

Born in Russia, Elena moved to the United States as a young girl and grew up in Western Massachusetts, ultimately becoming an American citizen. Through her brothers, she got involved in wrestling in high school, and became one of the top young women in the sport. She went directly to the U.S. Olympic Training Center after high school, to train with National Coach Terry Steiner and Assistant National Coach Izzy Izboinikov. By 2008, she made her first U.S. World Team. The 2010 year was her best ever. She won U.S. National and U.S. World Team Trials titles to reclaim her No. 1 spot in the nation. At the World Championships, held in her native Russia, she captured a silver medal at 63 kg, the top finish of any American wrestler, regardless of style. A few weeks later, she won a University World Championships gold medal as the best college-age wrestler in the world. She also won a Pan American Championships title in 2010, as the top wrestler in the continent.

Elena often returns to her home in Western Massachusetts and volunteers time with the wrestling community in the region. She provides free wrestling clinics for youth and serves as a mentor and role model for the athletes and their coaches.