

## Awards Podium Guidelines for USA Wrestling National Championships

To ensure the awards podium ceremony remains a respectful, professional, and celebratory environment focused on athletic achievement, USA Wrestling has established the following policy for the Junior and 16U National Championships.

### Core Principles

- **Uniformity and Tradition:** The awards podium is a place of honor. A standardized uniform policy upholds the tradition of the sport and signifies the dedication required to compete at this level.
  - **State Pride:** Athletes are encouraged to represent their state proudly.
  - **Respectful Environment:** The podium is a public-facing platform. All attire must be appropriate, respectful, and free of any content that could be considered political, offensive, or distasteful.
  - **Fairness:** This policy applies equally to all athletes, regardless of their background or affiliation.
- 

### Attire Requirements

To promote state pride and provide a uniform appearance, athletes must wear their official **state team-issued warm-up, T-shirt, or shorts** on the podium.

- This apparel must be issued by the athlete's state association and be free of any content that violates the "Prohibited Apparel" section below.
  - No other unofficial or personal apparel (e.g., sweatshirts, t-shirts, etc.) is permitted.
  - No hats or headbands are permitted.
- 

### Prohibited Apparel

To maintain a professional and respectful atmosphere, the following types of apparel and content are strictly prohibited on the awards podium:

- **College-Club Affiliated Apparel:** No apparel (hats, shirts, jackets, etc.) with college or personal club names, logos, or slogans is permitted on the podium.
- **Political or Controversial Content:** Any apparel containing political messages, logos, slogans, or imagery is strictly forbidden. This includes, but is not limited to, political party affiliations, campaign slogans, or any content that could be interpreted as a political statement.
- **Distasteful or Offensive Content:** Any apparel featuring lewd, vulgar, sexually suggestive, or otherwise distasteful language or imagery is prohibited. This includes hate speech, discriminatory symbols, and any content that could be offensive to a diverse audience.
- **Non-Official Apparel:** Any clothing that is not state team-issued event apparel is not allowed. This includes club team apparel, personal clothing, and apparel from other organizations.

---

## **Enforcement**

State Chairpersons and/or Team Leaders will be responsible for notifying their team of these guidelines. Athletes will be given one verbal warning if they are not in compliance with these policies. USA Wrestling staff and officials at the awards ceremony have full authority to enforce this policy. Athletes who are not in compliance will be asked to adjust their attire before receiving their medal. Repeated non-compliance or refusal to adhere to this policy may result in an athlete being removed from the podium ceremony and potentially forfeiting their award. The decision of the USA Wrestling officials and staff is final.