
WAKO

Ring Sports

General Rules





WAKO Rules of Ring Sports – General Rules

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WAKO Rules of Ring Sports – General Rules

• **Chapter Seven / General Rules of Ring Sports**

- Officials, Equipment, Uniforms, Fighting Area, Weight divisions, Weigh-in procedures, Rounds and Special violations of rules.

Art. 1. Official

Art. 1.1 Chairman of Technical Committee

- The Chairman of the Technical Committee shall act as member of the Appeals Board together with the Referee Committee and the Board of Directors members.

Art. 1.2 Referee and Judges

- During World or other international championships, each bout in a ring must be supervised by a WAKO international acknowledged Observer/Organizer of the Ring, especially appointed by International Referee Committee, who can officiate in the centre, but will not fill out score sheets.
- Each bout is graded by three International Judges. The three WAKO Judges will be seated away from the spectators and close to the ring. Each of the three Judges must be seated in the middle of three respective sides of the ring.
- To ensure neutrality, the Referees and the three Judges for each bout will be chosen by the Observer/Organizer of the Ring on duty in that ring, according to the following rules:
 - Each official will come from a country and Federation different from that of the others and from that of the fighters.
 - In no way may two of the Officials of the same bout come from the same country, unless it is due to an uncontrollable event.
 - An official may not be born or live in a country which is a dominion, colony or in any way dependant of the country of either Kickboxer taking part in the bout.
 - In the case of an official having changed nationality, he will not officiate in a bout where one of the fighters or other officiating Judges come from his native country.
 - In the case of the Observer/Organizer of the Ring not being able to apply the above-mentioned directives due to special circumstances, it will find a solution which will ensure neutrality and impartiality of appointed officials, followed by a prompt report to the International Referee Committee.
 - In the case of the Observer/Organizer of the Ring not being able, for any reason, to apply the preceding directives, the name or names of the Official or Officials will be chosen by drawing lots, by the Chairman of the International Referee Committee, or any other person on his behalf, for the bout in question.
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- In the case of international matches between the Teams of two or more National Associations, a bout could be supervised according to an agreement between the official representatives of the Federations in question, provided that the agreement does not go beyond basic Refereeing principles set forth in the in the WAKO regulations.
- Persons in charge of Refereeing or judging of a bout, or a series of bouts, will not at any moment of the bout or bouts be allowed to act as a manager, trainer, coach or second of a Kickboxer or team of Kickboxer taking part in a bout; or to act as an official in a match in which a fighter from his country participates.
- The International Referee Committee or its official representatives, to comply with the request of the jury, temporarily or permanently can suspend from his functions any Referee who, in their opinion, does not respect WAKO regulations; or any Judge whose marks are not considered satisfactory.
- Should the Referee be inadequate in the course of a bout, the Observer/Organizer of the Ring will hold him back and stop the match. The Referee next on the WAKO international list of neutral Referees, will receive the necessary instructions to direct and officiate the rest of the bout
- A Referee will officiate in the ring. He will wear a WAKO uniform (navy blue jacket with WAKO insignia on it, black gym shoes, gray pants, white WAKO shirt, WAKO bow-tie for qualification/finals or title matches).



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Art. 1.3 Referee

- The Referee must:
 - Check the safety equipment and clothes of the fighters (unless differently decided by Tournament Committee)
 - Make sure that a weakened Kickboxer does not suffer unjust and unnecessary blows.
 - Make sure that the rules of fair play are strictly observed.
 - Supervise the whole of the bout.

- At the end of a bout, gather and check the score sheets of the three Judges. After verification, he must hand them to the Observer/Organizer of the Ring, or, if he is absent, to the announcer. The Referee must not announce the winner by raising the Kickboxer's arms or in any other way announce decisions. If a Referee (after having so decided by majority decision with the three Judges) disqualifies a Kickboxer or stops the fight, he must first indicate to the Observer/Organizer of the Ring the Kickboxer who has been disqualified and give the reasons for stopping the fight, so that the Observer/Organizer of the Ring can inform the announcer, who will then, make a public announcement.

- He must use three command words:
 - STOP when he orders Kickboxer to stop fighting
 - BREAK to break a body to body position, after which each boxer must draw back without kicking or punching before continuing the fight
 - FIGHT when he orders the fight to continue
 - In order not to disturb a close fight, the Referee should not stand in the way or break in too early. When the winner is announced, the Referee must raise the Kickboxer's arm. He must indicate to the Kickboxer, by appropriate signs or gestures, any violation of the Regulations.

Art. 1.4 Referees power

- The Referee has the power to:
 - Stop a fight at any moment if he finds it too one-sided.
 - Stop a fight at any moment if one of the Kickboxer has received an unauthorized blow or is wounded, or if he considers a fighter unable to continue.
 - Stop a fight at any moment if he finds the fighters behaving "unsportsman-like". In such a case, he may disqualify one Kickboxer.
 - Warn a Kickboxer or stop the bout and give a minus point or warning to a Kickboxer for an offense.
 - Disqualify a coach or a second who has broken the regulations or a Kickboxer himself if the coach or the second fails to obey to his orders.
 - Disqualify, with or without a warning, a fighter who has committed an offense.
 - In the case of a KD, suspend the count if a Kickboxer deliberately refuses to withdraw to a neutral corner, or is reluctant to do so.
 - Interpret the rules as long as they are applicable or compatible with the fight taking place, or, at a special moment, decide on a move which does not appear in the rules.
 - A fighter is strictly forbidden to stop the fight voluntarily turning his back to his opponent and going to his corner without referee's order or during a count. If that happens, referee must consider it a refusal to continue the fight and then he must award victory to his opponent.

- If a Kickboxer breaks the rules but does not necessarily deserve a disqualification, the Referee must stop the fight and give a warning to the Kickboxer of a foul. Before the warning, the Referee must order the Kickboxer to stop fighting. The warning must be given clearly, so that the Kickboxer understands the reason and cause of the penalty. The Referee must hand signal to each Judge that a particular warning has been given and clearly show which Kickboxer has been punished. After having given the warning, the Referee orders the Kickboxer to fight. If a fighter has been given 4 official warnings within the same bout, he is disqualified.

- A Referee may give a caution to a Kickboxer. A caution means a warning given by a Referee to a Kickboxer for breaking a rule. In order to do this he doesn't need to stop the fight, and may reprimand the Kickboxer during the fight.



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Art. 1.5 Health and security

- The Referee in ring-sports must use plastic gloves and he must change them after every fight in which blood has occurred.
- At ringside there must be soft paper tissue to be used by the central Referee on the fighters
- Soft paper tissue used on one fighter cannot be used on another fighter.

Art. 1.6 Kick-Counter

- A kick-counter is a Judge who sits in neutral ring corners. The coaches must be able to see the counter. It is mandatory to use kick-counter in all WAKO World and Regional Championships. It is also recommended to use this in all other WAKO sanctioned tournaments like World Cups or Open Tournaments. The kick-counter reports to the Referee after every round if any missing kicks. The only responsibility of the kick-counter is to assure that the fighters have delivered enough kicks (6) in each round. In all WAKO World and Regional Championships it is mandatory that the kick-counter use board with visible red and blue numbers. In other tournaments there can be used clickers even though it is recommended to use boards.

Art. 1.7 Medical check-up Referees

- Before officiating in an international tournament regulated according to the above-mentioned rules, a Referee must submit to a medical check-up in order to prove his physical fitness to fulfil his role in the ring. A Referee is not allowed to wear glasses, but he may wear contact lenses. The Referee is obliged to attend the meeting organized by the Medical Committee, before each Championship.

Art. 2. Judges

- Each Judge must independently consider the merits of the two fighters, and must choose the winner, according to the regulations.
- During the match, he will not talk to fighter, other Judges, or anybody else, with the exception of the Referee. He may, if necessary, at the end of a round, notify the Referee about any incident that he has missed, for example tell him about the misbehaviour of a second, loose ropes, etc.
- A Judge will mark the number of points (10-10, 10-9, 10-8 etc) granted to each fighter on his score sheet and in professional bouts and only his decision will be announced to the public at the end of the match.
- During the round the Judge will use the back of the scorecard to register the numbers of hits he sees, either by a number or by numbers of lines. Always the red corner is on the left side and the blue corner on the right side of both sides of the scorecard. The points/recorded hits must be tallied separately by rounds.
- He will not leave his place until the decision has been announced.
- It is mandatory for all Judges to use clicker in fights. It is important to clarify in front of a tournament between WAKO, promoter or Judges themselves to bring this equipment.

Art. 2.1 Special Note

- All Referees, Judges and officials working a tournament, whether on or off duty, are not allowed to take action on behalf of a team/nation as coach or in any other way show favoritism (screaming, cheering like any coach/fan).

Art. 3. Timekeeper

- The task of a timekeeper is to keep track of the number and the duration of the rounds as well as of the break time.
- He will be seated at ringside.
- Ten seconds before the beginning of each round, he will clear the ring, giving order "Seconds out"
- He will ring the gong at the beginning and at the end of each round.
- He will announce the number of the round, before it starts.
- He will stop the bout temporarily, when asked to do so by the Referee.
- He will keep track of extra time with a watch or a stopwatch



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- If, at the end of a round, a boxer is on the floor, and the Referee is counting him out, the gong must ring at the end of two minutes, even if central Referee has not finished his count yet (the central referee has always the obligation to count minimum up to 8 seconds). Intervals between the rounds will last one minute.
 - Time must be visible all times for the coaches

Art. 4. Competition Area (Ring Equipment)

- The following ring equipment must be available:
 - A Boxing ring of international standard size including ordinary canvas (no tatamis on the ring floor),
 - 4 ropes (3 ropes in case of “force majeure”)
 - pads in all corners (1 red, 1 blue, 2 white)
 - straps between the ropes
 - at least 2 stairs
 - 2 chairs
 - 2 foldaway stools for fighters between the rounds
 - 2 cups and bottles of water
 - 2 water buckets
 - At the neutral corners of the ring there must be a bag or a bucket tied up in the corner for all garbage.
 - Ringside
 - A table and chairs for the officials
 - A sound gong or a bell
 - Stopwatches
 - Refereeing sheets according to the WAKO model
 - A first aid kit including plastic gloves for the Referee to be used at all matches and also tissue papers.
 - A microphone linked to a sound system. Coaches dressed in sweaters in ring corners will have a towel and a sponge each, to attend to the fighters.

Art. 5. Fighter Uniform and Equipment

- Safety equipments are:
 - **Full-contact:** Obligatory safety equipment: head protection, mouth-guard, breast protection (mandatory for female fighters), gloves for contact sports (10 Oz), groin protection, shin guards and foot protection (ankle only).
 - Uniforms are the same for seniors and juniors, bare torso for men and long pants, sport top and long pants for women.
- **Low Kick:** Obligatory safety equipment: head protection, mouth-guard, breast protection for female fighters, gloves for contact sports (10 Oz), groin protection, shin guards and foot protection (ankle only).
- Uniforms are the same for seniors and juniors – bare torso and shorts for men, sport top and shorts for women. No shorts are allowed with name of Muay Thai or any other Martial Art name. If any logo, only name of the country.
- **K-1:** Obligatory safety equipment: head protection, mouth-guard, breast protection for females, gloves for contact sports (10 Oz), groin protection, shin guards and NO foot protection, only ankle protection.
- Uniforms are the same for seniors and juniors – bare torso for men and shorts, sport top and shorts for women. No shorts are allowed with name of Muay Thai or any other Martial Art name. If any logo, only name of the country.
- Hand wraps (Bandage)
 - Hand wraps are used for wrapping the fist to avoid injuries. Using hand wraps are mandatory. Hand wraps are 250 cm long and 5 cm wide cotton strips without sharp edges. Hand wraps will be fastened on the upper part of fighter’s wrists with self-adhesive cotton-base strips; maximum length 15 cm and width 2 cm.
- Tooth protection (Mouth-guard)
 - Mouth-guards must be made from soft and pliable rubber-plastic material. Protection on only the upper teeth or on both upper and lower teeth is allowed. Mouth-guard must enable free breathing and



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must be adapted to the competitor's mouth configuration. It is not allowed to use a mouth-guard over tooth correction apparatus (braces, retainers) unless a dentist doctor's certificate allows that. Using tooth protection is mandatory for all fighting disciplines, in all age categories and in both amateur and professional matches.

Breast protection

- Breast protection is mandatory for all female competitors in older cadets, junior and senior categories and is mandatory in all fighting disciplines (semi, light, full contact, low-kick and K1 Rules). 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 top (bodice).

Groin protection

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

Shin guard

- Shin guards are made from hard foam-rubber material. A shin guard must cover the shinbone from under the knee to the top of the feet. Shin guards must be tubular stocking. Shin guards with metal, wooden or hard plastic elements are not allowed.

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 competitor'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.

General

If a fighter comes to the ring inappropriately dressed (wrong colour of headguard or gloves, using safe-t equipments not allowed by WAKO, using shorts with Muay Thai symbols, without wraps or mouth-piece), he/she will not be disqualified but central referee will give him/her 2 minutes to remedy matters. If the fighter is not ready within said time, he/she will be disqualified (wearing T-shirts is strictly forbidden in the ring as it is forbidden to turn inside out shorts in order to hide wrong symbols).

Art. 6. Rounds

- Amateur fights in international open tournaments, Continental or World Championships have 3x2 minute rounds with 1 minute break between each round.
- A coach and a second who must obey the following rules may assist each fighter:
- Only the coach and the second may get into the ring and only one of them at a time may be inside the ropes.
- No advice, help or encouragement can be given to the fighter during the round
- A second can give up the fight on behalf of his fighter, and can also, if the fighter is in great difficulty, toss the sponge or the towel into the ring, except while the Referee is counting.
- During the match, neither the coach nor the second can be on the ring platform. They must, before each round, remove stools, towels, buckets, etc.
- Any coach, second or official, encouraging or prompting the spectators to give signs of advice or encouragement to a boxer during a round, can be suspended from his function in the competition in course.
- A coach or a second who violates the rules may receive a warning or be disqualified by the Referee for bad behaviour.



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Art. 7. Male weight categories

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- Light bantam • -51 kg
- Bantam weight • -54 kg
- Feather weight • -57 kg
- Light weight • -60 kg
- Light welter-weight • -63.5 kg
- Welter weight • -67 kg
- Light middle-weight • -71 kg
- Middle weight • -75 kg
- Light heavy weight • -81 kg
- Cruiser weight • -86 kg
- Heavy weight • -91 kg
- Super heavy weight • +91 kg

Art. 7.1 Female weight categories

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 - Bantam weight • - 48 kg
 - Feather weight • - 52 kg
 - Light weight • - 56 kg
 - Middle weight • - 60 kg
 - Light heavy weight • - 65 kg
 - Heavy weight • - 70 kg
 - Super heavy • + 70 kg
- **Older Juniors' weight classes are the same as those of seniors**, however Younger Junior male categories are the following : -42, -45, -48, -51, -54, -57, -60, -63,5, -67, -71, -81, +81 kg.
 - **Younger Junior Female categories are the following** : -36, -40, -44, -48, -52, -56, -60, +60 kg.

Art. 7.2 Age Division

- In full contact competition the age categories are:
 - Juniors - 16, 17 and 18 years old. That means from the day he/she fill 16 until the day he/she fill 19
 - Seniors - 18 to 45 years old. From the day he/she fill 18 until the day he/she fill 45
 - The year he/she are 18, they can decide to be either junior or senior. However if the fighter has competed as senior at the age of 18 he/she can not go back to junior again.
 - Age divisions will be determined in the following manner: a competitor will be placed in an age division according to his year of birth, not his actual birthday, and he will be required to compete all year in this age category.
 - Age categories are the same for male and female competitors.



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- Junior competitors are divided into a) younger juniors and b) older juniors.
- Younger juniors are those competitors whose age is from 15 to 16.
- Older Juniors are competitors whose age is from 17 to 18.

Art. 7.3 Weigh-in

- In World and International championships, as well as International competitions, the following rules must be respected:
- Fighters of each weight category will be weighed the day before the competition or in the morning between 8 and 10 on the same day they have been drawn to fight. International Tournaments Committee or any other WAKO official delegate will be allowed to modify these conditions in case of an inevitable postponement. The fights will start at least 3 hours after the weighing time, or in a shorter lapse of time if the Tournament Committee so decides, after consulting the Medical Committee, provided that the decision is not prejudicial to any kickboxer taking part in the first bouts of the tournament.
- The Tournament Committee authorizes delegates to perform at weigh-in. WAKO representatives of any National Association may be present, but are not allowed to intervene on any occasion.
- Each fighter will be officially weighed only once. The weight registered on that occasion is final. It is allowed, nevertheless, for the fighter who has not reached the right weight during the official weigh-in, to come back after 1 hour maximum. In the case he cannot make the weight again, he is disqualified or, if it is possible, he can be placed in the weight category immediately above.
- Before being weighed, each fighter must be declared fit for fighting by a qualified doctor.
- The weight is what the scale shows when the fighter is undressed. The weight must be displayed in metric measures. Electronic scales can be used. A fighter is allowed to fight solely within the category defined at weigh-in.
- Each fighter must be in possession of a card with a written decision of a medical doctor as well as the decision of the official in charge of weigh-in.
- In tournaments, ring sports have daily weigh-ins or at least 3 weigh-ins during the tournament. The weigh-ins are done in the morning between 8 and 10 a.m. All fighters must bring their own national passport as identification.

Art. 7.4 International Bouts

- In case of tournaments or competitions between two or more nations, the weigh-in will be carried out by a member appointed by the National Association of the organizing country, with a representative of the participating country or countries present and allowed to verify the weight of each kickboxer.
- With each victory, the kickboxer will win 2 points for his team: with each defeat, he will win 1 point for his team, except in case of being disqualified, when no points will be granted. The Association of the country which hosts a "visiting" team will provide it with weigh-in scales for the purpose of weight check and a training area when the last visitor has arrived in the town where the match takes place. WAKO Referees (world, international or national matches) will Referee each bout: two or three judges may equally officiate if necessary. Each fighter must, before weigh-in, be judged fit for fighting by the doctor appointed by the Tournament Committee. In order to assure successful weigh-in, the Tournament Committee can decide to start the medical check-up earlier.

Art. 8. Special violations of Rules

- If a Fighter, Coach or a whole team protests with not leaving the Ring immediately after the fight, the Chairman of Ring Sports after consultation with the Board of Directors or the tournament organization is allowed to disqualify the whole team.

Art. 9. Indication

- For better readability the text uses masculine pronouns throughout. However, all references to persons apply to both genders.

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Art. 10. Open Scoring Electronic System

For all ring sports open scoring electronic system scoring shall be used. This system is as follows:

- All three judges use a mouse with buttons indicating the two corners.
- A screen will show the point status for both fighters from the various judges at all time. The displays will be visible for audience and for the coaches involved either with TV screens and/or roll-up screen. Fouls, warnings, minus points and time is also shown on the screen, administrating from the computer of the secretariat of each ring.
- The system will be administered by the timekeeper. The fight and its history is stored as a pdf-file in the computer at jury's table.



An example of a display for a Electronic Scoring System.

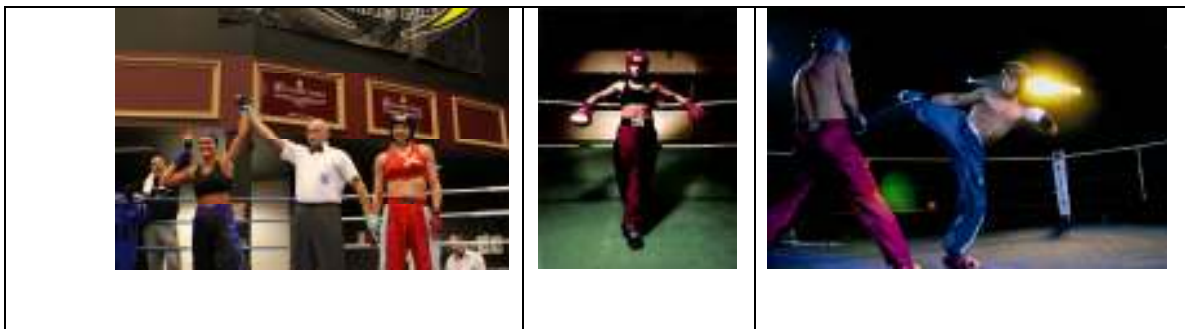
Art. 11. Muslim women athletes wearing special clothes while participating in WAKO's events

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- In order to respect all religion beliefs, WAKO allow female Muslim athletes to wear appropriate clothes while participating in WAKO's events.
- The following rule regarding that issue was decided by WAKO Board of Directors back in 1994.
- All competitors taking part in any WAKO competition must follow Rules in connection to fighter uniform as described in article 4 of WAKO Tatami Sports General Rules and article 5 of WAKO Ring Sports General Rules respectively.
- However the female Muslim athletes 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 athletes are allowed to wear a scarf under their head guard covering the head but not the face and the same without head guard when competing in musical forms.
- 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.

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Appendix 1: Full Contact Clothing



Appendix 2: 10oz Gloves



Appendix 3: Shin Guards.



These Rules will remain in place a minimum of two years from 27th April 2012 until the next WAKO Standing Committee Meeting April 2014. No changes are allowed without PRIOR WAKO Standing Committee Approval.