



KOBE OSAKA INTERNATIONAL

Summary of WKF Rules Version 6 Modifications 2009

The following is intended as a guide to the main changes and should not be regarded as exhaustive or as a substitute for a thorough reading of the Rules.

Article 2.

Many referees are wearing trousers which are described as charcoal grey and are therefore too dark. Referees who may be required to order competitors to change their karate-gis or remove decorations from their hair must be sure that they themselves are in accordance with the dress regulations of Article 2. Wear a proper shade of light/medium grey. See the guidance chart in Appendix 11 of the rules.

For competitor's hair; ribbons, beads and other decorations are prohibited. A discreet rubber band or pony tail retainer is permitted. Kata is part of Karate Martial Art; it is not a fashion show. Don't risk upset or disqualification by having to change your hairstyle just as you are about to compete. Be discreet.

Cadets will wear the new WKF face mask and body protector.

Article 5 Duration of Bout

Duration of the Kumite bout is defined as three minutes for Senior Male Kumite (both teams and individuals) and four minutes in medals matches. Senior Female bouts will be two minutes and three minutes in medals matches. Cadet and Junior bouts will be two minutes.

To assist the referee in regard to Category 2 offences the 30 second "Atoshibaraku" warning will be given at 10 seconds to go.

Article 6 Scoring

Scoring is considerably simplified as follows;

Sanbon is awarded for Jodan kicks and any scoring technique delivered on a thrown or fallen opponent, regardless of whether they slip or fall of their own accord, or are thrown.

Nihon is awarded only for Chudan kicks and no longer for punches on the back, breaking the opponent's balance and scoring or for combination techniques.

Ippon is awarded for Chudan or Jodan Tsuki and Uchi (except when the contestant is on the mat).

For Cadets and Juniors no contact whatsoever with tsuki or uchi (hand techniques) to the head, face or neck (or the face mask) is allowed. Even light contact will be warned or penalised. Jodan kicks may make a light touch (skin touch) only. In order to reduce injuries, referees and judges must remember

that the scoring distance from the face, head or neck, is increased up to 10cm but remains at 5cm for 18 years plus.

Article 7 Criteria for Decision

Encho Sen is abolished and Sai Shiai takes its place. A Sai Shiai is a completely new match of one minute duration and all previous scores and penalties are removed from the scoreboard. If no clear lead of eight points is attained, then at time-up, the competitor with the highest score wins. If there has been no score, or scores are equal, the decision is taken by Hantei. Since this is a completely new match or bout and all scores and penalties have been erased, only the performance in the Sai Shiai itself is taken into account in deciding the winner.

Article 8 (and Appendix 3) Prohibited Behaviour

How can it be that boxers can repeatedly take full power punches without showing any effect and international black belt karate competitors fall down or stop fighting at the slightest contact? The sight of competitors taking out their mouth guards, staggering around rubbing their heads and faces, falling on the floor and so on, after ridiculously light contact, is exposing karate sport to ridicule. The public are not taken in by it, competitors are not taken in by it, and neither should referees and judges.

Exaggeration of injury is a ploy to try to have referees and judges give higher penalties to their opponents, it is cheating and insulting. It can easily be stopped by rigorously applying the rules. In future the first instance of exaggeration of injury will receive a KEIKOKU and IPPON will be given to the opponent. More serious cases of "acting" such as lying on the floor, standing and lying down again and so on may receive HANSOKU CHUI or HANSOKU directly. It is important to understand the difference between exaggerating the effect of an actual contact or injury and feigning a non-existent or very slight injury which should be given SHIKKAKU. It is also important to understand that even when there has been an actual contact, even one resulting in injury, that there are certain standards of behaviour expected from the competitors. If this standard is not met then the referee is obliged to penalise the offender.

The WKF Medical Commission is concerned that certain types of throwing techniques being used could cause extremely serious injury and so this section has been revised. It is specifically forbidden to grab the opponent below the waist then lift them up and drop them or to pull the legs from under them. All instances of dangerous throwing offences whether resulting in injury or not will now be dealt with as a Category 1 offence.

Avoiding combat refers to **all** situations where a contestant tries to allow the time to run out so that the opponent has no chance to even the score, including clinching, holding, standing chest to chest, running away and exiting the area. However referees must understand that when a competitor is under extreme pressure from the opponent in the final seconds of the match that they are still permitted to escape from the corner or rapidly change position.

Holding on to the opponent, clinching without attempting any action and standing chest to chest with arms outspread looks ridiculous in a fighting sport and detracts from the spectacle of the match. Referees must stop this behaviour quickly. The absolute maximum time allowed before a technique or throw is attempted is two seconds. Not three, or four, or five but two. Then a Category 2 warning or penalty must be issued.

When a competitor endangers themselves and receives an excessive contact then it is their own fault and they should receive a penalty for MUBOBI. Since it is considered to be their own fault their opponent does not receive a penalty for the contact. In this way perhaps we will reduce injury by forcing competitors to better protect themselves.

Article 10 Injuries and Accidents in Competition

In all cases where the 10 second clock has been started the contestant will be examined by the doctor. In the case of slight injury or no injury the appropriate penalties will be invoked.

Article 12 and Appendix 3

Referees will no longer be allowed to ask the Judges for re-consideration as this has often looked indecisive to the public and media. When the judges see something they will signal in the normal way. When the referee calls "Yame" the Judges will lower their flags and await the referee's return to his place. The referee will not signal his intention until he returns to his place. When he does so he will then signal his reasons for stopping the match and the judges will in turn signal their final opinions. The referee will then give the majority decision, no reconsideration is allowed. The flag signal of Mienai will no longer be used, instead judges will simply not signal if they do not see.

KATA

Five Judges will be used instead of three.

In team competition Bunkai will be performed for all medals matches.

At Hantei the Chief Judge will have the panel keep the flags raised for approximately five seconds to ensure that the scorekeepers and public have sufficient time to see the result.

Tommy Morris

WKF Referee Commission Chair

13 January 2009