICIAL

To be an OAWA Sanctioned event, the competition must have a Head Official. For Provincial level events, the Head Official will be appointed by the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Officials' Association. For local events, the event will have a head official appointed by the local Area Chairman of the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Officials' Association. To find out the Area Chairman for your area, contact the OAWA.

The Head Official is responsible for ensuring that sufficient trained officials OAWA member-officials are available to officiate the event. The Head Official will also negotiate the cost and other details for the officiating team (accommodations, meals, etc. as required).

ALL OFFICIALS WORKING OAWA SANCTIONED EVENTS MUST BE CURRENT MEMBER-OFFICIALS OF THE ONTARIO AMATEUR WRESTLING ASSOCIATION.

FINAL REPORT

Following the sanctioned competition, the Convenor and/or Head Official are responsible for maintaining the following post-event:

- Full events Results
- Copy, weigh-in or weight verification sheets for event.
- Copy of injury reports from the event
- Copy of the pre-tournament checklist, signed by Convenor and Head Official.

VENUE

The Head-Official and the Event Convenor are responsible for a safe competitive area. If this is not the case, the competition will be halted at their discretion until the problem is rectified.

The venue must provide for adequate space for all competition surfaces and allow for adequate protection area outside the competition circle on each mat and allow for enough space around the mats. Mats should not be placed in such a way that the competition areas are too close – follow the Wrestling Canada Lutte rulebook, article 5. The mats must also not have any dangerous projections or objects nearby – pillars, bleachers, etc.

Again, ensure there is enough space to protect athlete leaving the mats to be sure they don't run into nearby walls, pillars, bleachers, or other such objects/obstructions.

Every effort should be made to set the venue up to allow enough room for spectators to stay well back from the competition areas (mats). This is to avoid athletes leaving the mat during the action of a match to hit spectators, but also to allow the medical staff and other tournament personnel an unblocked view of the mats.

Please refer to the OAWA Hosting policy for more detail venue requirements.

WEIGH-INS

Effective September 1, 2025, all OAWA Sanctioned events must use a full weigh-in. Morning weigh-ins or weigh-ins the night before are acceptable.

School events can use the weight verification method they choose, either full weigh-in (recommended) or red-dot verification (not recommended).

WEIGHT LOSS

Convenors are reminded of the OAWA and Wrestling Canada Lutte Excess Weight Loss Policies. These Policies are to be followed at all OAWA Sanctioned events.

For a copy of the OAWA Excess weight loss policy, please go to the Policies section of the OAWA web site. (www.oawa.ca).

The Wrestling Canada Lutte policy is noted in the Wrestling Canada Lutte Rulebook. The following is an excerpt:

“The use of plastic bags, saunas or any form of artificial weight loss is strictly prohibited at the Bantam Festivals and Cadet/Juvenile National Championships.....”

MATS

All mats used for the competition should be wrestling mats manufactured for wrestling and in good repair. Mats should be inspected to ensure they are in good repair, with no pieces missing. For competitions, mat sections should be joined using mat tape or a like product.

For health purposes, the Organizing Committee is responsible for washing the mats with a 10% bleach solution or a commercially available mat-cleaning product or similar prior to the event, at the end of each day for multiple day events, and between wrestling sessions if applicable. Volunteers should be recruited to perform this task. Each mat should have a supply of bleach/water (10% bleach) in a spray bottle (if volunteers are cleaning blood off the mats, rubber gloves should be provided). Alternately, antiseptic wipes may be used.

There must be an adequate protection area around each mat. Protection area as provided for in the Wrestling Canada Lutte rule book should be the minimum standard.

The gym must be laid out in such a way as to allow for good visibility for the spectators and to allow for adequate crowd control, and lastly to allow Medical Staff an adequate view of the competition areas.

As part of the pre-event inspection, the Head Official and Convenor shall inspect all mats. Any concerns are to be addressed before the competition is allowed to start.

OTHER FACILITY RELATED ISSUES:

The following should also be available:

- A lockable changing room for the appropriate number of officials.
- Access to a telephone for medical personnel.
- A designated area for the pairingmasters with the appropriate number of tables and chairs and office equipment.

MEDICAL SUPPORT

The OAWA encourages all tournament convenors to have trained medical personnel on hand. Suggestions:

School Events (recommended)

Volunteer with emergency medical training (St. John's Ambulance training, Red Cross First Aid Training, etc.). As an alternative, a volunteer with medical training (off duty nurse, ambulance personnel, paramedic, for example).

Club hosted OAWA Sanctioned

A trained Athletic Therapist or Therapists.

Provincial Championships

A trained Athletic Therapist or Therapists.

National Championships

Please see Wrestling Canada Lutte Requirements

RULES

The rules for OAWA Sanctioned events are per the current Wrestling Canada Lutte rule book. Please click [HERE](#) to view the current WCL Rules. Rule modifications as endorsed either by the OAWA or OFSAA for school events being sanctioned are acceptable. OFSAA rules are available on the OFSAA website.