

2021 IMMAF YOUTH MMA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (U18's)

Competition Handbook
Version 1.0
May 10th 2021

IMMAF 
YOUTH MMA
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
(12 - 17 YRS)



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30 JULY - 1 AUGUST 2021

SOPIA • BULGARIA



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1. Organiser

Organiser

International Mixed Martial Arts Federation
(IMMAF)

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2. COVID 19

For up-to-date information regarding entry requirements into Bulgaria please visit the following link:

<https://www.tourism.government.bg/sites/tourism.government.bg/files/documents/2020-12/english.pdf>

https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/travel-and-covid/bulgaria/index_en.htm

PLEASE NOTE that at the time of writing these include a medical certificate showing a negative COVID-19 PCR result from a test taken no more than 72 hours before departure.

In addition to any requirements set by the Bulgarian Government, IMMAF will have in place an appropriate COVID-19 security plan.

1) You will be required to have checked into the event hotel by 4pm on Wednesday, 28th July.

2) You will be required to isolate in your room until you have received a negative result from the COVID-19 PCR test. This will be administered upon your arrival at IMMAF's expense.

3) There will be rules in place covering such things as the mandatory use of face masks, regular health checks, and restrictions on movement and mixing. These will apply from the point of arrival on July 28th until the conclusion of the competition.

If you think that you may for any reason, be unable to comply with any of the above, please do NOT register! Any significant breaches will almost certainly result in removal from the competition.

There will be further information shared nearer the time.

3. Program

Attention: The schedule may be modified according to the total number of entries and circumstances of competition.

Wednesday 28th July – Arrival & COVID Testing

Location - Hotel Marinela, Sofia, Bulgaria

Thursday 29th July – Registration

All Activities:

Registration

Rules Briefing (mandatory for all coaches)

Tournament Draw

Location - Hotel Marinela, Sofia, Bulgaria

All times to be confirmed and will be syndicated to all participating federations one week before arriving in Bulgaria.

Friday 30th July – Day 1 of competition

All Activities:

Weigh in and prefight medicals

Location - Hotel Marinela, Sofia, Bulgaria

All times to be confirmed and will be syndicated to all participating federations one week before arriving in Bulgaria.

Saturday 31st July – Day 2 of competition

All Activities:

Weigh in and prefight medicals

Location - Hotel Marinela, Sofia, Bulgaria

All times to be confirmed and will be syndicated to all participating federations one week before arriving in Bulgaria.

Sunday 1st August – Day 3 of competition - Finals

All Activities:

Weigh in and prefight medicals

Location - Hotel Marinela, Sofia, Bulgaria

All times to be confirmed and will be syndicated to all participating federations one week before arriving in Bulgaria.

Monday 2nd August – All teams depart hotel

4. Competition Place

Venue Name – Hotel Marinela, Sofia, Bulgaria
Venue address - 1407 Sofia, 100 James Bourchier Boulevard
Website - <https://www.hotel-marinela.com/en/>



5. Eligibility

Please see the document for athlete eligibility found here –
https://www.mynextmatch.com/tournament/164/details/national_team/feed

Note:

FEDERATIONS' RESPONSIBILITY: ELIGIBILITY CHECKS/COMPLAINTS

As always, thorough screening of amateur eligibility will be of great importance. IMMAF will continue to screen all registered athletes, but we must stress that all national federations are responsible for checking the background of the national team athletes, as the best way to ensure that no stone is left unturned.

National federations should do an online search of all team athletes before registering them as participants.

It is not uncommon for 100% amateurs to be referenced as professionals online – this cannot be ignored and may affect the process of registering your athletes, including removal from the bracket until further notice.

If there is any online information to suggest that an athlete is professional such as: records, videos, or articles, IMMAF will work to confirm the accuracy and thus the status of professional or amateur. No athlete will be able to compete until amateur status can be confirmed and immediate assistance from the national federation will be essential.

BEFORE THE EVENT

National federations are welcome to research all opponents, as they are listed per weight category on [MyNextMatch.com](https://www.mynextmatch.com) following the registration deadline. This should be enough time to contact IMMAF BEFORE the event, if you wish to express any concerns or findings. No athlete will be kicked out from the event once it has started.

DURING THE EVENT

Once athletes are checked in at the event, there will be no going back. From this moment, all athletes will be considered clear of eligibility checks. If a professional veteran is suspected to have competed, IMMAF will address this with the federation in question post event.

Please contact Mikhail Mazur via Mikhail.mazur@immaf.org for assistance in how to screen your nation's athletes or if you have any concerns regarding opponents.

MINIMUM TECHNICAL STANDARD

All participants require to have **MINIMUM TECHNICAL STANDARD** of a yellow grade according to IMMAF Progression scheme before the tournament draw commences. For clarification, this grade must be recorded in the official IMMAF App and will be cross checked at the point of registration. If a competitor doesn't have the required minimum technical standard grade, they will not be entered into the tournament draw and be removed from competition. Please contact IMMAF's Development Director Andrew Moshanov via andrew.moshonov@immaf.org for any questions around obtaining technical grades.

6. Athlete Sponsor Guidelines

Please see the document for athlete sponsor guidelines found here – https://www.mynextmatch.com/tournament/164/details/national_team/feed

7. Athlete Screening

Please see https://www.mynextmatch.com/tournament/164/details/national_team/feed for the Athlete screening process document.

If any professional records are detected by IMMAF after the registration deadline without prior notification, the National Federation will incur a fine of £100 for each athlete who is listed as professional, regardless of website error.

8. Participation

This IMMAF Youth MMA World Championships is for all IMMAF Member Federations. There is a limit of 32 participants for each weight category and each federation can enter a maximum of 2 entries per weight category, (subject to first come first served basis). **The competitors must be of the same nationality as the National Federation, which enters them.**

AGE BANDING CRITERIA

Youth category C 12 – 13 years old

The player must not be under the age of 12 years or aged 14 years before the 1st day of competition and must be within this age band until the competition has been completed.

Youth category B 14 – 15 years old

The player must not be under the age of 14 years or aged 16 years before 1st day of competition and must be within this age band until the competition has been completed.

Youth category A 16-17 years old

The player must not be under the age of 16 years or aged 18 years before 1st day of competition and must be within this age band until the competition has been completed.

1. It is mandatory that competitors participating in IMMAF Championship events are nationals of the country whose team they are representing. For the avoidance of doubt, nationals are classed according to the passport(s) they hold.
2. A competitor who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may represent any one of them. However, after having represented one country in IMMAF competitions, he/she may not represent another country unless he / she meets the conditions set forth in paragraph 3 below which applies to persons who have changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality.
3. A competitor, who has represented one country in IMMAF Championship events and who has changed his / her nationality or acquired a new nationality, may represent his/her new country in IMMAF Championship events provided that at least twelve (12) months have passed since the competitor last represented his / her former country. This period may be reduced or even cancelled, with the agreement of the National Federation from which the competitor is moving.

9. Categories

Weigh-ins for youth contestants shall be on the day of competition. Competitors must be over and under the weight category they are entering apart from the upper weight limits only, where no athlete shall be allowed to compete with a weight difference greater than 5 kg.

Youth category C 12 – 13 years old

Male & Female [under]

-31kg/ 68.3 lbs
-34kg/ 75 lbs
-37kg/ 81.6 lbs
-40kg/ 88.2 lbs
-44kg / 97 lbs
-48kg/ 105.8 lbs
-52kg/ 114.6 lbs
-57kg/ 125.7 lbs
+57kg/ 125.7 lbs – TO A MAXIMUM OF 62kg / 136.7 lbs

Youth category B 14 – 15 years old

Male & Female [under]

-40 kg/ 88.2 lbs
-44 kg/ 97 lbs
-48 kg/ 105.8 lbs
-52 kg/ 114.6 lbs
-57 kg/ 125.7 lbs
-62 kg/ 136.7 lbs
-67 kg/ 147.7 lbs
-72kg/ 158.7 lbs
+72 kg/ 158.7 lbs – TO A MAXIMUM OF 77.1 kg/ 170 lbs

Both Youth B & C categories, for the upper weight limits only, no athlete shall be allowed to compete with a weight difference greater than 5 kg.

Youth category A 16-17 years old [as per current unified IMMAF rules]

Male [under]

Strawweight: -52.2 kg /115 lbs
Flyweight: -56.7 kg /125 lbs
Bantamweight: -61.2 kg /135 lbs
Featherweight: -65.8 kg /145 lbs
Lightweight: -70.3 kg /155 lbs
Welterweight: -77.1 kg /170 lbs
Middleweight: -83.9 kg /185 lbs
Light Heavyweight: -93.0 kg /205 lbs
Heavyweight: -120.2 kg /265 lbs

Female [under]

Atomweight: - 47.7kg /105 lbs
Strawweight: -52.2 kg /115 lbs
Flyweight: -56.7 kg /125 lbs
Bantamweight: -61.2 kg /135 lbs

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Featherweight: -65.8 kg /145 lbs
Lightweight: -70.3 kg /155 lbs

10. Accreditation & Control of Nationality

At least one (1) team official and a maximum of two (2) must attend the Registration (on Thursday 29th July 2021) in order to confirm the delegation. Failure to do this will result in a nation not being entered into the draw and will be disqualified from the competition. Passports or photocopies of passports from all competitors must be available on request (National ID Card showing nationality and date of birth or a copy is also accepted). An IMMAF accreditation card with a photograph will be issued to competitors and officials.

11. IMMAF Pre – Registration Online

All participants and delegates must be pre-registered for the event using the IMMAF Online Registration System. <https://www.mynextmatch.com/tournament/164/details>

Note to Media

Any team officials registering on MyNextMatch who would like media access and permissions, must complete the **Media Form** which can be downloaded at https://www.mynextmatch.com/tournament/164/details/national_team/feed for accreditation and email to Isobel.carnwath@immaf.org by **1st July 2021**. Please note that registration on MyNextMatch does not grant media permissions.

Deadline for Pre-Registration is Monday 14th June 2021.

After the deadline only athletes replacing a competitor who is medically diagnosed as unfit to compete can be entered into the competition. An official letter from the injured athlete's GP or registered team Doctor will need to be submitted to IMMAF's independent Medical Partner for verification at safemma@immaf.org

12. Key Deadlines

- Team Registration including participation fee payment – Monday 14th June 2021 (2359hrs GMT).
- Media accreditation applications to Isobel.carnwath@immaf.org - Thursday 1st July 2021 (2359hrs GMT).
- Pre-Registration of Injury Replacements – Wednesday 14th July 2021
- Medical Clearance – Friday 16th July 2021 (2359hrs GMT).

13. Weigh-in (inc allowance policy) & Pre Fight Medical Examination

Programme:

Competition days: Friday 30th July, Saturday 31st July, and Sunday 1st August 2021.

Weigh-ins for youth contestants shall be on the day of competition.

All athletes must weigh in on the official competition scale in shorts and t-shirt/rash guard, most preferably the official IMMAF apparel. Youth contestants **are not** permitted to strip above or below the waist to underwear or bare torso. To facilitate this all contestants at all official weigh ins shall be granted an additional 1lb [454gr] allowance over and above their designated weight category.

There will be no option for late annual medical examination.

Following this the official weigh-in & pre fight medical for each weight category is held each morning of competition (See 2 programme). Athletes must present their IMMAF accreditation card and his/her passport (National ID Cards showing nationality and date of birth are also accepted).

Only athletes that are set to compete on that day must attend that competition day weigh in. Competitors with byes are not expected to weigh in.

Any athlete who does not show up within the designated weigh in times or fails to make weight will be excluded from competition. Athletes will only have one chance at making weight on the official scales.

A set of test scales will be available for one hour before the official weigh in. This is to facilitate athletes who wish to check their pre-fight weight before stepping onto the official weigh in scales. Outside of the official weigh in times test scales available on the same morning and a set of scales will be made accessible throughout the competition.

Athletes must present their accreditation card and passport or National ID Card showing nationality and date of birth.

Weigh in allowance policy can be found here –

https://www.mynextmatch.com/tournament/164/details/national_team/feed

14. Competition Mode

The competition will be conducted in accordance with the latest IMMAF Youth rules, see link <https://immaf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/IMMAF-YOUTH-Rules-Document-as-of-Jan-2021.pdf>

15. Draw

The draw will take place on Thursday 29th July 2021 at Hotel Marinela, Sofia, Bulgaria. Time of the draw will be communicated one week before arrival into Bulgaria.

The system of competition will be pools to a knockout stage by method of a random electronic draw, e.g., 16 athlete category = 4 pools/round robin system = 4 pool winners proceed to the semi-final followed by a final match.

There will be no seeding of athletes, however athletes of the same nationality will be separated at the pool stage of the competition.

If there are only two (2) competitors in a bracket, then this will be a gold medal match with the loser receiving no medal. No placement ranking points will be awarded for the loser.

16 . Referees & Judges

Each federation may put forward recommended competition officials through the IMMAF NTO (National technical Officials) application process. The organising federation (BULMMAF) may enter officials as required for the realisation of the tournament if a sufficient number cannot be sourced. The requirement for officiating can be found in the “Officials Selection Procedure Form” at https://www.mynextmatch.com/tournament/164/details/national_team/feed

17. Corners (seconds), Team Leaders & Team Delegates

All team delegates must fully adhere to the dress code outlined for the draw and for the duration of the competition.

Dress Code for Draw: suit, with jacket and tie or national team tracksuit

Days 1 to 3: National team tracksuit / uniform, NO caps, NO shorts OR flip flops.

18. Equipment

The gloves, shorts, rash guards, and shin guards will be provided by the brand Green Hill for all competitors.

Hand wraps will not be used in Youth competition.

Competitors are responsible for providing their own mouth and groin guard.

19. Transport

All teams are to arrange their own transport arrangements whilst in Bulgaria, including return flights from their home country and their return transfers from the airport to the hotel.

20. Accommodation

All teams are responsible for organising/booking their own accommodation during their stay in Bulgaria **at the official hotel**. Accommodation is at the competition venue and need to be booked with IMMAF discount via the following link and code:

<https://www.hotel-marinela.com/> and option "Book now"

Promocode: **IMMAF2021**

This is the policy of the hotel for this special rate. The rate will be active until August 10th. This is the bubble (hotel/venue) in which you are required to arrive and stay, as COVID testing will take place here.

2 room options:

Standard

Single – 63 EUR with breakfast and dinner

Double – 68 EUR with breakfast and dinner

Economic

Single – 53 EUR with breakfast and dinner

Double – 58 EUR with breakfast and dinner

If someone has to cancel the reservation due to guests' illness or not available to travel due to COVID-19, the hotel will require an official document for these reasons, and will confirm the cancellation without any charges (penalty fee)

Deposit Policy

Credit Card Guarantee Required

Cancellation Policy

- if cancel the reservation till 23 July 2021 – no penalty.

- if cancel after 23 July 2021, will have to pay a penalty equal to 1 night cost.

21. Participation Fee & Refund Policy

A participation fee of €275 EUR per competitor is payable to IMMAF at pre-registration. Team leaders, team affiliates and team coaches participation fee is €150 EUR.

Accreditation will not be issued where entry fees have not been paid by the pre-registration deadline.

Only registered participants who have paid the participation fee will get access to official IMMAF credentialed areas at the competition venue. This is for security and practical reasons.

Due to COVID protocol, everyone must be registered (including parent/guardians) and tested.

The fee is a combined fee that covers some but not all of the costs that IMMAF, which is a non-profit entity, incurred by all participants.

Any athlete that has not paid their participation fee by Monday 14th June 2021 will not be included in the draw unless it's an injury replacement.

Payment has to be made by each member federation for its whole team. Individual payments will not be accepted. Payment will be by bank wire transfer. Instructions can be downloaded here: https://www.mynextmatch.com/tournament/164/details/national_team/feed
For clarification.

- . a) Registration via online tournament system; My Next Match. (No participation fee payment will be asked for during this part of the registration).
- . b) Participation Fee's to be bank transferred to IMMAF.
- . c) **When parts A + B have been done, reconciled, and confirmed by IMMAF, only then will your team be officially approved and entered into the tournament.**

Refund policy for registered teams can be downloaded here –
https://www.mynextmatch.com/tournament/164/details/national_team/feed

22. Anti-Doping

Anti-doping controls will be conducted in accordance with the IMMAF Anti-Doping Rules and the World Anti-Doping Agency Code.

We would like to remind you that according to IMMAF Anti-Doping Policy regulations, from 2016, urine and/or blood testing may be conducted during IMMAF Competitions. Participants should therefore check that all medications they use AT ANY TIME are permitted under this Policy. Absolute caution is advised in respect of all supplements, which are unregulated products, often poorly labelled; many supplements have been known to contain prohibited substances. Each participant is strictly liable for any prohibited substance found in their body or supplied to/by them.

If a participant has a medical condition requiring the use of a prohibited substance, this must be approved and authorised by a valid Therapeutic Use Exemption. If there is no permitted alternative and this treatment is justified by professional diagnostic evidence, they will need to apply for a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE). Participants must apply to their national anti-doping organisation at least one month before competition. Participants are responsible for ensuring that their approved applications are submitted to IMMAF through tue@immaf.org no later than Thursday 1st July 2021 (2359hrs GMT). If emergency treatment with a prohibited substance is required after this date, their TUE application must be sent to the national anti-doping organisation with a copy to IMMAF explaining why a retrospective application has been submitted. No guarantee of approval of use may be assumed; continued participation is at their own risk of committing a violation.

23. Medical Clearance

Competitors need to ensure that their annual medical examination is in good standing as per IMMAF's competition medical requirements.

PLEASE NOTE: The current policy of the IMMAF medical commission is that blood work is NOT needed for Youth (U18's) tournaments

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The cut-off date for submission of all correctly completed AND correctly submitted medical forms is Friday, 16th July 2021.

In order to be medically cleared to compete in the 2021 IMMAF Youth MMA World Championships (U18's) each athlete must provide:

a) a completed **Annual Medical Examination form**, dated within one year of the final day of competition - so on or after 2nd August 2020

b) all documentation must be sent as an email attachment in PDF form (**ideally one complete PDF per athlete**) through the team Medical Safety Lead (*see Note 1 below) to: immaf@safemma.org *Please Note: we strongly recommend submitting all forms at least one week in advance of the deadline so that any mistakes or omissions can be addressed BEFORE the cut-off date, thus avoiding any Late admin fees (*see Note 2 below).

The most current versions of forms and further information can be found here: <https://safemma.org/youth-under-18/>

Note 1: MEDICAL SAFETY LEAD

Each team must nominate a Medical Safety Lead. Your MSL acts as the single point of contact through whom we expect to receive all medical documentation, and with whom we share important updates.

The role is purely administrative - no prior medical knowledge or experience is required. Please let us know if you require details of your MSL or wish to nominate someone new to the role.

Note 2: ADMINISTRATION FEES FOR LATE SUBMISSIONS

The cut-off date for submission of all CORRECTLY COMPLETED and CORRECTLY SUBMITTED medical forms is Friday, 16th July 2021.

Please ensure forms are submitted at least one week in advance of this so that any mistakes or omissions can be addressed before the cut-off date. Forms must be received through the nominated MSL, ideally as one complete PDF per athlete.

- a **£20 Late admin fee** will be payable direct to SafeMMA by or for any athlete whose correct & complete documentation has not been received by the cut-off date of **Friday, 16th July 2021** (2359hrs GMT)

- a **£40 Late admin fee** will be payable direct to SafeMMA by or for any athlete whose correct & complete documentation has not been received one week after the cut-off date, so by **Friday, 23rd July 2021** (2359hrs GMT)

- an **£80 Late admin fee** will be payable direct to SafeMMA by or for any athlete whose correct & complete documentation has not been received more than 2 days before the start of competition, so by **Tuesday, 27th July 2021** (2359hrs GMT)

Important information:

- Other than in exceptional cases (such as with late injury replacements) the Late admin fees detailed above WILL be strictly enforced WITHOUT exception.

- If a Late admin fee is due, NO documentation will be reviewed, or even considered as having been received, until that fee has been paid.

- If a Late admin fee is due and not received before a further deadline has been passed, the higher fee will be payable for that athlete's documentation to be reviewed.

- The review of any documentation received after the cut-off date is subject to the availability of resources, and at the discretion of SafeMMA and the IMMAF Medical Committee.

For the record, late admin fees are NOT intended to raise revenue. They have solely been introduced to focus attention on the importance of complying with deadlines so that we can continue doing the work we do effectively with the resources we have - the alternatives being raising fees for everyone or removing athletes from the tournament. We would be delighted if not a single late admin fee was ever incurred! Please work with us to achieve this and get your athletes' documentation arranged in good time. If you have any comments, issues or questions regarding this, or any medical matter, please email us at: immaf@safemma.org

24. Insurance of Competitors

The competitor competes under the full responsibility of their National Federations Insurance. Each national federation is responsible for insuring its competitors against "injury and third party risk (public liability)" during the period of the event. The International Mixed Martial Arts Federation and the Bulgarian Mixed Martial Arts Federation (BULMMAF) decline all responsibility.

It is the responsibility of the National Federation to ensure that in addition to their normal insurance they have sufficient insurance in place to cover any COVID-19-related costs. The organiser of the event and the IMMAF accept no liability for any claims relating to cancellation of the event due to COVID-19 or medical costs for any COVID-19 related illness that may affect a National Federation delegation member during the event.

25. Media

Journalists can apply for media accreditation by sending their requests directly to the organiser at isobel.carnwath@immaf.org.

When journalists are travelling as part of a National Federation Team please indicate this, so they may be treated as part of your party.

Policy for photography at youth events can be downloaded here –

<https://immaf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/IMMAF-Youth-Photography-Policy.pdf>

26. Athlete Media Obligations

a) Television

Competitors are expected to complete television interviews and photograph sessions for IMMAF's production team, if requested. Team Leaders or the competitor them self will be notified in advance if an athlete's attendance is required.

Official television interviews will be in English, so please arrange for a person to translate for your athlete if needed.

b) IMMAF Media Team

Every day after a match, some competitors may be requested to attend media interviews following their post-fight medical examination. On days where Anti-doping testing takes place, the interview will be conducted following the post-fight medical and before the Anti-doping testing. An IMMAF official will be responsible for notifying competitors of IMMAF interview requests and escorting competitors from the competition area to their post-fight medical and onto their media interview. Competitors may wear their own sponsor apparel for the media interviews.

27. Medals Ceremony

During the Finals, competition medallists will participate in a podium medals ceremony.

The Dress Code for competitors during the medal's ceremony is as follows:

- 1) Green Hill competition rash guard and shorts *or* National Team uniform
- 2) The only flags or banners that may be carried are National Flags. No religious or political symbols are allowed.

Casual or street wear will not be permitted on the podium.

Athletes will also be required to be in the designated seating for medallists' at least five minutes before their medal presentation.

28. Visa

Federations are responsible for obtaining their own visas to enter Bulgaria, and all costs related to visas. Please ensure you apply for visas as necessary and with enough time before the event based on the guidelines issued for your country.

Some nations need to obtain visas through Bulgarian Embassy/Consulate, some can get e-visas. Other nations can get visa on arrival and some do not need visas.

<https://www.mfa.bg/en/services-travel/consular-services/travel-bulgaria/visa-bulgaria>