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RULES OF KARATE COMPETITION

All competing athletes and referees have to decide which Kumite system they wish to participate in: ***Shobu Ippon*** or ***Shobu Sanbon***.

EXPLANATION TO COMPETITORS:

Participation is allowed in Shobu Ippon and/or Shobu Sanbon rules under the following conditions.

Competitors who participate in the **Shobu Sanbon individual** category **cannot** participate in **Shobu Ippon individual** category, but **can** participate in the **team** category of Shobu Ippon and vice versa.

- A **Veteran** competitor **can** compete in both categories, Senior and Veterans;
- A **Senior** competitor **cannot** participate in the Veteran's category;
- A **Junior** competitor can participate in the Senior category, Kata and Kumite;
- A **Cadet** competitor **can** participate, in Junior and Senior category, but **only** in Kata;
- **Children** 13-14 years old **can** participate in Cadet category, but **only** in Kata;
Each Federation may register a maximum of **1 Team** and a maximum of **4 individual competitors** for each category of Kumite and Kata;

GENERAL CONTEST RULES

CHAPTER I – JUDGING

ARTICLE 1: JUDGES AND REFEREES

The Chief Referee, Referee, Mirror Judge, Corner Judges and Jury Table Judge are selected in the following way:

1) The Chief Referee is appointed by the WUKF Directing Committee (WUKF-DC). The Referee, Mirror Judge, Corner Judges and Jury Table Judge, for each Match area are appointed by the Chief Referee before or at the time of each Match.



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2) The WUKF-DC may, when necessary, adopt other systems.

ARTICLE 2: DUTIES OF REFEREES AND JUDGES

The Chief Referee, Referee, Mirror Judge, Corner Judges and Jury Table Judge shall bear the following points in mind:

- 1) They must be objective, impartial and fair.
- 2) They must comport themselves with dignity and demonstrate respect for the competitors and other Officials alike.
- 3) Their movements taken during the Match must be vigorous, agile, refined, quick, confident and precise, and maintain an attitude befitting a WUKF Official.
- 4) They must also concentrate their full attention on the Match, observe each contestant carefully and judge correctly every action of the contestants. During the Match they must not converse with anyone other than the Chief Referee, the other Judges and the contestants.

ARTICLE 3: POWER AND DUTY OF THE CHIEF REFEREE

- 1) Has the ultimate responsibility of judgement.
- 2) Shall be responsible for seeing that the Match is conducted according to these Contest Rules and should any unusual incident occur, shall base their decision upon these Rules.
- 3) Shall appoint the Referee, Mirror Judge, Corner Judges and Jury Table Judge prior to the Match. Should it be necessary to replace one of them during a Match, the Chief Referee shall immediately halt the Match and select a substitute without loss of time.
- 4) Must be consulted whenever a Referee has any difficulties in his decisions. For each Match area, a Chief Referee will be appointed by the WUKF-DC.

ARTICLE 4: POWER AND DUTY OF THE REFEREE

The Referee shall have the power:

- 1) To conduct Matches, including start and stop.
- 2) To announce the decision of the panel of Judges.



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- 3) To explain when necessary the grounds on which such decisions are awarded.
- 4) To announce fouls.
- 5) To issue warnings (prior to, during, after the Match).
- 6) To take other disciplinary action (to dismiss or suspend a contestant from a Match).
- 7) To obtain advice from Mirror Judge and/or Corner Judges.
- 8) To decide victory by majority based on the table for judgement (Appendix III).
- 9) To extend the duration of the Match.

ARTICLE 5: POWER AND DUTY OF THE MIRROR JUDGE AND THE CORNER JUDGES

1) The Mirror Judge and Corner Judges shall have the power:

- a) To assist the Referee.
- b) To give their opinion regarding different situations.
- c) To signal their judgement regarding the conduct and development of Matches by means of flags, hands and/or whistle.
- d) To exercise their right to vote in a decision of a Match.

2) The Judges shall carefully observe the actions of the contestants within their range of vision. In the following cases, they shall at once signal the Referee by means of whistle or flag, correctly giving their opinion:

- a) When they notice injury or illness of a contestant before the Referee notices it.
- b) When they perceive an action which they consider should be awarded as Ippon or Waza-ari.
- c) When a contestant appears about to commit, or has committed, a prohibited act and/or technique.
- d) When both or either of the contestants have moved out of the competition area.
- e) In all cases when it is necessary to call the attention of the referee.



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In Mirror System two Judges may not both conduct the Match: One of them must be a Senior Referee

- 3) Each Judge shall continuously evaluate the relative excellence of sportsmanship of the contestants and form their opinion independently.
- 4) When the Referee calls "Hantei", each of the Judges shall give their opinion in the prescribed manner. In the case of a difference of opinion between the Referee and the Judges on a given matter, the Judge can, with the concurrence of other Judges, oppose the judgement of the Referee. The ultimate decision will be made by majority.

ARTICLE 6: JURY TABLE JUDGE, SCORE-KEEPER, TIME-KEEPER, CALLER-ANNOUNCER

- 1) Judges will be appointed as Score-Keeper, Time-Keeper and Caller-Announcer to the Jury Table.
- 2) The Jury Table Judge is responsible of the official result of the Match.

ARTICLE 7: TERMS AND SIGNS

The terms and signs to be used by the Referees and Judges in the operation of a Match are as specified in Appendix I.

ARTICLE 8: SIGNALS

- 1) The signals can be made by either hands, flags and/or whistle by Mirror Judge and Corner Judges during the Match shall be as specified in Appendix II.
- 2) Whistle signals used by the Referees shall have the following meanings:
 - a) Long/normal + short/strong = Hantei.
 - b) Short/strong = the command to lower the flags or the Score Boards.



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ARTICLE 9: DECISIONS

- 1) When the Referee awards a decision on the basis of the signals given by the Mirror Judge or the Corner Judges, the decision shall be governed by the Rules given in Appendix III.
- 2) Matters relating to judgement not prescribed in these rules shall be discussed between the Judges and the decision thus reached shall be referred to the Chief Referee of the Match and to the WUKF-DC for approval. All officials will be notified of these decisions and a public announcement will be made.

CHAPTER II - GENERAL MATTERS

ARTICLE 1: MATCH AREA SIZES

- 1) **Kumite:** The size of the Match area, in principle, **shall be 8 x 8 meters** for, Juniors, Seniors and Veterans: and a minimum **6 x 6 meters** for Children. Tatami floors are preferable.
- 2) **Kata:** The size of the area shall be large enough so that participants are able to perform the Kata without any obstacles.
- 3) The Match area shall be border-lined. Kumite and Kata: see Appendix IV

ARTICLE 2: OUTFIT AND PRESENTATION

- 1) **The contestants shall wear a clean, white and unfigured Karate-Gi.**

PS: One Sponsorship advertising logo panel is permitted on the back of the competitors Gi top. It must be at shoulder height, and may be a maximum of 30 x 15 cms.

- 2) In Kumite Matches and in Kata Flag system, one of the contestants shall, for identification purposes, wear a red/white belt around their waist replacing their grade belt. In Kumite Matches the contestant shall also wear Mitts of the colour corresponding to their belt for that round.
- 3) The contestant are required to keep their nails short and shall not wear metallic objects or the like on their body which may cause injury to themselves or their opponent.
- 4) The contestant is not allowed to wear bandages or supports, except with the Tournament Doctor's permission.



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5) The following rules apply to the wearing of devices for protection:

- a) Mitts (max 2 cm thickness) are mandatory in Kumite Shobu Sanbon: **White (Shiro)/Red (Aka)**. Special mitts can be worn, under the approval of WUKF-DC, for Shobu Ippon.
- b) Shin protectors are allowed in Kumite Shobu Sanbon.
- c) Instep protectors are forbidden.
- d) Gum shields are MANDATORY in Kumite **Shobu Sanbon**. Athletes who cannot use the gum shield must bring a medical certificate as proof and to show why.
- e) Groin protectors are mandatory in Men Kumite.
- f) Chest protectors are mandatory in Ladies Kumite.
- g) Spectacles are not allowed in Kumite.
- h) Soft or water-permable contact lenses may be worn at the contestant's own risk.
- i) In Children Kumite, female competitors age 6-7-8 and 9-10 years old who will not use chest protectors must bring parents written authorization.

6) All protective equipment must be approved by the WUKF-DC (see Appendix V).

ARTICLE 3: OFFICIAL DRESS CODE.

1) **REFEREES AND JUDGES**: Must wear the official uniform designated by the WUKF ExBo. This uniform must be worn at all tournaments, courses and examinations. The official uniform will be as follows:

- a) A navy-blue blazer bearing two silver buttons.
- b) A white WUKF shirt.
- c) A RED WUKF tie.
- d) Light grey trousers.
- e) Dark blue or black socks.



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f) Black gymnastic shoes.

2) CONTESTANTS:

- a) Contestants shall wear a clean, white and unfigured Karate-Gi. They may have advertising sponsorship on the back of the Gi top.
- b) A national badge may be worn.
- c) In case of women, a plain white t-shirt may be worn beneath the karate jacket,
- d) The jacket, when tightened around the waist with the belt, must be of an overall length that it covers the hips.
- e) The sleeves of the jacket must reach half the way down the forearm and may not be rolled up.
- f) The trousers must be long enough to cover two-thirds of the shin.
- g) The belt must be of an overall length that leaves around 15 cm of extra length on both ends after it has been properly tied around the waist.
- h) Each contestant must keep their hair clean, and cut to such a length that does not obstruct the smooth conduct of the Match.
- i) Hachimaki will not be allowed.
- j) Contestants must have short fingernails and must not wear metallic or other objects which might injure their opponents.
- k) Muslim women may use a white **Scarf** or **Chador**.

1) COACHES:

The Coach shall at all times during the tournament wear a TRACKSUIT with an identifying badge with their associations name and nationality upon it.

The WUKF-Officers or Tournament Director may disbar any official or competitor who does not comply with this regulation.



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ARTICLE 4: STAFF

1) TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:

The Tournament Director is appointed by the WUKF-DC. He shall govern the conduct and development of the Matches as far as he does not interfere with the judging rules. He shall be assisted by the Tournament personnel.

2) TOURNAMENT DOCTOR:

The Tournament Doctor is appointed by the WUKF-DC. He shall govern all medical matters during the tournament.

2) FIRST AID CREW:

The First Aid Crew shall be prepared to act in case of accident or sickness, along with a Doctor.

ARTICLE 5: MATCH EQUIPMENT

The types, quantity and usages of the equipment prepared by the Tournament Host will be as follows:

- a) Flags (red and white, 5 for Match area).
- b) Score boards (7 for Match area).
- c) Recording equipment (score sheets and recording forms, pens, calculators etc.),
- d) Red and white bands,
- e) Countdown clocks and time signalling devices.

ARTICLE 6: PROTEST AGAINST DECISION AND REVISION OF DECISION

1) The contestants cannot personally protest against the Judges' decision.

2) Only when a decision given by the Referee and the Judges is thought to have violated the Rules of the Match or the Rules of Judging, the Coach of the team involved may protest to the Chief Referee against the decision immediately after it was detected.



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- 3) When he receives a protest against a decision from the Coach of a team to which the contestant belongs, the Chief Referee himself shall review the complaint, and may call for an explanation from the Referees and/or Judge. If he finds the decision patently unreasonable, he may demand that the panel of Judges revise its decision. The final decision will be given after approval of the WUKF-DC. Before the coach makes an official protest he has to pay a protest fee of 100€. The fee will be returned should the protest be upheld.
- 4) To reduce any charting error, the winner of each Match must confirm their victory with the Jury Table Judge prior to leaving the area.

ARTICLE 7: INJURIES OR ACCIDENTS DURING THE MATCH

- 1) In the case of an injury of a contestant, the Referee shall at once halt the Match, assist the injured contestant and, at the same time, call the Tournament Doctor. The treatment of the injury may not significantly delay the Match.
- 2) When a contestant, who suffers a minor injury, but not serious enough to disable them, refuses to continue with the Match or requests for permission to quit the Match, they shall be declared the loser.
- 3) In case an injury or injuries sustained during a Kumite Match for reasons not ascribable to either contestant, disable a contestant or in case both contestants are injured at the same time for reasons for which both are responsible, the contestant who quits the Match shall be declared the loser. In case both contestants quit and the reasons causing the injuries are not ascribable to either of the contestants, the Match shall be decided with Hantei.
- 4) In case a contestant is deemed unable to continue the Match owing to an injury or any other physical reasons, on the basis of the advice by the Tournament Doctor, the Referee shall terminate the Match and suspend the injured contestant from the Match. If the injury is ascribable to his opponent, he shall be declared the winner. If the injury is not ascribable to his opponent, he shall be declared the loser.
- 5) A contestant who wins a Match through disqualification of their opponent for causing injury cannot fight again in the competition without permission from the Tournament Doctor.
- 6) Only the Tournament Doctor can take decisions concerning all matters about injuries, accidents or physical condition of the contestants.



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ARTICLE 8: RETIREMENT

A contestant who is unable to continue competing or participating, for reasons other than injury or who requests for permission to quit the Match for such reasons, shall be declared the loser.

ARTICLE 9: OTHER MATTERS

- 1)** In case of a situation not foreseen in these Rules or in case there is a doubt about the applicability of these rules to a given situation, the Jury Table Judge, Judges, Referee and Chief Referee shall consult among themselves to find a solution thereto. The decision should be approved by the WUKF ExBo. All officials will be notified of these decisions and a public announcement will be made.
- 2)** All Karate-ka, be they contestants (this includes Coaches, Manager or anybody connected with the contestant), Judges or other officials, must follow the Karate-Do ideals of Good Character, Sincerity, Effort, Etiquette and Self-Control.
- 3)** Any behaviour likely to bring Karate into disrepute (this includes that of Coaches, Manager or anybody connected with the contestant) may result in a penalty or in the disqualification of the contestant and/or team. The Coach will be assigned a specific place near to the Tatami by the Tournament Director.