
WAKO

GENERAL RULES CHAPTER 1





WAKO General Rules

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WAKO General Rules

Chapter One – WAKO General Rules

Art. 1. Rule changes.

- Only WAKO Board of Directors has the power to officially decide 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 becomes 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 internet. The exception for such practice is that there can't be rule changes just in front of or during a World or Regional Championship.
- 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 internet. The date for an operative change must be well communicated.
- The Revised V13 rules will remain in force for a minimum of four years. Effective Date August 2016, Review Date August 2020.

Art. 2. WAKO Events.

All WAKO World Cup – A, B, C Class events must follow the WAKO rules fully.

Art. 2.1. WAKO World Cups.

- Each World Cup must follow the WAKO World Cup Minimum Criteria
- A member of the WAKO Organising Committee/Technical Committee must be present at all World Cups. Attendance is agreed with TD.
- Every World Cup must agree appoint a chief referee of Tatami and Ring with WAKO Technical/Referee Committees approval.
- Every World Cup Arena configuration must be approved by WAKO Organising Committee

Art. 3. Health and Security.

Art. 3.1 Health of Fighters.

WAKO is an official member of WADA, having fully adopted the World Anti-Doping Code. Every fighter is obliged to respect the Code both in and out of competition.

WAKO allow a maximum of 2 matches per day, during Continental or World Championships, in all ring sports, while there is no limited number of matches in the Tatami sports.

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-Up before competitions
- Medical Suspensions
- Medical Personnel
- Health Security at competitions

Art. 4. General, Equipment, Fighting Areas, Fighting Rules.

Art. 4.1 Basic.

- The basis of all kickboxing competitions is honor, fair play and honest competition.
- Results of matches will determine placing and final achievement of fighter, club or national team at the competition.
- Results and rank achieved by dishonorable acts will not be recognized by judges, referees and competition committees and officials will initiate penalty procedures.
- All competitions - WAKO official competitions and official National competitions, professional and amateur matches, prestige or title matches, must be under these rules.

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ll competitions and matches are on a voluntary basis. Also, the basis of all our activity in kickboxing must be according to fair play, respect of all participants, officials and respect a fundamental of WAKO rules.

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- All sportsmen, coaches, officials, representatives, promoters and members of WAKO organizations must respect WAKO rules and the honor, 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.

Art. 4.2 Competitions.

Official WAKO competitions directly under WAKO headquarters' authority are (in repetition):

- World championships for all age categories (cadets, juniors and seniors) and in all kickboxing disciplines (semi, light, Kick Light, full contact, low-kick, K1 Rules, musical forms) as follows:
 - Semi contact: younger cadets, older cadets, juniors, seniors, veterans - male and female division.
 - Light contact: Older Cadets, juniors, seniors, veterans - male and female division.
 - Full contact: Younger Juniors, Older juniors, seniors - male and female division.
 - Low kick: Younger Juniors, Older juniors, juniors, seniors - male and female division.
 - K1-Rules – Younger Juniors, Older Juniors, seniors - male and female division.
 - Musical forms (styles - with weapon and without weapon) – Youngest cadets, younger cadets, older cadets, juniors, senior - male and female division.
 - Kick Light: Older Cadets, juniors, seniors, veterans - male and female division.
- Continental championships for all age categories and in all kickboxing disciplines are the same as for world championships.
- Regional Championships for all age categories and in all kickboxing disciplines are the same as for world championships.
- World cups for all age categories and in all kickboxing disciplines.
- Continental cups for all age categories and in all kickboxing disciplines.
- Open Championships are the same as for world championships.
- In World, Continental and regional championships only national teams may participate.
- Continental championships can't be open championships for national teams from other continents.
- In World and continental cups, clubs and members of National federations which are WAKO members can participate.
- In senior championships only one member per national team can participate in each weight category in a fighting discipline.
- In cadets and juniors championships two members of national teams in each weight category in a fighting discipline can participate
- For cups and other open tournaments there is no restriction on number of competitors in one weight or competition category from same nation or club.
- For Continental/World Championships a fighter can only fight in a division a maximum of one weight above his/her actual weight class. For example, if you weigh 65.5 kg, you can only fight in -69kg or -74kg.
- World and continental champions will take place every other year - in one year will have world senior championships, the next year will have continental senior and world juniors and cadets championships.
- World and Continental championships may be held in two parts in different disciplines and in two countries, according WAKO Board decision.
- Semi Contact – Kick Light – Full Contact – Musical Forms.
- Light Contact – K1 – Low Kick.
- This may vary dependent on the WAKO Executive Board.
- Continental championships can be held at just one venue - for all disciplines.
- World and continental cadets and junior championships will be held at the same time and place for all kickboxing disciplines
- World and continental cadet's championships can be held separately from junior championships.
- A fighter in one of the ring sports can only compete in one discipline during the same World or Regional championship. A fighter can compete in both semi contact, Kick Light and light contact during the same World or Regional championship but can't enter the ring sports. If a fighter is called for a fight in both semi contact,



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kick light and light contact at the same time, the fighter must choose discipline with immediate response. In practice the fighter will be deleted in the category he/she do not choose.

Art. 4.3 Equipment for competitions.

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

- Electronic digital or mechanical scales (minimum two)
- Amplifier with sufficient number of microphones
- 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 (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 display
- The rules also refer to a Tournament Checklist which is produced.

Art.4.4 General for fighting/Equipment/Clothing.

- At the beginning of the match the Referee gives an order to kickboxer to shake hands and then he says "Fight".
- The Referee has right to give the official warning to the kickboxer who is not ready for the fight or is late for coming to the ring or Tatami.
- If a kickboxer comes to the ring or Tatami inappropriately dressed (wrong colour of the head-guard or gloves, using the safe equipment which is not approved by WAKO, using shorts with Muay Thai symbols, without wraps or mouth-guard) he/she will not be disqualified immediately; instead they will be given 2 minutes to remedy matters. If the allowed time is up and the kickboxer is not ready, he/she will be disqualified.
- It's forbidden to turn inside out the shorts in order to hide Muay Thai symbols. Wearing of spectacles by a kickboxer during a bout is not permitted, but soft contact lenses are allowed.

Stop Time.

- If the Referee wants to stop the time of the bout he gives an order "STOP TIME" and to resume the fight he gives an order "TIME" and command "FIGHT".

Facial Hair.

- Kickboxers with the beard are allowed to participate in any WAKO tournaments, if only their beard has reasonable length (not more than 2 centimetre). Females if long hair, must be controlled so it does not disrupt the contest.

Please note:

It is Recommended that the hair be tucked inside the head guard or platted.

Decision Change.

- Only the Chief Referee and the Supervisor can change a Referee's decision in case of "material mistake".

Safety equipment Athletes.

- **Approved manufacturers.**
Only WAKO Approved manufacturer's equipment/safeties may be worn or used at WAKO Events.
- **Elbow Pads.**
Mandatory for all fighters in Points Fighting discipline only.
- **Gloves.**

Thumb MUST be fully attached to the main body of the glove (if the glove attachment is cut or broken the gloves cannot be



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used).



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- **Coaches.** (World – Continental Championships)
 - Coaches must wear the National Team Track Suit.
 - Coaches must wear long trousers
 - Coaches must wear runners
- **Clothing Referees.**
 - Referee's and Judge's Uniform:
 - Navy blue jacket with emblem of WAKO or National Federation.
 - White WAKO shirt with short sleeves.
 - WAKO bow tie (For Ring and Tatami).
 - Black trousers without turn-ups.
 - Dark blue or black socks.
 - Black gym shoes without heels and laces.
- **Tooth Protection.**
 - It's not allowed to use a mouth-guard over teeth braces unless a dentist doctor's certificate allows that.
 - If the kick-boxer has braces on both upper and lower teeth he/she must have mouth-guard on both upper and lower teeth.
 - Mouth-guard must enable free breathing and must be adapted to the fighter's mouth configuration. Mouth-guard can be of any colour. But must not protrude outside the mouth in any way.
- **Spectacles.**
 - Wearing of spectacles by a kickboxer during a bout is not permitted, but soft sport contact lenses are allowed

Art. 4.5 Drawing.

- No Alterations can be made to drawing list once produced by organising committee. Only in a case of material mistake (wrong weight category, wrong age division, wrong discipline by WAKO Administration) which must be approved by Technical Committee in writing.

Order of criteria:

- Competitors from same clubs or national team in 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)
- Champions from last two championships (World and Continental) will be placed in separate parts of drawing list (one in upper, the other in lower part of drawing list - competitors can only meet in the final)
- If in a category there are an odd number of fighters, the defending champion (or favorite) will draw a bye (walkover) in the first match.
- Every drawing 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 drawing 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 drawing 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.

Art. 4.6 WAKO Competition calendar.

At any time the WAKO calendar will be on the official web site.

The WAKO calendar will include:

- World and continental championships – a minimum of two years before the date of championships
- Regional championships and world and continental cups – a minimum of one year before date 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



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tournaments) on the calendar there will also be other official activities such as seminars, meetings, etc.

Art. 4.7 Registration/Drawing System.

- **Registration Compliance.**
 - All WAKO Approved Events must use the WAKO IF Approved Drawing System including World and Continental Championships.
 - All World Continental Championships registrations must be done online.
 - Registration closes Two weeks in advance of the World – Continental Championships, weight control start date.
 - All WAKO World and Continental Championships must use the approved WAKO IF approved registration and drawing system
- **Registration Accuracy/Responsibility.** (World – Continental Championships only)
 - When registration closes the Athlete must remain in their age/weight bracket. No changes are allowed. (If He / She is overweight they are disqualified, they cannot move up or down).

Art. 4.8 Ranking/Seeding.

WAKO World Championships

- World Champion (1)
- World Silver medallist (8 – 16 – 32)
- Bronze Medallist who Lost to WC (5 – 9 -17)
- Bronze medallist who Lost to Silver medallist (4-8-15)

Continental Championships

- Continental Champion (1)
- CC Silver medallist (8 – 16 – 32)
- Bronze Medallist who Lost to Continental Gold medallist (5 – 9 -17)
- Bronze medallist who Lost to Continental Silver medallist (4-8-15)

Art. 4.9 Etiquette.

- **Podium.**
 - No personal or National Flags are allowed at or on the podium
 - 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 T shirt
- **Coaches Behavior.**
 - A Coach/Second must remain seated during the contest
 - A Coach/Second must not comment on a referee or judge's decision at and time
 - A Coach/Second must adhere to all WAKO rules and Ethic ate
 - A Coach must not approach or talk to a Referee before – during or after a contest and discuss the contest/fight in any manner whatsoever.
 - If Referee feels a coach is being inappropriate
 - After two verbal warnings has right to punish the kickboxer if the coach/second does not obey his orders.
 - He will show it to three judges, pointing with his finger to the kickboxer at fault (when clickers are used). The Referee shows it to the Chief Referee of the ring and the timekeeper who has to put it in the electronic system (when electronic system is used).
 - A second caution for the same foul will lead to the official warning.



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Art. 5.4 Championship Trophies (World/Continental Championships).

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

- Medals: 1ST; 2ND and two (2) 3rd places for all Competition Divisions.
- Trophy for all gold winners. Trophy must be of an acceptable standard befitting the continental/World status of the event.
- Trophies for Team competition in Semi Contact.
- These awards shall be decided in the following manner;
- 1ST place = 3pts. 2ND placed = 2pts. 3rd place = 1 pt.

Art. 5.5 Championship Headquarters.

The promoter shall select a Hotel which will serve as the Tournament Headquarters.

Art. 5.6 Scales.

There shall be a minimum of two seats of Medical Balance Scales made available to the Fighters a minimum of two days before the Official Weigh-in.

Art. 5.7 Refreshments.

A refreshment area shall be provided for the use of the Referee's Judges and Table Officials. It should have a minimum of tea, coffee and soft drinks. The promoter will be responsible for sending the national WAKO Presidents all relevant information concerning the locations, dates, lists of Hotels and prices, airport transportation and a complete schedule of events. The Promoter shall have Transportation

Coordinators assigned at the Airport of the Tournament city to assist the Competitors upon their arrival. The National Presidents are responsible for providing their flight times to the Promoter. The Promoter shall be responsible for the providing of all personal and equipment necessary to conduct and administer the Tournament.

Art. 5.8 Tournament Check-List.

WAKO has made a tournament checklist to be distributed to the promoters of World and Regional Championships. 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.

Art. 5.9 Weigh in Procedures.

Chairman of the referee committee and/or the Technical Director outpoint the WAKO official's to organize the weigh-in. During the weigh-in, two WAKO officials will be present, 1 Female official -1 Male official.

Also 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 can't be in physical contact with the fighter, and should stand away from the scales - at least 1 meter.

Each fighter must have his own WAKO sports pass with medical certificate included, valid for 1 year, to be shown at weigh-in. In addition he/she must have available his/hers official passport. After being weighed, each fighter must be declared fit for fighting by a qualified doctor.

The fighters of each weight category will be weighed the day before the start of competition or on the same day that they have been drawn to fight. For a single fight for a fighter, a normal procedure is to have weigh-in approx 24 hours before the fight.

If weigh-in the same day of the fights the fights will start at least 3 hours after the weighing time, or in a shorter lapse of time if the Board of Directors so decide, after consulting the Medical Committee, provided that the decision is not prejudicial to any fighter taking part in the first bouts of the tournament.



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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. Weigh-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-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. If the fighter exceed his/hers weight, he/she can within the official time get the second and the last chance to reach the limit after 1 hour after the first attempt. If a kickboxer does not make the weight at this second weigh-in, he/she will be disqualified.

It is also allowed for all national federations to substitute one fighter with another, before the end of the official weigh-in and before the medical check-up, on condition that, within each competition where substitutes are allowed, the fighter in question has been registered as a reserve for that, or in any other weight category.

Daily weigh-ins: Ring sports have mandatory daily weigh-ins during the tournament. The weigh-in is done in the morning at an announced time, considered as official. Weigh-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 fighters must bring their own national passport as identification. If the fighter exceed his/hers weight, he/she 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 fighter does not make the weight at this second weigh-in he/she will be disqualified.

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 by the weigh-in. The weigh-in must be done on hard floor and not on carpet.

The weigh-in must be done in a discrete manner, respecting both male and females need for discretion. It is to prefer to use separate rooms for male and female.

Any speculation or deliberate actions that will question or break the above rules will be sanctioned, both for fighters involved and the national federation responsible.

Art. 5.10 Weight Classes.

A fighter cannot compete in two different weight classes at a WAKO World or Continental Championship.

If a competitor fails their weight during the registration period, he/she can within the official time get only one time a second chance to reach the limit. Second chance can be given only after 1 hour from the start of weigh-in. The weight registered on that occasion is final.

Weigh-in procedure (registration period): The second and the last chance to reach the limit will be done after 1 hour after the first attempt.

Daily weigh-in: The second and the last chance to reach the limit will be done a maximum after 45 minutes after the first attempt but must before the publicized closing time.

If a kickboxer does not make the weight at this second weigh-in, he/she will be disqualified. A fighter cannot change their official weight class following closure of official registration. If they do not make their weight on the second occasion they are automatically disqualified.

Art. 5.11 Nationality of a fighter.

In Continental or World Championships, competitors must represent nationality for the country he/she represent, showing the passport for the respective country. Under special circumstances a competitor can change representation one time but the requirements for that is:

- 1) Official national confirmation of permanent residence in his/hers new country.



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- 2) The change of representation must be applied on to WAKO HQ, explaining the reason for the change.
- 3) There must be a written agreement with the country of origin.
- 4) Any speculation for such representation will not be allowed. Such can be punished for the competitor as well as for the new country.
- 5) He/she can't again switch back and participate for his/hers origin country.

A competitor having two passport from different countries can only make a switch one time. If changing representation, it must be done according to a written agreement between the countries and applied on to WAKO HQ. At weigh-in, official passports must be shown to the registration/weigh-in officials in charge. In Continental Championships competitors from other continents are not allowed to participate.

Art. 6. Protests.

Art. 6.1 Event protests/Appeal.

The written protest must describe clearly the problem. The Chief Referee must deliver the protest to the Appeal Board/Referee Committee who will also consider the problem. The protest will be handled immediately.

▪ **Official Appeal Protest Panel.**

- **Composition of the Appeal Panel.** The Appeal Jury is composed by the following:

IF Referee Committee of Ring and TD for Ring
IF Refereeing Committee Tatami and TD for Tatami

- No two members may be appointed from the same National Federation. The IF RC and TC 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...)
- 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.
 - The Chief Referee of the Ring/Tatami must receive the protest in written form within 30 minutes after the fight
 - If not resolved escalate issue to Area Control Referee
 - If not resolved write down, sign and hand complaint to Area Control Referee to escalate along with WAKO Complaint fee €100 (Within two matches)
- WAKO Appeal Committee review complaint and make final judgment.
- If the protest is found invalid, the deposit (protest money) will be donated to WAKO IF.
- If the protest is successful the money will be refunded.

Note that in the Full Contact, Low-Kick, KI, Light Contact and Kick Light there will be no changing in decisions as described in Article 18 in the Ring Sports and in Article 17 in Light-Contact.

Art. 6.2 Irregular protests.

Irregular protests regarding disagreements of decisions, where fighters 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, will be reacted on by the Referee Committee or by the Board of Directors directly. The consequence can be that the total team of the discipline can be excluded. If security staff has to intervene and in case of conflict due to this action, it will lead to immediately disqualification of the whole national team. 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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Art. 7. Video evidence.

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

Art. 8. Officials in General.

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 show an unbiased, positive and honest attitude and fair play to everyone.

Officials at WAKO World, Continental and Regional Championships and WAKO World Cups are:

- Representative of the WAKO Board of Directors
- Chief Referee Committees (Ring sports and Tatami sports)
- Chairman of the various Committees
- Administrator / computer man
- Chief referees for Tatamis or Rings
- Referees
- Judges
- Kick counters
- Time keeper
- Score keeper
- Announcer
- Doctor with medical team

Art. 9. Unsportsmanlike behavior.

- 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 a judge's decision
- the delegation will be penalized in one or both of the following ways:
 - 1. at the sum adopted by WAKO Appeal/complaint committee at the championships by majority vote.
 - €5,000
 - €10,000
 - €20,000
 - The 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 of minimum 2 years from all future International WAKO Championships
- The coach must remain seated at all times on the chair provided and must not interfere or disrupt with the smooth running of the match by word, gesture or deed.

Art. 10. 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 Executive Board. He is responsible for seeing that all championships or cups are under WAKO rules and that all results will be WAKO official results. For each championship or cup the WAKO Board or WAKO President will nominate a WAKO Representative.



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Art. 11. Referee Committees of Tatami sports / Ring sports.

In WAKO we have created two Referee Committees: one for Tatami sports and one for Ring sports.

The Chairman of each Committee is responsible to name Supervisors for Tatami or Rings and with Supervisor deploy referees and judges for Tatami and Rings. With each Supervisor he checks tatami, rings, official table equipment, referee and judge uniforms and he will permit the start of competition. He will divide draw papers to the official tables and collect them after finished matches. He is the supervisor of the weigh-in. He is responsible for making draw lists (with the administrator) and only he can make changes to official draw lists. He will be the supreme referee in protests. His decision about protests will be binding.

Referee Committees are named by WAKO Board of Directors and stay in charge for 4 years unless decided by WAKO Board itself.

Art. 11.1 Tournament Committee / Computer Man.

The Administrator is responsible for collecting all registration material and loads data into a computer to prepare draw lists. With the Tournament Committee he makes draw lists and distributes them to the official tables. He collects completed draw lists after matches 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. If the promoter of a championship cannot appoint a responsible person for administration, the WAKO board or WAKO President will nominate an adequate person.

Art. 11.2 Chief Referees.

Chief Referees (named by the Chairman of Tatami sports / Ring sports) is responsible for normal procedures for matches held on tatamis or rings. They will deploy referees and judges for every match according to their quality and with respect for neutrality rules. They are responsible for the correct compilation of the draw list with results, and at the end he will sign the draw list and give it to the responsible. In case of protests, they must follow procedures and they make a first-level decision. If the protester is not satisfied with his decision, the Chief Referee will explain all details of the protest to the WAKO Appeal Committee, who make a final decision. Chief Referee supervises referees and judges and can change a 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 he coordinates the work of other judges.

The Chairman of Referee Committee of championships or cups will appoint Chief Referees from well-experienced referees who come with their national teams.

Art. 11.3 Referee / Judges / Kick counter / Time and Score Keeper.

The duties of Referees, Judges, Kick counter, Time and Score keeper are described in the chapters General Rules of Tatami Sports or General Rules of Ring sports.

Art. 11.4 Announcer.

Before match he calls fighters for fight - first he call fighter in red corner, and after fighter in blue corner.

At championships and cups, announcer always call fighter for further match, and call for prepare fighter for next match. After three calling when fighter do not coming, he will give order to time keeper to start timer. If the fighter didn't come in time of 2 minutes, announcer will give sign to referee and announce winner of match by opponent's WO. In musical forms and competitions he will read loudly each mark of judges. Time keeper will be nominating by Chief Referee or by promoter.

Art. 11.5 Doctor with Medical team.

Doctor must be ready for immediate intervention on referee call. Before referee call he can't enter on tatami or in the ring. Medical team must have enough equipment and enough number of doctors and technicians for safe and quick intervention at all fighting's areas. Doctor must have experience in treating kickboxing specific injuries. Promoter is responsible to provide adequate medical team, with ambulance car. WAKO Medical Procedures and Health Security Guidelines must be followed.



WAKO General Rules

Stop Time

Maximum time for medical stop in one match is 2 minutes for each athlete. After which the contestant who has exceeded the two minutes is deemed as being no longer able to continue.

Cuts Bleeding

- In case of the cut or bleeding the official Doctor should decide within 2 minutes if a competitor can continue or not. The medical treatment of the injury is **not** allowed in this period.
- Heeding the tournament Doctor's opinion, the Referee will then decide whether the bout should be continued (However only in case when the Official Doctor allows a kickboxer to continue the bout).

Art. 11.6 Tournament Committee.

The WAKO Board of Directors shall select the Tournament Committee. The Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members. The leader of the Committee shall be known as Tournament Director. It is of importance that the all members of the group speak English.

The Committee meets in front of World Cups and/or Continental/World Championships. If necessary, they initiate other meetings, but are requested to meet during events/tournaments. Otherwise they communicate by mail and by telephone.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- They are responsible for the disciplines.
- They will be responsible for all the Chiefs referees and their staff in the arena throughout the event
- They will have the responsibility of being in complete charge of all paperwork regarding results and complaints.
- They will have a close cooperation to the Referee Committee and will facilitate all referee seminars.
- They will together with the promoter take care of the event/promotion/tournament and make sure everything are arranged according to the WAKO rules. Any deviation to the rules has to be cleared by the committee or through the Board of Directors.
- They will take care of all official Weigh-ins or point out referees/officials who will take care of it.
- They will report to the Board of Directors and the president of WAKO.
- They will take care of protests and give advice to the Board of Directors present. The Board of Director's decision will be final and based on a majority decision.

Art. 12. International Referee/Judge seminars and registration.

In preparation of World /Continental Championships and Cups the Committee organizes seminars so to make sure that the judging and behavior of referees are at their best.

When sending out letters of invitation to championships, WAKO 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 used 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 style and the rules to be used during the tournaments.
- Make sure that all referees and judges wear the same uniforms which are important for the WAKO image.
- 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 fighters 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.



WAKO General Rules

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

Art. 13. 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 of importance that the 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.

RESPONSIBILITY:

- Their responsibility is to make sure of all safety rules are followed in 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 a 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 , fighters were not properly informed.

Art. 14. 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 Cups and/or Continental/World Championships. If necessary, they initiative other meetings, but are requested to meet during events/tournaments.

RESPONSIBILITY:

- Improve the existing WAKO Syllabus
- Improve the present grading WAKO system
- Advise the Board about improvement of Rules/regulations in both ring and Tatami sports
- Assist technically WAKO regions in need of improving their skills.
- Be responsible for approving all fighting safety equipment supplied by Promoters. The Committee will also be responsible for inspecting all Fighting Areas during Championships to be in top quality.

Art. 14.1 Important for all WAKO officials.

All referees, judges and officials represented in the tournament (both on and off-duty) are not allowed to take action for its team/nation as coach or in other way act/behave partial (screaming and move as a coach/fan). It is **NOT** allowed to change role from official to coach during the same championship.

Again WAKO stress the importance for referees and judges to talk a minimum of English to communicate during the championships.



Art. 15. Participation of WAKO members in other dissident international organizations.

WAKO members are not permitted or allowed to participate in any other national or international dissident Kickboxing organizations World, Continental or Professional Galas. (WKA, WKN, WKF, ISKAEtc...).

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 (IF) and its continental Division/Federation are in charge of the competition and or the competition is held under WAKO (IF) 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 (IF) and WAKO Continental rules and regulations.

Once an athlete of another organization becomes a member of a WAKO National Federation, he is no longer allowed to go back to the organization of origin. And in case the athlete returns back or continues his/her activities and collaboration with a dissident kickboxing organization his/her membership in WAKO is subject to an immediate and automatic permanent expulsion, without possibility of return.