



# WAKO RULES



## CHAPTER 2

## TATAMI RULES - GENERAL



## Chapter 2. Tatami rules - general

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## Article 1. Disciplines

Tatami disciplines are:

- **Point fighting** (PF)
- **Light contact** (LC)
- **Kick light** (KL)
- **Forms** (musical / creative) (MF / CF)

## Article 2. Fighting area

- Fighting area shall be called the TATAMI.
- All areas will be 7 x 7 in ALLWAKO world and continental championships, World and continental cups and all other open tournaments.
- A one meter no entry matted safety boundary must surround the fighting area.
- The tatami must be placed on the bare floor and must be made up of non-slip interlocking mats, suitably coloured and approved by WAKO (Trocellen).
- The area for musical forms performances will be larger. The tatami will be 10x10 meters.

## Article 3. Weight categories

**Only one weight-class:** In WAKO Continental and World championships, it is only possible to start and compete in one weight class. Competitor can only compete in a weight class a maximum of one division above his actual weight.

### Article 3.1. Children (CH) (7, 8, 9 years old)

Boys	Girls
-18 kg	-18 kg
-21 kg	-21 kg
-24 kg	-24 kg
-27 kg	-27 kg
-30 kg	-30 kg
-33 kg	-33 kg
-36 kg	-36 kg
+36 kg	+36 kg

### Article 3.2. Younger Cadets (YC) (10, 11, 12 years old)

Boys	Girls
-28 kg	-28 kg
-32 kg	-32 kg
-37 kg	-37 kg
-42 kg	-42 kg
-47 kg	-47 kg
+47 kg	+47 kg



### **Article 3.3. Older Cadets (OC) (13, 14, 15 years old)**

<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>
- 32 kg	- 32 kg
- 37 kg	- 37 kg
- 42 kg	- 42 kg
- 47 kg	- 46 kg
- 52 kg	- 50 kg
- 57 kg	- 55 kg
- 63 kg	- 60 kg
- 69 kg	- 65 kg
+ 69 kg	+65 kg

### **Article 3.4. Juniors (J) (16, 17, 18 years old)**

<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
- 57 kg	- 50 kg
- 63 kg	- 55 kg
- 69 kg	- 60 kg
- 74 kg	- 65 kg
- 79 kg	- 70 kg
- 84 kg	+ 70 kg
- 89 kg	
- 94 kg	
+ 94 kg	

### **Article 3.5. Seniors (S) (from age 19 to 40)**

<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
- 57 kg	- 50 kg
- 63 kg	- 55 kg
- 69 kg	- 60 kg
- 74 kg	- 65 kg
- 79 kg	- 70 kg
- 84 kg	+ 70 kg
- 89 kg	
- 94 kg	
+ 94 kg	

### **Article 3.6. Master Class (Veterans) (V) (from age 41 to 55 years)**

<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
- 63 kg	- 55 kg
- 74 kg	- 65 kg
- 84 kg	+ 65 kg
- 94 kg	
+ 94 kg	



## **Article 4. Rounds**

### **Article 4.1. Children**

- In point fighting discipline on world, continental and national championships, world and continental cups and on other open tournaments format of each single fight in children category is 2 rounds by 1 minutes (2 x 1) with 30 seconds break between the rounds
- In case of equal result on the end of point fighting fight an extra time is extended by one minute without any break.
- At the end of this time if it is a draw, the winner will be the next kickboxer to score, sudden death system.

### **Article 4.2. Younger cadets**

- In point fighting discipline on world, continental and national championships, world and continental cups and on other open tournaments format of each single fight in younger cadets' category is 2 rounds by 1,5 minutes (2 x 1,5) with 1-minute break between the rounds
- In World or continental cups and Open international tournaments, format of the fight in younger cadets' category can be 2 rounds by 1 minutes (2x1) with 30 seconds break according to promoters needs.
- In case of equal result on the end of point fighting fight an extra time is extended by one minute without any break.
- At the end of this time if it is a draw, the winner will be the next kickboxer to score, sudden death system.

### **Article 4.3. Older cadets**

- In all tatami disciplines on world, continental and national championships, world and continental cups and on other open tournaments format of each single fight in younger cadets' category is 2 rounds by 2 minutes (2 x 2) with 1-minute break between the rounds
- In World or continental cups and Open international tournaments, format of the fight in older cadets' category can be 2 rounds by 1,5 minutes (2x1,5) with 30 seconds break according to promoters needs.
- In case of equal result on the end of point fighting fight an extra time is extended by one minute without any break.
- At the end of this time if it is a draw, the winner will be the next kickboxer to score, “sudden death system”.

### **Article 4.4. Juniors and seniors**

- In all tatami disciplines on world, continental and national championships format of each single fight in junior and senior category is 3 rounds by 2 minutes (3 x 2) with 1-minute break between the rounds
- In case of equal result on the end of point fighting fight an extra time is extended by one minute without any break.
- At the end of this time if it is a draw, the winner will be the next kickboxer to score, sudden death system.
- In World or continental cups and Open international tournaments, format of the fight in senior category can be 2 rounds by 2 minutes (2x2) with one minute or 30 seconds according to promoters needs.



### **Article 4.5. Master Class (Veterans)**

- In all tatami disciplines at the World, Continental and National championships, World and Continental cups and on other open tournaments format of each single fight in Master class (Veterans) category is 2 rounds by 2 minutes (2 x 2) with 1-minute break between the rounds
- At World or continental cups and Open international tournaments, format of the fight in Veterans - Master class category can be 2 rounds by 1,5 minutes (2x1,5) with 30 seconds break according to promoters needs.
- In case of equal result on the end of point fighting fight an extra time is extended by one minute without any break.
- At the end of this time if it is a draw, the winner will be the next kickboxer to score, sudden death system.

### **Article 4.6. Medical time**

- Maximum time for medical stop in one fight is 2 minutes for each kickboxer.
- If a kickboxer uses all two minutes, he will still be able to continue, but if there is need of more medical time, the Central referee must stop the fight with the decision RSC.
- Medical time starts when the medic/doctor arrives on the tatami, or when the Central referee approves any other medical help with small issues (such as nosebleed, contact lenses, etc.).
- In case of a cut or bleeding, the official doctor should decide within 2 minutes if a kickboxer can continue or not.
- Heeding the tournament official doctor's opinion, the Central referee will then decide whether the fight should be continued or not (however only in case when the Official Doctor allows a kickboxer to continue the fight).
- If the Central referee, after consultation with the doctor, determines that the kickboxer misuses medical time to rest or avoid a fight, he may give the kickboxer a official warning



## **Article 5. Equipment and clothes**

### **Article 5.1. Kickboxers in Point fighting**

#### **Article 5.1.1. Personal safety equipment**

- Head guard
- Face mask (in children's and younger cadets' categories)
- Mouth guard,
- Breast protection (for female kickboxers only, optional for younger female cadets' category),
- Gloves for point fighting,
- Hand wraps (optional)
- Elbow pads
- Groin protection (mandatory for male and female)
- Shin guards
- Foot protection

#### **Article 5.1.2. Personal clothes**

- V-neck top (V-neck T-shirts are not allowed)
- Long pants.
- Belts are optional and should indicating their grade.

### **Article 5.2. Kickboxers in light contact**

#### **Article 5.2.1. Personal safety equipment**

- Head guard
- Mouth guard,
- Breast protection (for female kickboxers only)
- Kickboxing gloves,
- Hand wraps (mandatory)
- Groin protection (mandatory for male and female),
- Shin guards
- Foot protection

#### **Article 5.1.2. Personal clothes**

- T-shirt (round neck)
- Long pants.
- No belts indicating grade are allowed.

### **Article 5.3. Kickboxers in kick light**

#### **Article 5.3.1. Personal safety equipment**

- Head guard
- Mouth guard,
- Breast protection (for female kickboxers only)
- Kickboxing gloves,
- Hand wraps (mandatory)



- Groin protection (mandatory for male and female),
- Shin guards
- Foot protection

#### **Article 5.3.2. Personal clothes**

- Sleeveless T shirt
- Kickboxing shorts
- No belts indicating grade are allowed.

#### **Article 5.4. Kickboxers in forms**

- For musical forms performances the kickboxer is allowed to wear all original clothes of the traditional martial art on which his performance is based
- Footwear are not allowed
- They can wear any kind of legally recognized kickboxing uniform, which must be clean and decent. It is allowed to wear a traditional kimono, but without the markings or any signs of other sports and martial arts.
- In Hard styles, kickboxers must be bar footed
- They can also be shirtless for their performance (apart from women).
- Kickboxers are allowed to wear sweat bands on arms / wrist.
- Kickboxers are not allowed to wear any jewellery or piercings of any kind.

#### **Article 5.5. Procedure for equipment and uniform check**

- Kickboxer's safety equipment, uniform and other checks will be done by the Central referee or the Judge. The Kickboxer must present himself to the Judge nearest his corner to have his safety equipment inspected / reviewed.
- After the Judge has inspected the kickboxer, he will wait to enter the tatami until told to do so by the Central referee.
- Kickboxers must be suitably conditioned to participate in their chosen discipline; they must have no injuries or illness which may harm themselves or other kickboxers. Kickboxer's face must be dry and without any grease. It is not allowed to enter a fight while bleeding. Also, it is not allowed to enter a fight with any sticking plaster casts or with tampons in nostrils or with any cuts or scratches. In that case, judge will consult the doctor. The body must be dry and without any oil.
- The judge will ask the coach to wipe clean the kickboxer's face and body.
- **Jewellery and piercing.** It is not allowed to enter a fight with any kind of jewellery or other adornment. Judges will run their fingers under the top of the T-shirt to check that kickboxers have no jewellery or other adornment around the neck. Also, judges will push index fingers under head guard to ensure that kickboxers have no earrings, studs or other jewellery. No tongue piercing and belly button piercing allowed either.
- Before allowing a kickboxer to enter the tatami, the judge must be completely sure that the kickboxer's safety equipment and uniform are fully functional for the kickboxer's safety and are according the WAKO rules.
- The Observer of the Musical Forms checks all kickboxers for jewellery and piercings before they compete.
- Kickboxers must stand outside of the tatami.
- The judge will check uniforms which must be dry, clean, without any blood or other substances and in good repair.
- Judge will check personal safety equipment and must pay attention to the following:



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- Head guard must be firmly fastened by self-adhesive strips under the chin and at back of head (no type of buckle is allowed).
- Top of head must be completely covered. Face, chin and eyebrows must be open
- Face mask must be worn for Children (CH) and Younger Cadets (YC) categories
- Gloves for points fighting must be without any cracks or splits. The kickboxer must be able to open his hand, and first half of fingers and thumb must be covered. The palm must not be covered.
- The fastening strip must be self-adhesive and gloves must be fastened at the wrist.
- Hand wraps are optional for PF, but mandatory for LC and KL.
- Hand wraps may be wrapped around base of fingers, palm and back of the hand.
- Wraps must be fixed on wrist with self- adhesive small strips or with self-adhesive cotton-based tape. Judge should touch and feel that hand wraps if worn are soft and without any hard parts.
- Before checking kickboxing gloves for light contact and kick light, the kickboxer must show his hands with hand wraps. Hand wraps are mandatory.
- After checking hand wraps, the judge will allow the kickboxer to put the kickboxing gloves on



## **Article 6. Officials**

### **Article 6.1. Chief referee of the Tatami Sports**

- The Chief referee at the WAKO World and continental championships and the World and Continental cups is named by WAKO Referee Committee among the referees for each fighting area. At the other kickboxing tournaments Chief referees is named by organizer national federation's Chairman of referee committee.
- Their main responsibility is to 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.
- Also, they may:
  - interrupt the fight to answer or deal with protests.
  - interrupt the fight if the rules are not being applied correctly.
  - remove Central referee and Judges who are not performing at an acceptable standard.
  - appoint an assistant to substitute a member when necessary.

### **Article 6.2. Central referees**

The role of a Central referee is primarily based on the following principles.

- There is one Central Referee per fight
- The Central referees shall be selected by the Chairman of Tatami Sports or his appointed deputy
- They will make sure that the rules of fair play are strictly observed.
- They will have the power to control the Tatami and Kickboxers.
- Their first responsibility is the safety of the kickboxers.
- They shall have the power to stop the fight to award points or penalties.
- They are the only person who has the authority to stop the fight.
- The Central referee in light contact and kick light may issue warnings and penalties for rules violations and exits on his own. Only in case they need to clarify non seen or doubtful situations brought to their attention, he will consult judges and following majority agreement with the judges make decision.
- He shall not award points in point fighting fights without at least one judge score the same point.
- When they issue a warning or a penalty, no points can be given to the offending kickboxer.
- They must give all commands in ENGLISH.
- They will be responsible for the enforcement of the rules throughout the competition and ensure that all scores, penalties and warnings are recorded correctly.
- In cases where the referee feels a disqualification may be appropriate, except in cases or instances requiring automatic disqualification, the Chief referee shall be consulted.
- The Central referee in tatami-disciplines must use medical gloves and must change them after every fight in which blood has occurred.

### **Article 6.3. Judges**

- There are two (Point fighting) or three (Light contact and Kick light) judges per fight.
- The judges are to assist the referee to ensure the safety of the kickboxers.
- They shall check kickboxers before each fight to ensure proper safety equipment is being used.
- When a judge sees what he considers a legal score, he must indicate so immediately by hand, by clicker or electronic score as appropriate to the style.



- The judges must keep constant watch over the fighting area and inform the Central referee when one of the kickboxers leaves the area.
- If a judge spots an action which he feels is in violation of the rules he must contact the referee and inform him of his views.

## **Article 6.4. Number of officials per tatami**

- At the World and Continental Championships and World Cups, a minimum number of referees is required to ensure the neutrality of the trials as follows:
  - **Point fighting:** 1 chief referee + 6 referees / judges  
Their duties during the fight are:  
1 chief referee, 1 central referee, 2 judges, 1 score / time keeper, 2 judges stand by
  - **Light contact / Kick light:** 1 chief referee + 8 referees / judges  
Their duties during the fight are:  
1 chief referee, 1 central referee, 3 judges, 1 score/time keeper, 3 judges stand by
  - **Forms:** 1 chief referee, 4 judges, 1 judge stand by
- The Chairman of WAKO International Referee Committee of Tatami Sports or his nominated representative for World and continental championships and World and continental cups can designate 1 experienced referee as a Supervisor for 2 tatamis on which fights of the same discipline take place. On the other kickboxing tournaments Supervisors are named by organizer national federation's Chairman of referee committee. Chief referee may not assign a judge for fight as Central referee, judge or score / time keeper of the same nationality as one of the kickboxers
- During the fight, except in exceptional cases (force majeure), the Chief referee cannot change the Central referee or judges. Force majeure shall be deemed to have caused the Central referee or judge to have taken ill or to have found a big and intentional violation of the rules.

## **Article 7. Decisions**

The decisions will be reached as follows:

### **Article 7.1. Victory by points (P)**

- At the end of a fight, the kickboxer who scored more points (in point fighting) and has obtained a victory by the decision of the majority of judges (in light contact and kick light) is declared the winner.
- If both kickboxers are injured and cannot continue the fight, judges will mark the points obtained by each kickboxer to that point and the kickboxer ahead by points will be declared the winner.

#### **Article 7.1.1. Maximum score**

**In Point fighting:** If one kickboxer leads by 10 or more points, then the fight is stopped and the kickboxer ahead by points will be declared as winner

**In Light contact and Kick light:** If one kickboxer achieved advantage of minimum 15 points with at least two judges, then the fight is stopped and the kickboxer ahead by points will be declared as winner

### **Article 7.2. Victory by abandonment (AB)**

If a kickboxer voluntarily gives up due, to an injury or any other reason, or if he fails to continue to fight after the one-minute break between the rounds, his opponent will be declared as winner.



## **Article 7.3. Victory by stoppage (RSC)**

- A fight may be stopped if the kickboxer is unable to fight or defend himself and also if the other kickboxer shows total athletic superiority. The Central referee decides who the winner is.
- If the fight is stopped because a kickboxer is injured, then the officials must make a decision according to Article 10.1. of present chapter of rules.

### **Article 7.3.1. Injuries**

The case of an injury to one of the Competitors, the fight shall be stopped only long enough for the medic/doctor to decide whether or not the injured kickboxer can continue. Once the medic/doctor arrives in the tatami, he shall have only two minutes to decide if the injury requires treatment (see Article 1.8 general rules) All treatment must be completed within the two minutes.

If the injury is serious, it must be treated by the medics/doctor on duty who is the only ones who can say if the fight must be terminated.

If the fight must be stopped because of injury, the Central referee and the two Judges must decide who caused the injury.

- Whether or not it was an intentional injury
- Whether or not it was the fault of the injured kickboxer
- Whether or not the injury was caused by an illegal technique
- If there were no rules violations by the uninjured kickboxer, that kickboxer shall win by forfeiture
- If there was a Rules violation by the uninjured Kickboxer, the injured Kickboxer wins by disqualification
- If the injured kickboxer is declared fit to continue by the medic / doctor, then the fight shall resume procedure after KO, RSC, RSC-H, Injury
- If a kickboxer gets injured in a fight, the doctor is the only person that can evaluate the circumstances.
- If a kickboxer remains unconscious, only the Central referee and the doctor in charge will be allowed to stay on the tatami, unless the doctor needs extra help.
- If the doctor allows the fight to continue, the Central referee must start the fight. But, if the Central referee sees the kickboxer unfit to continue, he must then stop the fight again on basis of RSC. This to prevent further injuries.

## **Article 7.4. Victory by disqualification (DISQ)**

Kickboxer is disqualified if:

- he is given four official warnings by Central referee
- he excessive exit tatami fourth times
- knocks out the opponent by an uncontrolled strike to the head or malicious attack
- knocking out the opponent by an uncontrolled blow to the head or malicious attack
- for excessive, continuous hitting after the "stop" command
- by extreme unsportsman like conduct of a kickboxer such as insulting the Central referee, Judges, the opponent or coaches.
- showing overly aggressive behaviour.

• In difficult cases, the Central referee may also call out a disqualification without having given a warning beforehand, but only after having consulted his judges (majority decision) and observer of the tatami.



## **Article 7.5. Victory by walk over (WO)**

- When a kickboxer is present in the tatami and ready to fight, and his opponent does not appear when announced three times by loud speaker.
- After two minutes, the Central referee will declare the kickboxer who is present on the tatami as winner by walk over (WO)
- If the kickboxer is late or not ready for the fight, but on time before the two minutes finished, the Central referee will start the fight with "official warning" to the kickboxer.

## **Article 7.6. Changing a decision**

All public decisions are definitive and cannot be changed unless:

- Mistakes which occurred in calculating the points are materially proven and agreed;
- One of the judges declares that they have made a mistake and mistakenly switched the scores of the kickboxers;
- Central referee's material mistake.
- Computer system technical mistake.

## **Article 8. Awarding of points**

- A legal **technique** strikes a legal **target**. The authorized striking area of the hand or foot must make "clean and well controlled" contact. It needs to be proper contact technique, with effective power, but controlled.
- The judge must actually see the technique hit the target. Marking points based on the sound of the strike is not allowed. The kickboxer must be looking at the point of contact when executing the technique. All techniques must be used with "reasonable" power. Any technique that simply touches, brushes, or pushes an opponent will not be scored.
- If a kickboxer jumps in the air to attack or defend, he must land inside the tatami with both feet to score, and he must keep his balance (it is not allowed to touch the floor with any part of body except the feet).
- With balance, it means good-enough balance eg. not falling. The kickboxer is allowed to stumble, but not fall.
- Reasonable power means, not too hard, and not too soft. A technique should be delivered with purpose and intent.

### **Article 8.1. Concerning strikes**

- During each round, a judge will mark respective score for each kickboxer, according to the number of technically controlled strikes that each one has received. To award a punch or a kick the technique must not be blocked or stopped. The number of recorded blows in a fight is recorded by the table officials (in point fighting).
- Strikes given by a kickboxer will not be taken into account:
  - If they are contrary to the regulations
  - If they land on the arms
  - If they are weak and do not come from legs, body or shoulders.

### **Article 8.2. Concerning offences**

- During each round a judge cannot alone penalize the offence he sees, He has to call the Central referee's attention to that offence.



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- A Central referee may, without stopping the time, stop the fight and give a verbal warning to a kickboxer at any moment.
- For the official warning, in order to do this the Central referee must stop the fight, and time, and explain clearly the violation of the rules facing the offender.
- When the Central referee decides to give a minus point to a kickboxer, the table official will award a minus point to the kickboxer as indicated by the Central referee and put it on the scoreboard/computer.

### **Article 8.3. Points**

• Punch	1 pt
• Kick to the body	1 pt
• Foot sweep (leading the opponent to touch the floor with any other part of the body apart from feet)	1 pt
• Kick to head	2 pts
• Jumping kick to body	2 pts
• Jumping kick to head	3 pts

\* Jumping kick, only awarded if kickboxer is still in the air when the technique is landed.

### **Article 8.4. Penalty**

- There are three kinds of warning CAUTION, VERBAL WARNING and OFFICIAL WARNING.
- There are two kinds of penalty MINUS POINT and DISQUALIFICATION.
- A Central Referee may without stopping the fight give a caution to a kickboxer at any moment. Central Referee may give ONLY ONE caution during the same bout.
- In order to give verbal warning the Central Referee must stop the fight but not the time and explain clearly the violation of the rules facing the offender. Central Referee may give ONLY ONE verbal warning during the same bout.
- In order to give the official warning, the Central Referee must stop the fight, the time, put the opponent to the neutral corner and facing the Chief of the tatami and Time Keeper point the offender explain the violation of the rules.
- Only four official warnings can be given during the same bout
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Official warning
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Official warning first minus point
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Official warning second minus point
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Official warning disqualification
- Warnings and penalties will be carried through the fight to all rounds what will be showed on the screens.
- Minus points and disqualification can be given directly without any warning, but this Central Referee's decision must be approved by Chief of the tatami

#### **Article 8.4.1. Fouls**

##### **The following actions are considered fouls:**

- Punching or kicking below the belt, hooking, tripping, and hitting with knees or elbows.
- Butting with the head, shoulders, forearms and elbows, strangling the opponent, crushing his face with arm or el- bow, pushing back the opponent;
- Hitting with open gloves, with the inside of the gloves, with a wrist.
- Hitting the opponent's back, particularly on the nape of his neck, head (in light contact and kick light discipline) and kidneys
- Lying down, wrestling or not fighting at all



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- Deliberately falling down due to no contact or little contact
- If the kickboxer spits out the mouth guard voluntarily, the Central referee must stop fight and give to kickboxer official warning for the first time and minus point for the second one.
- Grabbing
- Holding
- Slipping the gloves
- Attacking an opponent who is on the floor on getting up
- Clinching without any reason
- Hitting while hooking the opponent, or pulling the opponent into the blow.
- Hooking or holding opponent's arm or putting an arm underneath the arm of the opponent.
- Suddenly lowering one's head below opponent's belt in a way that would be dangerous for the latter.
- Using artificial means for a passive defence and falling down intentionally, in order to avoid a blow.
- Using insulting and aggressive language during a round.
- Refusing to withdraw after the order "BREAK".
- Trying to land a blow on the opponent immediately after a "BREAK" order and before withdrawing.
- Assailing or insulting the Central referee at any time
- When a warning for a particular foul has been administered for example a clinch
- Inappropriate behaviours of a coach or coach assistant

The Central referee will not caution the kickboxer again for the same offence. An official warning will follow a third caution for the same foul. If a Central referee thinks that an offence has been committed without his knowledge, he will have to consult the judges.

### **Article 8.4.2. Slipping the gloves (in Point fighting)**

- Glove slipping is against the rules and creates an automatic warning. If a kickboxer's gloves come off whilst scoring a hand technique, no score will be given (unless it was pulled off by the opponent), and a warning for slipping the glove will follow. (If glove is pulled off by opponent score remains and no warning will be given)
- A kickboxer should indicate to Central referee if glove is loose, by raising his hand, and then only after Central referee stops time, correct the issue. A kickboxer cannot indicate time when he is in a corner under pressure from his opponent in order to fix equipment.

### **Article 8.4.3. Exit**

#### **Leaving the fighting area**

- If a Kickboxer leaves the area (EXIT) without being pushed, kicked or knocked out by his opponent it will be seen as a "Voluntary Exit" and will receive a warning and one minus point from the Central referee. After leaving the area for the fourth time - 4<sup>th</sup> minus point, the kickboxer will be disqualified.
- Warnings (minus points) for leaving the area will be kept as a separate issue from warnings for other offences. From the first warning will receive one minus point.
- If the kickboxer fights on the edge of Tatami, the Central referee must not stop the fight to prevent the kickboxers from the exit.
- Stepping out (EXIT) means stepping outside the line, even with only one foot.
- Stepping on the line should not be considered as stepping out. The whole the foot must be outside the designated area.
- If the kickboxer is pushed out by the other kickboxer, or if he went outside the line as a result of a hit or kick, it is not classed as a voluntary exit.
- If a kickboxer is pushed, kicked or knocked out of the tatami, the Central referee must decide if it was with excessive force, if so – a warning should be given to the attacker, if not – a warning for



an exit (minus point) should be given to the kickboxer stepping outside and kickboxers should start from the centre of the tatami.

- In point fighting central referee will decide with majority and in light and kick light he can decide by himself

#### **Article 8.4.3.1. Exit Rules**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Exit** - Minus 1 Point given verbally communicated to athlete/coach with hand signal
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Exit** - Minus 1 Point given verbally communicated to athlete/coach with hand signal
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Exit** - Minus 1 Point given verbally communicated to athlete/coach with hand signal
- **4<sup>th</sup> Exit** - Disqualification - Verbally communicated to athlete/coach and table, with appropriate hand signal

#### **Article 8.4.4. Minus Points**

Criteria for minus points, given only by the Central referee, after previous warnings (2):

- Unclean fighting style
- Constant clinching
- Constant and continuous ducking, turning of the back
- Too few foot techniques
- Excessive contact
- Heavy knock down
- Any Serious violation of the rules

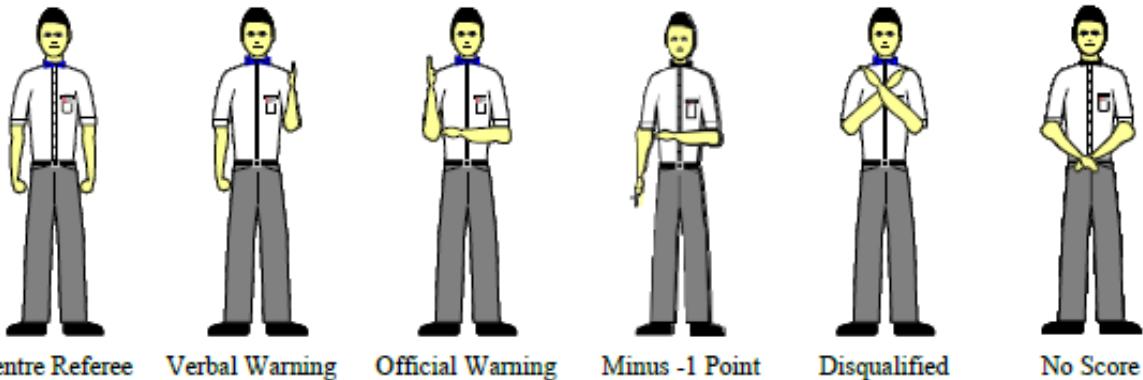
#### **Article 8.4.4.1. Rule violations (other than exits)**

- There are three kinds of warning CAUTION, VERBAL WARNING and OFFICIAL WARNING.
- There are two kinds of penalty MINUS POINT and DISQUALIFICATION.
- A Central Referee may without stopping the fight give a caution to a kickboxer at any moment. Central Referee may give ONLY ONE caution during the same bout.
- In order to give verbal warning the Central Referee must stop the fight but not the time and explain clearly the violation of the rules facing the offender. Central Referee may give ONLY ONE verbal warning during the same bout.
- In order to give the official warning, the Central Referee must stop the fight, the time, put the opponent to the neutral corner and facing the Chief of the tatami and Time Keeper point the offender explain the violation of the rules.
- Only four official warnings can be given during the same bout
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Official warning
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Official warning first minus point
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Official warning second minus point
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Official warning disqualification
- Warnings and penalties will be carried through the fight to all rounds what will be showed on the screens.
- Minus points and disqualification can be given directly without any warning, but this Central Referee's decision must be approved by Chief of the tatami

#### **Article 8.4.4.2. Coaches' behaviour**

- 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.

## Article 9. Hand Signals



(See Appendix 29)

## Article 10. Knock down (KD) and knock out (KO)

The purpose of counting and registering knock down after powerful and uncontrolled strikes is to give a time to recover and to make sure that knock downed kickboxer can continue the fight safely. The main purpose of counting is protecting and health of kickboxer.

- A Kickboxer is considered to be knocked down if:
  - If kickboxer touches the floor with a part of his body with any part of his body other than his feet following a strike or series of strikes.
  - If, after a strike or series of strikes kickboxer has not fallen to the floor, but is in a state of semi-consciousness and, by the Central referee's opinion, not able to continue fighting.
- In the case of a KD, the Central referee must immediately start counting out the seconds.
- When a kickboxer is on the floor, his opponent must instantly go to the neutral corner, shown by the Referee.
- The Central referee will only continue the fight when kickboxer who is in knock down is ready to fight on count of 8. The proof to be ready is that kickboxer is on his feet, in fighting stand with his arms raised infighting position. Kickboxer must be stable and balanced, with clear vision.
- If the opponent does not go to the neutral corner following the Central referee's order, the Central referee will suspend the counting until his order is executed. The count will then be continued where it was left.
- When a kickboxer is in knock down, the Central referee will count from 1 to 10 with a second interval between each number, and will indicate each second with his fingers so that the fallen kickboxer knows how many seconds have already been counted.
- When a kickboxer is in knock down, due to a strike or series of strikes, the fight will not continue before the Central referee has counted to 8, even if the kickboxer is ready to continue the fight before that time.
- If the kickboxer doesn't stand in fighting position and doesn't raise his hands the Central referee will continue to count until "10", the fight will be finished.
- If a kickboxer is in knock down at the end of a round, the Central referee will continue the count even if the round has finished - an audible signal is given for the end of the round.
- If a kickboxer is in knock down and is ready to continue after the count of 8, but the kickboxer falls back on the floor without receiving a new blow, the Central referee will resume the count, starting at 8.
- If both kickboxers fall at the same time, the count will continue on as long as one of them is still on the floor. If they both remain on the floor after 10 seconds, the fight will be stopped and decision given, considering the points granted before the KD. Nevertheless, this winner will be suspended from further



participation in this tournament because of the KO and in accordance with WAKO Rules.

- In all age categories knock downs should be counted as a minus point (-1) (-1 point in PF and -3 points from each judge in LC and KL) to kickboxer who caused knock down.
- Next knock down by powerful and uncontrolled strikes will lead to second minus point.
- Third knock down by powerful and uncontrolled strikes will lead to disqualification.
- On the other side, to avoid manipulation by kickboxer who is in knock out, the knock out (KO) will automatically mean that he is not allowed to continue participation at the same tournament

## **Article 10.1. Procedure after KO, RSC, RSC-H, Injury**

- If a kickboxer gets injured in a fight the doctor is the only person that can evaluate the circumstances and decide if the kickboxer can continue or not.
- If a Kickboxer remains unconscious, only the Central referee and the doctor in charge will be allowed to stay on the tatami, unless the doctor needs extra help.
- If the kickboxer is unconscious or semi-conscious after the knock down on the floor, the Central referee, after calling the doctor, will keep the kickboxer lying on the floor and will not allow him to get up until the arrival of the official doctor. The Central referee will not otherwise intervene (remove the tooth guard or rotate the unconscious kickboxer to the lateral position). All interventions on the kickboxer will be carried out by an official doctor.
- A kickboxer who has been knocked out due to a head-strike during the fight, or if the Central referee has stopped the fight due to severe head trauma which prevents him from continuing, will be examined by a doctor immediately afterwards, and accompanied to hospital by the ambulance on duty, if necessary.
- A kickboxer who has been knocked out due to a head-strike during the fight, or if the Central referee has stopped the fight due to severe head trauma which prevents them from continuing, will not be allowed to take part in another competition or fight for a period of at least 4 weeks after the KO and RSC-H.
- In case of following knock outs after the named period of 4 weeks, kickboxer will not be allowed to participate in future kickboxing competitions in accordance with WAKO Medical rules and regulations
- To above mentions quarantine periods the doctor at place can extend the quarantine period if necessary. Also doctors at hospital due to tests/scan of head can further on extend the quarantine period.
- A quarantine period means that a kickboxer cannot take part in any competition in kickboxing no matter what the discipline is. The quarantine periods are "minimum period" and cannot be overruled even though a head scan shows no visible injuries.
- The Central referee will tell the Judges to mark KO or RSC-H or RSC on their score sheets, when they have stopped the fight due to the kickboxer's inability to resume the fight because of head strikes. The same has to be reported by the Chief Referee on duty on that tatami on the kickboxer's SPORT PASS. This is also the official result of the fight and it cannot be overruled.
- Before resuming kickboxing after a ban, as described in the above paragraphs, a kickboxer will, after a special medical examination, have to be declared fit to take part in competition by a appointed doctor.

## **Article 10.2 Procedure after injuries in general**

- In case of injuries besides KO or RSC-H the doctor can give a minimum of quarantine period and recommend treatment at hospital.
- A doctor can require immediately treatment at hospital.
- If a kickboxer or delegates from the kickboxer's nation denies doctors medical advice, the doctor will report in written form immediately to Chief referee or to a WAKO delegate that all medical responsibility are denied and are in the hands of the kickboxer and his team. However, the official result and a quarantine given is valid.



## **Article 11. Open scoring electronic system**

- For point fighting discipline an open scoring electronic system may be used (see explanation in Chapter 4 - Point fighting rules)
- For light contact and kick light discipline, an open scoring electronic system may be used.
- Each fight is scored by three individual judges, sitting in three corners of tatami.
- This system is as follows:
  - All three judges use a mouse with buttons indicating the two corners (red and blue).
  - A screen will show the point status for both kickboxers 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 tatami area.
- The system will be administered by the score / time keeper
- The fight and its history are stored as a pdf-file in the computer at jury's table.



## *WAKO Rules - Chapter 2 - Tatami rules - general*

## Examples of a display for an Electronic Scoring System (PF, LC and KL).

## POINT FIGHTING



## **LIGHT CONTACT / KICK LIGHT**

