

USA WRESTLING - OHIO

QUALIFYING FOR THE 2019 OHIO U16 AND JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAMS

Q. When and where are the U16 National and Asics Tiger Junior National Championships this year?

A. Both tournaments will be held at the Fargo Dome in Fargo, North Dakota, again this year. The dates are July 5-7.

Q. How do I qualify for the Ohio U16 and Junior National Teams this year?

A. Most U16 National Team members and Junior National Team members will be selected at the USA Wrestling - Ohio State Championships this year. Both the Greco-Roman and the Freestyle State Championships for U16 and Juniors will be held on **Saturday, May 18th and Sunday, May 19th, at Marysville H.S.** The U16 and Junior National Teams will be chosen after the regional tournament May 25th and 26th.

In order to participate in the State Championships, you **must** first wrestle in at least one of the eight qualifying tournaments held around the state this spring and place in the **top six (6)** finishers for your weight class. If you place in the top 3 in the OHSAA State Tournament or the OAC Junior High State Tournament, you automatically qualify for the Freestyle/Greco Roman State Tournament and do not have to qualify through a USA-Ohio Qualifier. Once you qualify, you may wrestle at ANY WEIGHT YOU CHOOSE in the State Championships. The first qualifying tournaments will be held **throughout the state (see USA Wrestling Ohio website for scheduled qualifiers).**

NOTE: Women do not have to qualify to the State tournament but MUST wrestle in one Qualifier or at the State tournament (or at a national USA Sponsored tournament) or follow the established policy on petitioning to be a part of the U16 and Junior National Teams. NO Exceptions!

Q. How will the Ohio U16 and Junior National Teams be selected?

A. There will be a certain number of automatic qualifiers from each weight class at the Freestyle and Greco-Roman State Championships, depending on the size of the weight class. **“Automatic qualifiers”** are those wrestlers who finish **first or second** in their weight class (for weight classes with **fewer than twelve entries**), **first, second, or third** in their weight class (for weight classes with **twelve or more entries**) at the respective U16 and Junior State Championships. Normally approximately two-thirds to three-fourths of the allowable spots on each team are filled by “automatic qualifiers” from the State Championships.

Q. If I'm not an automatic qualifier for one of the Ohio National Teams, is there another way to get on the team?

A. There will be 51 wrestlers selected for each of the U16 teams (Greco-Roman and Freestyle) and 45 wrestlers for each of the Junior teams. The balance of the spots on each team (after automatic qualifiers) will be selected through a selection process. All wrestlers wanting to be on the national team **must fill out the information on the back of the tournament entry form** and, if you are not an automatic qualifier, this information will be used by the coaching staff to determine who else gets on the team. These entry/Information forms (or on-line registration) will be available at each of the State Championships, and online at www.usawrestling-ohio.org under **the HOME page or Tournaments/State Tournaments**. If on-line registration is required, the link will be posted at the same web address. If you DO NOT wrestle in the State Championship for **any** reason, you must submit a **petition form** (available at www.usawrestling-ohio.org under **National Teams – Qualifying Information**) along with a **\$50.00 non-refundable petition fee**. This form and fee must be received by the Team Leaders or head table at the State Greco/ Freestyle tournament by 8:00 am, Saturday May 18th for Greco petition and by 2:00 pm, Saturday May 18th for Freestyle. **You MUST have a current USAW card in order to submit a petition. Petition Process:** A wrestler may only petition for the Fargo team by: wrestler has attended and completed a minimum of 1 USA Wrestling sponsored event
NOTE: women do not have to qualify to the State tournament but MUST be present at the State Tournament and follow the established policy on petitioning to be a part of the U16 and Junior National Teams. NO Exceptions!

Q. I've heard that I can also qualify for the Ohio U16 and Junior National Teams by placing in a U16 or Junior Regional Championship. How does that work?

A. USA Wrestling is continuing their policy that the **top four placers** at U16 and Junior Regional Championships will automatically qualify for their home state's U16 or Junior National Teams. These qualifying spots are *in addition to* the team members who will be selected at the USA Wrestling - Ohio State Championships (see above). A list of U16 and Junior Regional Championships and contacts can be found on the USA Wrestling web site at www.themat.com, and at www.usawrestling-ohio.org under **Tournaments/Regionals**. Ohio wrestlers who qualify at a U16 or Junior Regional **must** notify the Ohio U16 or Junior Team Leader as soon as possible. They **must** pay the same team fees as other qualifiers and participate in the **mandatory** training camp before U16 and Junior Nationals. Ohio Juniors may qualify at any one of the seven USA Wrestling Junior Regional Championships and Ohio U16 can qualify at ANY of the seven U16 Regional Championships. However, any U16 who goes to a Junior Regional and places in the top four in his weight class, qualifies *only for the Junior team*. The **top eight placers** at the UWW (Formerly FILA) U16 and UWW (Formerly FILA) Junior World Team Trials also automatically qualify (if you are the correct age) for their home state's

U16 and Junior National Teams. These qualifying spots are in addition to the team members who will be chosen at the USA Wrestling - Ohio State Championships.

- Q. *I'm a freshman in high school now, but I was born in 2003. Can I wrestle on both the Ohio U16 and Junior National Teams this year?***
- A. Sorry, but no! Wrestlers may participate in only one age division at Nationals (i.e., U16 or Junior, but not both). This limitation is necessary because the two National Tournaments are being held at the same time again, and Junior sessions will be run on several of the same days and at the same times as U16 sessions.
- Q. *Can I request to be on one of the teams at a different weight than I participated at the State Championship?***
- A. **Junior** wrestlers will be allowed to request to be at **one weight class lower** than the one they wrestled at the State Championship. **U16** wrestlers will **not** be allowed to request to be at a lower weight class. Wrestlers in either age group may ask to be at a higher weight class, but your chances of making the team at the higher weight class may be reduced. Junior wrestlers who request a lower weight class **must** include some evidence for the Junior Petition Committee that you will be able to make the lower weight at Nationals. **There will be multiple day weigh-ins for U16 and Juniors at the National Championships again this year.** The Selection Committee may reject any request for a lower weight class if they feel that it would not be in the best interests of the wrestler and the team. Wrestlers who qualify at a U16 or Junior Regional Tournament(or UWW Nationals) may declare the weight class they wish to wrestle when they arrive in Fargo.
- Q. *When will I know if I've made one of the teams through the selection/petition process?***
- A. The Ohio Team Leaders will inform all wrestlers who were not automatic or regional qualifiers that they have made the team as soon as possible after the Selection Committees have met. Normally, the Team Leaders will directly notify all wrestlers who have provided a valid email address within a day or two after the State Championships. To make sure that you are promptly notified, it is important that you provide a valid, legible email address or phone number that accepts text messaging on the entry form for the State Championships. Also, if you have any questions, you can always email the Team Leaders at usawrestlingohio@aol.com anytime! A list of selected team members and alternates will also be posted at www.usawrestling-ohio.org under **National Teams** as soon as possible. This list will be updated approximately once every week between the State Championships and the National Championships.
- Q. *What factors will the Selection Committees consider when selecting additional members for the Ohio National Teams?***
- A. Many factors will enter into the Committees' deliberations. If you did not participate in the State Championship, your reason for non-participation will be considered on its merits by the Selection Committee. Selection factors that the Committees will consider include participation in state, regional, and national USAW events, previous wrestling accomplishments (Folkstyle, Greco-Roman, and Freestyle), your performance at the State Greco-Roman and Freestyle Championships (and possibly at Ohio Qualifiers) against other outstanding wrestlers, your general conduct at the State Championships and Qualifiers, and your adherence to the USA Wrestling Rapid Weight Reduction Rule. Returning World Placer, UWW Junior or U16 All-American, USA Junior or U16 All-American who petition will be automatically placed on the team. If for some reason, there is only one available spot and more than one wrestler that meets this criteria, the wrestler with the higher credentials will be automatically placed on the team. The Committees will determine the **initial placement** among all of the remaining candidates, but **final placement of all additional wrestlers will be determined by the Selection Committee. Decisions of the Selection Committees will be FINAL**
- Q. *If I don't get chosen for a spot on one of the teams through the original petition process, do I still have a chance to make one of the teams?***
- A. Yes! Every year several of the original members from each of the teams drop off between the State Championships and the National Championships for various reasons (injury, family problems, inability to raise sufficient funds, etc.). Lists containing the top twenty-five to thirty alternates for each of the teams will be posted at www.usawrestling-ohio.org under **National Teams**. Replacement team members will be selected from these lists and will be contacted by the Team Leaders as soon as a spot opens on the team. Every year, up to 25% of the National Team is selected from these lists.
- Q. *What will it cost me to be on the Ohio U16 or Junior National Team this year?***
- A. The **approximate** cost for 2019 is \$1,200 for one style and \$1,400 for both styles. Women's cost is \$1,300. A **non-refundable deposit** will be required from all team members to hold your spot on the team and all team fees **must** be **PAID IN FULL** no later than the beginning of the mandatory training camp. Fund-raising information will be available from the Team Leaders.
- Q. *How soon do I have to commit and deposit money to be on the National Teams?***
- A. So that costs can be maintained, you will be asked to commit your intentions on making the trip by having your \$200 deposit in by May 30th! This deadline will be strictly enforced this year– if there are extenuating circumstances, please contact one of the team leaders by that date – otherwise, we will remove you from consideration for the team and move on to the selection list after this date.