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I am going to technique you!:
**The Re-invention of Inuit (Eskimo)
Traditional Wrestling in Modern Athletics**

Inuit-style wrestling has traditionally been a contest of strength, characterized by a few formalized rules while involving all the members of the group without reference to age, weight, or performance division. A contest could be organized at any given moment, without organizational or other requirements. Participation was considered to be more important than winning, and the symbolic importance attached to superior performance rarely outlasted a given occasion.

The far-reaching changes occurring in Inuit culture over the last eighty years have led to the more or less complete disappearance of the traditional form. Attempts are now underway to revive the old form within the context of the Arctic Winter Games, the biggest athletic meet of the Arctic and Sub-Arctic. Involving teams from Siberia, Alaska, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Greenland, the Arctic Winter Games are modeled on the performance orientation and the organizational criteria of the Olympic Games, but feature traditional Inuit and Athapaskan games in addition to modern sports. Participants are divided into age, weight or performance groups, depending on the requirements of the discipline. Gold, silver, and bronze ulus (traditional Inuit women's knives) that are awarded to the top-three finishers in each event, reinforce the symbolic importance of superior performance, and of winning.

The organizers who revive Inuit-style wrestling within the performance of orientation of an event such as the Arctic Winter Games, are required to develop an organizational format and schedule that is 'meaningful' according to the event's

performance orientation, while at the same time maintaining a point of reference to the traditional culture practice. The latter objective in particular requires that the performative logic of Inuit-style wrestling be distinguished from that of Olympic (Greco-Roman and free-style) wrestling.

The paper examines the tensions generated at the point of articulation of traditional cultural with modern athletic practice. A brief historical overview of the position of wrestling in traditional Inuit culture is complemented by an analysis of the organizational format and performative logic evident in Inuit-style wrestling within the context of the Arctic Winter Games. It is argued that while the organizational format provides a point of reference to the traditional culture, the emphasis on performance indicated by the awarding of medals (ulus) positions the event more clearly within the field of modern sports than the traditional culture.