

**Part 7: Freestyle Wrestling and No-Gi Grappling Red Book v51.**

**Section 1: Introduction**

**1.1 FGG Global Standards**

This Sport Red Book provides specific, clearly identified standards, critical to the planning, organization and execution of the sport at the Gay Games, and is based on the experience gathered from previous Gay Games, and other major sporting events. It serves as a permanent living document for the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) and its Hosts.

***All Hosts must refer to and respect the policies included in the Gay Games Red Book for Sport, of which this present Sport Specific Red Book is a part.***

This document is Part 7 of the FGG “Gay Games Red Book for Sport” for wrestling (generic term) which includes Freestyle Wrestling, GRECO-Roman, No-Gi Grappling, Beach, Gi-SAMBO, and GENDER-NEUTRAL Styles. It may be modified according to the procedures set out by the FGG in the complete “Gay Games Red Book for Sport”. In particular, it may be modified for a particular specific edition of the Gay Games or any other event as a **Section 9: Minimum Standards (for HK2022)** below to be included in a legal licensing agreement.

*Changes made for this particular iteration of the Gay Games Hong Kong (HK2022), if any, are to be found in **Section 9: Minimum Standards (for HK2022)**.*

***NB : The Federation of Gay Games (FGG), Host (HongKong 202 ), and Wrestlers WithOut Borders (WWB) will agree on the final rules to be incorporated for the Gay Games no later than 2 years prior to each Games being held. No modifications to this RedBook or Minimum Standards (for HKBK2022) may be made without first consulting WWB, and getting their agreement in writing before any changes are made. WWB will hold ownership of this original WORD .DOCx version and manage the iterative versioning. Refer to Section 9: Minimum Standards (for HK2022).***

**1.2 Structure and Use of this document**

**1.2.1 Minimum Standards**

This document follows the *original* design of a **RedBook** in that it is a **REFERENCE**, a compendium of vocabulary, policies, options, philosophy, and standards for **ALL** Gay Games instances, *as well as other Wrestlers WithOut Borders (WWB) events* that adhere to the Tom Waddell principles of ‘**Inclusion, Participation, and Personal Best**’. This RedBook is written, maintained, and owned by WWB, and supplied for use to the Federation of Gay Games (FGG).

This RedBook is **NOT** per se a 100% enforceable legal vehicle because it is written as a **REFERENCE**. The specific enforceable legal section of this RedBook is the **Section 9: Minimum Standards (for HK2022)** for the specific iteration of Gay Games XI Hong Kong 2022 (Host), and is specifically written to be included by the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) in their License Agreement with the Host. It is also the only Section of this RedBook to be addressed in negotiations for changes. In short, the HOST must deliver **Section 9: Minimum Standards (for HK2022)**.

## **Section 2: Governing and Sanctioning Bodies and Rules**

### **2.1 Gay Games sports program (Styles)**

- Instead of the very limited truncated Women's Category (as done is in *The Olympics*), Gender opportunities are extended equally across all the Styles, Ages, and Weight Classes.
- **Unique Medal Event Brackets (UME Brackets)** are official Gay Games Registration supported competitive instances for which official Gay Games medals are awarded
- Non UME Brackets are EXHIBITIONS for which **no medals** are awarded
- For any Gay Games, Freestyle Wrestling and No-Gi Grappling are both *REQUIRED* official core disciplines (Styles) ("List A").
  - Freestyle Wrestling is the official traditional core Style ("List A")
  - No-Gi Grappling is an official core Style (following United World Wrestling (UWW) policy and for inclusion in the Gay Games).
- Beach Wrestling, GRECO-Roman, Gi-SAMBO, and GENDER-NEUTRAL are other Options/Styles that would need to be sanctioned by both United World Wrestling (UWW) and Wrestlers Without Borders (WWB). To be included as UME Brackets in a licensed event, the **Section 9: Minimum Standards (for HK2022)** below for these alternate Styles need to be developed.

### **2.2 Governing and Sanctioning Bodies**

#### **2.2.1 Mainstream**

**United World Wrestling (UWW)** is the sanctioning body for Freestyle Wrestling and No-Gi Grappling (which have both been mandated core Minimum Standards Styles at the Gay Games since 1982), as well as the other optional Styles approved by the Gay Games.

<https://unitedworldwrestling.org/>

#### **2.2.2 LGBT**

**fWrestlers Without Borders (WWB)** is a 28 year member of the FGG, and is the primary sanctioning organization for Gay Games Freestyle and No-Gi Grappling. It is WWB that deals with UWW:

<https://wrestlerswob.com/>

### 2.3 Rules

- All competitors **MUST** show proof of UWW association or membership through either an explicit UWW license, or with a license from local UWW-associated or sanctioned organization or club (e.g., USAW, NSW. KNKF, CAW, or LAW).
- The current UWW rules as incorporated, modified, approved, and presented by WWB in this RedBook document, specifically the **Section 9: Minimum Standards (for HK2022)** must be used.
- UWW publishes changes at will. In the year of the Gay Games, WWB must determine which UWW rule changes if any will be incorporated into the **Section 9: Minimum Standards (for HK2022)**.
- UWW affiliates routinely modify tournament rules, especially to enhance safety. WWB has always successfully modified rules for the Gay Games, and these modifications must be enforced. This especially includes the balanced and conscious decision of directing the mat officials, using the expanded WWB weight categories, permitting headgear, and total exclusion of specific potentially dangerous holds.
- In keeping with FGG principles, the UWW requirement of the National Emblem on wrestlers' singlets is to be ignored and discouraged. **However competitors are REQUIRED to have primarily RED and primarily BLUE singlets for Freestyle.**
- WWB modifications to these UWW rules to enhance safety, increase participation, and alter pairings are always done with a respect for the legal insurance requirements of UWW, WWB, the FGG, and the Host.

### 2.4 Terms

- **Unique Medal Events (UME Brackets):** UME Brackets are the actual competition brackets for which official Gay Games Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals are contested/awarded. UME Brackets are tied to the official Gay Games Registration, and reflect the official Style, Gender, Age, and Weight categories permitted by UWW and WWB. Currently the UME Brackets for a Gay Games are mathematically derived and presented in their maximum entirety from the Four Dimensional array: Two Styles: (Freestyle & No-Gi Grappling), Three Genders: (Legal Male, Legal Female, Non-Legal/Self-Declared Gender-Neutral), Three Age Groups: (Open, Masters, & Veterans), and Twelve Weigh Classes. This offers 216 possible Registration UME Brackets. However, no Gay Games has ever come close to awarding that many UME Bracket medals. Usually there are some ~40 total UMEs. Also, there are other restrictions arising from mutually exclusive decisions made at Registration and/or Accreditation time.
- **EXHIBITION Matches:** Dynamic pairings are made the day of the tournament to accommodate small non UME Brackets, and enhance **'Inclusion, Participation, and Personal Best'** for Registered Competitors who may be elite, differently abled, or cannot meet a UWW requirement, like Legal Gender. These pairings are carefully made, and carefully paired and officiated in accordance with FGG Mission, and UWW policy. Since these are not official UME Brackets, official Gay Games Medals are not awarded.

***However, the Host is encouraged to work with WWB -before- official Registration goes live on-line to offer some UME Bracket categories that can legally be executed as EXHIBITION Matches, but given a more honorable designation for which UME Bracket medals can be awarded. This would solve specifically the Non-Legal Self-Declared Gender issue for competitors who cannot meet the UWW Legal Gender Standard of their country REQUIRED by UWW. Creating these 'GENDER-NEUTRAL' UME Brackets needs to be negotiated to be included in the Section 9: Minimum Standards (for HK2022). CF: v5.1.***

- **Certified Change Option (CCO):** Immediately after Weigh-Ins and within one hour, a wrestler may choose to move up one (1) weight division and/or down one (1) age division prior to final UME Bracket pairings. The competitor can choose different options for each of their chosen Styles.

### **Section 3: Venue and Equipment**

#### **3.1 Venue**

The venue choice should comply with the recommendations in the current and valid UWW rulebook. Any changes are subject to agreement in writing with WWB. Refer to:

[https://unitedworldwrestling.org/sites/default/files/2018-10/requirements\\_international\\_competitions\\_0.pdf](https://unitedworldwrestling.org/sites/default/files/2018-10/requirements_international_competitions_0.pdf)

**A gym** that can accommodate 3 full size wrestling mats, stands/bleachers, including male and female locker rooms with showers, and Officiating Area. The locker rooms must be secure, and need to be large enough to accommodate all of the wrestlers and grapplers.

**A facility** that can hold the Freestyle Wrestling competition is able to host a No-Gi Grappling, GI-SAMBO, GENDER-NEUTRAL, or GRECO-Roman competition. This decision of the wrestling Styles to be offered needs to be done by the FG and the Host early in order for the Registration system to handle the added Unique Medal Events (UME Brackets). A facility that can Host beach volleyball should be suitable to Host beach wrestling if selected as a UME Style.

**Seating:** The available seating at the venue must be able to accommodate 500 spectators as well as all of the participating competitors. The competitors' seating must be in one section with access to the mats and locker room. Non-participants will not be allowed access to the competitor's section.

**Competition area:** The ambient temperature of the competition hall must be maintained between 18 °C and 24 °C with sufficient ventilation for the number of people.

**Locker Rooms:** The venue must have separate men's and women's locker rooms with shower facilities. Only participating competitors are allowed access to these locker rooms. This is imperative to comply with strict skin disease prevention regulations of UWW.

**Warm-up area:** Warm-up mats are to be provided, and they must be in a secure area. Only participating competitors and authorized personnel are allowed in the warm-up area.

**Medical Area:** Medical personnel (e.g., EMT) must be provided a private, dedicated area in which to work.

**Security:** Event/Tournament organizers must include security personnel in their staffing plans. Security personnel shall ensure only event participants have access to the locker rooms, competitors' seating area, and warm-up mats. The security personnel shall utilize incident reports to account for any security problems they encounter.

**Media:** Media representatives are **NOT** to be permitted access to the locker rooms, warm-up mats, wrestlers' seating area, or the medical area. Requests for interviews and pictures will go through the tournament director.

### 3.2 Equipment:

- The Host will provide computers and printers to the Pairing Officials for 'The First Day' events.  
**Refer to Section 12: 'The First Day'.**
- REQUIRED equipment includes 3 full size UWW compliant Freestyle or GRECO-Roman wrestling mats, and warm-up mats equivalent to approximately half the size of a full size wrestling mat. Given that Freestyle has more explosive ground impact, and that both Styles will be held in the same place, JUDO mats are not appropriate. Yes it is preferable for the No-Gi Grappling to have JUDO mats, but unless the venue can host the extra mats, it is not an option.

### Suggestion:

- **Suggestions:**  
WWB suggests that mats be rented or borrowed from colleges, universities, dojos, or gyms in the area. It is preferred that competition and warm-up mats already be present at the venue. If they are not, they will need to be rented, donated or borrowed from another source (such as colleges, dojos or gyms in the area); and will need to be transported in and out and loaded and unloaded. Host must ensure it has adequate personnel for these tasks.  
The Gay Games Host should make a good faith donation to the organization providing the mats. Mat rental or donation costs will vary based on the location of the Gay Games, but from experience mat rentals can run from \$1,000 - \$5,000 USD. The Host should budget appropriately.

### 3.3 Budget:

**Budget:** The following costs may be incurred for Freestyle Wrestling and No-Gi Grappling Tournaments. The Host should budget accordingly. NB: Costs will vary based on the location of the Gay Games.

- **Sanctioning/Insurance fee:** Paid to UWW or affiliated organization. Estimated cost ~\$200 or more per tournament
- **Medical - On-site trainers/emergency:** Estimate cost per day for on-site medical personnel (e.g... EMT). This Could range \$600 per day or more if not donated.
- **Food, Drinks:** Bottled water or water cooler for wrestlers. Sports drinks, snacks provided as well. Estimate ~\$5USD per person, keeping it inexpensive and affordable since competitors should not leave the building.
- **Physician** at weigh-ins for inspection for communicable skin diseases and steroid acne: Cost will vary by Host location. Assume ~\$300 or more if a volunteer physician is not available.
- **Miscellaneous office supplies**, etc.: Paper, Printers, etc. Budget ~\$100 or more.
- **Scoreboard:** 3 Scoreboards that can be seen by competitors and spectators. Electronic scoring is strongly preferred, and may already be available from the venue. Estimate ~\$200 or more for rentals.

### 3.4 Communications:

All changes of rules, venues, and schedules in the time of organizing and publishing on the website of the Host must be:

- Published to the registered participants via eMail as soon as possible after the changes are made.
- Given to WWB to also publish on its website and social media.

## **Section 4: Structure of Event:**

### **4.1 REQUIRED events:**

- **'The First Day'** the Host must schedule a process for the competitors that is **REQUIRED**, that handles UWW accreditation, group photos, weigh-ins, iterative pairings, a safety clinic, rules and technique clinics for Freestyle Wrestling, rules/ technique clinics for No-Gi Grappling Styles, and an open mat/unstructured warmup time prior to the clinics. This is detailed in **Section 12: 'The First Day'**.
- **For safety and insurance reasons, no competitor may compete in the tournaments without being present and participating in 'The First Day' events. This caveat must appear in the on-line Registration!**
- **Gay Games Freestyle Wrestling** a Host must offer an international Freestyle Wrestling double-elimination wrestling tournament.
- **Gay Games No-Gi Grappling:** A Host must offer a No-Gi Grappling Style tournament under WWB modified UWW rules, but not in place of holding a Freestyle Wrestling Style tournament.

### **4.1.2 Optional Style Events**

- Optional Style Events must be negotiated as part of the winning Host's bid, subsequent negotiations with the FGG and WWB, and then made part of the **Section 9: Minimum Standards (for HK2022)**. This process can occur at any time prior to the Gay Games event.
- **GENDER-NEUTRAL (UME/Elevated EXHIBITIONS):** if there is a high Registration need to address Trans Gendered inclusion for those who *cannot* meet the UWW REQUIRED Legal Gender Standard as Non-Legal/Self-Declared, the elevation of EXHIBITION brackets to true Medal Awarded UME Brackets is possible once a financial case can be made. This requires significant negotiations as it affects the Host's budget and on-line Registration, but not in place of holding Legal Male/Legal Female Freestyle Wrestling and No-Gi Grappling tournaments. NB : v5.1 of this document will create a GENDER-NEUTRAL UME to be included in the **Section 9: Minimum Standards (for HK2022)**.
- **Beach Wrestling:** A Host with an appropriate sandy beach venue may offer beach wrestling in a WWB-sanctioned tournament format or in WWB-sanctioned EXHIBITIONS, but not in place of holding Freestyle Wrestling and No-Gi Grappling tournaments. Typically a facility that is used for beach volleyball can hold beach wrestling. Beach Wrestling may be held later in the week and it may be held as part of a social or 'fun' event for the Gay Games competitors.
- **GRECO-Roman Wrestling (Legal Men only):** A Host may offer a GRECO-Roman Style wrestling tournament under WWB-modified UWW rules, but not in place of holding Freestyle Wrestling and No-Gi Grappling tournaments.
- **GI-SAMBO (Legal Men only):** A Host may offer a Gi-SAMBO Style tournament under WWB modified UWW rules, but not in place of holding Freestyle Wrestling and No-Gi Grappling tournaments.

### **4.1.3 Additional events and activities**

In order to enhance the competitors' experiences and provide a rare and desired opportunity for interaction, WWB and the Host, as well as the local club if one is available, should work together to plan one or two wrestling-focused social events later in the week. Preferable one of the events would focus on mat activities — such as open practice as was done in 2006 or 'Fun Games' as was done in 2018 — and the other should allow for informal recognition of WWB awards made at the Gay Games. If they can be tentatively scheduled as part of the official schedule, funds can be more easily raised by the competitors.

## 4.2 Competition structure

### 4.2.1 Tournament brackets and pairings

#### 4.2.1.1

With a lack of qualifying elimination events leading up to Gay Games, and the FGG's and WWB's Mission of **'Inclusion, Participation, and Personal Best'**, pairings present many risks that must be addressed in WWB modifications to UWW rules.

- Skill levels, physical conditioning, age, gender, and health status are far more diverse and unknown than in a typical UWW sanctioned international event.
- The infrequency with which Gay Games wrestlers are able to compete with others from outside their geographic area makes it imperative that Gay Games do all they can to provide geographic separation of competitors in the pairings at least in the earlier rounds.
- With the risk of injuries enhanced by dangerous pairings, strict adherence to some UWW protocols (such as random blind draws) has been proven historically to be unsafe or unsuitable for the Gay Games. Therefore, the WWB rule modifications to UWW rules must be followed

***Because of the FGG's and WWB's policies of inclusion, there is a far greater range of skill levels, physical condition, age, gender, and health status in Gay Games wrestlers than in a typical UWW sanctioned national championship or world event.***

**4.2.1.2 WWB Representative:** A properly credentialed WWB representative shall serve as a full member the Officials Pairing Team.

**4.2.1.3. UME Brackets:** There will be a maximum of 8 competitors per UME Bracket. If a UME Bracket has more than that 8 competitors, it will be split into two pools based on separation of team and country affiliation by ascending age. No pool shall have less than 3 wrestlers.

**4.2.1.4 Pairings:** Competitors will be explicitly separated by club, team, or country affiliation in the first round. In subsequent rounds, wrestlers will be blind paired by the pairing committee using random draw numbers, subject to any explicit separation. There are no seeding accommodations.

**4.2.1.5 Double Elimination:** In the interest of saving tournament time, avoiding the public humiliation of outclassed competitors, and the risk of serious injuries in dangerous pairings, competitors can be officially eliminated from a bracket after two losses.

However, WWB would rather encourage competitors to do their remaining matches (even if the competitor loses their first two matches) if brackets contain 4 or more wrestlers. The 'Double Elimination' wrestler simply needs to notify the Pairings Official of his/her desire to discontinue wrestling after 2 losses.

- The default is **NOT** Double Elimination because competitors do owe each other and the integrity of the tournament their participation. This is an item that is determined based upon Registration numbers, the UME Brackets, officials, and the venue lease, e.g... in the event of very high Registration, and not enough time to do all the matches, then Double Elimination is the option enforced. In the event of low Registration, where more matches can be accommodated, the Double Elimination should be ignored. Individual competitors can opt out of a UME Bracket by invoking the 'Double Elimination' option after 2 losses. Refer to **Section 9: Minimum Standards (for HK2022)**.

**4.2.1.6 Insufficient wrestlers in a UME Bracket:** If there are insufficient competitors to hold matches within a UME Bracket (i.e.. < 3), competitors will be encouraged to do non UME EXHIBITION matches or, at their option and when it is determined it is safe, to change to another UME Bracket. In no instance will UME Brackets officially be simply collapsed because of lack of numbers.

#### 4.2.1.7 Flow of Pairings Process

[refer to the **Section 12: 'The First Day'** pairings process for details of the event flow]

#### 4.2.2 Type of tournament

- Host will conduct a three consecutive days Gay Games Freestyle Wrestling and No-Gi Grappling event (“List A”) starting early in the week, preferably Monday.
- A developmental Novice clinic and/or competition in Freestyle Wrestling and/or No-Gi Grappling may also be offered if there is interest, low Registration numbers warrant it, there is enough time, and there is no budget impact. This would be non UME Bracket EXHIBITIONS for which there are no Medals awarded. These offer an opportunity to feature a celebrity wrestler/grappler to enhance registrations. This would need to be negotiated to be included in **Section 9: Minimum Standards (for HK2022)**.
- Additional tournaments and/or non EXHIBITIONS under WWB modified UWW rules may be held in GRECO-Roman, Beach, GENDER-NEUTRAL, and Gi-SAMBO Styles as non UME Bracket EXHIBITIONS or UME Bracket EXHIBITIONS like GENDER-NEUTRAL UMEs..

#### 4.3 Schedule

- A Freestyle Wrestling (men and Women) or No-Gi Grappling (men and women) tournament itself requires *at least one day each*, with a maximum of two days. These tournaments **MUST NOT** be bundled in with the Minimum Requirements of the **Section 12: ‘The First Day’**.

#### **Generic Schedule for Wrestling and No-Gi Grappling Events:**

**1<sup>st</sup>. Day (The First Day):** Accreditation Weigh-In, mandatory safety/rules/technique/Style clinics, iterative bracket pairings, **Certified Change Option (CCO)**, warm-ups, and official photos: Refer to **Section 12: ‘The First Day’** for specifics.

- NB: The event competition should be scheduled at the beginning of the Gay Games week (starting Monday) due to the fact that competitors will be dieting to maintain their UME Bracket weight.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Day:** Freestyle Wrestling Tournament (Men and Women), Freestyle EXHIBITIONS, Medal Awards

**3<sup>rd</sup> Day:** No-Gi Grappling Tournament (Men and Women), No-Gi Grappling EXHIBITIONS, Medal Awards

**Additional Days:** Other Styles (GRECO-Roman, Beach, GI-SAMBO), Optional ‘Fun Games’, and other Award Ceremonies

#### **Additional Rules and Notes:**

- **Maximum Bouts:** This rule limits the maximum number of REQUIRED UME Bracket matches per competitor to **5** per day. Without Double Elimination in a maximum of 8 competitors per UME Bracket, this is very feasible, leaving opportunities for EXHIBITIONS.
- **Weight Classes:** To enhance opportunities for competition and to simplify all the Style (UME Bracket) options in Registration, the SAME expanded weight classes will apply across Gender, Freestyle Wrestling, No-Gi Grappling, GRECO-Roman, Beach, GI-SAMBO, and GENDER-NEUTRAL UME Brackets. Refer to **Section 9: Minimum Standards (for HK2022)**.
- **UME Bracket Adjustments:** Immediately after Weigh-Ins and the first cut of UME Brackets are posted, a competitor may choose to move up one (1) weight division and/or down one (1) age division prior to final pairings. This is referred to as the **Certified Change Option (CCO)**. Refer to **Section 9: Minimum Standards (for HK2022)**.
- **UME Bracket Medals:** Wrestlers in undersubscribed UME Brackets will *always* get their medals. They will be encouraged by tournament officials to wrestle non UME Bracket EXHIBITION matches or, at their option and when it is determined it is safe, to change to another UME Bracket. Refer to **Section 5: Participation and Guidelines** for more about UME Brackets.

***In no instance will brackets be simply combined/collapsed because of lack of numbers. Combining/Collapsing brackets groups due to low numbers can compromise competitor’s safety.***



#### 4.4 Officials and volunteers

##### 4.4.1 Officials

###### 4.4.1.1 Freestyle Wrestling Officials

- In Freestyle Wrestling, 3 officials are needed per mat during each match to have effective officiating.
- At least 3 volunteers are also needed at the officials table to help with scoring and paperwork.
- For a typical Style tournament with 100-200 registrants, held in one day on 2-3 mats, assume that ~10 officials are needed, although a tournament could be run with 2-3 officials per mat.
- Costs for officials will vary based on the Host country. In the US, costs per day for officials range from ~\$50-\$100 per official per day.
- WWB can and may assist the Host with finding officials for Freestyle Wrestling.

###### 4.4.1.2 No-Gi Grappling Officials

- Assume the same number of officials and costs as Freestyle Wrestling Officials (above) to run a one day No-Gi Grappling Tournament.
- No-Gi Grappling officials may be procured by contacting **IBJJF** and other organizations that support No-Gi Grappling, as well as UWW. WWB can and may assist the Host with finding officials for No-Gi Grappling.
- As mentioned in the Freestyle Wrestling Officials Section, the number of officials will depend on the number of registered participants, which will also determine the number of mats, and whether a 1, 2, or 3-ref system is to be used for each mat. Safety dictates. Exhibitions require more safety considerations, which includes pairing and mat officials.

##### 4.4.2 Volunteers

- At least 20 volunteers are **REQUIRED** to provide security, clean mats, enter data, as well as to handle crowd control, competitor escorting, scoring, announcing, etc.

#### 4.5 Results software and format

- Both the Freestyle Wrestling and No-Gi Grappling competition will use a *manual weigh-in and pairing process* managed by tournament Pairing Officials and a qualified WWB person prior to the volunteers inputting data into computers to generate brackets, bout sheets, results, wall brackets, etc... This will occur on **'The First Day'**, and is detailed in **Section 12: 'The First Day'**.
- Host must follow the requirements of the Gay Games Red Book for Sport regarding the reporting of event results during the week of the Gay Games and following through for the Final Report.
- The final results must detail at least with Gold, Silver, and Bronze in each UME Bracket, and list their names, Team, city, country and the scores. All UME Bracket and Bout Sheets are to be saved and copies furnished to WWB.

#### 4.6 Medal requirements and award ceremony

Award ceremony three medals (Gold, Silver, and Bronze) must be awarded in each UME Bracket.

##### 4.6.1 Medal requirements

The top three competitors in each UME Bracket will receive respective Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals.

***Medals will be awarded per the normal UME Bracket that competitor would have competed in, even if there are insufficient competitors in the UME Bracket, and even if the competitor has accepted to wrestle in a different UME Bracket to provide a competitive opportunity for him or herself and others.***

##### 4.6.2 Award ceremony

Awards must be presented at the competition venue immediately after the conclusion of each tournament Style.

## **Section 5: Participation Guidelines**

### **5.1 Unique Medal Event Brackets (UME Brackets) Refer to Section 9 Minimum Standards (for HK2022)**

**Weight Classes:** To enhance opportunities for competition and to simplify all the Style (UME Bracket) options in Registration, the SAME expanded weight classes will apply across Gender, Freestyle Wrestling, No-Gi Grappling, GRECO-Roman, Beach, GI-SAMBO, and GENDER-NEUTRAL UME Brackets.

**UME Bracket Adjustments:** Immediately after Weigh-Ins and posting of the initial UME Brackets, a wrestler may choose to move up one (1) weight division and/or down one (1) age division prior to pairings in each Style registered. This is referred to as the **Certified Change Option (CCO)**.

**Medals:** Wrestlers in undersubscribed divisions will always get their medals. They will be encouraged by tournament officials to wrestle EXHIBITION matches or, at their option and when it is determined it is safe, to change to another age/weight group (**Certified Change Option (CCO)**).

***In no instance will UME Brackets be simply combined/collapsed because of lack of numbers. Combining/Collapsing UME Brackets due to low numbers can compromise competitors' safety. It is a clear violation of the competitors' contract with the Host.***

### **5.2 Number of competitive instances**

**Each competitor should be able to participate in a minimum of three and a maximum of five matches per day in any tournament (Freestyle/No-Gi Grappling + optional tournaments).**

### **5.3 Maximum number of entries per individual**

Each competitor is allowed to register for and compete in only one UME Bracket per Tournament Style. The UME Bracket for one tournament Style (e.g.. Freestyle Wrestling) need not be the same in all other wrestling tournament Styles (e.g... No-Gi Grappling). Competitors are *encouraged* to compete in multiple Styles.

### **5.4 Minimum number of competitive instances for each participant**

One UME Bracket

### **Section 6: Unique Medal Events (UME Brackets)**

Based on the structure of the event and the participation guidelines, all the following Unique Medal Events (UME Bracket) must be organized:

#### **REQUIRED UME Brackets and Medals:**

- **Styles – 2 options, 1 or 2 choices: Refer to Section 9 Minimum Standards (for HK2022)**  
Freestyle Wrestling and/or No-Gi Grappling
- **Age Divisions – 3 options, one choice consistent across Styles: Refer to Section 9 Minimum Standards (for HK2022)**  
Open, Master, or Veterans
- **Gender Categories – 3 options, one choice consistent across Styles. Refer to Section 9 Minimum Standards (for HK2022)**  
Legal Male or Legal Female or Non-Legal/Self Declared Gender-Neutral
- **Weight Classes - 12 options, one choice: Refer to Section 9 Minimum Standards (for HK2022)**
- **Unique Medal Event (UME Brackets) Calculation:** 2 Styles, 3 Age Divisions, 3 Gender Categories, 12 Weight Divisions per Style =  $2 * 3 * 3 * 12 = 216$  maximum possible UME Brackets REQUIRED for Freestyle and No-Gi Grappling at a minimum, more if additional Styles, e.g. Beach Wrestling, are added)
- **Calculating # of Gay Games Medals to Order:** The Host will permit WWB to use a URL LINK for registrants to use in order to create raw unverified UME Brackets without names to begin draft pairings soon after Registration closes. This is necessary in order to narrow down the exact number of subscribed to UME Brackets requiring medals to be ordered, and in order to permit registrants to better target their UME Bracket (age/weight **Certified Change Option (CCO)** that is permitted at Accreditation Weigh-In. The rule of thumb for an initial estimate order of Gold, Silver, and Bronze medal sets is 150% of total number of Freestyle Wrestling and No-Gi Grappling UME Brackets. Obviously there will NOT be 216 UME Brackets subscribed to as inferred perviously above. Refer to: **Section 12 ‘The First Day’** and **Sections 9 Minimum Standards (for HK2022)**

## **Section 7: Registration and Accreditation**

### **7.1 Specific information and rules for Registration and accreditation.**

Refer to **Section 12 “The First Day”** for the details of Accreditation Weigh-In. **Attendance is REQUIRED !**

Per each Tournament Style, each competitor is allowed to register for and compete in only one (1) gender division in one (1) age division in one (1) weight class [Unique Medal Event (UME Bracket)] subject to the **Certified Change Option (CCO)** policy in **Section 5 Participation and Guidelines**. This is referred to as the UME Bracket for the competitor.

NB: The UME Bracket subscribed to for Freestyle Wrestling need not be the same for No-Gi Grappling.

NB: An competitor may register for more than 1 Tournament Style, E.g... a competitor may register to compete in both or just one : the Freestyle Wrestling and/or No-Gi Grappling if desired.

### **7.2 Management of the number of participants**

Refer to **Section 4.2.1.6: Insufficient wrestlers in an age/weight group**.

### **7.3 Accreditation information**

**The Host must provide to all participants, in addition with the general information about the Gay Games, the following elements:**

- First cut of raw unverified UME Brackets soon after the close of Registration (without names). WWB will produce from the raw Registration numbers and distribute.
- Description of the transportations to reach the venue
- Detailed timetable of events
- Specific rules applied during the event Refer to **Section 9: Minimum Standards (for HK2022)**.
- All competitors are REQUIRED to attend and participate in the REQUIRED ‘First Day’ program. Refer to: **Section 12 ‘The First Day’** .

## **Section 8: Policy Compliance**

### **8.1 Age and abilities**

Age categories exist in the WWB modified rules that are *different* from the UWW categories.

### **8.2 Disability**

- General mobility: Participation is possible if experienced
- Lower-body mobility (wheelchair): No provision for wheelchair sport. Participation is possible if experienced
- Hearing impairment: Participation is possible if experienced
- Visual impairment: Participation is possible if experienced

### **8.3 Gender in sport**

***Standard policy of FGG does NOT apply.***

**UWW rules only apply: Only Legal Gender may be used for official pairings for Legal Male and Legal Female UME Brackets due to UWW license/insurance requirements.**

***Non UME EXHIBITION Brackets are encouraged since gender is not a Pairing Issue, however only where safety permits. Refer to Section 2.4 Terms “EXHIBITION Matches’ for elevation of EXHIBITION Matches to UME Bracket status.***

### **8.4 Health and well-being**

**8.4.1 General health and well-being** as determined by HK2022 and FGG Registration requirements and the Weigh-In physician. Refer to **Section 12 ‘The First Day’**.

**There are opportunities for education on webpage for the sport and in sport participant guidebook.**

#### **8.4.2 Safety**

***WWB modifications to the UWW Standard policies apply.***

A visual exam by qualified Physician must take place at Accreditation Weigh-In to protect against communicable skin diseases and identify steroid acne cases.

#### **8.4.3 Performance-enhancing drugs**

FGG policy applies to Drug Testing: **WWB sanctioned events will NOT have REQUIRED or Mandatory Drug Testing of any kind.** However, any Drug testing that is done must adhere to **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** protocols as outlined in the **FGG Anti-Doping Policy**. This would apply in the case of competitors identified with Steroid Abuse Acne.

**Standard FGG Drug testing policy applies: No Drug Testing because of the privacy issues with HIV Outing.**

The limiting of a UME Bracket to a maximum of 8 competitors, coupled with an expanded number UME Bracket instances by gender, age, and weight categories, allows for competitors of various skill levels to excel, decreases the competitiveness of the brackets, and encourages overall participation. This decreases the incentive for use of performance-enhancing drugs. Since the institution of these policies in 2010, we have not seen any violations. In 2002 we had 4, in 2006 we had 5. This expansion does cheapen the absolute value of the Medals, but this is in keeping with FGG and WWB Mission of '**Inclusion, Participation, and Personal Best**'.

- At '**The First Day**' medical check and weigh-ins, a certified physician will check for steroid acne abuse symptoms. Any competitor deemed a possible violator because of the skin check, will be asked to comply with WADA protocols before they can be accredited to compete. HIV competitors on steroid treatment who fail the steroid acne skin check can provide a letter from their physician indicating the exact HIV Treatment they are following. Refer to **Section 8.4.3** and **Section 12 'The First Day'**

#### **8.4.4 HIV/AIDS**

UWW standards apply. HIV is treated like HEP/HPV. **It does not disqualify**, as the UWW blood safety rules apply. However, there will be no Drug Testing specifically because it exposes HIV competitors on medications.

#### **8.5 Officials**

Refer to **Section 4.4**.

### **Section 9: Minimum Standards (for HK2022)**

- **Preamble:** Since the inception of the Gay Games in 1982, wrestling has had an important role in overcoming stereotypes; improving the perceptions of mainstream wrestling officials through exposure to our procedures; uniting LGBT wrestlers globally; and productively engaging a widely diverse group of participants of all ages, genders, experience and athletic ability. Gay Games wrestling has repeatedly proven its unique ability to allow athletes widely different physical attributes and medical conditions to compete in physical combat with the greatest possible safety. WWB is responsible for this.

These Red Book Standards have been developed by WWB to specifically accommodate the physical diversity of the athletes and the safety concerns associated with that diversity; and the limited chances most competitors will ever have to face unknown opponents from across the globe. They are designed to provide a common reference ground for administration and support staff who may or may not be acquainted with wrestling customs and wrestlers' expectations.

Rules for wrestling in the Gay Games are based on mainstream wrestling tournament practices but have been modified as allowed by United World Wrestling to maximize the sports experience for the diversity of Gay Games wrestlers. These modifications have been made through the years by WWB based on extensive conversations among LGBT wrestling stakeholders to provide the optimal Gay Games wrestling experience.

- **Minimum Standards** are specific Freestyle Wrestling, No-Gi Grappling, and GENDER-NEUTRAL RedBook clarifications to this **FreeStyle Wrestling and No-Gi Grappling v5.1** Gay Games RedBook iteration for the FGG license agreement with **Hong Kong 2022 Gay Games-11 (HK2022)**.

### **Section 9.1 Calendar/Schedule:**

- HK2022 will conduct at a MINIMUM a three consecutive days Gay Games Freestyle Wrestling, No-Gi Grappling, and GENDER-NEUTRAL UME event ("List A").
- HK2022 will schedule this three day event to start very early in the week, preferably Monday.
- HK2022 will conduct and **REQUIRE competitor physical presence and participation** in the **Section 12 'The First Day'**.
- HK2022 will use the WWB modified UWW Pairings Process and safety modifications will be used as detailed in the **Section 12 'The First Day'**.

### **Section 9.2 Sanctioning Bodies:**

- **Wrestlers WithOut Borders (WWB)** will be the principal Gay Games sanctioning body for coordinating the communications for international clubs, FGG Steering, UWW, and HK2022's local wrestling/grappling group.
- **United World Wrestling (UWW)** will be the standard tournament sanctioning body for insurances, officials, and unmodified rules. This will include whatever is the local HK2022 UWW than handles Hong Kong's Olympics.
- The WWB modified UWW Freestyle Wrestling and No-Gi Grappling wrestling rules will be used.

### **Section 9.3 Registration:**

- HK2022 will list WWB in the official on-line Registration webpage as the primary sanctioning body and a source of information: <https://wrestlerswob.com>.
- HK2022 will supply WWB with periodic Registration reports *WITHOUT* Names or any contact information, but containing country, style, age, gender, and weight per FGG Steering Committee policy. HK2022 will also supply an XLS (spreadsheet) of the Official Registration Data *WITHOUT* Names or any contact information, but containing country, style, age, gender, and weight to WWB in order for the first cut at the UME Bracket Pairings to be published to the WWB website. HK2022 does not have to create the blind Pairings, just supply WWB with the blind data. This is needed right after Registration closes or earlier.

- HK2022's on-line **Registration Webpage** for Freestyle, No-Gi Grappling. **Refer to Section 9.5 UME Bracket Categories:**

Minimal On-Line Registration Data Items (all Drop Downs):					
<b>Styles:</b> select 1 or both: <b>Freestyle</b> <b>No-Gi Grappling</b>					
<b>Age:</b> select only 1: <b>Open</b> <b>Masters</b> <b>Veterans</b>					
<b>Weight Division:</b> select only 1:					
<= 48kg	<= 52kg	<= 57kg	<= 62kg	<= 68kg	<= 74kg
<= 82kg	<= 90kg	<= 100kg	<= 110kg	<= 130kg	> 130kg
<b>Gender:</b> select only 1: <b>Legal-Male</b> <b>Legal-Female</b> <b>Non-Legal/Self-Declared</b>					
<b>Non-UME EXHIBITIONS:</b> select only 1: <b>YES</b> <b>NO</b>					
<b>GENDER-NEUTRAL UME EXHIBITIONS (Volunteer Competitor):</b> select only 1: <b>YES</b> <b>NO</b> <b>n/a</b>					

#### **Section 9.4 Miscellaneous:**

- All UME Bracket competitors for Freestyle will have and wear required UWW approved primary **RED** and primary **BLUE** singlets. **Refer to Section 2.3 Rules.**
- A WWB qualified Pairing Official will be made a bona fide member of the Officials Paring group. **Refer to Section 4.2.1.2 WWB Representative.**
- All competitors will show proof of UWW association/affiliation through either an explicit UWW license, or with a license from local UWW-associated wrestling organization (e.g.. USAW, KNKF, CAW, NSW, or LAW etc...).
- 'Day Licenses' will be available for a fee at Weigh-Ins for those registrants who cannot prove UWW association/affiliation at Accreditation Weigh-In. It is imperative that the integrity of the UWW medical and liability insurance coverages be respected, and that requires all competitors to be UWW affiliated. These 'Day Licenses' can be also bought from any of the WWB clubs, and hopefully taken care of before the '**First Day**' Accreditation.
- The UME Bracket default will be to **NOT** use 'Double Elimination' in UME Brackets. **Refer to Section 4.2.21.5 Double Elimination.** For Safety, competitors may opt for the 'Double Elimination during their bouts after their second loss.

#### **Section 9.5 UME EXHIBITIONS and Non-UME EXHIBITIONS:**

- All competitors will respect the UWW Gender Policy ( i.e... you are what you legally are and what you can legally prove in your country (e.g.. a PassPort)). UME and Non-UME EXHIBITION Pairings will *ignore* gender, and enhance safety with carefully constructed pairings and added extra mat officials.
- HK2022 will accommodate/entertain Non-UME EXHIBITION requests from for ALL Competitors on the second and third days of the competitions. It is the competitor's responsibility to find their opponents and submit the request to the Pairings Officials who will determine if it meets safety standards. However, preference will be given first to competitors who believe they are not competitive enough, or did not get enough bouts in their UME Bracket, or cannot prove official UWW Legal-Male or Legal-Female Gender, or if they invoked their Double Elimination option in their official UME Bracket. **Refer to Section 4.2.21.5 Double Elimination.** Non-UME EXHIBITIONS do **NOT** award official Gay Games medals.
- HK2022 will accommodate/entertain UME GENDER-NEUTRAL EXHIBITIONS for which official Gay Games medals **ARE** awarded. However, this option is **ONLY** to be invoked when the competitor cannot prove the official UWW Legal-Male or Legal-Female Gender of their Self-Declared Gender, and selects the GENDER-NEUTRAL Self-Declared Gender option in Registration. **These competitors will need to show some evidence of their Self-Declared Gender status at Accreditation on 'The First Day', e.g.. doctor's note.** Volunteer competitors from all categories will be solicited on '**The First Day**' to consider competing in the GENDER-NEUTRAL UME Bracket Exhibitions in order to build UME EXHIBITION Brackets for the qualified GENDER-NEUTRAL competitors. For these volunteer competitors who are already Registered for regular UME Brackets, these bouts will be considered Non-UME EXHIBITIONS (no official Gay Games medals). This is an opportunity for **ALL** Competitors to support, include, and RECOGNIZE qualified GENDER-NEUTRAL competitors.
- Given the sensitivity, newness, and very dynamic nature of these UME GENDER-NEUTRAL EXHIBITIONS, the Pairings Officials will schedule these bouts at the end of the day after the Legal-



Male/Legal-Female UME Brackets so as not to interfere with the focus of these Volunteers. Non-UME EXHIBITIONS can be scheduled anytime if competitors are finished with their UME Bracket bouts.

**Section 9.6 UME GENDER-NEUTRAL Policy Statement:**

- **GENDER-NEUTRAL UME Brackets: Refer to Section 9.5 UME EXHIBITIONS and Non-UME EXHIBITIONS.** This v5.1 version is inserting the optional GENDER-NEUTRAL UME Bracket category here in Minimum Standards as a REQUIRED framework for approval by the FGG and HK2022. The specific polices, details rules, etc for GENDER-NEUTRAL UME Brackets will be forthcoming in 2020, as this is a very new and sensitive issue. There is no precedent, and there is a lot of research still to be done with the community, the FGG, HK2022, and the UWW. However, WWB is very confident that this can be easily accomplished legally and safely because it is what is already done in WWB and UWW tournaments within the existing less formal non-UME EXHIBITIONS Bracket model/framework. ***This is still a negotiable item with the HK2022 Host and the FGG because it was not part of the HK2022 Host's bid.***

**Section 9.7 Venue and equipment:**

- HK2022 will follow the recommendations of this document in **Section 3 Venue and Equipment**.
- The **Section 12 ‘The First Day’** process will be followed.
- HK2022 will provide computers and printers as REQUIRED by the Pairing Officials for the **Section12 ‘The First Day’**
- REQUIRED equipment specifically includes 3 full size comparable/acceptable UWW **Wrestling Mats (not JUDO or tumbling mats)**. Since the Venue must support both Styles, the UWW Freestyle requirement makes the most sense for safety given they are designed for the greater bodily impact of Freestyle.
- The ambient temperature of the competition hall must be maintained between 18 °C and 24 °C with sufficient ventilation for the number of competitors and spectators.

#### 9.4 Events, scheduling, officials, awards

- For a typical tournament with 200-300 wrestlers, held on one day on 3-4 mats, the Host should assume that there will need to be 15 officials. Costs will vary based on the Host city, but the Host should budget \$75 USD or more per official per day.
- The Women's UME Brackets will be held in tandem with the Men's UME Brackets in each Style on those same days as to foster/enable easier non UME EXHIBITION pairings.
- At least 20 volunteers are REQUIRED to provide security, clean mats, enter data, as well as to handle crowd control, competitor escorting, scoring, announcing, etc...
- The Freestyle and No-Gi Grappling competitions will use a manual weigh-in/pairing method with volunteers doing data input into computers to generate results, wall brackets, etc.. Refer to **Section12 'The First Day'**
- Host must follow the requirements of the Gay Games Red Book for Sport regarding the reporting of event results during the week of the Gay Games and following through for the Final Report.
- The final results must detail at least first, second and third place finishers (Gold, Silver, and Bronze) in each UME Bracket and list their first and second name (or team name), their city, their country and other information relevant to their achievement.
- The top three competitors in each Unique Medal Event (UME Bracket) will respectively receive Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals.
- Medals will be awarded per the normal UME Bracket that competitor would have competed in, even if there are insufficient competitors in the UME Bracket, and even if the competitor has accepted to wrestle in a different UME Bracket to provide a competitive opportunity for him or herself and others.
- Awards must be presented at the competition venue immediately after the conclusion of each tournament.

#### 9.5 UME Bracket Categories

There must be separate Legal-Women's, Legal-Men's. and GENDER-NEUTRAL divisions for the following age and weight divisions:

- **Gender:** Legal-Male or Legal-Female (only as defined legally by competitor's country of origin .g... PassPort), or GENDER-NEUTRAL.
- **Age:** Open (up to 35), Masters (36-49), Veterans (50+). (Age as of date of weigh-in)
- **Weight Divisions: 12 options, one choice (kg/#pounds),** specifying the **Top Limit** of the category as 'less than or equal to: <= '. KGs are the official metric weights, the #Pounds are a rounded Imperial reference. There will be no weigh-in on a #Pounds scale.

<= 48kg/105.5#   <= 52kg/114.5#   <= 57kg/125.5#   <= 62kg/136.5#  
 <= 68kg/149.5#   <= 74kg/163.0#   <= 82kg/180.0#   <= 90kg/198.0#  
 <= 100kg/220.0#   <= 110kg/242.0#   <= 130kg/286.0#   > 130kg/286.0#

### 9.6 Unique Medal Events (UME Brackets)

Age groups are: Open (under 36), Masters (36-49), Veteran (50+). Age as of date of weigh-in

#### REQUIRED UME Brackets:

Freestyle	Men	One UME Bracket by age and weight group
Freestyle	Women	One UME Bracket by age and weight group
No-Gi Grappling	Men	One UME Bracket by age and weight group
No-Gi Grappling	Women	One UME Bracket by age and weight group

#### Optional UME Brackets:

Beach Wrestling	Men	One UME Bracket by age and weight group
Beach Wrestling	Women	One UME Bracket by age and weight group
GRECO-Roman	Men	One UME Bracket by age and weight group
Gi-SAMBO	Men	One UME Bracket by age and weight group
GENDER-NEUTRAL	n/a	One UME Bracket by age and weight group

**(GENDER-NEUTRAL to be Included/REQUIRED for HK2022)**

- Each competitor should be able to participate in a minimum of three and a maximum of five matches per day in any tournament e.g... (Freestyle + No-Gi Grappling or other optional tournaments).

### 9.7 Registration and Accreditation

- If there are insufficient competitors to hold matches within a UME Bracket, wrestlers will be encouraged by tournament officials to wrestle EXHIBITION matches or, at their option and when it is determined it is safe, to change to another UME Bracket. In no instance will UME Brackets be simply combined or collapsed because of lack of numbers.
- The Host must provide to all participants, in addition with the general information about the Gay Games, the following elements:
  - Preliminary raw Unverified UME Brackets *without* names after the close of Registration. WWB can handle this task once given the raw unverified data without names
  - Description of the transportations to reach the venue
  - Detailed timetable of events, especially the REQUIRED **Section12 ‘The First Day’**

### 9.8 Policies

- The Host must respect all policies described in the Gay Games Red Book for Sport, with the exceptions and modifications described in **Section 8 Policy Compliance** of the present document.

**Section 10: Document Versions and Tracking**

Version	Effective date	Description of changes	Sport Co-chairs
v1.0	20111230	New format	Sébastien Datiche, Bettina Dietmann Winter, Marc Naimark
v2.0	20152007	Updated to include No-Gi Grappling. Additional formatting, and review by WWB.	Alain Perie.Paris 2018, Christopher Loreface WWB, Martha Ehrenfeld, FGG
v3.0	20151115	Paris 2018 Change Requests	Alain Perie (P2018)
v4.0	20151212	Additional Edits by WWB. Formatting of language and Style.	Christopher Loreface, WWB
v4.1	20160301	Corrections to Weight Classes throughout document (cleanup)	Christopher Loreface WWB Gene Dermody WWB
v4.2	20160515	Change of Weight Classes from 11 to 12 adding 110kg/242# after TIPS 2015 meeting with Paris Lutte.. change from Grappling to No-Gi Grappling to differentiate from the new JUDO affiliated Gi Jui-Jitsu event	Christopher Loreface WWB, Jerone Tan WWB, Gene Dermody WWB, Laurent/Paris LUTTE
v4.3	20160722	4.1.2 Gi/No-Gi Gi-SAMBO to Gi Gi-SAMBO (Men)	Christopher Loreface WWB, Gene Dermody WWB
v4.4	20181025	New totally rewritten version for WWB FGG HK2022 to start changes for FGG	Gene Dermody WWB
v4.5	20181202	First Cut with Jeoren's suggestions for WWB FGG HK2022: 1, Added 'Fun Games' and Award Ceremony options 2. Modified Section 9: Minimum Standards (for HK2022) 3. Added Section 12 'The First Day' from the Paring Process document	Gene Dermody WWB, Jeroen Tan, Anthony Galuzzo, FGG Sports Officers (Kimberly Hadley & Reggie Snowden)
v4.6	20190520	1, Clean-up and consolidation of important terms like UME and CCO. 2. EXHIBITON Matches expanded definition to accomodate special case UME Brackets	Gene Dermody WWB, FGG Sports Officers (Kimberly Hadley & Reggie Snowden)
v4.7	20190528	Incorporated final updagtes of Roger Brigham, Anthony Galuzzo, Chris Loreface, Greg Lines, and Jereone Tan	Gene Dermody WWB, FGG Sports Officers (Kimberly Hadley & Reggie Snowden)
v4.8	20190603	Added Section 1.2.1 Structure/Ownership/Design/Use	Gene Dermody WWB, FGG Sports Officers (Kimberly Hadley & Reggie Snowden)

v4.9	20190617	Accepted v4.8 by FGG for HK2022	Gene Dermody WWB, FGG Sports Officers (Kimberly Hadley & Reggie Snowden)
v5.0	20190626	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Added the UME GENDER-NEUTRAL Category framework to Section 9 Minimum Standards so it can be offered in Official HK2022 Registration as a UME Bracket.</li> <li>2. Added a mock-up Registration sample to Minimum Standards</li> <li>3. Added PREAMBLE to Minimum Standards</li> </ol>	Gene Dermody WWB, Roger Brigham, FGG Sports Officers (Kimberly Hadley & Reggie Snowden)
v5.1	20190626	Acceptance of v5.0 by FGG Sports for HK2022	Gene Dermody WWB FGG Sports Officers (Kimberly Hadley & Reggie Snowden)

## **Section 11: Historical data**

### **11.1 Previous Gay Games participation**

- WWB and the FGG have the data on the number of participants in previous Gay Games:  
<https://wrestlerswob.com/legacy/index.htm>

### **11.2 Main comments from previous Blue Books**

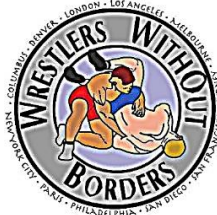
The following information from previous Gay Games may be helpful:

- FGG Sport Coordinator's report on S2002 Gay Games wrestling (Official Results, etc.)  
<http://www.wrestlerswob.com/ggvi/ggviReport.html>
- Peter Verey's Report as the S2002 Tournament Director  
<http://www.wrestlerswob.com/ggvi/ggviPostEventReport.html>
- FGG Sport Coordinator's FGG 'Blue Book' report:  
<http://www.wrestlerswob.com/ggvi/IndividualSportsReport.html>
- WWB Chair's Post Gay games VII report:  
<http://www.wrestlerswob.com/ggvii/WWB-GGVIIReportNotes.pdf>

### **11.3 Gay Games records**

There are no Olympic qualifying connections appropriate for 'records'.

**Section 12: 'The First Day' (WWB UME Bracket Pairing Process)**



**'The First Day' of Gay Games Freestyle/No-Gi Grappling**

**REQUIRED Attendance for all Competitors**

**HongKong 2022 Gay Games-11 Pairings Process (v5.1 06.26.2019)**

***[NB: this document is what was used in Gay Games Cleveland 2014, Paris 2018, and needs to be updated to reflect the HongKong Gay Games -11 2022 dates, venues, and any other changes]***

**Mission and Philosophy:**

1. **NOT THE OLYMPICS:** The **Gay Games** is ***NOT*** the **Olympics** per a Supreme Court (SCOTUS) decision back in the '80s. Any comparison on any level of the **Gay Games** to the **Olympics** does a disservice to both events. There are also legal branding issues involved. The **Olympics** do not do open Registration, they only accept selected elite athletes.
2. **NO QUALIFYING DATA:** **Gay Games** does not have *ANY* skill/experience seeding information other than what is supplied by the competitors in the WWB pre Gay Games survey from which to pair bouts, and this is empirical data. There are no qualifying events, and no records other than previous **Gay Games**/WWB tournaments. Therefore, **COMPETITOR SAFETY** is the governing principle that will override all other concerns.
3. **PERSONAL GOALS:** The goals of the **Gay Games** competitors are not all the same. Some are very elite competitors, some are novices who have never competed, and everything in between. Some are in excellent shape, and some are high risk and should not even be in the competition. However, all are welcome under the GGs Mission Mantra of '***Inclusion, Participation, and Personal Best***'.
4. **UME BRACKET PAIRINGS PROCESS:** Pairings are (to say the least) 'challenging'. The process for HK2022 will be similar to what WWB has done in the past Gay Games and smaller tournaments. WWB has a decades long history of putting on exciting, competitive, and **SAFE** tournaments. This includes Gay Games NY'94, Amsterdam '98, Sydney'02, Chicago '06, Koeln '10, Cleveland '14, and Paris '18. Remember, there are no Belt Skill level designations in Freestyle, and WWB still succeeded with its *Pairing Process* philosophy. The local Pairings Officials will work with the WWB Reps to insure compliance with this document. Some *Pairings Process* guidelines:
  - a. Manually separate competitors in the same UME Bracket as much as possible by geography, club, and then age in the first round
  - b. No blind draws, No Skill/Record Seeding
  - c. Collect correct names, city, and club, on the UME Bracket sheets
  - d. Maximum of 8 competitors to a UME Bracket. If there are more than 8, then the UME Bracket is split by age into 2 UME Brackets, and then re-paired. This does NOT infer that the 2 sets of UME Bracket winners will have to wrestle-off for a consolidated set of medals. It will simply be UME Bracket-A and UME Bracket-B. The winners can *request* non UME EXHIBITION Matches for ultimate championships.



5. **EVENT MISSION:** The **Gay Games** was **NOT** designed to be another elite competition to compete with the **Olympics** and other **UWW** events. The **Gay Games** was originally designed to create a critical mass of diverse LGBT competitors every 4 years to celebrate their chosen sport in a safe and welcoming atmosphere. Therefore, this *Pairings Process* focuses primarily on the non-elite competitor, and expects the elite competitors to support the event by participating, mentoring, coaching, and engaging the novices. Accepting the 'EXHIBITION Bout' mechanism plays a huge part in this. The elite competitors have this seriously explicit *responsibility* to the novices, the tournament, the FGG, WWB, and the LGBT community... i.e... to insure that the competitive experience for everyone is a safe and memorable one. We all know the power of becoming a member of the wrestler/grappler cult: enhanced self-esteem, personal satisfaction, self-discipline, HUMILITY, and a serious sense of belonging to a 'family'. Everyone deserves a chance at that, and **Gay Games** is one of those powerful egalitarian vehicles.
- if your personal motivations are not quite in sync with this philosophy, and/or you have a problem with this *Pairings Process*, then please contact one of the WWB people ASAP, **as GGs Freestyle/No-Gi Grappling may not be the best event for you!**

**Pairings Process Flow (dates approximated):**

1. **~Monday 7th. July** ( or soon after Registration closes) **The Raw UNverified UME Bracket Registration Data...** The first draft of the subscribed categories per the official FGG/HK2022 Registration data for wrestlers/grapplers will be published without names to the competitors, i.e... the raw Style/gender/age/weight category #s that would eventually become the UME Brackets in the *Pairings Process*.  
This data is strictly informational since the actual data will be collected at accreditation and weigh-ins on 'The First Day'. Publishing this early data to the competitors will help them decide ahead of time what to expect and prepare for. WWB can handle this as it always has to expedite the pairings process. History has shown that the earlier this data is published to WWB and the competitors, the more other competitors will be encouraged to register for the event.
2. **Monday 7<sup>th</sup>. November at the tournament facility** (“The First Day” Flow):
  - a. ~8:00am a first posting of **The Raw UNofficial UNverified UME Brackets** built from **The Raw UNverified UME Bracket Registration Data** from #1 above (the latest cut) using the *Pairing Process*. This requires the Pairing Officials and WWB Reps to be prepared ahead of time to post these initial raw UME Brackets before the competitors arrive. Getting that data early is critical.
  - b. ~9:00am accreditation verification (age/gender/licenses), skin checks, medical checks, and initial **WEIGH-INS**
  - c. ~10:30am Freestyle **Rules Clinic** for competitors and officials (WWB can do this as it always has, a **SAFETY** process)
  - d. ~11:15am No-Gi Grappling **Rules Clinic** for competitors and officials
  - e. ~12:00pm Noon Lunch Break
  - f. ~1:30pm **Celebrity (or WWB) Technique Clinics: IMPORTANT** in order to observe the competitors on the mat for possible risk factors:.. clearly unprepared or injured competitors, dangerous or questionable Styles that we need to advise the officials of... WWB coaches and officials will report any risky competitors to the Pairing Officials
  - g. ~3:00pm **Open Mat**
  - h. ~3:30pm a first posting of **The Official Verified UME Brackets** per #2b above...
  - i. **~3:45pm Competitors will have the opportunity to decide to move up a weight class and/or down an age group per the Certified Change Option (CCO)**. This is another important **SAFETY** process.
  - j. ~4:00pm final posting of **The Official Verified UME Brackets** for the Tuesday/Wednesday tournaments
  - k. ~4:14pm Official Gay Games Photos
  - l. ~4:30pm Creation of Official Bout sheets for Tuesday/Wednesday tournaments