

## SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO WKF COMPETITION RULES EFFECTIVE 1.1.2018



KUMITE RULES			
Art. 1	OFFICIAL DRESS	Pt. 2	Two mats are inverted with the red side turned up in one metre distance from the mat centre to form a boundary between the contestants. <b>When starting or resuming combat the contestants will be standing front and centre on the mat facing each other.</b>
Art. 2	OFFICIAL DRESS	Pt. 2	CONTESTANTS, Text added to: "Contestants must wear a white karate gi without stripes, piping or personal embroidery other than specifically allowed by the WKF EC."
Art. 2	OFFICIAL DRESS	Pt. 2	Added to referees' and judges' attire that they should wear " <b>A discreet white cord for whistle</b> "; that "Female Referees and Judges may wear a hairclip and religiously mandated headwear of a type approved by the WKF <b>and discreet earrings</b> . Also added: " <b>Referees and judges may wear a plain wedding band.</b> " Also added: "For Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games, Continental Games and other multisport events where a cross-sport uniform is provided for Referees at the cost of the LOC with the feel & look of the specific event, the official uniform for Referees might be substituted by that common uniform, provided that it is requested in writing to the WKF by the event organiser and formally approved by the WKF."
Art. 2	OFFICIAL DRESS, COACHES	Pt. 1	Coaches now have to wear formal wear for all bouts for medals, not just for finals.
Art. 3	ORGANISATION OF KUMITE COMPETITIONS	Pt. 7	The type of disqualification added to the text in pt. 7: "A team will be disqualified (SHIKKAKU) if any of its members or its coach changes the team's composition or fighting order without written notification prior to the round.
Art. 3	ORGANISATION OF KUMITE COMPETITIONS	Pt. 7	Added type of disqualification: "A team will be disqualified ( <b>SHIKKAKU</b> ) if any of its members or its coach changes the team's composition or fighting order without written notification prior to the round."
Art. 4	ORGANISATION OF KUMITE COMPETITIONS	Pt. 3	Added text for specifying allocation of officials: "Referees and Judges Deployment and panel allocation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the eliminatory rounds the RC Secretary will facilitate to the software system technician handling the electronic drawing system a list containing the Referees and Judges available per Tatami. This list is done by the RC Secretary once the athletes draw is finished and at the end of the Referees Briefing. This list must only contain Referees present at the Briefing and must comply with the above-mentioned criteria. Then for the Referees draw, the technician will enter the list in the system and 4 Judges and 1 Referee out of each Tatami deployment will be randomly allocated as Referee Panel for each bout.</li> <li>• For medal bouts the Tatami Managers will provide the RC Chairman and Secretary with a list containing 8</li> </ul>

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			officials from their own Tatami after the last bout of the eliminator rounds is finished. Once the list is approved by the RC Chairman it will be given to the software technician for to be entered in the system. The system will then randomly allocate the Referee panel, which will only contain 5 out of the 8 officials from each tatami."
Art. 4	THE REFEREE PANEL	Pt. 4	Number of persons to be appointed specified: "2 Tatami Managers, 1 Tatami Manager Assistant, 1 Score Supervisor and 2 Score Keepers"
Art. 6	SCORING	Exp. XIII	Sentence "Penalties can be imposed after that, but then only by the Referee Commission or the Disciplinary and Legal Commission" changed to". Penalties can be imposed after that, but then only by the the Disciplinary and Legal Commission" i.e. Penalties beyond the competition can only be imposed by the DLC.
Art. 7	CRITERIA FOR DECISION	New Pt.3	Add new Pt. 3 between present Pt. 2 and Pt. 3:  "Should a competitor that has been awarded SENSHU receives a Category 2 warning for avoiding combat for the following incidents: Jogai, running away, clinching, wrestling, pushing or standing chest to chest when it is 15 seconds or less left of the bout – the competitor will automatically forfeit this advantage and the Referee will indicate this by showing the sign for SENSHU followed by the sign for nullification (TORIMASEN) also giving the verbal command "AKA/AO SENSHU TORIMASEN". If SENSHU is withdrawn when it is 15 seconds or less left of the bout, no further SENSHU can be awarded to either competitor.  In cases where SENSHU has been awarded, but a successful video protest determines that also the other opponent scored, and that a score in fact is not unopposed, the same procedure is used for nullification of SENSHU.
Art. 7	CRITERIA FOR DECISION	Pt. 4	Last sentence reworded to: "The maximum point's difference or lead recorded in any bout will be eight."
Art. 8	PROHIBITED BEHAVIOUR	Exp. III	Added reference: "For competitors under 14 years of age; see also APPENDIX 10 for further restrictions."
Art. 8	PROHIBITED BEHAVIOUR	Exp. IV	Change sentence "The Referee must constantly pause to observe the injured contestant until the match is resumed." to read "The Referee must <b>continue to observe</b> the injured contestant until the match is resumed"
Art. 8	PROHIBITED BEHAVIOUR	Exp. IX	Change sentence "The Medical Commission will submit its report before the end of the Championship, for the consideration of the Referee Commission" adding " <b>whom in turn will submit their report to the EC in the event that they deem further sanction is warranted.</b> "

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Art. 8	PROHIBITED BEHAVIOUR	Exp. XVI	Changed sentence: "This often occurs during the closing seconds of a bout. If the offence occurs with <i>ten seconds</i> or more of the bout time remaining,..." to "This often occurs during the closing seconds of a bout. If the offence occurs with <i>fifteen seconds</i> or more of the bout time remaining,..."
Art. 9	WARNINGS AND PENALTIES	Under heading	Text for SHIKKAKU changed: This is a disqualification from the actual entire tournament including any subsequent category the offender may have been registered for. SHIKKAKU may be invoked when a contestant fails to obey the orders of the Referee, acts maliciously, or commits an act which harms the prestige and honour of Karate, or when other actions are considered to violate the rules and spirit of the tournament. In team matches the fouled competitor's score will be set at eight points and the offender's score will be zeroed.
Art. 9	WARNINGS AND PENALTIES	---	Changing the definition of SHIKKAKU from "This is a disqualification from the actual tournament, competition, or match. In order to define the limit of SHIKKAKU, the Referee Commission must be consulted" to <b>"This is disqualification form the entire tournament including any subsequent categories the offender may have been registered for."</b>
Art. 9	WARNINGS AND PENALTIES	Exp. II	Changed from "There are two degrees of penalties: HANSOKU and SHIKKAKU, both causing the contestant violating the rules to be disqualified from i) the bout (HANSOKU) - or ii) from the bout or and the entire tournament (SHIKKAKU) with a possible suspension from competition for an additional time period." to: <b>"There are two degrees of penalties: HANSOKU and SHIKKAKU, both causing the contestant violating the rules to be disqualified from i) the bout (HANSOKU) - or ii) from the bout and the entire tournament (SHIKKAKU). In the case of SHIKKAKU further sanctions may still be imposed by the Legal and Disciplinary Commission based on the outcome of complaints "</b>
Art. 9	WARNINGS & PENALTIES	Exp. IV	First sentence "A warning can be directly imposed for a rules infraction but once given; repeats of that category of infraction must be accompanied by an increase in severity of warning imposed." Changed to: <b>"A warning can be directly imposed for a rules infraction but once given; repeats of that category of infraction must be accompanied by an increase in severity of warning or disqualification as may be appropriate"</b>

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Art. 9	WARNINGS & PENALTIES	Exp. X	Revised text: <i>A SHIKKAKU can be directly imposed, without warnings of any kind. <del>The contestant need have done nothing to merit it, it is sufficient if the Coach or non combatant members of the contestants' delegation behave in such a way as to harm the prestige and honor of Karate do. If the Referee believes that a contestant has acted maliciously, regardless of whether or not actual physical injury has been caused, SHIKKAKU and not HANSOKU, is the correct penalty.</del></i>
Art. 9	WARNINGS & PENALTIES	New Exp. XI	Added new section: "When the Referee considers that a Coach is interfering with the bout in progress, he/she will stop the match (YAME), approach the coach and show the signal for discourteous behaviour. After that the Referee will re-start the match (TSUZUKETE HAJIME). If the coach continues to interfere, the Referee will stop the match, approach the coach again and ask him/her to leave the tatami. The Referee will not re-start the match until the coach has left the Tatami area. This is not considered as a SHIKKAKU situation and the expulsion of the coach is only for that particular bout or match."
Art. 9	WARNINGS & PENALTIES	Exp. XII	Taken away reference to cumulative penalties (as they are no more possible): "A HANSOKU is imposed for cumulative penalties <i>warnings</i> but can also be imposed directly for serious rules infractions. It is used when the contestant's potential for winning has been reduced virtually to zero (in the opinion of the Judges) by the opponent's foul."
Art. 10	INJURIES AND ACCIDENTS IN COMPETITION	Exp. II	Previous paragraph reading: <i>"An injured contestant who wins a bout through disqualification due to injury is not allowed to fight again in the competition without permission from the. If he is injured, he may win a second bout by disqualification but is immediately withdrawn from further Kumite competition in that tournament."</i>  Was changed to read: <i>An injured contestant who wins a bout through disqualification due to injury is not allowed to fight again in the competition without permission from the tournament doctor.</i>  (The Tournament Doctor win determine if the contestant is able to continue.)
Art. 10	INJURIES AND ACCIDENTS IN COMPETITION	Pt. 7	Change "count" to "verbal count to ten" changed to "verbal count to ten in the English language"

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Art. 11	OFFICIAL PROTEST	Pt. 5	Text changed to read: “Any protest concerning application of the rules must be announced by the coach no later than one minute after the end of the bout. The coach will request the official protest form from the Tatami Manager and will have four minutes to have it completed, signed and submitted to Tatami Manager with the corresponding fee. The Tatami Manager will immediately hand the completed protest form to a representative of the Appeals Jury that will have five minutes to render a decision. “
Art. 11	OFFICIAL PROTEST	Pt. 2&5	The Coach or the federation’s representative are the only persons that can file a protest.
Art. 11	OFFICIAL PROTEST	Pt. 13	The text is reduced to: <b>“Special provision for use of Video Review</b>  NOTE: This special provision to be interpreted as separate and independent of other provisions of this Article 11, and the pertaining explanation.  In WKF Senior World Championships, Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games, Continental Games, World Games and multisports Games of this nature, the use of video review of bouts are required. Use of video review is also recommended for other competitions whenever possible.”  The procedure for video review is enclosed as APPENDIX 11. “
Art. 12	POWER AND DUTIES	Heading	Heading changed to “POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICIALS”
Art. 12	POWER AND DUTIES FOR OFFICIALS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referee Commission will also appoint Tatami Manager Assistants</li> <li>• Heading changed from “TATAMI MANAGERS” to “TATAMI MANAGERS AND TATAMI MANAGER ASSISTANTS”</li> <li>• Tatami Manager and tatami Manager Assistants will appoint 2 Referees to act as Video Review Supervisors (VRS)</li> <li>• Added new section: “COACH SUPERVISORS” with text “ the duties of the Coach Supervisors are described in APPENDIX 11 – VIDEO REVIEW.”</li> <li>• Added responsibility for KANSA: Before the start of each match or bout the Match Supervisor will ensure that contestant’s equipment and Karate-Gi are in accordance with the WKF rules of competition. Even if the organiser has a check-up of equipment before line-up, <i>it is still Kansa’s responsibility to ensure that the equipment is in accordance with the rules.</i> The Match Supervisor will not rotate during Team matches.</li> </ul> <p>Extensive guideline for Kansa added:</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the following situations Kansa will raise the red flag and blow his/her whistle:</li> <li>• The Referee forgets to indicate Senshu.</li> <li>• The Referee gives a score to the wrong competitor.</li> <li>• The Referee gives warning/penalty to the wrong competitor.</li> <li>• The Referee gives a score to a competitor and exaggeration Cat. 2 to the other.</li> <li>• The Referee gives a score to a competitor and Mubobi to the other.</li> <li>• The Referee gives a score for a technique done after Yame or after the time is up.</li> <li>• The Referee gives a score made by a competitor when he/she is outside the Tatami.</li> <li>• The Referee gives a warning or penalty for passivity during Atoshi Baraku.</li> <li>• The referee gives the wrong warning or penalty Cat.2 during Atoshi Baraku.</li> <li>• The Referee doesn't stop the bout and there are two or more flags showing point or Jogai for the same competitor.</li> <li>• The Referee doesn't stop the bout when a Video Review is requested by a coach.</li> <li>• The Referee doesn't follow the majority of flags.</li> <li>• The Referee doesn't call the doctor in a 10 seconds rule situation.</li> <li>• The Referee does Hantei/Hikiwake but Senshu has been obtained.</li> <li>• A Judge(s) is holding the flags in the wrong hand.</li> <li>• The score board is not showing the right information.</li> <li>• The technique requested by the coach was done after Yame or after the time was up.</li> </ul> <p>In the following situations Kansa will not get involved with the Referee Panel's decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Judges don't flag for a score.</li> <li>• The Judges don't flag for Jogai.</li> <li>• The Judges don't support the Referee when asking for a Cat.1 or Cat.2 warning or penalty.</li> <li>• The degree of contact Cat. 1 that the panel decide.</li> <li>• The degree of warning or penalty Cat. 2 that the panel decide.</li> <li>• Kansa has no vote or authority in matters of judgments such as whether a score was valid or not.</li> <li>• In the event that the Referee does not hear the time-up bell, the Score-Supervisor will blow his whistle, not Kansa.</li> </ul>
Ar. 13	STARTING, SUSPENDING AND ENDING OF MATCHES	Pt. 2	<p>The contestants are now to stand at the front of the assigned mat when starting the match:          "The Referee and Judges shall take up their prescribed positions and following an exchange of bows between the contestants whom are positioned at front on their assigned mats nearest</p>

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			their opponent; the Referee will announce "SHOBU HAJIME!" and the bout will commence."
<b>KATA RULES</b>			
Art. 1	KATA COMPETION AREA	Pt. 1	New article reads: "The competition area will be identical to the area used for kumite competition but for kata competition the mats turned over to mark the red area starting points for kumite contestants, are to be turned back over to form a uniformed coloured surface."
Art. 4	THE JUDGING PANEL	Pt. 1	The Judges of a Kata match/bout must not have the nationality of either of the participants or be from <i>the same National Federation</i> of either of the participants.
Art. 4	THE JUDGING PANEL	New Pt.3	Judges Deployment and panel allocation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the elimatory rounds the RC Secretary will facilitate to the software system technician handling the electronic drawing system a list containing the Judges available per Tatami. This list is done by the RC Secretary once the athletes draw is finished and at the end of the Referees Briefing. This list must only contain Judges present at the Briefing and must comply with the above-mentioned criteria. Then for the Judges draw the software system technician will enter the list in the system and 5 Judges out of each Tatami deployment will be randomly allocated as Judging Panel for each bout.</li> <li>• For medal bouts the Tatami Managers will provide the RC Chairman and Secretary with a list containing 8 officials from their own Tatami after the last bout of the elimatory rounds is finished. Once the list is approved by the RC Chairman it will be given to the software technician for to be entered in the system. The system will then randomly allocate the judging panel, which will only contain 5 out of the 8 officials from each tatami.</li> </ul>

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Art. 5	CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION		Add to official kata list: Sansai Kyan No Wanshu Kyan No Chinto Oyadomari No Passai Chibana No Kushanku Kishimoto No Kushanku (Takemura)
Art. 5	CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION		Change definition for Conformance (ender kata performance from “To the form itself and the standards of the applicable style (Ryu-ha)” to <b>“Consistence in the performance of the kihon of the style (ryu-ha) in the kata.”</b>
Art. 5	CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION		The criterium of Conformance is changed to be a sub-criteria of Technical Performance. The two remaining main criteria are now “Technical performance” and “Athletic performance”
Art. 5		Fouls d)	Text reinforced: “Use of audible cues (from any other person, including other team members) or theatrics such as stamping the feet, slapping the chest, arms, or karate-gi, or inappropriate exhalation, <b>must be considered very serious fouls by the judges in their evaluation of the performance of the kata – on the same level as one would penalize a temporary loss of balance.</b> ”
<b>APPENDIX 1 – THE TERMINOLOGY</b>			
	TORIMASEN		The term “TORIMASEN” for annulment is reinstated: The point or decision is annulled. The Kumite Referee or Kata Chief judge crosses his/her hands in a downward movement.
	ATO SHI BARAKU		Correction of spelling
	SENSHU		Correction for use of new signal (Practice already applied from 2017)
<b>APPENDIX 2 – GESTURES AND FLAG SIGNALS</b>			
	THE JUDGE’S FLAG SIGNALS		Note added: “ <i>Note that the Referee, Judge #1 and #4, will hold the red flag in the right hand and Judge #2 and #3 will hold the flag in the left hand.</i> ”
	SENSHU		Add new gesture for <b>“SENSHU (first unopposed point)”</b>
	CANCEL LAST DECISION		The heading text “CANCEL DECISION” is changed to <b>“TORIMASEN / CANCEL LAST DECISION”</b>
<b>APPENDIX 3 - GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES AND JUDGES</b>			
	EXCESSIVE CONTACT AND EXAGGERATION		<b>The current second paragraph reading:</b> “ <i>When a competitor makes pretence of having received an excessive contact and the Judges decide instead that the technique in question was controlled, satisfying all six scoring criteria,</i>

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		<p><i>then a score will be awarded and a Category 2 penalty for feigning will be issued. The correct penalty for feigning an injury when the Judges have determined that the technique in fact was a score <b>is Shikkaku.</b></i></p> <p><b>is revised to read:</b></p> <p><i>“ When a competitor makes pretence of having received an excessive contact and the Judges decide instead that the technique in question was controlled, satisfying all six scoring criteria, then a score will be awarded and a Category 2 penalty for feigning will be issued. The correct penalty for feigning an injury when the Judges have determined that the technique in fact was a score <b>is as a minimum Hansoku, and in severe cases Shikkaku.</b>”</i></p>
<b>APPENDIX 4 – SCOREKEEPER MARKS</b>		
	SENSHU	Checkmark introduced as symbol for SENSHU, First unopposed point advantage.
<b>APPENDIX 9 - REFEREES AND JUDGES TROUSERS COLOUR GUIDE</b>		
		New illustration on shade of trousers.
<b>APPENDIX 10 - KARATE COMPETITION FOR THOSE UNDER 14 YEARS OF AGE</b>		
	Kumite for children between 12 and 14 years of age:	The bullet “Divisions should be based on height rather than weight” is removed.
	Kumite for children under 12 years of age:	The bullet “Divisions should be based on height rather than weight” is removed.
	Kumite for children under 12 years of age:	The bullet “WKF Facemask and Chest Protector for Children is used.” Changed to: “WKF Facemask and Chest Protector for Children are used.”
<b>APPENDIX 11 – PROCEDURE FOR VIDEO REVIEW</b>		
		New Appendix added.
<b>APPENDIX 12 – OFFICIAL PROTEST FORM</b>		
		Protest Form included in rules
<b>APPENDIX 13 – WEIGH-IN PROCEDURES</b>		
		Appendix added.
<b>APPENDIX 14 – ROUND ROBIN EXAMPLE</b>		
		Appendix added for round-robin used in competitions with limited number of competitors.