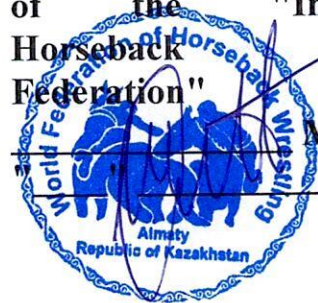


"APPROVED"

President

**of the "International
Horseback Wrestling
Federation"**



M. Zhuman

2025

RULES OF THE SPORT "HORSEBACK WRESTLING"

Astana, 2025

1. General Provisions

1.1. All official competitions (championships, tournaments, cups, combined events) are held and organised in accordance with the Rules approved by the International Horseback Wrestling Federation.

1.2. The sport "Horseback Wrestling" is an individual sport.

1.3. The procedure for conducting the competition and maintaining records is determined by the regulations developed by the organising body of the competition.

1.4. The competition regulations include the following sections:

- name of the competition;
- location and time of the competition;
- competition system and management;
- number of organisations and athletes participating in the competition;
- registered list of coaches, referees, and other individuals involved in the competition;
- age and gender of athletes eligible to participate in the competition;
- doping control procedures;
- deadlines and procedures for submitting applications;
- requirements for the admission of athletes and sports horses to the competition;
- procedures for reviewing protests and making decisions;
- provision of medical care, public order, and fire safety;
- competition program;
- financial expenditures;
- awarding of winners and prizewinners.

1.5. The deadline for sending invitations (notifications) to organisations about participation in the competition:

- International competitions – no less than 6 months before the start of the competition.

2. Referees

2.1. Composition of the referee team:

Chief Referee – 1

Secretary – 1

Field Director – 1

Field Referees – 9

Timekeeper – 1

Total: 13 referees

3. Duties of Referees

3.1. The central referee on the field and the side referees evaluate each technical action individually and make decisions based on their judgment.

3.2. Referees are also responsible for applying the sanctions stipulated by the competition rules.

3.3. In case of any objections to a referee's decision, a video replay may be reviewed to ensure an objective assessment of all technical actions performed by both competitors.

3.4. The Chief Referee exercises overall supervision of the competition and ensures that it is conducted in accordance with the established Rules.

Duties of the Chief Referee:

- To oversee the readiness of the competition area and ensure that the necessary equipment complies with established standards;
- To formally approve and accept the competition venue (field);
- To appoint referees for the weigh-in procedure;
- To organise the draw procedure;
- To assign referees to groups, verify and approve match pairings for each round;
- To make decisions regarding any protests;
- To conduct daily meetings of the referee panel during the competition days;
- To render the final decision on the results of matches before the next round begins;
- To submit all documentation and protocols to the organising body within the prescribed time frame.

Rights of the Chief Referee:

- Has the right to suspend the competition if the venue is not properly prepared before matches begin;
- In case of unforeseen issues during the competition, may temporarily suspend the event or announce a break;
- Has the authority to make changes to the competition program if necessary;
- Has the right to remove referees who make significant errors or fail to fulfil their duties;
- Has the right to issue a warning or remove a team official who disobeys referee instructions, behaves inappropriately toward athletes, or interferes with the work of the referees;
- Has the right to disqualify participants who display immoral or aggressive behaviour;
- In the event of disagreements among referees regarding the evaluation of a wrestler's actions, the decision may be delayed. After additional discussion (involving only the referees who officiated the bout), a coordinated ruling may be issued.

The instructions of the Chief Referee are mandatory for all referees, team officials, and coaches.

3.5. Chief Secretary

Duties of the Chief Secretary:

- Keeps minutes of referee panel meetings;

- Prepares the sequence of matches and the schedule of competition rounds;
- Issues orders and decisions of the Chief Referee;
- Registers applications and appeals, and forwards them to the Chief Referee;
- Maintains all documentation related to referees;
- With the permission of the Chief Referee, provides information to announcers, team representatives, and mass media.

3.6. Central Referee on the Field:

The central referee on the field is responsible for conducting the bout in accordance with the Rules and works in close coordination with the side referees.

The central referee starts, pauses, and ends the bout using a whistle. He strictly ensures compliance with the match rules and requires wrestlers to follow his instructions. He ensures fair competition and prevents any undue interference.

Duties of the Central Referee on the Field:

- Calls one or both wrestlers to action in case of passivity;
- Timely stops the bout in case of emergency situations;
- If wrestlers leave the boundary line (out of bounds), returns them to the center of the field and resumes the bout;
- At the request of the Chief Referee, must stop the bout and declare a winner in case of a clear advantage;
 - Indicates the winner by raising the hand.

3.7. Side Referees:

Duties of the Side Referees:

- Carefully observe the bout and openly express their opinion when awarding points to the wrestler who performed a technique, and in any other relevant situations;
- Encourage active wrestling from passive wrestlers and signal for warnings;
- Record clean victories;
- If the central referee misses any moment during the bout or if any prohibited or unacceptable action occurs, they must draw attention to it by indicating the belt colour of the relevant wrestler;
- In particularly intense bouts, and for thorough control, they are allowed to move within their designated sector;
- If both side referees agree, their joint decision is considered final.

3.8. Disciplinary Measures for Referees:

The Chief Referee has the right to apply the following disciplinary measures to referees who commit errors, in accordance with the established Rules:

- Issuing a warning;
- Removal from the competition;
- Temporary suspension from refereeing;
- Complete disqualification from refereeing duties.

3.9. Medical Service

The physician is responsible for overseeing the competition venue as well as the weigh-in and match procedures.

Before the weigh-in, medical staff conduct a health check-up of the athletes. If an athlete's health condition is deemed unsatisfactory by the physician, the athlete is not allowed to participate in the competition. Special attention is paid during the examination to the presence of contagious skin diseases.

During the competition, the physician must be prepared to examine athletes in the event of an accident and to determine whether the match can safely continue or should be stopped.

If the physician considers it dangerous for an athlete to continue the match, they have the authority to stop the match at any time.

Wrestlers are not allowed to leave the field on their own if injured. In the event of an accident, and after consultation with the physician, the referee may suspend the match for a period not exceeding three (3) minutes. The announcer must inform about the elapsed time every minute.

In the event of an athlete's injury, team doctors have the full right to provide first aid to their athletes.

4. Venue and Competition Procedure

4.1. Athlete Documents:

To participate in the competition, athletes must present a valid passport or ID card and a valid insurance policy.

4.2. Team Composition: Athletes – 9 people, Coach – 1, Referee – 1, Team Leader – 1, Grooms – 2, Veterinarian – 1, Drivers – 2. The number of horses must not exceed 9.

At the weigh-in, the athlete must present their passport or ID card to the referee panel.

4.3. Age and Weight Categories:

Age: 18 years and older

Weight categories:

1. 60 kg
2. 70 kg
3. 80 kg
4. 90 kg
5. 100 kg

6. +100 kg

Match duration: 5 minutes

- In the open weight category, wrestlers weighing over 80 kg are allowed to participate.

- Participation in championships is based on year of birth and in accordance with the competition regulations.

- In multi-sport events for adults, athletes aged 18 and older are permitted to compete.

4.4. The competition system:

- Athletes are divided into two groups according to their weight category. Their numbers are determined by drawing lots and remain unchanged throughout the competition.

- The winner of each match proceeds to the next round.

- After identifying the two wrestlers who will compete in the final match, additional consolation bouts are held to determine the third-place winner. These involve wrestlers who lost to the finalists.

- The two finalists compete for first and second place. Wrestlers in the consolation bouts compete for third place, and two third-place prizes are awarded based on their results.

4.5. Athletes must be citizens of their respective countries for at least the past three years in order to be eligible to participate in the competition.

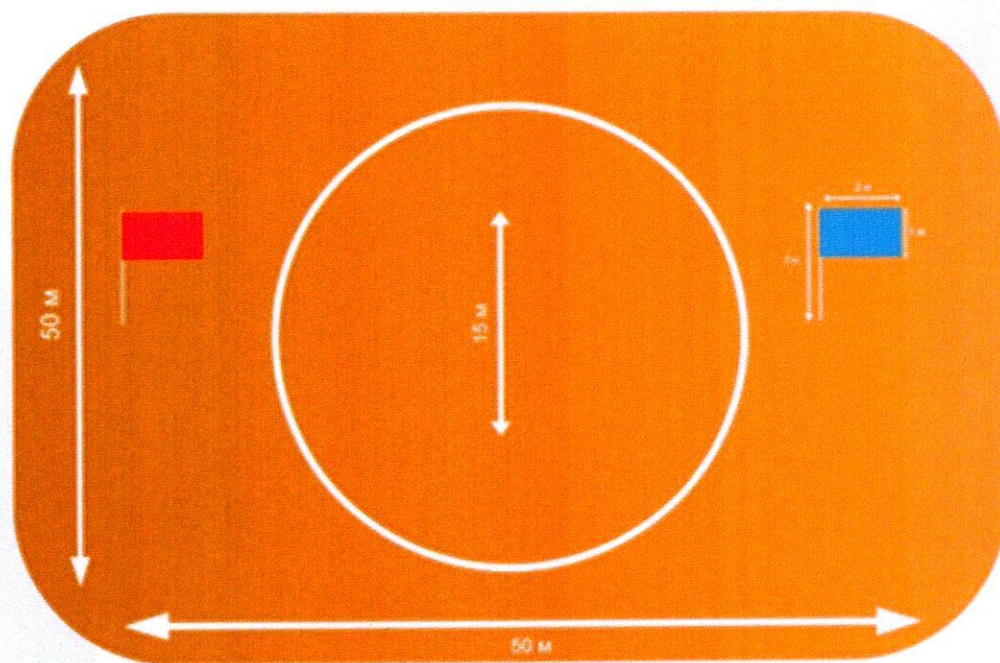
4.6. Venue::

The competition must be held on a specially equipped field. The *Horseback Wrestling* field must be circular in shape, with a diameter of 15 meters.

The athlete's belt must meet the following specifications: Length: 1.5 to 2 meters, Width: 12 cm, Thickness: 5 mm

The first-named wrestler enters the arena wearing a red belt, and the second-named wrestler wears a blue belt. The wrestler whose name is announced must perform a greeting ceremony in front of the audience and their opponent by holding the whip (*kamcha*) in their right hand and placing it on their chest. Wrestlers must enter the arena wearing a *chapan* (a traditional robe) that matches the color of their belt.

Horseback Wrestling Field



4.7. Match Outcomes and Scoring:

- If a wrestler lifts the opponent's leg above saddle level, 1 point
- If a wrestler seats the opponent in front of the saddle (onto the horse's neck) – 1 point
- If a wrestler seats the opponent behind the saddle (on the horse's rump) – 1 point
- If a wrestler hangs under the horse's belly and falls, a clean victory is awarded to the opponent
- If a wrestler holds the opponent's belt from the side of the horse and lies down passively for 15 seconds, the match is stopped and a warning is issued. If repeated, a strict warning is issued and 1 point is awarded to the opponent
- If a wrestler's horse bites the opponent's horse: 1st bite – strict warning and 1 point to the opponent
- If a wrestler pushes or pulls the opponent out of the ring using their horse, 1 point
- If a wrestler gains a 6-point lead, the match ends with a victory by clear advantage

4.8. Clean Victory is Awarded When:

- The wrestler completely pulls the opponent off the horse.
- The wrestler throws the opponent from the saddle to the ground.

- The defending wrestler grabs their saddle, the horse's mane, or holds onto the horse's neck

- The wrestler ends up behind the opponent and pulls their belt, forcing the opponent to hold onto the front of the saddle to avoid falling.

- The wrestler lifts the opponent and both fall together – victory goes to the one who leaves the saddle last.

Notes:

The following actions are strictly prohibited during the match:

- Team members are forbidden from riding horses belonging to other teams during the competition.

- Wrestlers may not intentionally collide with horses, scare the opponent's horse, strike the opponent's horse, incite their horse to attack by jumping or jerking, strike the horse's head, push the opponent, grab reins, hobbles, saddles, stirrups, push into the face, or twist the arm or fingers

Any of the above violations results in a strict warning and 1 point awarded to the opponent.

- If a wrestler **rests their hand** on their own horse's neck – **warning**. If a wrestler **rests their shoulder** on the horse's neck while holding the reins or bit, **there is a strict warning and 1 point** to the opponent. If repeated, the opponent is awarded a **clean victory**.

- If an athlete arrives late to the arena by up to 3 minutes, a warning is issued. If the delay exceeds 3 minutes, victory is awarded to the opponent.

- During the competition, the rest period between bouts for athletes must be at least 7 minutes (for all age categories).

- During a bout, if a team leader disagrees with the referee's decision, he may throw the *kamcha* (whip) into the ring as a sign of protest. If the referee's decision is deemed valid, **1 point** is awarded to the opponent.

- In case of protest, only the Chief Referee and the in-ring referee may review the video replay. Team leaders are strictly prohibited from viewing the video replay.

- After the bout ends, athletes must remain in the centre of the arena until the final decision is announced.

Permitted techniques include:

- Fast circular movement on horseback to tire out the opponent;
- Using the knee or head during the bout to weaken the opponent's grip on the arm.

4.9. Conducting the Bout:

If the bout ends in a tie during the allotted 4 or 5 minutes, the wrestlers are allowed an additional match. Wrestlers are seated directly in the saddle; one hand must hold the opponent's belt from behind, and the other must hold the reins (one hand on the belt, the other on the reins only). Match duration: 3 minutes. If a wrestler turns in the saddle before the referee's start signal, a **warning** is given. If repeated, a **clean victory** is awarded to the opponent.

If, during the bout, a wrestler lets go of the belt or reins, it is counted as a defeat. If a wrestler successfully applies a technique and throws the opponent from the saddle, it is considered a victory.

If a wrestler intentionally rubs the opponent's hand against the front of the saddle, a **warning** is issued on the first offence; on repetition, the wrestler is considered **defeated**.

During the bout, sliding the hand along the reins or using the rein-holding hand to make any movement toward the opponent is prohibited. Violation results in **defeat**.

If the wrestlers exit the ring during the bout, referees bring them back to the centre and continue the match.

If the additional bout also ends in a tie, the wrestlers undergo a weigh-in (wearing the same clothes and holding the *kamcha* used in the bout). Victory is awarded to the wrestler with the lower weight. If the weight is also equal, a **sudden-death** bout is held until **1 point** is scored.

5. Horse Requirements

5.1. Horses of all breeds are allowed to participate in the competition.

5.2. To be admitted to the competition, the athlete must present to the referee panel a veterinary certificate signed by the veterinary authority and the sending organisation, with an official seal.

5.3. In accordance with safety requirements, the following requirements apply to the horse equipment used in horse wrestling competitions:

Saddle: A factory-made saddle with two rounded metal pommels (commonly referred to as a "cavalry" saddle). The top of the saddle must be open — it must not be covered with fabric or a cover.

Stirrups: Allowed if wrapped with material;

Bridle: Must be made of leather; metal bridles are not permitted.

Breastplates and girths with metal decorations are prohibited on horses participating in horse wrestling competitions.

Sport horseshoes (smooth, without studs or sharp elements) are allowed. A horse wearing sharp metal horseshoes is not permitted to participate.

5.4. Horses wearing muzzles are not allowed to participate in competitions.