

## **2023-24 USA WRESTLING MEDIA CREDENTIAL REGULATIONS**

### **1. Eligibility**

USA Wrestling will issue media credentials to members of the working press only. Journalists who receive credentials must be on assignment for a specific media outlet. Journalists who wish to attend USA Wrestling national and regional events must submit an application through USA Wrestling's online system. Journalists will be able to apply for multiple events, or for individual events.

Freelance journalists may be asked to submit information from an editor or other staff professional from the media outlet for which they are working with details of their assignment. Journalists who have not been previously accredited by USA Wrestling may be asked for additional information about their media outlet and information about their coverage plans.

### **2. Application process starts with acceptance to the USA Wrestling media pool**

First-time applicants must apply for USA Wrestling's media pool. Acceptance to the media pool makes journalists eligible to apply for USA Wrestling events only. This is not an acceptance for credentials at any specific USA Wrestling event. Journalists approved for USA Wrestling's media pool will also be able to submit the USA Wrestling background check free of charge. All media applicants must upload a head shot photo online in order to be considered for a credential and must fill in the name of their specific media outlet (or indicate that they are a freelance journalist). USA Wrestling may occasionally contact media pool members to see if they wish to remain in the pool, and those who do not reply may be removed.

### **3. Background Check and Safe Sport training requirement**

All individuals who receive a media credential at a USA Wrestling national or regional competition must pass USA Wrestling's background check as well as complete annual online training by the U.S. Center for Safe Sport. Both requirements will be accessible through the USA Wrestling's online application system. No media application will be considered until both the background check and Safe Sport training has been completed. It may take a week or longer for a background check to clear. Safe Sport training may take over an hour to be completed.

### **4. Application deadlines and procedures**

An application must be made for each individual journalist. Press credential applications must be received by the deadline date for each specific event, which will be provided in the USA Wrestling online application. USA Wrestling will not guarantee that journalists who submit their applications after the deadline will be accommodated.

Applying in no way guarantees that your agency will receive credentials. At many events, space may be limited and only a certain number of media credentials will be issued. A journalist might be approved for some USA Wrestling events and not for other USA Wrestling events.

### **4. Credential acceptance**

USA Wrestling assumes the right to accept or deny media applications at its own discretion. USA Wrestling will consider the following priorities when issuing approval:

- 1) Consideration for major national media, local media where the event is held, wrestling specialty media and media that regularly cover Olympic sports.
- 2) Consideration for media outlets which attend USA Wrestling events on a regular basis.
- 3) Consideration for applications which are received by the deadline date.

## **5. Credential Usage**

Credentialed journalists will receive admission to the event, access to media work areas at the event venue, as well as any other areas where media accreditation is provided access. Media credentials must be worn at all times in the competition venue. There may be a fee for the replacement of a credential lost by a journalist. Credentials may not be given to another person for any reason.

USA Wrestling will contact journalists prior to each event to confirm that they are attending the event. All journalists who have been approved for a credential and decide they will not attend the specific event must notify USA Wrestling's communications staff that they will not be at the event.

Misuse of a USA Wrestling media credential or failure to follow USA Wrestling press operation procedures will result in loss of credential, removal from media areas, and the possible loss of credential privileges for future events. USA Wrestling has the right to remove accreditation for any reason.

## **6. Credential pickup**

Credentials will be available at a designated area at the event venue, unless otherwise specified in the acceptance literature. To receive the credential at a venue, journalists must show an ID from a recognized entity.

## **7. Photographers**

Photography locations and restrictions will be indicated at each major USA Wrestling event. Photographers who do not adhere to these rules will have their credential removed. USA Wrestling reserves the right to restrict the use of flash photography and strobes at any time. Credentialed photographers must use professional camera equipment.

## **8. Non-Rights Holder Video Usage agreements**

USA Wrestling may have a contractual arrangement with a broadcasting company concerning the television coverage and/or the internet broadcast of its events. Non-rights holders will be required to sign USA Wrestling's Non-Rights Holder video usage agreement, which will be provided online during the application process. Specific video restrictions will be included in the agreement. Violation can result in loss of your credential, removal from the media areas, the possible loss of credential privileges for future events and other legal remedies.

## **9. Prohibition on alterations of images and video**

To receive media accreditation for USA Wrestling regional and national events, journalists agree not to alter the images and video they collect at the USA Wrestling competition. This includes corporate signage, athlete uniforms and other graphic elements in the field of play and within the arena. Violation can result in loss of your credential, removal from the media areas, the possible loss of credential privileges for future events and other legal remedies.

## **10. Interview policy**

At each USA Wrestling event, credentialed media must agree to work with USA Wrestling communications staff and follow interview policies and procedures for that event. Any interview requests not included in the interview policy will be considered on an individual basis.

## **11. U.S. Olympic Training Center interview process.**

USA Wrestling conducts practices and other activities in the Bill Farrell Wrestling Center at the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. The U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) has an online accreditation process for journalists to receive access to the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Training Center (USOPTC), as well as specific procedures while on campus. If approved by the USOPC, journalists covering wrestling must be escorted at all times on the USOPTC campus by USA Wrestling and/or USOPC staff. For certain requests involving video, journalists must coordinate their activities with the USOC's Broadcast division and could be subject to a rights fee.