2018 Senior Wrestling World Championships

Press and Fan Guide

The 2018 Senior Wrestling World Championships are October 20-28 at the Papp Laszlo Arena in Budapest. More than 850 wrestlers from 97 nations are competing to win one of the 30 world titles in freestyle, Greco-Roman and women's wrestling!

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Schedule of Events

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What to Know Before #BudaWrestle2018

Rule changes, weight category adjustments and governance

- Ten weights in each of the three Olympic styles (Freestyle, Women's Wrestling, Greco-Roman). Up from eight (8) weight classes at the 2017 World Championships.
- New weight categories, including Olympic weights for 2020
- Two-day competition format, with +2kg on the second day weigh-in (2018 only)
- Scoreboards count down from 6 minutes to 0.
- Cautions are 1-point
- Team scoring has been updated

Senior World Championship & Olympic Games	
1st place	25 points
2nd place	20 points
3rd place	15 points
3rd place*	15 points
5th place	10 points
5th place**	10 points
7th place	08 points
8th place	06 points
9th place	04 points
10th place	02 points

More stories from the 2018 season and around the organization:

- Ranking Series to help determine seeding at World Championships
- Top four seeds at each weight

Download Photos from the 2018 World Championships!

*** CLICK HERE ***

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World and Continental Results

2018 Ranking Series

Men's Freestyle	Women's Wrestling	Greco-Roman
Ivan Yarygin (RUS)	Klippan Lady Open (SWE)	Takhti Cup (IRI)
Tbilisi GP (GEO)	Mongolia Open (MGL)	Granma y Cerro Pelado (CUB)
Yasar Dogu (TUR)	China Open (CHN)	Hungarian GP (HUN)
Medved (BLR)	Poland Open (POL)	Vehbi Emre (TUR)

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#BudaWrestle2018 Competition Guide

Team Race and Weight-by-Weight Breakdown

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Freestyle	Women's Wrestling	Greco-Roman
57kg	50kg	55kg
61kg	53kg	60kg
65kg	55kg	63kg
70kg	57kg	67kg
74kg	59kg	72kg
79kg	62kg	77kg
86kg	65kg	82kg
92kg	68kg	87kg
97kg	72kg	97kg
125kg	76kg	130kg

Please Note:
** National federations may adjust entries up to 24 hours before the draw of their weight category.*
** Pre-World seeds in the preview are noted in parenthesis*
**Listed athletes are considered "Top Competitors" and doesn't include all entries.*

Freestyle: The Team Race

The 2017 world champion's team race in men's freestyle came down to the last match of the tournament, featuring Russia's Abdulrashid SADULAEV and the United States' Kyle SNYDER competing for 97kg gold. That match, dubbed "Snyderlaev," captivated the world not only because the two big men were defending Olympic champions, but whoever won would secure the team title for their nation.

Snyder ultimately won the match and secure Team USA's first freestyle team title since 1995, sparking a rivalry between wrestlers and nations that has continued through 2018. With both squads fully reloaded the team race may once again come down to the final day of competition.

With all the noise surrounding the top two teams, Georgia quietly won a pair of gold medals and edged Turkey by one point, claiming third-place in the freestyle team race.

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United States: The defending champions with seven of ten wrestlers entered having medaled at the world championships, with two more ranked at their respective weights. The Americans also won the 2018 Freestyle World Cup in Iowa City.

Russia: The world's most dominant wrestling nation has won eight of the last ten world team titles in freestyle and is bringing an accomplished squad of title holders to Budapest

Georgia: The reigning third-place finishers bring an experienced squad that boasts six wrestlers who have reached the podium at a previous world championship. They also return their pair of 2017 world champions in Zurabi IAKOBISHVILI (65kg) and big man Geno PETRIASHVILI (125kg).

2017 Freestyle Champions	2017 Freestyle Team Scores
57kg - Yuki TAKAHASHI (JPN) 61kg - Haji ALIYEV (AZE) 65kg - Zurabi IAKOBISHVILI (GEO) 70kg- Frank CHAMIZO (ITA) 74kg - Jordan BURROUGHS (USA) 86kg - Hassan YAZDANICHARATI (IRI) 97kg - Kyle SNYDER (USA) 125kg - Geno PETRIASHVILI (GEO)	GOLD – United States (54 points) SILVER – Russia (53 points) BRONZE – Georgia (40 points) Fourth – Turkey (39 points) Fifth - Azerbaijan (32 points) Sixth – Japan (28 points) Seventh - Cuba (23 points) Eighth - Kazakhstan (18 points)

-- Freestyle, 57kg --

(1) Zaur UGUEV (RUS)	2018 European Silver
(2) Thomas GILMAN (USA)	2017 World Silver
(3) Armen ARAKELIAN (UKR)	Yasar Dogu, 5th; European, 7th
(4) Uladzislau ANDREYEU (BLR)	2018 European bronze
Yuki TAKAHASHI (JPN)	2017 World Champion
Bekhbayar ERDENEBAT (MGL)	2x World Bronze (2017, 2015)
Suleyman ATLI (TUR)	2017 U23 World bronze
Reineri ANDREU ORTEGA (CUB)	2017 U23 World Champion
Giorgi EDISHERASHVILI (AZE)	2018 European Champion
Kumsong KANG (PRK)	2018 Asian Champion, 2018 Asian Games Silver
Mikyay Salim NAIM (BUL)	U23 World silver

With some of the quickest wrestlers in the world, the 57kg weight class is also one of the most entertaining and competitive. Leading the pack of spry lightweights are defending world champion Yuki TAKAHASHI (JPN) and world silver medalist Thomas GILMAN (USA).

Takahashi, United World Wrestling's *2017 Breakout Wrestler of the Year*, bested Gilman, 6-2 but had a difficult semifinal match at last year's world championships against two-time world bronze medalist Bekhbayar ERDENEBAT (MGL). Though he was in-and-out of action throughout the year, Takahashi found another win over Gilman (5-2) at the 2018 World Cup.

Kumsong KANG (PRK) has been making waves in 2018 winning the Asian championships and beating Takahashi 9-2 at the Asian Games. Though Kang dropped his Asian Games gold medal match to Erdenebat 8-2, he'll be a strong candidate to medal in Budapest.

Yuki TAKAHASHI (JPN)

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-- Freestyle, 61kg --

(1) Abbos RAKHMONOV (UZB)	2018 Asian Bronze
(2) Gadzhimurad RASHIDOV (RUS)	2017 World Silver, 2018 European Gold
(3) Beka LOMTADZE (GEO)	2016 World Silver, 2018 European Silver
(4) Joe COLON (USA)	2018 Pan-American Champion
Yowlys BONNE RODRIGUEZ (CUB)	2017 World Bronze
Kuat AMIRTAYEV (KAZ)	U23 World Silver
Adama DIATTA (SEN)	8x African Champion
Vladimir DUBOV (BUL)	2x World medalist
Kazuya KOYANAGI (JPN)	2018 Asian C'Ships Silver

Gadzhimurad RASHIDOV (RUS) and Yowlys "Half Man, Half Amazing" BONNE RODRIGUEZ (CUB) are the returning medalists entered at 61kg.

Since Rashidov's loss in the 61kg finals to Azerbaijan's Haji ALIYEV (AZE), he's yet to drop another match. Russia's two-time world team representative is undefeated in 2018 and has won gold medals at the European Championships, the Ivan Yarygin Grand Prix, Dan Kolov - Nikola Petrov Tournament and the Poland Open.

After sitting out of Russian Nationals, his most significant win of the season came in the Poland Open semifinals when he upended Russian National champion Magomedrasul Idrisov (RUS), 2-1 to lock in his spot on Russia's World Championships team.

Cuba's Bonne Rodriguez, last year's 2017 world bronze medalist, is also a 61kg title threat. Bonne will wrestle in his fourth World Championships. In his three previous appearances, he's only missed the podium once, winning a pair of bronze medals in 2014 and 2017.

Two other potential threats are Asian runner-up Kazuya KOYANAGI (JPN) and European silver medalist Beka LOMTADZE (GEO).

Another thing to note at this weight class, with a little over a week to go until the start of the World Championships, Nahshon GARRETT (USA) was forced to withdraw due to a right pectoral tear. His replaced will be 2018 Pan-American Champion Joe COLON (USA).

-- Greco-Roman, 63kg --

(1) Hassan MOHAMED (EGY) (2) Mihai Radu MIHUT (ROU) Stepan MARYANYAN (RUS) Nikolay VICHEV (BUL)	2018 African Gold 2018 European Champ, U23 European gold 2017 World Bronze Dan Kolov - Nikola Petrov Tournament gold

Senior-level and U23 European champion Mihai MIHUT (ROU) has had one of the most impressive seasons in recent memory, making the finals of seven straight tournaments at 63kg. Of those seven finals, Mihut has won six gold medals, only dropping the finals of the Dan Kolov - Nikola Petrov Tournament.

Mihut briefly tried his hand at 67kg, but his 63kg success did not follow. In the three tournaments that he competed at 67kg, he never placed higher than 8th and found himself outside of the top 15 in the other two competitions.

Nikolay VICHEV (BUL), the Dan Kolov - Nikola Petrov Tournament champion, is also entered at this weight. He's the only wrestler to defeat Mihut at 63kg this season.

Last year's world bronze medalist and two-time Russian National champion Stepan MARYANYAN (RUS) is up from 59kg and has won three consecutive gold medals heading into these World Championships.

(2) Mihai Radu MIHUT (ROU)

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-- Greco-Roman, 67kg --

(1) Ismael BORRERO MOLINA (CUB) (2) Tsuchika SHIMOYAMADA (JPN) Davor STEFANEK (SRB) Artem SURKOV (RUS)	2016 Olympic Champ, 2015 World Champ 2018 Asian silver 2016 Olympic Champion 2x World bronze

It's extremely rare for two Olympic champions to be entered at one weight class, but 67kg will feature Ismael BORRERO MOLINA (CUB) as well as Davor STEFANEK (SRB).

Borrero, the 2015 world champion, sat out the entire 2017 season and has only competed a handful of times since becoming the 59kg Olympic champion. The rust and 8kg adjustment seemed to cause Borrero issues at the Tahkti Cup where he finished in fifth-place but has since gone on to win four gold medals, including the Central American Caribbean Championships and the Pan-American Championships.

Meanwhile, Olympic champion Davor STEFANEK (SRB) will also make his return to the world stage after striking gold in Rio. Stefanek decided to not compete in Paris a year ago after returning for the 2017 European championships where he finished with a silver medal.

Two-time World bronze medalist Artem SURKOV (RUS) will once again look to be in contention for the crown. One of Greco-Roman's most artistic and aggressive scorers, Surkov has not placed lower than third at any major event dating back several years. He has also won three of the past four European Championships.

-- Greco-Roman, 72kg --

(1) Balint KORPASI (HUN) (2) Demeu ZHADRAYEV (KAZ) (3) Adam KURAK (RUS) Mohammadali GERAEI (IRI) Frank STAEBLER (GER) Akzhol MAKHUMDOV (KZG)	2016 World Gold, 2017 World Bronze 2017 World Silver, 2018 Asian Silver 2018 European gold, 2015 World Bronze 2017 World Bronze 2x World Champion 2018 Asian Champion

The main question surrounding this weight is how healthy will Germany's two-time world champion Frank STAEBLER be in Budapest? Staebler has missed significant time this season after fracturing his ribs twice. In addition, two weeks prior to the start of the World Championships, Staebler posted a picture on his Instagram with a cast on his right wrist with the caption "sprained wrist."

Mohammadali GERAEI (IRI), nicknamed "The Falcon", has wrestled at three different weight classes (67kg, 71kg, and 77kg) within the past 12 months. He was starting to find his stride at 77kg, winning the Asian Games and taking second at the Asian Championships before losing his 77kg starting spot to Pejman POSHTAM (IRI). The 2017 world bronze medalist has since dropped down and is entered at 72kg.

Three other contenders entered at 72kg are Asian Champion, Akzhol MAKHUMDOV (KZG), European champion, Adam KURAK (RUS), and European bronze medalist Balint KORPASI (HUN). Korpasi won the inaugural non-Olympic Weight World Championships in 2016 and added a World bronze medal to his collection last year in Paris. Both he and Kurak should be considered extremely dangerous if they can survive the early rounds.

-- Greco-Roman, 77kg --

(1) Ariel FIS BATISTA (CUB)	2018 Pan-American gold
Hyeonwoo KIM (KOR)	2012 Olympic gold, 2016 Olympic bronze
Elvin MURSALIYEV (AZE)	2x World Bronze
Tamas LORINCZ (HUN)	2x World Bronze
Pascal EISELE (GER)	2017 World Bronze
Viktor NEMES (SRB)	2017 World Champion
Aleksandr CHEKHIRKIN (RUS)	2017 World Silver

Returning world champion Viktor NEMES (SRB) and world silver medalist Aleksandr CHEKHIRKIN (RUS) are entered at 77kkg. Though Chekhirkin wasn't entered until four weeks ago until Roman VLASOV (RUS) suffered a knee injury.

This would have been the second weight class that featured a pair of Olympic champions, but with less than a month until the first whistle, Russia's two-time reigning Olympic champion Roman Vlasov withdrew himself from the tournament after suffering a right knee injury that required surgery.

With Vlasov out, Korea's London Olympic champion, 2013 World Champion, and Rio bronze medal winner KIM Hyeon-Woo is the lead favorite at 77kg. Nearing 30 years of age, Kim is still as viable as ever. In limited action this season, the Korean star earned gold at the Tbilisi Grand Prix and followed up with a third at the Asian Games.

Speaking of the Asian Games, that event's top 2 finishers, Mohammadali Geraei, and Akzhol Makhumdov, have both moved down to 72kg. With the absence of Vlasov and Geraei, it could mean that Elvin MURSALIYEV (AZE) could emerge as a contender worthy of keeping tabs on. Mursaliyev downed Vlasov in Paris last year before eventually sealing up bronze. This season, he has competed at 77 and 82 with bronze medals at the European Championships and Turkey's Vehbi Emre tournament, respectively.

Aleksandr CHEKHIRKIN (RUS)

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-- Greco-Roman, 82kg --

(1) Daniel ALEKSANDROV (BUL)	2018 European bronze
(2) Viktar SASUNOUSKI (BLR)	2018 European silver, 2015 World silver
Maksim MANUKYAN (ARM)	2017 World gold, 2018 European gold
Peter BACSI (HUN)	2014 World gold
Saeid ABDVALI (IRI)	2016 Olympic Bronze, 2017 World Bronze
Eltun VAZIRZADE (AZE)	3x U23 European bronze
Lasha GOBADZE (GEO)	2015 World Bronze, 2017 U23 World Silver
Maxat YEREZHEPOV (KAZ)	2017 Asian Gold, 2018 Asian Bronze

Peter BACSI (HUN) and Maksim MANUKYAN (ARM) are the two previous world champions that are entered at 82kg.

Manukyan, this year's European champion is one of two Armenian wrestlers who is looking to defend their Paris world titles. The other is none other than the four-time world and Olympic champion Artur ALEKSANYAN who is entered at 97kg.

Bacsi, the three-time Olympian and 2014 world gold medalist will be making his seventh world appearance. More importantly, it is said that the 2018 World Championships in Budapest, Hungary could potentially be the Hungarian's last competition.

Iran's Saeid ABDVALI (IRI) will try to reach the top of the podium for the first time since he won the 2011 World Championships in Istanbul, Turkey. Since then, he's taken bronze twice on the world level. In 2016, he took third at the Olympic Games and followed that up last year in Paris with another bronze medal.

Viktar SASUNOUSKI (BLR) and Daniel ALEKSANDROV (BUL) are registered at this weight. The pair placed second and third respectively at this year's European Championships.

Meanwhile, there's a change of guard for Azerbaijan at this weight, as they have elected to enter their rising star, Eltun VAZIRZADE over 2018 European bronze medalist and six-time world team representative, Rafik HUSEYNOV.

Vazirzade had taken third place at each of the last three U23 European championships.

Another talented youngster to keep an eye on at this weight is Georgia's Lasha GOBADZE. Gobadze finished the 2015 World Championships with a bronze medal and most recently finished the 2017 U23 World Championships in second place.

-- Greco-Roman, 87kg --

(1) Islam ABBASOV (AZE)	2018 U23 European gold
(2) Masato SUMI (JPN)	2018 Asian silver
(3) Roberti KOBLIASHVILI (GEO)	2018 European gold, 2017 world bronze
Metehan BASAR (TUR)	2017 World champion
Viktor LORINCZ (HUN)	2014 World bronze, 2017 European gold
Zhan BELENIUK (UKR)	2015 World gold, 2016 Olympic silver
Denis KUDLA (GER)	2016 Olympic bronze, 2017 world silver
Radzik KULIYEU (BLR)	2017 World Silver
Bekhan OZDOEV (RUS)	2018 European Silver

In addition to reigning world champion, Metehan BASAR (TUR), and 2017 world runner-up, Radzik KULIYEU (BLR), 87kg will host a pair of Olympic medalists in Zhan BELENIUK (UKR) and Denis KUDLA (GER).

Rio silver medalist Beleniuk sat out of last year's world championships after taking third in 2014 and winning it all in 2015.

Germany's Denis Kudla followed up his bronze medal performance in Rio with a runner-up finish in Paris. He's maintained that success this season, winning the Thor Masters and Grand Prix of Germany, while also taking third place at the European Championships.

Another 87kg contender is U23 European gold medalist, Islam ABBASOV (AZE). Abbasov was in the bronze medal bout at last year's World Championships but lost to Iran's Hossein Ahmad NOURI, 4-0 to take fifth-place.

But perhaps the man everyone could be talking about when the tournament reaches its conclusion is Bekhan OZDOEV (RUS). A Junior World bronze medalist in 2013, Ozdoev emerged from Russia's immense depth in full this season, first by putting in a strong runner-up performance at the European Championships -- and then by dismantling 2016 Olympic champ Davit CHAKVETADZE in the finals of the Russian Nationals.

(3) Roberti KOBLIASHVILI (GEO)

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-- Greco-Roman, 97kg --

(1) Balazs KISS (HUN)	2009 World gold, 2018 European bronze
(3) Luillys Jose PEREZ MORA (VEN)	Pan-American gold
Artur ALEKSANYAN (ARM)	3x World gold, 2016 Olympic champion
Musa EVLOEV (RUS)	2017 World silver
Revazi NADAREISHVILI (GEO)	2017 World bronze
Felix BALDAUF (NOR)	2017 European Champion
Hyochul CHO (KOR)	2018 Asian Games Champion

One of the most decorated Greco-Roman wrestlers on the planet, Artur "White Bear" ALEKSANYAN (ARM) is the reigning world champion and finds himself on a quest to bag his fourth world gold medal in as many tries.

Aleksanyan is also the holder of the 2016 Rio Olympic gold medal, bringing his world and Olympic gold medal total to four. As a side note, you'd have to go back to 2013 to find the last time Aleksanyan failed to stand atop the podium at a world-level event.

Though "The White Bear" will be the clear favorite to win the 97kg gold medal, every other 2017 97kg world medalist is also registered.

Musa EVLOEV (RUS) finished in second place, while Balazs KISS (HUN) and Revazi NADAREISHVILI (GEO) finished in third place.

Kiss, the 2009 world gold medalist, and 2016 Olympian, also boasts a pair of world bronze medals to his name. His first world third-place finish was in 2013 and his second was at last year's Paris world championships.

Artur ALEKSANYAN (ARM)

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-- Greco-Roman, 130kg --

(1) Riza KAYAALP (TUR)	3x World gold, 2016 Olympic silver
(2) Balint LAM (HUN)	2017 European silver
(3) Alin ALEXUC CIURARIU (ROU)	2018 European bronze
(4) Oscar PINO HINDS (CUB)	2017 World bronze
Mijain LOPEZ NUNEZ (CUB)	3x Olympic champion, 5x World gold
Sergey SEMENOV (RUS)	2016 Olympic Bronze, U23 World Champ
Oleksandr CHERNETSKYY (UKR)	2015 World Bronze
Yasmani ACOSTA FERNANDEZ (CHI)	2017 World Bronze

Though Cuba has entered Oscar PINO HINDS (CUB) at 130kg, they've also entered three-time Olympic champion Mijain LOPEZ NUNEZ (CUB).

If he does make his long-awaited world return, Lopez, the five-time world champion, will be hunting for this first world gold medal since 2014 when he defeated reigning world champion and No. 1 seed Riza KAYAALP (TUR).

Kayaalp, the reigning two-time world champion, has medaled at every world championship since 2009 and heads into Budapest gunning for his fourth world gold medal. In March, he reached the top of the European podium for the eighth time.

Aside from Kayaalp and Lopez, Sergey SEMENOV (RUS) is the third Olympic medalist entered at this weight. The 2017 U23 World champion won his third Russian National title this season and claimed Russia's 130kg spot over 2018 European runner-up, Vitali SHCHUR (RUS).

Last year, Yasmani ACOSTA FERNANDEZ took bronze at the 2017 World Championships and became Chile's first-ever wrestling medalist at the senior-level in any style. Thanks to his historic finish, Acosta Fernandez was awarded United World Wrestling's History Maker. He'll once again be throwing his hat into the ring in 2018, as he attempts to become Chile's first-ever world champion.