



WAKO

CHAPTER 1 - GENERAL RULES



Chapter 1. General rules

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Article 1. Definition of kickboxing sport

KICKBOXING is modern contact fighting sport, which includes several clearly defined disciplines:

- POINT FIGHTING (PF),
- LIGHT CONTACT (LC),
- KICK LIGHT (KL),
- FULL CONTACT (FC),
- LOW KICK (LK),
- K1 STYLE (K1)
- MUSICAL FORMS (MF).

Kickboxing disciplines are divided in two main groups based on specific rules applied on each group. Main characteristic which determines group is allowed hand and leg technique, strength of allowed techniques and competition area.

Groups are:

TATAMI DISCIPLINES, include PF, LC, KL, MF where it is allowed to use hand and leg techniques equally with controlled force/contact. The basic intention of kickboxer is to defeat his opponent by scoring more points than his/her opponent. Fighting area is called TATAMI.

FORMS is a specific group of tatami disciplines where kickboxers are performing kickboxing techniques with or without music where his intention is to show fight with imaginary opponent. Performing area is called TATAMI.

RING DISCIPLINES, include FC, LK, K1 where it is allowed to use hand and leg technique equally with the full power. Basic intention of kickboxer in these disciplines is to defeat his opponent by stoppage or winning more points. Fighting area is called RING.

Article 2. Definitions

Article 2.1. Participants in kickboxing sports

All participants in kickboxing must act with honour, fair play, respect and honest and in accordance with these rules and the WAKO Statutes and By Laws as adapted time to time.

Participants in kickboxing sports are recognized as a: kickboxer, coach, referee and official

Article 2.1.1. Kickboxer

KICKBOXER is an athlete who practice and participated in kickboxing competitions respecting and behaving in accordance with these rules.

Article 2.1.1.1. Registration of kickboxers

Kickboxer must be registered in WAKO recognized national federations. Only registered kickboxers are allowed to participate in any WAKO kickboxing competitions.

For competitions kickboxer must be in possession of valid medical certificate stating "fit to fight", not older than 1 year.

Article 2.1.1.2. Age categories

Kickboxers are divided in age and weight categories which are defined in Ring General Rules and Tatami General Rules.

Age is determined by the **year of birth**.

Legitimizing - positive proof of age will be required at all championships (passport or ID-card).

Age categories are:

CHILDREN	(CH)	(boys and girls)
YOUNGER CADETS	(YC)	(boys and girls)
OLDER CADETS	(OC)	(boys and girls)
JUNIORS	(J)	(male and female)
YOUNGER JUNIORS	(YJ)	(male and female)
OLDER JUNIORS	(OJ)	(male and female)
SENIORS	(S)	(male and female)
MASTER CLASS (VETERANS)	(V)	(male and female)

CHILDREN category (CH): 7,8 and 9 years old. the age group is determined by the year of birth. In the year of the competition, the kickboxer can be 7, 8 and 9 years old. Children can participate in tatami disciplines point fighting and musical forms.

YOUNGER CADETS Category (YC): 10, 11 and 12 years old. The age group is determined by the year of birth. In the year of the competition, the kickboxer can be 10, 11 and 12 years old. Younger cadets can participate in tatami disciplines point fighting and musical forms.

OLDER CADETS Category (OC): 13, 14 and 15 years old. The age group is determined by the year of birth. In the year of the competition, the kickboxer can be 13, 14 and 15 years old. Older cadets can participate in tatami disciplines point fighting, light contact, kick light and musical forms.

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JUNIORS Category (J): 16, 17 and 18 years old. The age group is determined by the year of birth. In the year of the competition, the kickboxer can be 16, 17 and 18 years old. Juniors can participate in tatami disciplines point fighting, light contact, kick light and musical forms.

YOUNGER JUNIORS category (YJ): 15 and 16 years old. The age group is determined by the year of birth. In the year of the competition, the kickboxer can be 15 and 16 years old. Younger juniors can participate in ring disciplines: full contact, low kick and K1 Style

OLDER JUNIORS category (OJ): 17 and 18 years old. The age group is determined by the year of birth. In the year of the competition, the kickboxer can be 17 and 18 years old. Older juniors can participate in ring disciplines: full contact, low kick and K-1 Style

SENIORS category (S): 19 to 40 years old. The age group is determined by the year of birth. In the year of the competition, the kickboxer can be from 19 to 40 years old. Seniors can participate in all kickboxing disciplines.

MASTER CLASS (VETERANS) category (V): 41 to 55 years old. The age group is determined by the year of birth. In the year of the competition, the kickboxer can be from 41 to 55 years old. Master class (veterans) can participate in tatami disciplines: point fighting, light contact and kick light

Clarifications and exceptions

- Children, younger cadets and older cadets can compete only in their age categories.
- Juniors (in tatami disciplines) and older juniors (in ring disciplines) can compete in senior categories only if kickboxer is already 18 years old
- If an older junior and junior competes at World or Continental Championships in senior category than kickboxer cannot go back competing as older junior or junior again and must stay within the senior categories going forward at all world and continental championships.
- Older junior and junior who has competed as a senior at World or Continental championship can continue to compete as a junior in all other international events, excluding the above.
- A children, younger cadets, older cadets or juniors can only participate within a team in the age category applicable to him as an individual.
- If any kickboxer in Master class (Veterans) category would like to fight in senior category kickboxer must be in possession of all medical check-up and certification declaring he's fit to fight and ask for a special authorization released by WAKO HQ to participate at World and Continental Championships and World Cups. For other competitions he/she has to have a special authorization released by National federation.
- Kickboxers participate at World and Continental Cups and other open international and national tournaments can move between categories / weight classes (maximum one above) as long as it is a division above kickboxer's weight.

Article 2.1.1.3. Beginners

- Beginners are young kickboxers who have been training kickboxing for less than 1 year, have a maximum of 5 participations in cups and open tournaments and has never competed in regular categories.
- Cups and open tournaments can also host competitions for beginners. Not at championships (World, Continental and National Championships).
- If during the fight a young kickboxer is shown to have significantly greater knowledge and skills, and in order to protect the opponent, the Central Referee may call all judges, the Chief referee of the tatami and the Supervisor and decide by majority decision whether a competitor is a beginner or not.
- If a majority decides that a competitor is not a beginner, he or she will be disqualified.

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Article 2.1.1.4. Nationality of kickboxer

- At the World and Continental Championships, kickboxers must represent nationality for the country they represent, showing the official personal identity document (passport or ID or official residence card of permanent residence in the country they want to represent).
- Under special circumstances a kickboxer who already represented one national team on continental or world championships in any age category can change representation to another national team one time but the requirements for that is:
 - Official national confirmation of permanent residence in their new country.
 - The change of representation must be applied on to WAKO HQ, explaining the reason for the change at least one month in advance of the event
 - There must be a written agreement formal acceptance by the original country of origin.
 - Any speculation for such representation will not be allowed. Such can be punished for the kickboxer as well as for the national federation of new country.
 - Kickboxer cannot switch back again and participate for his origin or any other country in the future.
 - A kickboxer having two passports from different countries can only make a switch one time.
 - If kickboxer who already represented national team changing representation, it must be done according to a written agreement between the countries and applied to WAKO HQ for Written Approval.
 - At weigh-in official personal identity document must be shown to the registration/weigh-in officials in charge.
 - In Continental Championships competitors from other continents are not allowed to participate.

Article 2.1.1.5. Health and security of kickboxers

- WAKO is an official member of WADA, having fully adopted the World Anti-Doping Code. Every kickboxer, coach and official is obliged to understand, adapt and respect the WADA Code both in and out of competition.
- Any Kickboxer refusing to submit to a medical examination or anti-doping test before or after a fight, can be immediately disqualified or suspended pending full hearing. The same will occur in the case of an official encouraging such a refusal.
- Athletes who are chosen to be part of the WAKO Registered Testing Pool (RTP) are required to follow the instructions of WAKO Anti-doping Director and related service providers, which include the filling out the Competition Whereabouts form and forward it to the Anti-doping Director. Failure to comply will as a result of automatic suspension of their ranking and will lead to consequences as per the Code
- WAKO allow a maximum of 2 fights per day, during Continental or World Championships, World Cups and A/B/C Class events. in all ring sports, while there is no limited number of fights in the Tatami sports.
- A kickboxer will be allowed to fight in an International competition only after having been declared fit for it by a appointed doctor, recognized by the Federation under whose name the competition takes place, or by the Medical Committee of WAKO during Continental and World Championships.
- A medical physical examination is mandatory for each kickboxer
- Each kickboxer to participate in an international tournament must have an official statement from kickboxer's National Federation, attesting that kickboxer passed a pre-participation screening following kickboxer's national laws and WAKO Medical Rules and kickboxer is fit to take part to the current WAKO event. The “WAKO Medical Certification” form must be used for this purpose (see Appendix 19). This statement must be written in ENGLISH (no other languages are accepted), with the signature and stamp of both the Doctor appointed by

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kickboxer's National Federation (in accordance with National laws) and the President and/or Secretary General of kickboxer's National Federation and must be individual (a list of fit athletes will not be accepted). Each kickboxer must give personal certificate to the visiting doctor after the weigh-in. The examining doctor will look after the validity and will decide on the appropriateness of each certificate. To participate in national championships and tournaments he must have a medical certificate issued according to national medical law and rules.

- The minimum exams and instrumental ascertainment for the release of WAKO Medical certificate are reported in the Appendix section.
- WAKO Medical certificate is valid for one year only. If the kickboxer has sustained a concussion, a serious injury, KO or TKO since the last medical certificate was issued, a new certificate is necessary.
- Each kickboxer to participate in an international tournament has to fill the “WAKO Medical Questionnaire”, about kickboxer's medical history, and the “WAKO Liability Waiver” form.
- Any female kickboxer (14 year and older) must provide a “WAKO Non-pregnancy Declaration” to the visiting doctor after the weigh-in using the form in the Appendix 23.
- Any kickboxer who has dental brace must provide a "WAKO Dental Brace Certificate", issued by kickboxer's orthodontic surgeon who consider that kickboxer will be at no more risk than any other person taking part in kickboxing competitions in accordance with the WAKO rules.
- Without these forms (“WAKO Medical Certificate”, “WAKO Health Questionnaire”, “WAKO Liability Waiver”, for female kickboxers “WAKO Non-pregnancy Declaration”, and for kickboxer who has dental brace "WAKO Dental Brace Certificate") adequately filled, the athlete is not allowed to compete.
- Certificates and Medical forms can be submitted online in advance, in case WAKO has adopted a dedicated web-based computer system.
- A kickboxer will not be allowed to take part in a fight if they have a bandage on a wound, a cut, an injury, an ulceration, a laceration or blood flowing on the head or face, nose and ears included. They may be allowed to fight if the ulceration is protected by Collodion. This decision will be made by the doctor who examines the kickboxer on the day of the competition
- WAKO refers to its Medical Procedures and Health Security Guidelines that takes care of:
 - Introduction
 - Anti-Doping
 - Weight-Reduction and Nutrition Methods
 - Medical Fitness Certificate - Examinations
 - Medical Check before competitions
 - Medical Suspensions
 - Medical Personnel
 - Health Security at competitions
- An appointed doctor (qualified doctor with recognized experience in combat sports) must be present during and throughout the competition and must not leave their place before the end of the last fight or before the inspection of kickboxers who took part in it.
- In a tournament there must be a minimum of two ambulance personnel on site
- If a female Muslim declares to participate in any WAKO competition respecting and in accordance with her religion, must give their written consent to WAKO that in case of emergency (injuries, cuts etc.); the medical staff on duty can proceed to any urgent and deemed necessary examination of the individual if needed.

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Article 2.1.2. Coaches

- Coach is kickboxing expert who is educated and appropriately licensed for the sport of kickboxing. To participate in World and Continental championships and World cups, coach have to be licensed by WAKO IF. To participate in other international and national championships and kickboxing tournaments coach have to be licensed by national federation according national law and rules.
- Education and licencing are provided in front of World / Continental Championships and Cups by WAKO IF
- The purpose of seminars organized and leaded by Coach committee chairman and members is to teach, improve, share and spread knowledge, experiences and informing on newest developments in kickboxing sport.
- The seminars will deal with each kickboxing discipline according to actual WAKO rules to make sure that all coaches work in way which is important for the WAKO development
- Seminar should contain:
 - Verbal, video, PPT or any other way of introduction, presentation and explanations basic on development of kickboxing sport.
 - Verbal explanation of main issues that normal causes problem in order to harmonize the coaches.
 - Written tests/exams.
 - Registration.
- All coaches have to be registered on WAKO Membership system and duly licenced to coach
- Coaches must wear the national team / club's track suit, long trousers and training shoes.
- Coach is obliged to bring to the fighting area (ring or tatami): towel, plastic bottle of water to be used for drinking and mouth wash only. No other type of water bottle is permitted at fighting area (tatami or ring) for use by the kickboxers or coaches (glass bottle is forbidden).
- It is not allowed to carry bags or backpack, but it is allowed to carry a small document bag around the waist
- It is not allowed to wear cap or hat, sleeveless shirts, shorts, and slippers
- It is not allowed to wear clothes or parts of clothing from any other sports as well as clothing marked with logos or signs of other sports, or the characteristic uniform of any other sport
- A coach must obey the following rules during the fight:
 - Kickboxer must have one or maximum two coaches in his corner to assist him during the fight
 - They must be 18+ years old.
 - Only one coach may get into the fighting area.
 - Coach is not allowed to entering into ring or on tatami before or during the fight. Only during the breaks.
 - The coach must remain seated at all times on the chair provided and must not interfere or disrupt with the smooth running of the fight by gesture or deed. It's strictly prohibited to put arms on the platform, to stand up or enter the fighting are, including even the stairs, during the fight.
 - If the coach notices a material mistake of the Central Referee, an mistake in measuring time or recording points and results, the coach has the right to stand up and show to the Central Referee a T sign with his palms (Time) and request the break of the fight and correction of the material mistake. The coach has the right to request a break and correction of a material mistake 2 (TWO) times in one fight. The coach has no right to request a change in the Central referee's or Judge's decision which is not a material mistake. If the coach complains or comment to the Central referee's or Judges decision he will be warned.
 - Coach can abandon the fight on behalf of his kickboxer by tossing the towel into the fighting area, if the kickboxer is in trouble, except while the Central referee is counting a kickboxer.
 - The coach cannot make any comment to a referee or Judge on or off the competition area during

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- or after the fight/competition.
- Coach can give short advice and encouragement to the kickboxer during the round but not loudly or yelling
 - During the fight the coach can't be on the ring platform or on the tatami. If the coach during fight steps on the tatami or enters the ring, coach will be disqualified from this fight
 - Coach must, before each round, remove stools, towels, buckets, etc.
 - Any coach or official is not allowed to encouraging or prompting the spectators to give signs of advice or encouragement to a kickboxer during a round. If behaving like this coach or official can be suspended from their function in the competition in course.
 - A coach who violates the rules may receive a warning or be disqualified by the Central referee for bad behaviour and prevented from coaching during the fight, day or whole event, following consultation and agreement of the Technical committee of the competition
- It is not allowed to fight without a coach. If they are removed by the referee, they must be replaced in two minutes.

Article 2.1.2.1. Coaches' behavior

- The Central referee after two verbal warnings has right to disqualified from the fight the coach who does not obey his orders following a majority decision of the judges and supervisor.
- In case that disqualified coach continues with violation of rules, act aggressive towards officials, other coaches, kickboxers or spectators, Chief referee has right to disqualified him for all fighting day of competition. In such a case, the Chief referee must initiate disciplinary procedure.
- In case that coach disqualification is for whole day or the entire tournament, Chief referee of this fighting area must inform against coach to the WAKO HQ in written form, and the office must carry out the procedure in accordance with the applicable regulations. Disciplinary committee will prosecute such a case.

Article 2.1.3. Referees and judges - general

- REFEREE is kickboxing educated and licensed official whose basic task is to implement these rules during kickboxing competitions.
- It is MANDATORY for referees and judges to participate in international kickboxing championships and tournaments to speak a minimum of English to communicate during the championships.
- English is the official language of WAKO and its referees in all international kickboxing championships and tournaments. In competitions at national or local level, the official language of the national federation may be used in official communication.
- All International referees (A/B) Class must have a good capability of speaking and reading English.
- Before, during and after their work on any kickboxing tournaments referees and judges will respect Referees' Code of Conduct and all rules of WAKO IF

Age limit for referees and judges

The official age for officiating at WAKO title tournaments as Central referee or Judge has to be 21 years minimum. There is no age limit for WAKO Referees and Judges as long as they are medically fit and healthy and can perform their duties on tatami or in the ring.

Article 2.1.3.1. Supervisor

- Supervisor is named by Chairman of WAKO Referee Committee for each international WAKO competition among referee committee members or the best referees

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- Supervisor's main goal is to supervise work of observers and chief referees and to ensure that competition is conducted in accordance to WAKO Rules.
- Supervisor is the member of tournament Appeal protest committee.
- In the event of a formal protest, if the Supervisor is from a country from which one of the fighters whose protest was protested is excluded from resolving the protest and will be replaced by another member of Referee Committee.

Article 2.1.3.2. Observer

- Observer is named by Chairman of WAKO Referee Committee for two or more fighting areas on each international WAKO competitions
- Observer's main goal is to supervise work of chief referees on fighting areas that are under his responsibilities and to ensure that competition on that areas is conducted in accordance to WAKO Rules.
- Observer is the member of tournament Appeal protest committee.
- In the event of a formal protest, if the Observer is from a country from which one of the fighters whose protest was protested is excluded from resolving the protest and will be replaced by another member of Referee Committee.

Article 2.1.3.3. Chief referee

- The Chief referee on WAKO World and continental championships and World and Continental cups is named by WAKO Referee Committee among the referees for each fighting area. On the other kickboxing tournaments Chief referees is named by organizer national federation's chief referee.
- His main goal is to:
 - organize work of Central referees and Judges making sure that all activities are according WAKO Rules.
 - organize the Central referees and judges according to the nationalities of kickboxers and to observe every single fight in order to be ready to educate referees and judges in case of mistakes or to be able to handle protests. They can alternate their role.
 - responsible for the correct compilation of the draw list with results, and at the end they will sign the draw list and give it to the ring and tatami coordinators.
- Chief referee is the member of tournament Appeal protest committee
- In case of protests, they must follow procedures and they make a first-level decision. If the protester is not satisfied with their decision, the Chief Referee will explain all details of the protest to the tournament Appeal protest committee, who make a final decision.
- In the event of a formal protest, if the Chief referee is from a country from which one of the fighters whose protest was protested is excluded from resolving the protest and will be replaced by a Chief referee from another fighting area.
- Chief referee supervises Central referees and judges and can change a Central referee's decision only in case of a "material mistake".
- In musical forms the Chief Referee will give the signal to competitors to start performing and they coordinate the work of other judges.
- Chief referee must speak fluently English.

Article 2.1.3.4. Central referees

- Central referee is named by chief referee for each fight on the tatami or in the ring
- The main goal of the central referee is to ensure that the fight is conducted in accordance with WAKO Rules and with the maximum safety of both kickboxers.

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- Only the Chief referee and the Supervisor / Observer can change a Central referee's decision only in case of "material mistake"

Article 2.1.3.5. Judges

- Judge is named by chief referee for each fight on the tatami or in the ring
- The main goal of the judge is to score separately points achieved by both kickboxers during the fight
- Judge scores only what he sees.
- Only the Chief Referee and the Supervisor / Observer can change a judge's decision if he confirm he has made a mistake and switched the score.

Article 2.1.3.6. Timekeeper

- Time keeper is named by Chief referee for each fight on the tatami or in the ring
- The main goal of time keeper is to measure the fight time (active fighting time with breaks, the start and stop of the fight, medical time, walk over time), in accordance to the WAKO rules.
- He will be seated at fighting area (ring or tatami) central table.
- Ten seconds before the beginning of each round, he will give the order "Seconds out."
- He will give the signal for the beginning of the round by raising the hand.
- He will give the signal for the end of each round by ringing the gong or by throwing pad in side of the fighting area (ring or tatami).
- He will announce the number of the round, before it starts.
- He will stop the measuring the time of the fight temporarily, when asked to do so by the Central referee.
- He will keep track of extra time with a watch or a stop watch.
- If, at the end of a round in the ring disciplines, a kickboxer is on the floor, and the Central referee is counting him out, the gong must ring at the end of two minutes, even if Central referee must finish counting.

Article 2.1.3.7 Scorekeeper

- Score keeper is named by Chief referee for each fight on the tatami or in the ring
- Main goal of score keeper is to records all scores, warnings and penalties given by the Central referee
- In addition to entering the data into a computer scoring system, the score keeper records the results and marks the winner on the draw sheets or on a fighting schedule sheet.
- One of the roles of scorekeeper is a role of announcer for fighting area.

Article 2.1.3.8. Announcer

- Before the fight they call the kickboxers to the Ring or on Tatami. First, he calls the kickboxer in the red corner and after he calls the kickboxer in the blue corner.
- At championships and cups, the announcer will call the next two kickboxers to prepare for the next fight.
- After calling the kickboxer three time, and they do not arrive at the ring / tatami, he will give the order for the time keeper to start the timer.
- If the kickboxer does not arrive within the two (2) minutes, the Chief referee will give a sign to the Central referee and announcer who will announce the winner of fight by opponent's WO.
- In musical forms competitions, they will read loudly each mark of judges.
- Announcer on the fighting area - tatami / ring will be scorekeeper.

Article 2.1.3.9. Kick counter

- Kick counter is named by Chief referee for each full contact fight in the ring
- Kick counter is mandatory in all official WAKO authorized competitions in full contact discipline

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- A kick-counter is a Judge who sits in neutral ring corners (when the electronic scoring system is not used) or near the Time Keeper (when the electronic system is used). The coaches must be able to see the counter, if the electronic scoring system is not used.
- Main goal of Kick counter is to register valid kicks during each round of full contact fight
- Kick counter reports to the Central referee after every round number of missing kicks of each kickboxer.
- It is mandatory that the kick-counter uses a board with visible red and blue numbers (when the electronic system is not used).

Article 2.1.3.10. Referees and judges - general

- Each fight on an international championships and kickboxing tournaments is scored by three international Judges (except PF where there is one Central referee and two judges).
- To ensure neutrality, the Central referees and the three Judges for each fight will be selected by the Chief referee with overall responsibility of the fighting area, according to the following rules:
 - In no way may two of the Judges / Central referees of the same fight come from the same country on WAKO World and continental championships and World and continental cups unless it is due to an uncontrollable reason.
- The three Judges will be seated away from the spectators and close to the fighting area.
- Positions of each of three Judges must be suitable in order to allowed them to have clear vision of the fighting area.
- In PF the Central Referee and two judges with their position in the triangle ensure that at least two of them clearly see the performance of the technique in the fight.
- The rest of the judges should be seated in barrier of a distance from the fighting area, so they don't have any possibility to influence the ongoing fight, if something happens. The Chief Referee and Supervisor must solve the issue without influence of the judges who are not involved in the fight.
- All Judges and Referees should undergo, in their own countries, a basic medical test before officiating in any official WAKO Championships. Their valid medical certificate should be brought with them during Championships and shown on demand to the Chief referee.
- Judges must use electronic point system to count the scoring points while on duty.
- Judges / referees must attend the pre agreed WAKO referee international academy / seminars / camp, and minimum one World cup before they will be allowed to officiate in a World or Continental Championships that year (WAKO A Class Events).
- Their referees' license / card must be renewed every two years.
- To ensure neutrality, the Central referees and the three Judges for each fight will be selected by the Chief referee with overall responsibility of the fighting area, according to the following rules:
 - In no way may two of the Judges / Central referees of the same fight come from the same country unless it is due to an uncontrollable reason.
- For international fights between the teams of two or more National Federation / Associations, a fight could be supervised according to an agreement between the official representatives of the Federation /Associations in question, provided that the agreement does not go beyond WAKO Rules.
- Persons in charge of the refereeing or judging of a fight or a series of fights, will not at any moment of the fight (or fights) be allowed to act as a manager, trainer, coach or second of a kickboxer or team of kickboxers taking part in a fight, nor act as an official in a fight in which a kickboxer from his country participates.
- In case that Judge / Referee does not respect WAKO rules and commits serious mistakes in performing his duty can be suspended and replaced during the fight by chief referee. His position will be taken by next available Judge / Referee upon the decision of chief referee.

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Article 2.1.3.11. Referees and judges - uniforms

- The Referee and the Judges should be dressed in the following manner:
 - Navy-blue jacket with emblem of WAKO
 - Only a small WAKO badge is allowed on the lapel of the jacket
 - White WAKO shirt with short sleeves
 - WAKO bow tie (judges and central referees) or WAKO tie (chief referees and supervisors)
 - Black trousers without turn-ups,
 - Dark blue or black socks.
 - Black gym shoes without laces, heels and logos of any colour, with the exception of WAKO logo. (See appendix 7)
- His sight must be at least 6 dioptic per eye.
- A Central referee is not allowed to wear glasses, but he may wear soft contact lenses only.
- Spectacles/glasses is allowed for Judges / table officials only (not judges in point fighting fights).

Article 2.1.4. Referees and Judges - duties and responsibilities

Article 2.1.4.1. Central referee

The Central referee must:

- Check the mouth guards.
- Check the right positions of Judges before the fight.
- Make sure that a weakened kickboxer does not suffer unjust and unnecessary blows.
- They announce the winner by electronic scoring after the command of the Chief referee.
- In case of using scoring paper, at the end of the fight, gather and check the scoring papers of the three Judges.
- After verification, they must hand them to the Chief referee and announce the winner following command of Chief referee

Article 2.1.4.2. Central referee commands

Central referee use following commands:

- **SHAKE HANDS** - this command Central referee use at the beginning of the fight to give an order to kickboxers to touch the gloves and show respect to each other.
- **FIGHT** - this command Central referee use at the beginning of the fight in order to start fight and each time in order to continue fight.
- **BREAKE** - this command Central referee use to break a body to body position, after which each kickboxer must make one step back before continuing the fight.
- **STOP** - this command Central referee use to order the kickboxer to stop fighting
- **STOP TIME** - this command Central referee use to give order to time keeper to stop measuring active time of the fight.
 - Forming the letter **T** with hands, to give order for time keeper to stop the clock until referee says command **FIGHT**. When the central referee says **STOP TIME**, he must say the reason why he stopped the clock.

Central referee will give the order **STOP TIME** on these occasions:

- When he gives **official warning** to a kickboxer (opponent must immediately go to the neutral corner)
- When a kickboxer asks for stoppage of time by rising right hand (opponent must immediately go to the neutral corner)
- Wherever the fight is stopped, it must restart with both competitors approximately in the same positions (on tatami) or in centre (on ring).
- When sees it's necessary to correct a kickboxer's equipment or uniform

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- When sees that a kickboxer is injured (maximum time for doctor's intervention is 2 minutes for each kickboxer).
- To resume the fight, Central referee give the command “**TIME**” and then “**FIGHT**”.
- If the Central referee feels a kickboxer is using time-stops to rest or to prevent his opponent from gaining advantage, a warning will be given by the central referee and the kickboxer may be following discussion with judges, disqualified for delaying the fight or refusing to fight.
- If a Central referee (after having so decided by majority decision with the three Judges) disqualifies a kickboxer or stops the fight, they must first indicate to the Chief of the Ring / Tatami the kickboxer who has been disqualified and give the reasons for stopping the fight, so that the Chief of the Ring / Tatami can inform the announcer, who will then, make a public announcement.
- In order not to disturb a close fight, the Central referee should not stand in the way or break in too early. He must indicate to the kickboxer, by appropriate signs or gestures, any violation of the regulations.
- In case of one or both kickboxers are deaf, the Central referee can use a touch by hand on the shoulders or on the arm to “stop” or “break” the fight.

Article 2.1.4.3. Central referee's power

The Central referee has the power to:

- Stop a fight at any moment due to health and safety reasons, if he finds that it is too one-sided.
- Stop a fight at any moment if one of the kickboxers has received an unauthorized blow or is wounded, or if he considers a kickboxer unable to continue.
- Stop a fight at any moment if he finds the kickboxer behaving "unsportsmanlike". In such a case, Central referee can disqualify such kickboxer.
- Warn a kickboxer or stop the fight and give a penalty to a kickboxer for an offence.
- Warn, penalise or even disqualify a coach or a second who has broken the regulations or does not obey his orders.
- Disqualify, with or without a warning, a kickboxer who has committed an offence.

Article 2.1.4.4. Judge's duties

- Judge is responsible for checking the uniform and equipment of kickboxers before the fight
- Judge 1 (red) and Judge 3 (blue) check the safety equipment and clothes of the kickboxers before entering the ring / tatami. Judges check hand wraps and gloves before kickboxers come into the ring / tatami with the gloves. The Central referee is obliged to check only mouth guards.

Article 2.1.5. Officials

- OFFICIALS on each WAKO competition are all other persons which are involved in kickboxing sports, national and international federations and other kickboxing sport organizations.
- All Officials on championships and cups are WAKO Officials. They are not Officials of their own countries or federations. They must be completely neutral. At all times during championships they represent WAKO. They must show a positive, honest attitude and fair play to everyone.
- It is NOT allowed to change to their role from official to coach or competitor during the same championship.
- WAKO Officials are following persons:

Article 2.1.5.1. VIP

- WAKO IF / WAKO Continental president
- Members of WAKO IF / WAKO Continental Board of directors
- Presidents of WAKO recognized national kickboxing federations or his representative
- Special guests

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- VIPs must remain in the VIP area and not be present at the side of a ring or tatami, when a match is taking place, to do so could lead to unwarranted and inappropriate pressures on officials.

Article 2.1.5.2. Organizing committee

Chairman of committee

- Chairman of WAKO Organizing committee is WAKO President
- Chairman will decide who, when and where members of Organizing committee will be present on WAKO World and Continental Championships and World Cups.

Ring and tatami coordinators

- Coordinators are responsible for smooth running of competition on fighting areas which are their responsibilities (ring or tatami)
- They are in charge of registration, seeding, draw procedures.
- They prepare and verify daily schedules (which is signed off by Chairman of Organizing Committee)
- They are responsible for verifying all competition results and reports

Arena coordinator

- Arena coordinator is member of Organizing committee
- His main duty is to set up the arena, prepare hardware for electronic scoring system, prepare awarding ceremony podium and set up
- Ensure the Arena and field of play is suitable prepared and ready each day.

Security officer

- Security officer is a member of Organizing committee
- His main duty is to supervise and coordinate all activities of LOC's security staff who will be under their direct control/
- He is named by Chairman of Organizing committee as a contact person with local police and other security authorities

Media officer

- Media officer is a member of Organizing Committee appointed for each World and continental championships by Chairman of Organizing Committee and approved by Chairman of Media Committee
- Their main duties and responsibilities are publishing posts, articles, photos and short videos on social medias (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Flickr and others) during the competitions where he is nominated with purpose of increasing the publicity of competition, WAKO and kickboxing as sport
- He is also responsible for preparing reports in form of article for publishing on official web page
- They are responsible for compiling the media report post competition

Streaming Media officer - live broadcasting

- Streaming Media officer responsible for live broadcasting and video recording is member of Organizing committee.
- His main duty is to organize live streaming of competitions on all fighting areas during all daily program, opening ceremony and award ceremony to WAKO.TV, YouTube and WAKO Facebook page.
- He is also responsible to prepare post production and upload all video material after the World and continental championships, World and continental cups to WAKO official video channel (YouTube)

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Administrator - Electronic scoring system staff

- Is appointed by the Chairman of the Organising Committee
- The Administrator is responsible for collecting all registration material and loads data into a computer to prepare draw lists.
- With the Coordinators he makes the draw lists and distributes them to the official tables.
- He collects completed draw lists after fights are finished and transfers the results to the computer.
- He will make an official report of the Championship or Cup and distribute the official report to all representatives of national teams
- He is responsible for upload (web-Facebook) and distribution of official daily schedules, results and all other reports approval made by ring and tatami coordinators and Chairman on the World and Continental championships, World and continental cups.

Article 2.1.5.3. Local organizing committee (LOC) members and staff

Members of Local organizing committee of the World and continental championships, World and continental cups should be:

- Chairman of local organizing committee - coordinator of all local activities in host country, he should be president of WAKO National federation of host country or person appointed by president
- Director Arena Operations
- Director of Security Operations (including Police contact)
- Director Local Staff/Volunteers
- Director Transportation Operations
- Director Accommodation/Hotel Operations
- Director Medical Operations
- Director Anti-Doping Operations

Article 2.1.5.4. Medical team

- Chief doctor on duty
- Paramedic on duty
- Medical technician on duty
- Anti-doping officer
- Medical team must have enough equipment and enough doctors and technicians for safe and quick intervention at all fighting's areas.
- Doctors must have experience in treating kickboxing specific injuries.
- The Promoter is responsible to provide adequate medical team, with ambulance vehicle.
- WAKO Medical Procedures and Health Security Guidelines must be followed.
- Doctor must be ready for immediate intervention on the Referee's call. Before the Referee's call they cannot enter on the tatami or in ring.

Article 2.1.5.5. Others

- Journalists
 - Cameramen
 - Photographers
 - Security staff
- All above mentioned other persons are registered and accredited by LOC

Article 2.2. Competitions

- The basis of all kickboxing competitions is honour, fair play and honest competition.
- Kickboxing competitions are organized with the authorization of WAKO and are subject to these rules and all applicable bylaws.
- No Athlete or national team may register for a World or Continental Championships, if they have not fulfilled their obligations as per the statutes in force at that time, in that year. In the case the event is before the various cut off dates, for payment of fees etc, they must have been complaint the previous year, Vis a vi, annual payment, receipt of all documentation etc.
- All international competitions must follow WAKO rules completely. Competitions at national level can adapt organizational part of rules to national regulations, but the rules of fighting disciplines must be fully respected.
- Results of fights will determine placing and final achievement of kickboxer, club or national team at the competition.
- All WAKO official competitions and official National competitions, amateur fights, prestige or title fights, must apply the WAKO rules in full
- All competitions and fights are on a voluntary basis.
- All kickboxers, coaches, officials, representatives, promoters and members of WAKO organizations must respect WAKO rules and the honour, dignity and moral values of all members, clubs, national federations and WAKO.
- All competitions on World, continental, national and all other levels must promote the development, popularization and rising quality of kickboxing as a sport and WAKO as an organization.
- All WAKO International competitions A/B/C Class must apply with the event application and be pre-approved to be included in the WAKO calendar.
- Prior to inclusion in the WAKO calendar, the promoter must submit a request for consent to organize an international kickboxing competition. The application form can be found in appendix 31
- Consent must be requested for all WAKO international competitions A/B/C Class and Continental Championships. (World championships are approved according to a special procedure)
- Continental championships and A class international tournaments must be requested minimum one year before, other tournaments minimum 6 month before.
- The organizer of the competition is obliged to submit an invitation brochure and a poster for verification and approval to the WAKO Organizing Committee before the announcement in the WAKO calendar and on the official website of WAKO.
- All international competitions must apply the SportData system of registration and processing of results
- International competitions not approved by the WAKO Organizing Committee cannot be included in the WAKO Calendar.
- National federations may not organize international competitions that are not approved and verified by the WAKO Organizing Committee, and any national federations are not allowed to participate in such competitions.
- National federation may be sanctioned for non-compliance with this decision (organization and/or participation in not-approved competitions).

Competitions are:

- World Championships
- World Cups (World Grand Prix Tournaments)
- Continental Championships
- Continental cups
- Regional international championships
- National championships
- National and international open tournaments

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Article 2.2.1. Competition calendar

The WAKO competition calendar will be on the official web site at all times

The WAKO competition calendar will include:

- World and continental championships
- Regional championships and world and continental cups - at least before the end of the previous year of tournaments
- International Open Tournaments of WAKO National federations, a minimum of one year before date of event (National federations are responsible for informing WAKO headquarters of dates and other details about Open tournaments) on the calendar there will also be other official activities such as seminars, meetings, etc.
- All WAKO national federations are responsible for creating their own competition calendar, which must be adjusted to WAKO competition calendar.
- International open tournaments in organization under WAKO national federations cannot be organized within two weeks' other side of a world, continental championships and world cups.

Article 2.2.2. World Championships

- WAKO world championships for all disciplines together are organized every second odd and even years.
- WAKO world championships for seniors and master class (veterans) categories are organized every odd year. Master class - veteran's results are recorded separately from seniors and their medals are not counted in the national team rankings
- WAKO world championships for children, cadets and juniors in all disciplines together are organized every even year.
- World championships for all age categories and in all kickboxing disciplines are organized as follows:
 - Point fighting: children (CH), younger cadets (YC), older cadets (OC), juniors (J), seniors (S), master class (veterans) (V) - male (M) and female (F) division
 - Light contact: older cadets (OC), juniors (J), seniors (S), master class (veterans) (V) - male (M) and female (F) divisions
 - Kick Light: older cadets (OC), juniors (J), seniors (S), master class (veterans) (V) - male (M) and female (F) divisions
 - Forms: children (CH), younger cadets (YC), older cadets (OC), juniors (J), seniors (S), - male (M) and female (F) division
 - Full contact: younger juniors (YJ), older juniors (OY), seniors (S) - male and female divisions
 - Low kick: younger juniors (YJ), older juniors (OY), seniors (S) - male and female divisions
 - K1 Style: younger juniors (YJ), older juniors (OY), seniors (S) - male and female divisions
- In World championships only WAKO recognized national teams can participate
- In senior championships only one member per national team can participate in each weight category in a fighting discipline
- In cadets and junior championships two members of national team can participate in each weight category in a fighting discipline
- For World and continental Championships, a kickboxer can only fight in a division a maximum of one weight above his actual weight class. For example, if he weighs 65.5 kg, he can only fight in -69 kg or -74 kg (this is valid only for kickboxers in the tatami disciplines)
- For World and continental Championships, a kickboxer can only fight in one weight class (if competition in multiple disciplines in tatami)
- A kickboxer in one of the ring sports can only compete in one discipline during the same championships and cannot enter the tatami sports. It's prohibited to make double starts in ring

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sports and mix starts during the championships.

- A kickboxer can compete in point fighting, light contact and kick light during the same championships but cannot enter the ring sports in the same championships
- Organizing Committee must pay special attention if possible, to avoid the start of fight at the same time in two or three disciplines where kickboxer is registered
- In occasion a kickboxer is called for a fight in point fighting, light contact or kick light at the same time, the kickboxer must choose which discipline with immediate response. In practice the fight in which kickboxer cannot participate based on above will be registered as lost by walk over (WO).

Article 2.2.3. Continental Championships

Continental championships for all age categories and in all kickboxing disciplines are the same as for world championships, except:

- WAKO continental championships for all disciplines together are organized every second odd and even years.
- WAKO continental championships for seniors and master class (veterans) categories are organized every even year.
- WAKO continental championships for children, cadets and juniors in all disciplines together are organized every odd year.
- In Continental championships only WAKO recognized national teams may participate
- In Continental championships only WAKO IF approved and fully compliant and up to date countries and therefore national teams may participate.
- Continental championships cannot be open championships for national teams from other continents.

Article 2.2.4. World cups (World Grand Prix)

- Each World Cup must follow the WAKO World Cup Minimum Criteria:
 - Tournament for at Minimum 3 days.
 - Arrival and Weigh-in day before start of fights.
 - Point Fighting, Kick Light and Light Contact – it is recommended 2 x 2 minutes but may be adjusted with approval of technical director WAKO
 - Ring sports 3 x 2 minutes.
 - Daily Weigh-in is mandatory for ring disciplines.
 - Double and Mix starts in ring disciplines are strictly prohibited.
 - Official WAKO referees only.
 - World Cups are only open to WAKO members and their clubs/teams.
- A member of the WAKO Organizing Committee / Technical Committee must be present at all World Cups. Attendance is agreed with Chairman of Organising Committee.
- Every World Cup must agree to appoint a Chief referee of tatami and ring with Referee Committees approval.
- Every World Cup Arena configuration must be approved by WAKO Organizing Committee.
- Every World cup must be organized fully under the WAKO Rules applying the same criteria as for World and Continental championships kickboxer in one of the ring sports can only compete in one discipline during the same championships and cannot enter the tatami sports. It's prohibited to make double starts in ring sports and mix starts during the championships in the ring.
- A kickboxer can compete in point fighting, light contact and kick light during the same championships but cannot enter the ring sports in the same championships
- Organizing Committee must pay special attention to avoid the start of fight at the same time in two or three disciplines where kickboxer is registered

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- Promotor of world cup is allowed to promote additional separate international open tournament at the same time and in the same venue applying criteria for open tournaments, but registrations, results and reports must be separate then for World Cup, and medals, trophies and certificates must be different.
- Participation on world cups is allowed for clubs and for national teams

Article 2.2.5. Continental cups

- Every continental cup must be organized fully under the WAKO IF rules applying the same criteria as for World cups with exception:
 - Continental cup can be organized in less disciplines and less age and weight categories (even in the one discipline), but all categories must be according WAKO Rules

Article 2.2.6. Regional championships

- Every regional championship must be organized fully under the WAKO rules applying the same criteria as for continental cups.
- Participation on regional championships is allowed only for national teams of country member of regional kickboxing federation

Article 2.2.7. National championships

- Every national championship must be organized by WAKO recognized national federation, fully under the WAKO rules applying the minimum of same criteria as for world or continental championships.
- In case that WAKO recognized national federation don't practice some of kickboxing disciplines, it is not mandatory to organize national championships in that discipline.

Article 2.2.8. National and international open tournaments

- Every national and international open tournament must be organized by WAKO recognized national federation, fully under the WAKO rules applying the same criteria as for world or continental cups
- National federation has a right to approve inclusion of additional or mixed age and weight categories (i.e. beginners, amended fight times, under green belt, or other divisions according kickboxer's ability criteria)
- A national and international open tournament should not be open to all clubs of different international organizations. When using WAKO name though, it shall be promoted under WAKO rules only.

Article 2.2.9. International fights

- For tournaments or competitions between two or more nations, the weigh-in will be carried out by a member appointed by the National Federation/Association of the organizing country, with a representative of the participating country or countries present and allowed to verify the weight of each kickboxer.
- The Association/Federation of the country which hosts a "visiting" team will provide it with scales (for the purpose of weight check) and a training area, when the last visitor has arrived in the town where the fight takes place.
- WAKO referees (world, international or national) will referee each fight: two or three judges may equally officiate if necessary.
- Each kickboxer must, before weigh-in, be judged fit for fighting by the doctor appointed by the Chairman of Medical committee or Promotor of event.

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Article 2.2.10. Promoters

- The promoters of all international WAKO events should cooperate and liaise with the president of the national federations in a spirit of cooperation.
- The Promoter of the world championships and world cups shall communicate directly with the WAKO World President on all matters concerning the event.
- The Promoter of the continental championships and continental cups shall communicate directly with the WAKO IF and cc the Continental President on all matters concerning the event.
- The Promoter of the national championships and other open tournaments shall communicate directly with the WAKO National President on all matters concerning the event.

WAKO sanctioning fees of Championships and Cups differ and they are dealt directly by WAKO President in accordance with the decision of the Board of Directors.

Article 2.2.11. Equipment for competitions

Promoters of competition (championships or cups) must provide necessary equipment for normal proceeding of tournament:

- It is mandatory to use Sports Data in all WAKO events, Regional, National and International.
- It is mandatory to use the WAKO IF membership system to register all teams and athletes for all competitions
- Electronic digital or mechanical scales (minimum two)
- Amplifier with sufficient number of microphones for each fighting area.
- Flags and CD with national anthems of each competing national team
- Equipment for cleaning and drying floor
- Copying machine
- Timers for all official tables. Timers must be visible all times for the coaches
- Small pads for each Tatami and Ring (for giving sign that time of round has expired) or gongs for each ring
- Every fighting area must be marked by a number
- For each Tatami a pointer with two big black numbers (from 0 to 30) to display results and 4 small red numbers from 0 to 3 (2 at each side of big numbers) to display warnings or exits.
- An adequate display of current fight number
- An adequate time displays
- The rules also refer to a Tournament Checklist which is produced.

Article 2.2.12. Competition's Trophies

World / Continental Championships

A suitable and high-class reward must be furnished for the following categories:

- Medals: first, second and two third places for all championship's divisions.
- Trophy for all gold medallist. Trophy must be of an acceptable standard befitting the Continental/World status of the event and in accordance to WAKO Organizational requirements
- Trophies for Team competition in Point Fighting.
- These awards shall be decided in the following manner: First place = 3pts; Second place = 2pts; Third place = 1 pt.



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World / continental cups

- Medals: first, second and two third places for all championship's divisions.
- Trophy for all gold medallist. Trophy must be of an acceptable standard befitting the Continental / World status of the event.
- Trophies for Team competition in point fighting.
- These awards shall be decided in the following manner:
First place = 3pts; Second place = 2pts; Third place = 1 pt.

Article 2.2.13. Championship Headquarters

- The promoter shall select a Hotel which will serve as the tournament Headquarters.
- Hotel must be suitable for VIP guests and members of WAKO Organizing committee allowing them easy communication with the venue.
- WAKO has made a tournament checklist to be distributed to the promoters of World and Regional Championships.
- Checklist is defined in WAKO Organizational requirements
- If the promoter has to deviate from this checklist it is the promoters' responsibility to establish contact with WAKO and its Organizing Committee to find best possible solution.
- A tournament Checklist can be changed by the Organizing Committee or by the Board of Directors.

Article 2.2.14. WAKO Representative

- A WAKO representative must be present in all WAKO World and Continental Championships and/or World, Continental and Regional Cups.
- The representative at a tournament can be the WAKO President or a member of the WAKO Board of Directors.
- They are responsible for seeing that all championships or cups are under WAKO rules and that all results will be WAKO official results.
- For each World and continental championship or World and continental cup the WAKO Board or WAKO President will nominate a WAKO Representative.

Article 2.3. Equipment and clothes

Article 2.3.1. Personal safety equipment

- The WAKO Board, together with the Technical Committee must approve all safety equipment.
- Producers of safety equipment must get their products approved by WAKO.
- Safeties to be used in World and Continental Championships must be approved at least 3 months before the tournaments and all members must be duly informed.
- Only WAKO Approved manufacturer's equipment / safeties may be worn or used at WAKO World/ Continental A/B/C class Events.
- Safety equipment must be in accordance with international standards and directives for personal safety equipment

Article 2.3.1.1. Head guard

- Head guard is mandatory in all kickboxing fights in all disciplines except in musical forms.
- Head guard must be made from foam rubber or soft plastics or from compact sponge covered by leather. In fights, head guard which covers the face and head protection which reduces the field of vision is not allowed.
- Head guard must be suitable size in order to prevent removing or turning during the fight
- Head guard must cover the top of forehead, top of head, temples, the upper part of jawbone, ears and back of head.
- Head guard must not obstruct the kickboxers hearing.
- Parts for fixing the head protection cannot be metal or plastic buckle. Velcro for adjusting is allowed under chin and on back of head.

Article 2.3.1.2. Face mask

- In the categories of children and younger cadets face protection is mandatory for point fighting at all official WAKO championships, cups and tournaments.
- Face mask must be suitable size to head guard.
- Face mask is fixed to head guard with self-adhesive Velcro.

Article 2.3.1.3. Teeth protection

- Mouth-guards must be made from soft and pliable rubber-plastic or silicone material.
- Protection on only the upper teeth or on both upper and lower teeth is allowed.
- Mouth-guard must enable free breathing and must be adapted to the competitor's mouth configuration and must not protrude outside the mouth in any way.
- Mouth-guards can be of any colour.
- It is not allowed to use a mouth-guard over tooth correction apparatus (braces, retainers) unless a dentist doctor's certificate allows that.
- If the kickboxer has braces on lower teeth or on both upper and lower teeth they must have a mouth-guard on both upper and lower teeth
- Using tooth protection is mandatory for all fighting disciplines, in all age categories.

Article 2.3.1.4. Gloves

- In every kickboxing discipline is mandatory to use approved gloves.
- Two types of protective gloves are used at kickboxing competitions: point fighting gloves (open palm) and kickboxing gloves for disciplines: light contact, kick light, full contact, low kick and K1 style

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Point fighting gloves

- In point fighting it is mandatory to use gloves with an open palm or open hand and with full cover of the first half of fingers, including the thumb. The gloves make it possible to open and close the hand.
- Gloves must cover hitting area on front and upper side of fist and edge of palm and must cover a minimum of 5 cm above wrist.
- Gloves must be made from soft and compact synthetic foam rubber material covered with original or artificial leather.
- Gloves must be fixed on kickboxer's hand by self-adhesive and adjustable strip over the wrist. Metal or plastic buckles or stripes are not allowed for fixing gloves. Also, any kind of self-adhesive tape is not allowed, except self-adhesive tape made on a cotton base, and this tape can be used only to fix gloves at the wrist.
- The total weight of the glove must be 8 Oz (226 grams).
- The thumb **MUST** be fully attached and fixed to the main body of the glove. If the glove attachment is cut or broken the gloves cannot be used.

Glove Slipping

- Glove slipping is against the rules and creates a warning. If a kickboxer's gloves come off whilst scoring a hand technique, no score will be given, and a warning for slipping the glove will follow (if the glove is pulled off by the opponent, the score remains and no warning given).

Kickboxing gloves

- Gloves are produced from special foam rubber, synthetic, compact and soft material which is covered with genuine or artificial leather. Covered material must be less than half and foam material more than gloves weight.
- Gloves must make it possible for the kickboxer to completely clench his fist and keep his thumb in contact with other fingers.
- Gloves completely cover the kickboxer's fist with separate parts for fingers and thumb. The thumb is connected by a small strong strip to the rest of the glove. This strip keeps the thumb together with the fist to avoid separation of the thumb during punching and injuries to the kickboxer's thumb or to the other kickboxer. If the glove attachment is cut or broken the gloves cannot be used.
- The interior part of gloves covers the bottom part of fingers and palm only with leather and cover a minimum of 5 cm of the wrist.
- Gloves will be fastened by self-adhesive strips at the kickboxer's wrist and the use of self-adhesive cotton-base tape is allowed (plastic or other types of self-adhesive tape are not allowed). Fastening gloves with strips or any kind of buckles is not allowed.
- Inner foam rubber material must cover the front and upper part of the fist, edge of palm and upper and front part of thumb.
- Kickboxing gloves which are used in official WAKO competitions must be 10 Oz (283 grams) weight and the weight must be clearly marked.
- Kickboxing gloves must be in good repair, without any cracks.
- Fastening must be with a self-adhesive strip and gloves must be secured at the wrist.
- Gloves with fastening laces are not allowed.
- The thumb **MUST** be fully attached to the main body of the glove. If the glove attachment is cut or broken the gloves cannot be used.

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Article 2.3.1.5. Hand and foot wraps (bandages)

- Hand wraps are used for wrapping the fist to avoid injuries, not to add force to a strike.
- Using hand wraps is mandatory with kickboxing gloves.
- Hand wraps are 2,5 up to 5 m long and 5 cm wide cotton strips without sharp edges. Can be elastic.
- Hand wraps will be fastened on the upper part of kickboxer's wrists with self-adhesive cotton-base strips; maximum length 15 cm and wide 2 cm.
- Foot wraps are used for wrapping the foot to avoid injuries, not to add force to a strike.
- Using foot wraps is optional in ring disciplines (low kick and K1 Style).
- Foot wraps are 2,5 up to 5 m long and 5 cm wide cotton strips without sharp edges. Can be elastic.
- Foot wraps will be fastened on the upper part of kickboxer's ankle with self-adhesive cotton-base strips; maximum length 15 cm and wide 2 cm (using the tape is not allowed, must be covered by the ankle support to avoid damaging during the fight).

Article 2.3.1.6. Elbow protection

- Elbow pads are made from soft foam-rubber material.
- An elbow pads must partly cover the forearm and upper arm with a protective non-abrasive material.
- Elbow pads are mandatory for point fighting.
- Elbow pads must not be thin (1.5 cm).

Article 2.3.1.7. Breast protection

- Breast protection is mandatory for all female competitors in older cadets, junior and senior categories and is mandatory in all fighting disciplines (point fighting, light contact, kick light, full contact, low kick and K1 style).
- Breast protection is made from hard plastic and can be covered with cotton material.
- Breast protection can be made in one piece and cover all the chest or in two pieces for insertion into bra to cover each breast individually.
- It is worn under the T-shirt or under the top (bodice).

Article 2.3.1.8. Groin protection

- Groin protector is mandatory for all male and female competitors in all disciplines.
- Groin protector is made of hard plastic material and fully covers genital organs to protect this part of kickboxer's body from any injury.
- The groin protector can be made as a cup for covering genitals, or for covering the entire abdomen.
- Kickboxers must wear the groin protection under their pants or shorts.

Article 2.3.1.9. Shin guards

- Shin guards are made from hard foam-rubber material.
- There are two types of shin guards:
 - For tatami disciplines and full contact, a shin guard must cover the shinbone from under the knee to the top of the feet.
 - For low kick and K1 Style shin guards must cover the shin and instep
 - Shin guards must be fixed on the calf with, two (2) self-adhesive strips.
- No other kind of plastic tape is allowed for fixing the guard to the shin.
- Shin guards with metal, wooden or hard plastic elements are not allowed.
- In Low kick and K-1 Style shin guards sock's type is strictly prohibited.

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Article 2.3.1.10. Foot protection

- Foot protection is made from special synthetic foam rubber, a compact and soft material which is covered with genuine or artificial leather.
- Foot protection covers the upper part of the foot (instep), lateral and medial malleolus and heel - all in one piece - with open sole of the foot.
- They must be long enough (adequate size) to completely cover the kickboxer's feet and toes.
- The front part of the foot protection is fastened by elastic strips for the big and second toes.
- Foot protection is fastened to feet with elastic self-adhesive strips on the back of feet, above the heel.
- Foot protection is mandatory for tatami disciplines and for full contact

Article 2.3.1.11. Other additional protection

- Ankle support is optional in all disciplines and is using for preventing ankle twisting during fights
- Ankles support is made from cotton elastic material
- Ankle support is mandatory when foot wraps are used.

Article 2.3.2. Kickboxers clothes

- Uniforms are different for each kickboxing discipline, but it is the same for all age categories which compete in particular discipline
- Kickboxer's uniforms must be dry, clean, without any blood or other substances and in good repair
- Uniforms must be of the appropriate size that allows an unbroken fight and cover just as many are defined for each part It should not be too long or too short, nor too narrow or too wide.
- Uniforms must not have any hard solid (metal, wooden, plastic) parts, built-in wires or other enhancers, clasps, patent shutter, buttons or built-in protection (protectors or pads)
- It is not allowed to wear clothes or parts of clothing from any other sports as well as clothing marked with logos or signs of other sports, or is characteristic uniform of any other sport.
- It's forbidden to turn inside out the any part of clothes in order to hide disallowed signs or blood traces and dirt on clothes.
- Sponsor advertising or logos may be worn on the cloth in the following manner:
 - Top, on the upper sleeve and/or shoulder area, and may not be larger than 10 x 10 cm (4" x 4").
 - Pants, on the side between the knee and the hip area.

Article 2.3.2.1. V-neck top

- V-neck top is upper part of cloth of kickboxer in point fighting.
- Length of sleeves will be a maximum of mid upper arm.
- If kickboxer in point fighting wear dobok, he must wear appropriate belt

Article 2.3.2.2. Long pants

- Long pants must be worn by kickboxers in point fighting, light contact and full contact
- Long pants must extend from waist to the ankle joint.
- Long pants worn by kickboxers in point fighting and light contact must have an elastic waistband 8-10 cm wide, in different colours from the rest of the pants, or the competitor wears a belt.
- Long pants worn by kickboxers in full contact must have an elastic waistband 8-10 cm wide and can be in the same or different colour as any other part of pants.

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Article 2.3.2.3. Shorts

- Shorts must be worn by kickboxers in kick light, low kick and K1 Style
- Kickboxing shorts must cover half minimum and three-quarter thigh length maximum.
- Knees must be visible and naked.
- Shorts must have an elastic waistband 8 to 10 cm wide, in the same or different colour from the rest of the shorts.
- Shorts in kick light must have elastic waistband in different colour than other parts of shorts and of T-shirts
- No shorts are allowed with names and logos of any other sports or is characteristic for any other sport
- If any logo, only name of the country or club

Article 2.3.2.4. T-shirt

- T-shirt is upper part of cloth of kickboxer in Light Contact
- Length of sleeves will be a maximum of mid upper arm

Article 2.3.2.5. Top

- Top is upper part of cloth for female kickboxers in ring disciplines (full contact, low kick and K1 Style)
- Top should be from wireless elastic fibre or cotton, cover female breast sized enough to enable insert breast protection under the top
- Top should be that long to leave female stomach over the waistband uncovered.
- Straps over the shoulders should be 3 to 5 cm.

Article 2.3.2.6. Muslim female clothes

- In order to respect all religion beliefs, WAKO allow female Muslim kickboxers to wear appropriate clothes while participating in WAKO's events (see appendix 6).
- The female Muslim kickboxers are allowed to wear during their competition a special uniform (underwear) covering their body apart the face.
- The uniform (underwear) must be in stretch form and tight to the body in order not to move around.
- Female Muslim kickboxers are allowed to wear a scarf under their head guard covering the head but not the face.
- If a female Muslim decides on the dress in accordance with her religion, she must follow this completely, not partly, precise special underwear cloth and scarf covering the head, but not the face. Some Muslim's religious trends allow not to wear the scarf.
- Female Muslim athletes participating in any WAKO competition under the conditions described above must give their written consent to WAKO that in case of emergency (injuries, cuts etc.); the medical staff on duty can proceed to any examination of the case if needed.

Article 2.3.3. Beard, hair and nails

- Kickboxers with a beard are allowed to participate in any WAKO tournaments, only if their beard has a reasonable length of not more than 2 centimetres.
- Kickboxers with a long hair must have their hair to be controlled so it does not disrupt the fight.
- The competitor must not have long nails on his fingers or on his toes. Nails should be cut to the appropriate length so as not to injure the opponent
- The Officials who are responsible for the weigh-in during the registration period check the length of sportsman's beard/nails and do not register them if the length of the beard and nails is not according to the rules
- It is Recommended that the hair be tucked inside the head guard or platted.



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Article 2.3.4. Inappropriate equipment and clothes

- If a kickboxer comes to the ring or tatami inappropriately or uncompleted dressed or equipped (wrong colour of the head-guard or gloves, using the safe equipment which is not approved, without wraps or mouth-guard) he will not be disqualified immediately; instead he will be given two minutes to remedy the matters.
- If the allowed time is up and the kickboxer is not ready, he will be disqualified and fight result will be registered as WO.
- Wearing of spectacles by a kickboxer during a fight is not permitted, but soft contact lenses are allowed.

Article 3. Procedures

Article 3.1. Registration procedure

- All WAKO competitions must use the WAKO Approved electronic registration system (at the present time service provider is SportData)
- All World, Continental Championships and Cups registrations must be done online using WAKO approved registration system
- Registration closes one (1) week (7 days) in advance of the World and Continental Championships, and a minimum of 3 days in advance of World and continental cups of weight control start date. Before registration closes, they will be visible on the SportData web site and responsible persons of national federations / clubs will be able to make corrections and changes.
- After the registration deadline (7 days before the start of the weight control for World or Continental Championships), registrations are closed and no changes are allowed except withdrawal of registration.
- Personal registration (kickboxers, coaches, referees, officials) must include following data:
 - Name and surname
 - Nationality
 - Date of birth
 - Photo (JPEG or PNG format, resolution 400 x 600 px minimum, maximum size 1 Mb)
 - Status
 - Medical Clearance Certificate
 - Any other official documentation as required by WAKO IF Board
- Registration for competition will be done based on personal registration by choosing selected WAKO competition.

Article 3.1.1. On line registration

- Each participant will be registered in selected role (kickboxer, coach, referee, official).
- Kickboxer will be registered in selected competition category (including discipline, age and weight category)
- It is allowed on the world and continental championships to be registered in only one age and weight category.
- A kickboxer can be registered in only one ring discipline during the same championships, cup or tournament and cannot enter the tatami disciplines. It's prohibited to make double starts in ring discipline and mix starts during the same championships, cup or tournament.
- A kickboxer can be registered in point fighting, light contact and kick light during the same championships, cup or tournament but cannot register in the ring disciplines on the same championships, cup or tournament
- It is allowed on the World and continental cups and on other open tournaments in tatami disciplines to be registered in two weight categories (actual and one above)
- When registration for world and continental championships closes the kickboxer must remain in his age / weight category. No changes are allowed.
- If a kickboxer is overweight, they cannot move up or down, and will be disqualified.
- For world and continental cups and open tournaments, it is allowed to change weight category, meaning that kickboxer can move one category above or under even when on line registration is closed. The final category will be applied based on kickboxer's actual weight at the official weighing.
- For World and continental Championships, a kickboxer can only fight in a division a maximum of one weight above his actual weight class. For example, if he weighs 65.5 kg, he can only fight in

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-69 kg or -74 kg (this is valid only for kickboxers in the tatami disciplines, kickboxers in ring disciplines must be registered in category according his actual weight)

Article 3.1.2. Competition registration

- Competition registration starts on the first day of the official weigh-in and medical check and includes following:
 - accreditation (will be done based on personal registration)
 - official weigh-in
 - medical check

Article 3.1.3. Required kickboxer's documentation

- Each kickboxer, at competition registration for the competition, must have the following certified documentation which they will hand over to the officials during the weighing control or medical examination
 - Passport or Identity Card
 - Official residence card of permanent residence in the country they want to represent if kickboxer isn't nationality of the national team for which he/she represents
 - WAKO Medical certificate (see appendix 20)
 - WAKO Medical Questionnaire (see appendix 21)
 - WAKO Dentist-orthodontist approval (if the kickboxer has braces) (see appendix 22)
 - WAKO Non-pregnancy declaration (for female kickboxers age 14 year and older) (see appendix 23)
 - WAKO Liability Waiver (see appendix 24)
 - WAKO Parental / Legal Guardian Consent (for underage kickboxer, age 18 and younger) (see appendix 26)
- All documents must be clearly written and filled in at home just before the competition.
- All documents and certificates must have a kickboxer's passport or ID number
- For under-age kickboxers, parents or legal guardian, in addition to fulfilling "WAKO Parental / Legal Guardian Consent", also have to sign "WAKO Medical Questionnaire" and "WAKO Liability Waiver"

Article 3.2. Accommodation booking procedure

This procedure applies to WAKO World and Continental championships.

This procedure is different and is not related to the registration procedure (Article 3.1.) for competitions which is carried out through the SportData web page

- Accommodation for all WAKO World and Continental Championship participants must be organized by the Local Organizer of the Championship.
- All participants in the World and Continental Championships (athletes, coaches, officials, guests, escorts, supporters) must be registered by the SportData official registration system to have the right to get accreditation
- All participants in the World and Continental Championships (athletes, coaches, officials, guests, escorts, supporters) must be accredited and must be accommodated through the organizer or travel agency hired by the organizer to participate in the event.
- The local organizer should offer to national teams' accommodation of 3 levels of quality accommodation that are different prices, wherever possible.
- During the process of selection and approval of a World or Continental Championship host, the Chairman of the WAKO Organizing Committee or a member of the Organising committee appointed by him, will visit and check the accommodation and all technical elements of the bid organization process (bid review process) and on that occasion complete the "WAKO Bid form".
- The decision to host the World or Continental Kickboxing Championship is made by WAKO IF or WAKO Continental Board in collaboration with WAKO IF and a contract will be signed with the organizer. By WAKO IF President and WAKO Continental President
- The contract regulates all rights and obligations of the local organizers of the championship, prices, services that are charged, as well as deadlines for applications, reservation of accommodation, payments and other details.
- The organizer must provide entries and reservations for accommodation by the official championships e-mail address to national kickboxing federations at least 120 days before the start of the championship.
- For booking and paying for accommodation and other costs of participating in the Championship, the local organizer will provide the following payment terms:

These provisions for the booking and cancellation procedure with clearly stated dates for all deadlines should be clearly stated in the invitation letter for the championship prepared by the organizer and approved by the President of the World and Continental WAKO Federation. The invitation letter is sent from the WAKO HQ office no later than 6 months before the start of the championship.

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Article 3.3. Accreditation procedure

- Each participant in the World or Continental Championships must be accredited through the SportData registration system
- There are several types of accreditation:
 - Kickboxers
 - Coach
 - Judge
 - Doctor / Medic
 - Official
 - Organizer / Organizing Committee
 - Staff
 - VIP
 - VIP - guest
 - Guest
 - Journalist
- All listed World or Continental Championship participants must be registered by SportData's registration system, within the prescribed registration deadlines
- SportData administrator will prepare accreditations that will be printed by the organizer upon completion of registration
- The organizer will ensure the possibility of printing on-site accreditations during official weighing (corrections or subsequently registered guests)
- Accreditation must include the following information:
 - Championship name, location, country and date of the event
 - Picture of an accredited person
 - QR code with all the data
 - Abbreviated country code
 - Flag of the state
 - Name and surname
 - Category or function
 - Status

(see examples of accreditation cards in appendix 18)

- The organizer, with the WAKO Organizing Committee, will determine the right of access to certain areas for the above accredited persons.

Article 3.3.1. Kickboxers and coaches

- Only accredited kickboxers and up to 2 qualified and registered coaches are allowed to enter the fighting field (ring and tatami)
- All of the above must have accreditation cards with themselves at all times
- By arriving at the ring or tatami, the coach will hand over the kickboxer's accreditation to the judge who is responsible for equipment's check.
- The judge who check the equipment will determine the identity of the kickboxer and leave the accreditation card on his desk until the end of the fight
- After the fight is over, the judge will return the kickboxer's accreditation card to the coach, unless the kickboxer or Coach is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct. Then the kickboxer's and or Coaches accreditation card is retained by the chief referee.
- In the case of KO, TKO or injury, the judge will hand over the kickboxer's accreditation card to

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the official doctor.

- During the fight, accreditation cards must not be carried by kickboxers and central referees and judges in point fighting, while all other officials are required to carry accreditation card (judges, score / time keeper, kick counter, chief referee, observer and supervisor)
- In the event of a coach being disqualified, the Chief Referee will revoke the accreditation of the coach - until the end of the fight or until the end of the competition, depending on the prescribed sanction, that is approved by the appropriate parties.

Article 3.4. Weigh-in procedure

Article 3.4.1. Scales

- There shall be a minimum of two medical weighing scales for official weigh-in and minimum one for control weigh-in prior to official weigh-in.
- Position of official scales will be in separate rooms (one for male, one for female) or in the same (larger) room that has adequate visual barriers. If such a room cannot be provided with visually separate weighing, then team members will weigh separately - first female and then male kickboxers.
- Position of control scales will be in adequate space separate than official scales

Article 3.4.2. Weigh-in official

- Weigh-in official at World and continental championships is a member of WAKO Organizing committee named by Chairman of organizing committee. At other kickboxing championships, cups and tournaments, the national federation of organizers (promoter) appoints officials for control weighing.
- His main role to control and register actual age, weight category and discipline of each kickboxers according to his registration and personal ID
- During the weigh-in, two weigh-ins officials will be present, one female official and one male official.

Article 3.4.3. Weigh-in procedure

Article 3.4.3.1. Registration weigh-in

- Official weigh-in for world and continental championships will be organized minimum 48 and maximum 72 hours before the start of the competition
- The weigh-in must be done in a discrete manner, respecting both male and female's need for discretion.
- Only one representative of a national federation connecting to each national team may be present, but only when their own teams weigh-in.
- However, they are not allowed to intervene on any occasion. The national representative cannot be in physical contact with the kickboxer, they should stand away from the scales at least 1 meter.
- Each kickboxer must present his personal ID (national ID card or passport) and signed WAKO Liability waiver to weigh-in official.
- The weigh-in will be held according to the tournament schedule. The announced time in each competition is understood as official and must be respected.
- Weighing in outside the official announced time will not be allowed, except if the weigh-in is not considered as finished of those teams present within the announced time.
- For the first official weigh-in (in the registration period) there may be given possibility to weigh-

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in after the official time, if any delays of travel for a team, properly announced and warned from the national federation if such may happen.

- However, it is not allowed for any team to speculate in arrival after official weigh-in time announced in the invitation papers.
- All teams must have weighed-in before drawing.
- The weight is what the scale shows when the kickboxer is undressed.
- The weight must be displayed in metric measures. Electronic scales can be used.
- A kickboxer is allowed to fight solely within the category defined by the weigh-in.
- The weight must be on hard floor and not on carpet.
- If the kickboxer exceeds his weight, he can within the official time get a second and last chance to reach the limit one hour after the first attempt.
- If a kickboxer does not make the weight at this second weigh-in, he will be disqualified.
- It is also allowed for all national federations to substitute one kickboxer with another, before the end of the official weigh-in and before the medical check, on condition that, within each competition where substitutes are allowed, the kickboxer in question has been registered as a reserve for that, or in any other weight category.
- Any speculation or deliberate actions that will question or break the above rules will be sanctioned, both for kickboxers involved and the national federation responsible.

Article 3.4.3.2. Daily weigh-in

- Ring sports have mandatory daily weigh-ins during the tournament (World and continental championships and cups).
- It's strictly prohibited to ignore daily weigh in's during the World/Continental Championships and World / Continental Cups.
- Daily weigh-in will be on the same day of the fight, the fights will start at least 3 hours after the weighing time, or in a shorter lapse of time if the chairman of the Organizing Committee so decide, after consulting the Medical, Coach and Referee Committee, provided that the decision is not prejudicial to any kickboxer taking part in the first fights of the tournament.
- The weigh-in is done in the morning at an announced time, considered as official.
- Weighing in outside the official announced time will not be allowed, except if the weigh-in is not considered as finished of those teams present within the announced time.
- All kickboxers must bring their own national passport as identification.
- If the kickboxer exceeds their weight, they can within the official time get the second and the last chance after 45 minutes after the first attempt to reach the limit.
- The weight registered on that occasion is final.
- If the kickboxer does not make the weight at this second weigh-in he will be disqualified by technical disqualification.

Article 3.5. Medical check procedure

- Official medical check for world and continental championships will be organized minimum 48 and maximum 72 hours before the start of the competition
- The medical check must be done in a discrete manner, respecting both male and female's need for discretion.
- Position of medical check points will be in separate rooms (one for male, one for female) or in the same (larger) room that has adequate visual barriers. If such a room cannot be provided with visually separate medical check, then team members will medically check separately - first female and then male kickboxers.

Article 3.5.1. Medical check official

- Medical check official is medical doctor, named by LOC and approved by chairman of WAKO Medical committee.
- His main role is to control and collect valid WAKO medical certificate and WAKO medical questioner, and to determine gender of kickboxer and to examine actual physical condition of each kickboxer, according to his registration and personal ID

Article 3.5.2. Medical check procedure

- The local Doctor must carry out a general physical examination of each kickboxer.
- This exam is aimed to rule out any injury or medical condition that can be considered a health risk for the kickboxer or his/her opponent.
- Special attention should be given to the neurological system, musculoskeletal system, eye, nose, infective illnesses (included skin infections), especially for ring kickboxers
- During the medical check on WAKO World and Continental championships, two doctors will be present, one female doctor and one male doctor. On other cups, national championships and tournaments medical check can be done by one doctor, but separately for male and female kickboxers
- Each kickboxer must present his personal ID (national ID card or passport), WAKO Medical certificate not older than one (1) year and signed WAKO Medical questionnaire.
- After being medical checked, each kickboxer must be declared fit for fighting by an official medical doctor by approving his status in computer registration system.

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Article 3.6. Drawing procedure

- Drawing on the WAKO World and continental championships and World and continental cups will be organized and led by WAKO Organizing committee minimum 12 hours after finished official competition registration and minimum 24 hours before the start the competitions.
- Drawing will be done according to final confirmed registration of kickboxers.

Article 3.6.1. General criteria

- Competitors from the same club or national teams in the same weight category must be split into separate parts (one in upper, the other in lower part of drawing list - the competitors can only meet in the final). If there are more than two kickboxers from same club, then they cannot meet in the first fight if there are at least the same number of competitors from other clubs.
- Every draw list must have data as follows: name of tournament, place and date, name of discipline, sex, age, weight division, competitor's name and surname, club or nation and number of fight.
- All draw lists must be printed in 3 official copies - for Chief referee, for official table and for notice or bulletin board - all three lists must be the same and any changes must be repeated on all three with the signature of the Chief referee. Also, unofficial copies of draw lists will be distributed to national team chiefs.
- Completed official copies with results, stamp and Chief referee's signature are official WAKO documents and will be kept in archives for a minimum of 2 years.
- No alterations can be made to drawing list once produced by Organizing committee. Only in a case of material mistake (wrong weight category, wrong age division, wrong discipline by WAKO Administration) which must be approved by chairman of Organizing Committee in writing.

Article 3.6.2. Seeding

- Seeding for World championships will be based on the below criteria

Article 3.6.2.1. Seeding criteria

- Seeding positions for the world and continental championships for each competition category will be determinate considering only results achieved in the same competition category (the same discipline and the same age and weight category), on previous events within the two-year period of the same discipline and age class.
- Seeding positions are determinated on public way by Organizing committee in front of the official draw

Article 3.6.2.2. Ranking criteria

- is based on an accumulation of points in the previous two calendar years.

- World Champion 100 points
- Continental Champion 70 points
- World Silver 70 points
- Continental Silver 50 points
- World Cup Champion 50 points
- World Cup Silver 30 points
- Continental Cup Champion 20 points
- Continental Cup Silver 10 points

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Article 3.6.3. Official draw

- Draw will be done by Chairman of Organizing committee on public way at previously announced scheduled time.
- It will be done by WAKO Approved Drawing electronic system (at the present time service provider is SportData)
- The final draw sheets will be published on the official web page maximum one (1) hour after finishing draw
- In case of any material mistake, it is possible for national teams to send official notification to organizing committee, but not later than one (1) hour after the publishing the draw on the official web page
- Organizing committee will act based on notification and come with final decision not later than one (1) hour after expired time for official notifications.

Article 3.6.4. Daily program

- Daily program at the World and Continental championships will be determined by Organizing Committee and approved by chairman of Organizing committee
- Daily program for the first day of the competition will be published maximum three (3) hours after the finish of the draw, on the official web page
- Daily program for the rest of the days will be published on official web page maximum two (2) hours after finished the last fight of that day, for the next day.
- Daily program includes
 - schedule of the fight by numbers for each fighting area separately
 - fight data (category, position - red or blue, kickboxers' name and nationality)
 - start time
 - provisional time schedule
 - provisional time of breaks
 - finish time

Article 3.7. Disqualification procedure

Any participant in the competition may be disqualified for violation of the rules or for unsportsmanlike behaviour.

There is a two kind of disqualification:

- technical disqualification
- behavioural disqualification

Article 3.7.1. Technical disqualification

- Technical disqualification meaning nonintentional violation of the rules during the fight (exits, warnings, minus points, number of kicks, etc. ...)
- Kickboxer disqualified by technical disqualification keeps the right to be awarded based on achievement before disqualification.

Article 3.7.2. Behavioural disqualification

- Behavioural disqualification meaning hard and intentional violation of the rules during the fight which can lead to opponent's injury.
- Behavioural disqualification also meaning unsportsmanlike behaviour (swearing, shouting, unappropriated gesticulations towards opponent and his coach, referee, any other official or spectators.
- Kickboxer or any other participant can be disqualified by behaviour disqualification in case of irregular protest of the decision of the fight and obstruction and delay of further scheduled program
- Kickboxer disqualified by behavioural disqualification lose the wright to be awarded.
- Any other official can be disqualified from the single fight, on daily basis or from whole tournament according to the level of his violation of rules. Decision about disqualification on daily basis or from whole tournament will be made by Tournament Committee.
- Chairman of tournament Appeal protest committee inform about such disqualification of participant to the WAKO HQ in written form, and the office must carry out the procedure in accordance with the applicable regulations. Disciplinary committee will prosecute such a case.

Article 3.8. Procedure of prompting the protest

Article 3.8.1. Competition protests / appeal

- The written protest must describe clearly the problem. The Chief referee must deliver the protest to the Appeal protest Committee who will consider the problem and handled it immediately.

Article 3.8.2. Official Appeal Protest Committee

- Official Appeal protest Committee is composed of the following:
 - Chairman of Referee Committee of ring or tatami
 - Supervisor / Observer
 - Chief referee
 - Technical director for Ring or Tatami (who will act as a chairman of Appeal Protest Committee)
- No two members may be appointed from the same National Federation.
- Chairman of Referee committee should also appoint three additional members with designated numbering from 1 to 3 that automatically replace any of the originally appointed Appeals Jury members in a conflict of interest situation (same nationality, family relationship by blood, etc... or involved in the alleged incident or issue)
- The following sequence must be followed when making a protest. It is hoped that at each stage the priority is for an amicable resolution, but if not then.

Article 3.8.2. Procedure of prompting the protest

- The coach or their representative must immediately after the fight declare about their wish to submit the protest.
- They must take the Official WAKO Protest Form (see Appendix 28) from the Chief of the ring & tatami, fill it out and return back to the Chief of the ring with the protest fee (100 euro, payed in-front) during 10 minutes after the fight which result, they are going to protest.
- The Appeal Protest Committee will examine the protest and declare the result after 15 minutes maximum after getting the protest. It takes only 15 minutes total for prompting and examine the protest.
- Official Appeal protest committee review protest and make final decision.
- If the protest is found invalid, the deposit (protest fee) will be donated to WAKO.
- If the protest is successful, decision will be changed and the protest fee will be refunded.

Article 3.8.3. Irregular protests

- Irregular protests regarding disagreements of decisions, where kickboxer's protests by delaying further program in the ring / tatami, such as sitting down in the ring / tatami, decided by himself or stimulated by his coach / team to do so is not allowed
- In case of such irregular protest, reaction will be made by Chief referee, Supervisor and Technical director of ring or tatami.
- The consequence for such behaviour can be that the total team of the discipline can be excluded.
- In case of further escalation of conflict due to this action and if security staff has to intervene, it will lead to immediately disqualification of the whole national team.
- The decision of above situation on World and Continental championships will be made by WAKO Board of directors. On the other championships, cups and tournaments decision will be made by interim committee consisting of National federation president or his representative, organizer (promoter) and chief referee.
- A protest will only be accepted in a written letter and a protest will not be handled if actions mentioned above are in place.

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Article 3.8.4. Video evidence

- Video footage is not applicable to WAKO competition events.
- Video footage may not be used to resolve or review any queries, complaints or points of clarification.

Article 3.8.5. Special violations of rules

- If a kickboxer, coach or a whole team protests by entering or not leaving the ring or tatami immediately after the fight on the WAKO World and Continental championships, WAKO Board of Directors is allowed to disqualify the whole team. On the other championships, cups and tournaments disqualification decision will be made by interim committee consisting of National federation president or his representative, organizer (promoter) and chief referee.

Article 3.9. Change of referee's decision procedure

- Only the Chief referee and the Supervisor can change a Central referee's / Judge's decision in case of "material mistake".
- Material mistake is considered following:
 - Judge switch the kickboxer's corner
 - Wrongly recorded points or penalties by scorekeeper
 - Significant wrongly application of the rules by Central referee
- Changing of decision is applicable with immediate effect and it must be recorded in written form.

Article 3.10. Opening ceremony procedure

- Opening ceremony at WAKO World and continental championships must take place on the first day of the competition before the start of first fights. It is organized and led by Organized committee with local organizing committee
- Opening ceremony is organized in the way of defile of national teams that participated on championships
- Each national team for defile is composed from three kickboxers (male and female) dressed in national track suits wearing sport shoes (it is not allowed to be present in shorts and slippers)
- Local organizing committee must provide special designed country name plate for each participated national team
- Program of the opening ceremony will be as following:
 - announcement
 - defile
 - welcome speeches (WAKO president, WAKO president of host country, local national VIP)
 - cultural program which consist from music (local culture) - 3 minutes; music (modern) - 3 minutes; dance (local culture) - 3 minutes

Article 3.11. Awarding ceremony procedure

- At World and Continental championships awarding ceremony must take place on the last two days of the competition after the final fights. It is organized and led by Organized committee with local organizing committee.
- On the WAKO World and continental championships promotor must provide high-quality trophies, medals and certificates and according to WAKO standard. On the other championships, cups and tournaments trophies, medals and certificates must be in accordance with the level of tournament and promotor's National federations standards.
 - Medals (one gold, one silver and two bronze medals (100 mm die cast medal) (see appendix 16)
 - Trophies for the winner (suitable for the prestige of the event)
 - Certificates for the medal winners
 - Certificates of Attendance
 - Special Awards
 - 1. Trophy for best kickboxer male Tatami
 - 2. Trophy for best kickboxer male Ring
 - 3. Trophy for best kickboxer Female Tatami
 - 4. Trophy for best kickboxer Female Ring
 - 5. Trophy for best Ring Referee
 - 6. Trophy for best Tatami Referee
 - 7. Trophy for most Ethical Coach
 - 8. Trophies if any team competition
- Podium / award area must be a high-quality raised award stage (8 m long x 3 m deep)
- A central back drop (minimum) 5x5 m
- Digital back drop for dynamic pictures and awards presentation (must be approved by WAKO Technical Director 3 months before production)
- Suitable Podium with appropriate surrounding

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On the podium

- No personal or national flags are allowed at or on the podium.
- National flags are allowed in the ring and on the tatami after the fight.
- No coach or official is allowed to go to the podium during or immediately after the presentation.
- Athletes must present themselves to the podium in their national track suit and wearing sport shoes. It is not allowed to enter to awarding ceremony dressed in shorts, slippers, with sunglasses and cap / hat.

Awarding procedure

- Medals at the World and Continental championships will be awarded by WAKO IF or WAKO continental president or member of Board of directors or WAKO national presidents. They have to be dressed on appropriate way (for male suit with WAKO tie, for female elegant dress)
- Presenter of awards will award kickboxers by following order: bronze medals, silver medal and gold medal and trophy with diplomas
- For each gold medallist national anthem will be presented (20 second maximum)
- All medelists and awards presenter must remain their position on podium during the presentation of gold medallist's national anthem

Article 3.12. Official report procedure

- Immediately after the World and Continental Championships and World Cups are over, the Organizing Committee and SportData administrator will make an official competition report.
- The official report must include the following points:
 - Cover page with official name and logo of championships / cup
 - President's letter
 - Organizing committee
 - Medical team
 - Official invitation brochure
 - Participation count (country, male, female, total entries, total athletes)
 - Tournament participation - by countries - entry lists (list of names of athletes and categories)
 - Participants count - list of officials (countries, coaches, officials, referees, total)
 - Official registrations - coaches
 - Official registrations - officials
 - Official registrations - referees
 - Draw sheets and form score lists (with results)
 - Official results - by categories
 - Medals - by nations
 - Medals - by age categories
 - Medals - by discipline
 - Special awards
 - Medical report (with injuries statistics)
 - Media report - YouTube, Facebook, Instagram (views, visits, reach)



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Article 3.13. Rules changes procedure

- Any WAKO member can initiate rule's changes by respecting following procedures:
 - Initial suggestion must be delivered to committee in charge in written form (see Appendix 30) with explanations in English language
 - Committee in charge will review proposal and if they find that is appropriate, will submitted to WAKO Rules Committee
 - WAKO Rules Committee will review proposal of committee in charge and if they find that is appropriate, will submitted to WAKO Board for approval

Article 4. Committees

Article 4.1. Tournament Committee

- The WAKO President will appoint the members of Tournament Committee for each World and continental championships
- The Tournament committee will be composed of three members: member of Organizing Committee, WAKO Board member and LOC president
- The Chairman of the Tournament committee is appointed member of Organizing Committee and will hold the position of Tournament Director.
- It is mandatory that all members of the Tournament Committee speak fluently English.
- The Committee meets in front of tournament for which they are appointed and prepare all activities for smoothly running of the tournament fully respecting WAKO rules
- If necessary, they can appoint other officials as members of tournament committee and initiate other meetings during tournaments.
- They will together with the promoter take care of the event / promotion / tournament and make sure everything is arranged according to the WAKO rules.
- Any complain made by participants regarding conditions of tournament has to be cleared by the tournament committee or through the WAKO President.
- They will report to the WAKO President.

Article 4.1.1. Referee Committees of Ring sports / Tatami sports

- The Chairman of each Committee is responsible to name Supervisors / observers for Tatami or Rings
- With Supervisor deploy Central referees and judges for Tatami and Rings.
- With each Supervisor they check tatami, rings, official table equipment, referee and judge uniforms and they will permit the start of competition.
- Referee Committees are named by WAKO Board of Directors and stay in charge for 4 years unless decided by the WAKO Board.

Article 4.1.1.1. International referee seminars and registration

- In preparation of World / Continental Championships and World Cups the Committee organizes seminars so to make sure that the judging and behaviour of referees are at their best.
- When sending out letters of invitation to championships and cups, WAKO HQ will write an extra note concerning referees and judges including all demands for their preparations.
- The organization of seminars will be as follows:
 - All referees and judges must have a copy of the updated rules which will be presented during the seminar.
 - By tests, make sure that all judges and referees talk a minimum of English. By the English also rate the referees and judges into categories (both in language and experience).
 - The seminars will deal with each kickboxing discipline and specific rules.
 - Make sure that all referees and judges wear the same uniforms according WAKO rules
- The sequence in a seminar contains:
 - Verbal introduction and explanations.
 - Verbal explanation of main issues that normal causes problem in order to harmonize the judges.
 - Any video presentation to explain situations.
 - Practice teaching using kickboxers in action.
 - Using scorecards or / and explaining digital system.
 - Written tests/exams.
 - Registration.
- All referees and judges are registered and are given points during a championship and approbated events.

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- The best referees and judges will be invited as official referees to participate in the WAKO World and Continental Championships.
- The referees and judges will get their license based on their performance in the WAKO World and Continental championships.

Article 4.2. Coaches Committee

- WAKO Coaches Committee represent the Coaches during all WAKO Championships and tournaments.
- Chairman of Coaches Committee (IF or continental) or representative (named by the Chairman of Coaches Committee) must be included in decisions about coaches in WAKO World and continental championships and World and continental cups. On the other championships, cups and tournaments Chairman of National Coach Committee of host country or his representative) must be included in decisions about coaches
- Coaches Committee is responsible for education and licencing of all international coaches
- Coaches committee will organize seminars in front of World / Continental Championships and Cups
- The purpose of seminars organized and leaded by Coach committee chairman and members is to teach and spread knowledge, experiences and informing on newest tendencies in kickboxing sport.
- The seminars will deal with each kickboxing discipline according to actual WAKO rules to make sure that all coaches work in way which is important for the WAKO development

Article 4.3. Medical, health and anti-doping committee

- The Committee has at least three (3) members.
- The leaders take the initiative to organize the work inside the committee.
- It is important that all members of the group speak English.
- The committee meets in front of World Cups and/or Continental / World Championships.
- If necessary, they initiative other meetings, but are requested to meet during events/tournaments.
- Their responsibility is to make sure of all medical rules are followed on the tournaments / championships both according to doctors and medical staff.
- They will make sure that the anti-doping rules are informed and together with the Board of Directors and / or promoter in a championship aim an Anti-Doping control.
- Make sure that WAKO work effectively to eradicate weight reduction problems.
- The Committee work together and report to the Board of Directors.
- The Committee has the power to postpone start of fights if weigh-in are too close to normal start of fights or if the weigh-in are delayed or in other way, kickboxers were not properly informed.
- The Committee has the power to postpone start of fights if all nominated medical staff are not present, full equipped and ready to perform their duty
- The Committee has the power to postpone start of fights if ambulance in adequate number of full equipped vehicles are not present, and ready to perform their duty. Also, they has a power to stop the all fights in the situations mentioned above

Article 4.4. Technical Committee

- The Committee has at least three (3) members.
- The leader takes the initiative to organize the work inside the Committee.
- It is of importance that the members of the group speak English.
- The committee meets in front of World and Continental Championships and World and Continental cups.
- If necessary, they initiative other meetings, but are requested to meet during events/tournaments.
- Main duty during the tournament is to control using, correctness and proper use of personal safety equipment and other tournament equipment, notice all irregularities and inform Technical director about it.

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- Based on the notifications on the tournament recommend to Board of Directors improvements or changes in personal safety equipment or other tournament equipment or facilities.

Article 4.5. Seminars

- International Seminars (Cross border) (athlete, referee, coach and medical-anti-doping) organized outside of the competition must be approved, verified and included in the WAKO calendar.
- Seminar programs must be aligned with the WAKO Educational program and WAKO Rules
- The organizer of the seminar is obliged to announce the seminar in a timely manner, and to get verification and approval from the concerned committee (athlete, coach, referee or medical-antidoping) to hold a seminar.
- Prior to inclusion seminar in the WAKO calendar, the promoter must submit a request for consent to organize an international kickboxing seminar. The application form can be found in appendix 32
- In order for the seminar organizer to get approval for the seminar from the committee, organizer must first submit the invitation letter, the poster, the seminar program, the name and surname of the seminar leader and speakers and who the seminar's participants are.
- The chairman of the committee (athlete, coach, referee or medical-antidoping) will give his consent for the seminar after the consent of the members of the committee, as soon as possible if the previous conditions are met and if the seminar is organized in accordance with the WAKO Rules.

Article 5. General provisions

Article 5.1. Unsportsmanlike behaviour

If the competitor, coach or non-combat members of the contestant's delegation behave in such a way towards any WAKO Official, delegation, competitor or volunteer, including members of the general public, as to harm the prestige and honour of WAKO and kickboxing, as examples but not limited to

- Verbal Abuse;
- Physical Abuse;
- Inappropriate Gestures;
- Intimidation;
- Obstructing the continuation of the championships
- Trying to manipulate or influence the judge's decision, the delegation will be penalized in one or both of the following ways:
 1. At the sum adopted by WAKO Board of Directors at the championships by majority vote.
 - € 5,000
 - € 10,000
 - € 20,000The president and the National Federation will be responsible for the payment of the fees for their entourages.
 2. The **WHOLE** delegation will be disqualified for the period up to two years from all future International WAKO Championships.

Article 5.2. Participation of WAKO members in other dissident organizations

- WAKO members are not permitted or allowed to participate in any other national or international dissident kickboxing organizations.
- All WAKO events, World, Continental and national / international tournaments are reserved to WAKO members only.
- When it relates to North America and South America and in order to give our members the opportunity to organize themselves, they can allow non-WAKO members to take part in their event and vice-versa until a final decision is made by WAKO Board in the future.
- According to previous agreed rules, a non-WAKO member cannot take part in any of the activities where WAKO and its continental division / federation are in charge of the competition and or the competition is held under WAKO and or its continental divisions / federations rules and regulations.
- If in any country, there exists the different kickboxing organization and association, WAKO national federation / organization in that country is allowed to accept the membership of other athletes coming from other organization **ONLY** if they stop their activities and collaboration with other existing dissident international or continental kickboxing organizations and their national organization if any, according to WAKO and WAKO Continental rules and regulations.
- Once an athlete of another organization becomes a member of a WAKO National Federation, they are no longer allowed to go back to the organization of origin. And in case the athlete returns back or continues their activities or collaboration with a dissident kickboxing organization their membership in WAKO is subject to an immediate and automatic permanent expulsion, without possibility to return.

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Article 5.3. Rule changes

- Only WAKO Board of Directors have the power to officially approve rule changes either nominated by them or nominated by committees appointed by them.
- A change of rule must be communicated with the committee related to the subject.
- When changes of rules in the chapters (sport rules for each discipline), the changes become operative at minimum of 1 month after decisions taken.
- The date for an operative new rule must be communicated well to all committees and member countries in WAKO.
- Changes can be operative with immediate action if obvious mistakes are found in the text or if defined from the board of directors if it is seen as critical for health and security or in case of “force majeure”.
- If a change is valid immediately it must be well communicated to all member countries by mail and by publishing on the official WAKO web page. The exception for such practice is that there cannot be rule changes just in front of or during the World or Continental Championships.
- The Board of Directors can change rules in chapter 1 - General Rules – at any time. However, changes must be communicated well to all member countries by mail and on the official web page. The date for an operative change must be well communicated.

Article 5.4. Special notes

- For better readability the text uses masculine pronouns throughout. However, all references to persons apply to both genders.
- These rules will come in force on January 1st 2021, and remain in place a minimum of two years. During the application of these rules for the next 2 years, each WAKO member with the approval of the President of the National Federation has the right to propose a change, improvement or better clarification of the rules.
- The proposed change of rules is sent to the WAKO IF Rules Committee (WAKO Technical director) via a special form - see in appendix 30.