

BCWA Membership Policy

Purpose

As BCWA's club memberships continue to increase, this policy will provide guidance to clubs and its members relating to membership requirements and eligibility. BCWA is seeking to support BCWA member clubs and our partners by providing policies that encourage fairness, development, and sustainability.

Registration and Benefits

To be a registrant member of BCWA, clubs and individuals must register for BCWA membership through Interpodia 2MEV online registration. Registration portal can be found on the BCWA website at www.bcwrestling.com.

Members registered with BC Wrestling receive accident insurance coverage for accidents occurring during sanctioned wrestling activity, which includes classes, practices, and competitions. This includes participants, coaches, judges, facilitators, and supporters. It also covers members traveling as a group (three or more) to classes, practices, or competitions.

BC Wrestling general liability insurance policy protects full member programs and their registered members in the event of a lawsuit. A lawsuit may result from negligence for actual bodily injury to participants, spectators, and other members of the public or to cover property damage arising out of BC Wrestling sanctioned activities.

Membership period

The membership year for BCWA is September 1 – August 31.

Season

Members may participate in wrestling activities throughout the membership year with applicable membership.

Membership Structure

2021-2022 BC Wrestling Membership Structure

Clubs

Coaches

Officials

Adult Recreation Athletes (19 years old & older)

Senior/Junior Athlete (19 years old & older)

U19 Athletes (17-18 years old)

Annual Member

Seasonal Member

U17 Athletes (13 -16 years)

Annual Member

Seasonal Member

School Age Athletes (5-12 years old)

Associate (volunteer/parents/chaperones)

Day of Event (one event only)

Athletes Requirements

Athletes are mandated to comply with all BCWA policies including the BC Wrestling Code of Conduct. Violation of BCWA policy may result in disciplinary action including sanctions.

Coaches/Officials/Associate Requirements

Coaches, officials, and associate members are mandated to comply with all BCWA policies including the BC Wrestling Code of Conduct. Violation of BCWA policy may result in disciplinary action including sanctions.

Criminal Record Check

Coaches, officials, and associate members are mandated to provide criminal record check as follow:

1. Vulnerable Sector Check (every three years) no earlier than September 01, of the current membership season.
2. E-PIC (every three years) no earlier than September 01, of the current membership season.

Members whose primary role is an athlete and serves as a coach and/or official are exempted from the criminal record check requirements.

Certified teachers are exempted from criminal record check requirements if a valid copy of teaching certification is provided to BCWA.

Club Requirements

BCWA recognizes the importance of clubs to support and enhance the athlete experience throughout the province. Local clubs play an integral role in the coordination and delivery of wrestling activities at the district and local levels. For clubs to be members of BCWA they must:

- a) Register for BCWA membership through Interpodia 2MEV online registration;
- b) Have stated purposes that are aligned with the purposes of BCWA;
- c) Require BCWA membership for all its club members;
- d) Have the training facility be in BC;
- e) Not be currently sanctioned by BCWA, WCL, or any governing body recognized by BCWA; and
- f) Comply with all BCWA policies.

Recruiting

BCWA prohibits the recruiting or inducement of student-athletes from existing clubs and school programs. Athletes may be recruited if the athlete is not affiliated with a club or school program. Despite compliance with the other eligibility and/or transfer rules of BCWA, any athlete who attends a member club as a result of recruitment or undue influence is ineligible for a minimum of one-year.

Violations under the policy may also result in sanctions to the club and/or coach of the club.

Undue influence for the purposes of this rule is the attempt by any club related person (including but not limited to, coaches, administrators, athletes, alumni, or parents) to induce an athlete through in-person contact, phone, text, social media, email, or the like, to attend a member club without the approval of the athlete's club or school program head coach.

If a person has knowledge of recruitment, he or she shall provide written notice of the allegation to the BCWA Executive Director.

BCWA recognizes that clubs may need to attract athletes. Clubs may advertise their program offerings in a generic manner. Club advertising must not be targeted in any way towards potential students who may display athletic potential.

Media and Social Media

BCWA is committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect. Content on social media should portray a positive image of the participant, club, association, and community.

Ensure consent has been provided for any individuals appearing in content intended for the public domain.

Include positive images and videos when possible.

Provide shareable, relevant, value-driven content that supports the success and participation of clubs, coaches, athletes, and officials.

BCWA membership approval

Members that are not in good standing, as determined by the Board or by a disciplinary panel, will not be entitled to vote at meetings of the Members or be entitled to the benefits and privileges of membership until such time as the Board is satisfied that the Member has met the definition of good standing.

Good Standing

Definition – A Member will be in good standing provided that the Member:

- a) Has not ceased to be a Member;
- b) Has not been suspended or expelled from membership, or had other membership restrictions or sanctions imposed;
- c) Has completed and remitted all documents as required by the Society;
- d) Has complied with the By-laws, policies, and rules of the Society;
- e) Is not subject to a disciplinary investigation or action by the Society, or if subject to disciplinary action previously, has fulfilled all terms and conditions of such disciplinary action to the satisfaction of the Board;
- f) Has paid all required membership dues and applicable fees;
- g) Has current BC MSP coverage; and
- h) Is not a current member of another wrestling PTSO.

Registration Requirements

Members are required to register with BCWA prior to participating in BCWA sanctioned events, including but not limited to trainings, club practices, school practices, BCWA practices, camps, tournaments, and meets. Participants not registered with BCWA may not participate in BCWA sanctioned events. It is the duty of the head coach to ensure participants are appropriately registered with BCWA prior to participating in BCWA sanctioned events.

Athletes Registration

An athlete can only represent the member club at which they are registered.

An athlete cannot be registered with more than one club.

An athlete may be registered with one club and one school program.

If an athlete participates at more than one club, the athlete may only register as an affiliate member of the club at which the athlete has the largest percentage of participation.

Joint clubs

BCWA believes there is merit in allowing athletes to participate in multiple wrestling programs due to low student enrollments and insufficient numbers. Clubs may be combined for athletes from partner clubs to participate together on the joint team in a practice environment. Clubs may not combine for the

purpose of competition results. The goal of allowing joint teams is to increase the number of athletes that participate in wrestling activities.

Transfer clubs

An athlete may transfer club if:

A new season has begun,

The previous registered club is no longer available,

The athlete's principal residence had changed and impacts the athlete's ability to attend practice, and/or

A written request is provided and approved by BCWA.