

2026-2027 CONSTITUTION OF GVSU WRESTLING CLUB

INTRODUCTION

We, the members of the Grand Valley State University Wrestling Club, establish this constitution to govern the Club's operations, principles, and values. Our mission is to promote wrestling, provide a safe and inclusive environment for men and women of all experience levels, build community, develop leadership, and uphold high standards of sportsmanship, academic responsibility, and competition.

ARTICLE ONE: NAMES

The official name of this organization shall be the Grand Valley State University Wrestling Club, hereafter referred to as the "Club" or "GVSU Wrestling."

ARTICLE TWO: PURPOSE

The Club provides GVSU students with organized wrestling practices, conditioning, instruction, competition, leadership development, and community-building opportunities. The Club seeks to field competitive men's and women's teams while remaining open to students who wish to learn, train, and participate safely. The Club will represent Grand Valley State University through sportsmanship, service, teamwork, and responsible conduct.

ARTICLE THREE: AFFILIATION

The Club is recognized as a University Affiliated Organization within the Grand Valley State University Club Sports program. The Club is affiliated with the National Collegiate Wrestling Association (NCWA) and competes in the NCWA Great Lakes Conference.

- The Club will follow all applicable GVSU Recreation & Wellness, Club Sports, Student Code, and facility policies.
- Competitive members, coaches, and team staff must satisfy NCWA registration, eligibility, weight certification, conduct, and membership requirements.
- When GVSU and NCWA requirements differ, the more restrictive applicable requirement will control.

ARTICLE FOUR: MEMBERSHIP

Section One: University Oversight

- 4.1.1 All clubs operate as University Affiliated Organizations and are held accountable to university policy under the student code.
- 4.1.2 Clubs can be subject to disciplinary action even when individual members are not.
- 4.1.3 Hazing is strictly forbidden and will result in investigation whenever allegations are made to Club Sports or the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

Section Two: Membership

- 4.2.1 Individual General Membership: The membership of the Grand Valley State University Wrestling Club shall consist of any interested student currently enrolled at GVSU. It is the policy of GVSU and the Grand Valley State University Wrestling Club that no person on the basis of age, color, disability, familial status, height, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex/gender, sexual orientation, veteran status, or weight shall be discriminated against.
- 4.2.2 All members must be currently enrolled GVSU students with a minimum of one credit for each semester. Membership and competition requirements of affiliated organizations supersede this minimum when applicable.
- 4.2.3 Selective Membership Criteria
 - A. The Club does not require a formal tryout for general membership. Prospective members may attend approved introductory practices after completing all required GVSU forms, waivers, and risk acknowledgments.

B. The coaching staff may conduct preseason evaluations to determine whether a member can participate safely and to make competitive roster, lineup, travel, and competition assignments. Decisions may consider physical readiness, wrestling skill, attendance, conduct, academic eligibility, NCWA eligibility, weight-class needs, and commitment to the Club.

C. A member who is not ready for full participation may be assigned modified activity or additional preparation before joining live wrestling.

4.2.4 Membership Expectations

A. Members must complete all required registration forms, waivers, emergency contacts, and eligibility paperwork before participating.

B. Members must pay required dues or have an approved payment plan, dues-assistance award, or exception authorized by the Executive Board.

C. Members must follow the GVSU Student Code, Title IX requirements, Club Sports policies, NCWA rules, facility rules, and directions from authorized coaches and officers.

D. Members must communicate absences, attend required meetings and team activities, participate in fundraising when required, and monitor the Club's official communication platform, including BAND and university email.

E. Competitive members must attend at least 75% of scheduled practices unless excused by the coaching staff and must remain academically and athletically eligible.

F. Members must demonstrate sportsmanship and respect toward teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, staff, and the university community.

Section Three: Dues

4.3.1 Annual membership dues for the 2026-2027 season shall be \$500 per member. For future seasons, the Executive Board and Treasurer, in consultation with the coaching staff and Club Sports Administration, will establish dues based on the approved annual budget and anticipated costs.

4.3.2 Dues must be paid by the deadline announced by the Executive Board and before the member's first competition unless an approved payment plan or exception is in place. Payments must be made through a GVSU-approved method identified by the Treasurer. Members facing financial hardship are encouraged to apply for the Club Sports Dues Assistance Program and remain responsible for any unpaid balance not covered by an award.

4.3.3 Member dues may support NCWA and conference fees, competition entry fees, transportation, lodging, equipment, uniforms, training supplies, administrative costs, and other approved expenses contained in the Club's annual budget.

4.3.4 A member who does not pay dues or maintain an approved payment arrangement may lose active status, competition eligibility, travel privileges, equipment access, or other Club benefits. Paid dues are non-refundable after payment unless a refund is required or specifically approved by Club Sports Administration and the Executive Board before funds have been committed.

ARTICLE FIVE: EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section One: Description

5.1.1 The Grand Valley State University Wrestling Club Executive Board will act as liaisons for the Club to Club Sport Administration within the Recreation & Wellness department and Grand Valley State University. It will include four required positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Risk Manager. The Club will also maintain a Secretary and Public Relations Officer when qualified members are available. Each Executive Board member must carry a 2.0 cumulative GPA, be in good academic standing with the University, and be enrolled in a minimum of six credit hours. Officers must remain active members in good standing and be able to serve for the full academic year.

Section Two: Elections

5.2.1 Any active member in good standing may nominate an eligible member, including themselves, during the announced nomination period.

5.2.2 Elections will take place at a general membership meeting or through a secure electronic ballot approved by the Executive Board. Members must receive reasonable notice of the candidates and voting process.

5.2.3 A candidate must receive a simple majority of votes cast to be elected. If no candidate receives a majority, a runoff will be held between the two candidates receiving the most votes.

5.2.4 All elections for the following academic year must be completed by June 1.

5.2.5 All officers will be elected by general Club members, serve a one-year term, and be eligible for re-election if they continue to meet Club and University requirements.

Section Three: Vacancies and Removals

5.3.1 If a position is vacated before the end of the academic year, nominations and an election may take place within one week when practical. The remaining Executive Board may appoint an eligible interim officer until the election is completed.

5.3.2 An officer may be removed for misconduct, failure to perform assigned duties, repeated absence, financial mismanagement, loss of eligibility, or violation of this constitution or University policy. The officer must receive written notice of the concern and an opportunity to respond. Removal requires a two-thirds vote of the remaining Executive Board and approval from the Club's University advisor or Club Sports Administration.

ARTICLE SIX: EBOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

Section One: President

6.1.1 The President must satisfy all Executive Board eligibility requirements, remain an active member in good standing, and demonstrate the ability to communicate with members, coaches, and University staff.

6.1.2 Responsibilities

- A. Complete the Fall Registration and Club Sports Agreement on behalf of the Club.
- B. Understand and execute all portions of the annual registration and agreement process.
- C. Serve as the Club's main point of contact and respondent for student conduct matters levied against the Club.
- D. Create and plan the Club's organizational direction with the Executive Board and coaching staff.
- E. Provide guidance and accountability to officers and members.
- F. Coordinate with Recreation & Wellness, submit required reports and forms, attend officer training, manage the Club email account, and represent the Club at university events.
- G. Seek required approval for events, travel, logos, purchases, contracts, and other Club business.

Section Two: Vice President

6.2.1 The Vice President must satisfy all Executive Board eligibility requirements and be prepared to assume the President's responsibilities when necessary.

6.2.2 Responsibilities

- A. Complete duties assigned by the organization or President.
- B. Perform the duties of the President in the President's absence.
- C. Assist with officer and member guidance and accountability.
- D. Assist with travel planning, scheduling, team operations, and special projects.

Section Three: Treasurer

6.3.1 The Treasurer must satisfy all Executive Board eligibility requirements and complete all financial training required by GVSU.

6.3.2 Responsibilities

- A. Create and maintain the Club's annual budget.
- B. Understand the Club budget and communicate it effectively to members.
- C. Monitor and manage organizational finances in strict accordance with University policies and maintain safeguards against misuse, fraud, or embezzlement.

- D. Properly use any University-assigned debit card and submit receipts and documentation on time.
- E. Keep accurate account records, submit funding and budget requests, organize approved purchases, track dues and fundraising contributions, and provide regular financial updates to the Executive Board.
- F. Disclose potential conflicts of interest involving vendors, purchases, or financial decisions.

Section Four: Risk Manager

6.4.1 The Risk Manager must satisfy all Executive Board eligibility requirements and maintain current CPR, First Aid, and AED certification for the entire academic year.

6.4.2 Responsibilities

- A. Maintain current CPR, First Aid, and AED certification.
- B. Understand and execute GVSU and Club Sports emergency action procedures.
- C. Communicate emergency procedures and facility plans to Club members.
- D. Report injuries and incidents promptly and maintain confidential records as directed by Club Sports Administration.
- E. Inspect equipment and practice areas for safety concerns and provide officer and member guidance regarding risk management.

Section Five: Secretary

6.5.1 The Secretary must satisfy all Executive Board eligibility requirements and maintain accurate, confidential membership records.

6.5.2 Responsibilities

- A. Maintain the roster and verify completion of waivers, dues, registrations, and eligibility requirements.
- B. Track attendance at practices, meetings, competitions, and required events.
- C. Coordinate onboarding for new members, including forms and access to BAND or other approved communication systems.
- D. Monitor member retention and communicate with inactive or at-risk members.

Section Six: Public Relations Officer

6.6.1 The Public Relations Officer must satisfy all Executive Board eligibility requirements and follow University branding, privacy, and social media policies.

6.6.2 Responsibilities

- A. Submit schedules, results, announcements, and approved press releases.
- B. Maintain meeting notes and other non-confidential Club records as assigned.
- C. Manage approved Club social media pages and promote the men's and women's teams responsibly.
- D. Coordinate photography, media, recruiting content, alumni updates, and community outreach with the President and coaching staff.

ARTICLE SEVEN: ADVISOR AND COACH

Section One: Faculty/Staff Advisor

7.1.1 The advisor is required to be a full-time GVSU faculty or staff member. The Club Sports Assistant Director or Coordinator will serve as the Club's advisor unless otherwise stated by Recreation & Wellness.

7.1.2 The advisor will provide guidance regarding University policies, support the Executive Board, serve as a liaison with University offices, assist with conduct and organizational concerns, and help the Club maintain active status. The advisor does not replace the authority and responsibilities of elected student officers.

Section Two: Coach

7.2.1 The Head Coach is required to complete the preseason planning meeting and all required University documentation with the Club Executive Board annually.

7.2.2 The Head Coach is required to complete the postseason review, evaluation, and required University documentation with the Club Executive Board annually.

7.2.3 Head Coach Responsibilities

- A. Develop and conduct wrestling practices, conditioning, technical instruction, and competition strategies.
 - B. Promote safety, enforce NCWA and GVSU rules, and coordinate with the Risk Manager regarding emergency procedures.
 - C. Determine competitive readiness, lineups, roster selections, travel squads, and competition assignments in a fair and consistent manner.
 - D. Coordinate schedules, travel, equipment, purchases, and budget needs with the Executive Board while respecting University financial controls.
 - E. Serve as the primary wrestling liaison with the NCWA and Great Lakes Conference and assist with registration, eligibility, recruiting, and compliance.
 - F. Communicate practice and competition expectations, provide individual coaching, monitor academic and athletic eligibility, and support member development.
 - G. Commit approximately 10 to 15 hours per week during the season, including practices, competitions, travel, meetings, and administrative work.
- 7.2.4 Assistant Coaches will support the Head Coach with practices, individual instruction, competitions, travel, equipment, recruiting, and team development. Assistant coaches must complete required University and NCWA documentation and are expected to commit approximately five to ten hours per week during the season.

ARTICLE EIGHT: MEETINGS

- 8.1.1 General membership meetings will occur at least once each semester and at additional times announced by the President. Practices will take place during the academic year according to schedules approved through Club Sports and published by the coaching staff.
- 8.1.2 The Executive Board will meet at least monthly during the competitive season and as needed during the remainder of the academic year. Coaches may attend Executive Board meetings when invited or when their responsibilities are being discussed.
- 8.1.3 Members will be notified of meetings, practices, and official Club business through BAND, university email, or another approved communication platform. Meeting outcomes, assignments, and deadlines will be communicated to members in a timely manner, except when information must remain confidential.

ARTICLE NINE: AMENDMENTS

- 9.1 Any amendment to these articles or bylaws must be considered at a General Membership meeting where a quorum is present. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing and distributed to active members at least two weeks before the vote. Adoption requires a two-thirds vote of the active members present.

ARTICLE TEN: BY-LAWS

By-Law I: Quorum

A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the Club's registered active members. Members who are formally designated inactive before notice of the meeting will not be counted when determining quorum.

By-Law II: Disciplinary Regulations

The organization will address conduct concerns using a restorative justice approach when possible, while recognizing that the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution reserves the right to intervene if Club actions do not align with University policies or authority.

The Club will respond to violations of this constitution in a manner intended to stop the behavior, protect safety, repair harm, restore appropriate relationships when possible, and hold members accountable. The Executive Board and coaching staff may adjust the response based on severity, repetition, safety, and University requirements.

- Minor infractions, such as occasional unexcused absences, poor communication, or minor conduct concerns, may result in a verbal warning, written warning, and a corrective meeting.

- Major infractions, including repeated minor violations, serious misconduct, or actions that endanger others, may result in a written warning, suspension, loss of competition or travel privileges, or removal from the Club.
- Severe infractions, including violence, harassment, discrimination, hazing, illegal activity, or serious substance-related misconduct, may result in immediate suspension pending investigation and referral to University authorities.
- The Risk Manager or another designated officer will document disciplinary actions. Records will be handled confidentially and shared only with those who have a legitimate need to know.
- A member may appeal a Club disciplinary decision in writing to the Executive Board within one week. University disciplinary processes and decisions remain separate and controlling when applicable.
- Suspended members may be reinstated after meeting stated conditions. Expelled members may request reinstatement after one academic year, subject to Executive Board, coaching staff, and University approval.

By-Law III: Procedure for Amendments

Bylaws may be amended at a meeting where quorum is present by a two-thirds vote of active members present. Proposed changes must be submitted in writing to the membership at least two weeks in advance.

By-Law IV: Additional Operating Requirements

A. Attendance and Competition Eligibility

- Members are expected to attend scheduled practices, competitions, meetings, and team events unless excused. Competitive members must attend at least 75% of scheduled practices unless the coaching staff approves an exception.
- Eligibility for competition, travel, reimbursements, team benefits, or awards may be limited when a member fails to meet attendance, conduct, dues, fundraising, registration, or academic expectations.

B. Academic and Communication Expectations

- Members must maintain good academic standing and satisfy all GVSU and NCWA eligibility requirements applicable to their level of participation.
- Members must join and actively monitor BAND and university email for schedules, deadlines, travel information, and emergency notices.

C. Fundraising

- The Club will conduct fundraising to support travel, competition, equipment, and operating costs and will organize at least one major fundraiser each academic year.
- Members are expected to participate in approved fundraisers unless excused by the Executive Board for exceptional circumstances. Failure to meet an announced fundraising expectation may affect travel or competition reimbursement.
- The Treasurer will track fundraising participation and contributions. Alternative service may be approved when a member cannot participate in the assigned activity.

D. Travel

- Drivers must satisfy GVSU requirements, be at least 21 years old, possess a valid driver's license, and have an acceptable driving record. No driver should operate a vehicle for more than four consecutive hours without at least a 30-minute break.
- The Head Coach or designated team official will review emergency procedures before departure. Travelers must provide emergency contacts and maintain access to necessary medical information and medication.
- Members must follow announced lodging assignments, curfews, schedules, and behavioral expectations. Alcohol and illegal substances are prohibited during Club-related travel and events.

E. Social Media, Apparel, and Representation

- Members must represent the Club and GVSU responsibly in person and online. Harassment, discrimination, threats, hazing, disclosure of confidential information, or content that materially harms the Club may result in discipline.

- Only authorized members may speak on behalf of the Club or use official Club accounts. University branding and logo requirements must be followed.
- Members must use approved apparel and equipment as directed and return Club property when requested. Members are responsible for loss or damage caused by misuse.

F. Financial Conflicts of Interest

- Officers, coaches, and staff must disclose any personal, family, employment, vendor, or financial interest that could influence a Club purchase or decision. An affected person may be required to abstain from discussion and voting.

G. Recognition

- The Club may recognize outstanding members through awards such as Most Valuable Wrestler, Most Improved Wrestler, Leadership Recognition, Academic Recognition, or other awards approved by the Executive Board and coaching staff.

ARTICLE ELEVEN: ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

Section One: Robert's Rules of Order

11.1.1 The Club will look to Robert's Rules of Order to resolve procedural disputes, conflicts, or rulings not addressed by this constitution, University policy, or Club Sports requirements.

ARTICLE TWELVE: ORGANIZATION STATUS

Section One: Probation

12.1.1 Clubs that do not maintain membership or administrative requirements as outlined by the University will be placed into a probationary period and will be held to all probationary-status restrictions listed in the Club Sports Handbook.

12.1.2 The probationary period will be a minimum of one semester but may extend to additional semesters.

12.1.3 Clubs that are on probation for a period of two semesters will be placed in inactive status and will be held to all inactive-status restrictions listed in the Club Sports Handbook.

Section Two: Inactive

12.2.1 Clubs that do not meet active status may choose to bypass the probationary period and enter directly into inactive status with written approval from the entire registered membership and University advisor.

12.2.2 The organization must complete and return the request to move to inactive status paperwork to Club Sports Administration a minimum of two weeks before the end of a semester.

Section Three: Dissolution

12.3.1 Upon dissolution of the organization, on-campus organizational funds and assets, including equipment and hardware, will remain in University-assigned accounts for a minimum period of three years. If the organization has not restarted within that period, all assets will be transferred to the Recreation & Wellness office for use within the Club Sports Dues Assistance Program, Club Sports Team Allocation Funding, or other similar uses that directly benefit students within the Club Sports Program. Funds may not be dispersed among organization members or to an individual.

Section Four: Ratification

12.4.1 This constitution becomes effective upon approval by a two-thirds vote of active members present at a meeting where quorum is established and upon acceptance by Grand Valley State University Club Sports Administration.

Adopted on: 07.31.2026

Club President: _____ **Date:** _____

Treasurer: _____ **Date:** _____

Head Coach: _____ **Date:** _____



Club Sports Advisor: _____

Date: _____