

Traditional TaeKwon-Do Alliance Tournament Rules & Regulations



In Memory of General Choi Hong Hi

June 2012

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Section 1. Introduction

1.1. Introduction

The Traditional TaeKwon-Do Alliance (TTA) is dedicated to the martial art of TaeKwon-Do (TKD) as promulgated by the late General Choi Hong Hi, and tournament competition is one of the many aspects of TKD as seen by General Choi. This work is intended to address tournament rules and regulations in TTA-sanctioned events.

The Traditional TaeKwon-Do Alliance Rules & Regulations (Rules & Regulations) are to be used in TTA-sanctioned events to standardize competition for competitors, instructors (or coaches/trainers), and tournament personnel for the various features of competition: breaking, sparring, and patterns. With the inherent risk involved from the physical requirements of TKD, safety is of paramount concern, and the Rules & Regulations are designed to protect the people involved. The goal of the TTA, when it comes to competition, is to make sure everyone has **SAFE FUN!**

1.2. Personnel Overview

Personnel conducting tournament competition should dedicate themselves to maintaining the integrity of TKD by adhering to the rules within and the following facets of the tournament:

- **Personnel:** The tournament cannot be run properly without trained, dedicated and professional people. The personnel involved in conducting the tournament are: Promoter, Director, Coordinators, Chief Referee, Center Referee, Corner Judges, Timekeepers, Scorekeepers, and medical staff.
- **Competition:** Competition will have various combinations of sparring, breaking, and patterns. Divisions will be based upon age, belt rank, weight, and/or gender differences and can be decided upon by the tournament Coordinators, Chief Referee, Director, or Promoter.
- **Safety:** The safety of competitors is strictly important, and recognizing this, the TTA requires certain safety equipment to be used without exception. In addition, ring security/access is to be preserved. Tournament officials will make reasonable efforts to align competitors according to abilities, and referees will address competitor behaviors to safeguard everyone involved.

Section 2. Sanctioning and Eligibility of Competitors

Sanctioned tournaments are those specifically given authorization by the TTA governing board, through application to the TTA Tournament Sanctioning Board. Sanctioned tournaments will adhere to the Rules & Regulations. To be eligible for competition at a TTA sanctioned tournament, competitors are limited to active TTA members, students of TTA schools, or any schools (and students) specifically invited by the Tournament Promoter that are students of TaeKwon-Do. In addition, competitors must hold a rank no higher than V Dan (5th degree black belt) and may not serve in official capacity at the tournament they are competing*.

** Note: In very special circumstances, the Tournament Director may need to use competitors, due to a lack of ring personnel; however every effort will be made to not use competitors.*

Section 3. Tournament Personnel/Officials

TTA sanctioned events are required to have distinct personnel to make the tournament a success. The success of the tournament will be ensured when focus is on professionalism, safety, and the enjoyment of spectators and competitors. The following explains the necessary people (or entities) involved in a TTA tournament:

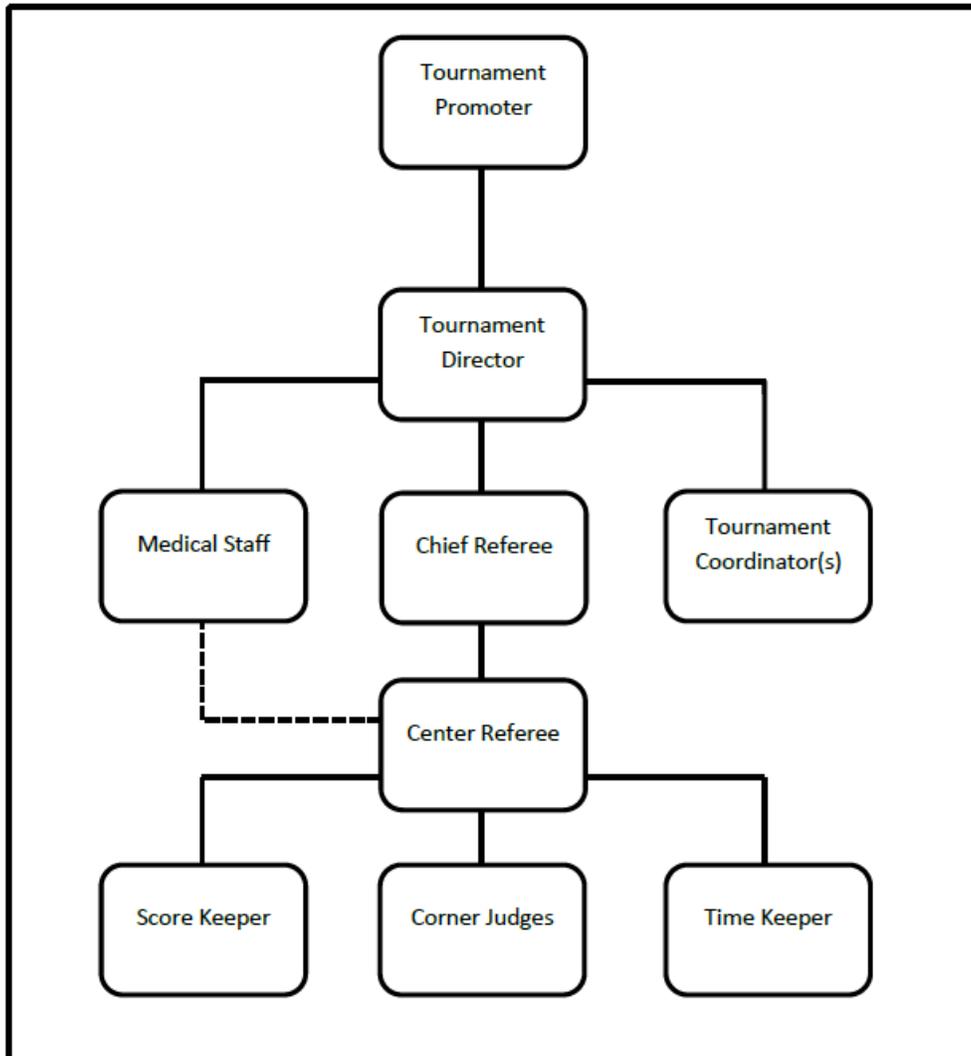


Figure 1: Operational Structure of TTA Tournament

3.1. Tournament Promoter

Although this position is explained in more detail later, the Tournament Promoter is the entity that effectively sets up the tournament. The promoter will make provisions for the equipment and

personnel needed to conduct the tournament and will be in charge of any awards or ceremonies given during the tournament. The facilities and other operations involved with the tournament are provided by the oversight of the Tournament Promoter. (Depending on the size of the tournament, the Promoter and Director may be the same person.)

3.2. Tournament Director

The chief executive of the tournament is the Tournament Director. This position involves extensive knowledge and experience of tournament operations, rules and general oversight of the tournament. This person has the final say when it comes to operations and functions during the tournament and must be a TTA member and a Level 1 Certified Referee. (Depending on the size of the Tournament, the Promoter and Director may be the same person.) This individual is recommended by the Tournament Promoter to the TTA, but final approval is made by the TTA for this position.

3.3. Medical Staff

Working directly for the Tournament Director are: the Chief Referee, Center referees, Medical Staff (which may be Emergency Medical Technicians [EMTs], certified Paramedics, or other medical professionals the Tournament Promoter deems necessary to ensure the safety of people at the event).

3.4. Tournament Coordinators

The Coordinators are appointed by the Tournament Director to assist with setting up divisions and bracketing and scheduling of ring assignment for the various events. The Coordinators are considered knowledgeable of Rules & Regulations and must be TTA members and Level 2 Certified Referees. (Depending on the size of the Tournament, the Coordinator and Chief Referee may be the same person.)

3.5. Chief Referee

This person is required to be knowledgeable and considered to be certified by the TTA and appointed by the Tournament Director (with Promoter approval) to make decisions with respect to competition matters. This person enforces the Rules & Regulations and reports directly to the Tournament Director. Center Referees will appeal to the Chief Referee to settle disputes and decisions about disqualifications. The Chief Referee must be a TTA member and a Level 1 Certified Referee. (Depending on the size of the Tournament, the Coordinator and Chief Referee may be the same person.) Chief Referees are also instrumental in the certification process of referees, because they will be certifying and validating people seeking certification.

3.6. Ring Personnel

3.6.1. Center Referee

The Center Referee is responsible for all operations in an individual ring. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: ensure the safety of competitors, control conduct in the ring, direct other ring personnel, stop competition, stop time, give penalties, give warnings, give disqualifications, enforce the rules. The Center Referee is approved by the Chief Referee and must be knowledgeable of Rules

& Regulations. Although the Center Referee is highly encouraged to be a TTA member, a certification for a TTA Level 2 Certified Referee is required. *(In rare circumstances, the Chief Referee may need to find non-certified referees; but this should be a last resort and only approved by the Tournament Director.)*

Responsibilities:

- Ensure the safety of the fighters.
- Be professional.
- Start and stop matches.
- Control the fighters conduct.
- Break fighters to give warnings, minus points, or advise of other infractions.
- Stop time and match.
- Request Medical Staff.
- Wipe fallen fighter's gloves.
- Give tie-breaking vote to the Scorekeeper, before collecting corner judges' score sheets.
- Act as the ring supervisor to make sure ring personnel are performing their duties.

3.6.2. Corner Judges

The Chief Referee appoints or approves Corner Judges. Corner Judges score competition, from their individual viewpoint. Corner Judges act as advisors to the Center Referee. It is important that they understand how points are awarded and have a working knowledge of Rules & Regulations. They are required to act as security for the ring – especially when competition is stopped by the Center Referee. ***(ABSOLUTELY NO ONE IS ALLOWED IN A RING WITHOUT APPROVAL OF THE CENTER REFEREE.)*** Although Corner Judges are not yet required to be TTA members, they are required to be Level 3 Certified Referees. *(In rare situations and as required, non-certified referees may be used, as long as they are approved by the Tournament Director.)*

Responsibilities:

- Be professional.
- Maintain security of the ring, restricting access to all except: Tournament Director, Chief Referee, Center Referee and medical staff.
- Follow directions by Center Referee.
- Award points on score sheet. (Records warnings and minus points at end of the match, when the Scorekeeper announces them.)
- Total points based upon scoring, rule infractions, and other aspects of the match, and indicate a winner on the score sheet.
- Render opinions on rule infractions when requested by Center Referee.
- Assists Center Referee as requested.

3.6.3. Timekeepers

Runs the stop watch as instructed by Center Referee, and directly indicates to the Center Referee when time has run out. There are no special requirements to be a Timekeeper and they can be appointed/approved by Center Referee or higher.

Responsibilities:

- Be professional.
- Start or stop time based upon Center Referee's direction.
- Throw marker at Center Referee indicating the end of the timed bout and yells: "Time."
- Assist the Scorekeeper, as needed.

3.6.4. Scorekeeper

The Scorekeeper is required to keep the competitor bracket sheet and scoring procedures. The Scorekeeper records all warnings and minus points or significant events during competition as declared by Center Referee. Holds the Center Referee's vote as to the tie-breaking choice. Records votes made by Corner Judges, after Center Referee collects score sheets and shares information with Center Referee. Maintains official score cards. There are no special requirements to be a Scorekeeper and can be appointed or approved by Center Referee or higher.

Responsibilities:

- Be professional.
- Maintain the bracket and score sheets, including recording the names of ring personnel.
- Call the fighters on deck and indicate which one is the blue fighter and which one is the red fighter, as appropriate.
- Record warnings and minus points, as called by Center Referee
- Advance winners on bracket sheet.
- Make mental note of the Center Referee's tie-breaker vote.
- Announce the number of warnings and minus points assessed to each fighter.
- Collect score sheets, determine winner from votes by corner judges. If tie occurs, the Center Referee's vote is the deciding factor.
- Inform the Center Referee the winning fighter.
- Has the power to stop a match, if the Center Referee fails to call a match when point 3 minus points are incurred.
- If bracketing problems occur, inform the Center Referee and/or Tournament Coordinators.
- If/when Center Referee stops match for injuries, potential disqualifications, or other safety issues, record brief description on back of bracket sheet.
- Keep official score cards and bracket sheet and turn in to Tournament Coordinators upon completion of division competition.

Section 4. Tournament Promotion and Promoter Responsibilities

The Tournament Promoter is responsible for providing facilities and tournament equipment, handling applications for TTA sanctioning, and assigning the Tournament Director, Chief Referee, and Medical Staff. The Promoter is also the marketing agent for the event.

4.1. Facilities

Any facility needs are at the discretion of the Promoter. This would include the buildings or venue the event is held at, as well as any dressing rooms, showers, PA or communication systems, concessions, sales, or other requirements.

4.2. Rings and Competition Areas

Rings for sparring, patterns areas, and breaking supplies are to be provided by the Promoter and are as indicated below:

4.2.1. Sparring Ring Dimensions and Equipment Needed

Ring Layout and Position Assignments: The tournament officials assigned to a ring are: The Center Referee, four Corner Judges, a Timekeeper, and a Scorekeeper. The sparring ring will be marked with obvious (bright or colored) tape indicating the boundaries of the sparring area. The dimensions should be 15' x 15' at a minimum and 24' x 24' at a maximum (this is contingent upon tournament size and facility accommodations). The starting positions of the fighters shall be marked with red and blue tape to assist in indicating the red and blue fighter designation.

There will be a total of eight chairs as follows: four for the corner judges, one for the Timekeeper, one for the Scorekeeper, and two for coaches (one for each fighter in the ring). The Timekeeper will have a stop watch or other timing device to keep time during bouts and a soft bag to throw at the Center Referee indicating time over.

The Scorekeeper will have the bracket sheet made for the division and pens or pencils for recording winners, losers, warnings, minus points, or other information. The Corner Judges will have score sheets and pens or pencils to record points, warnings, and the winner. The Center Referee will have flags, or sashes, to designate the red and blue fighters.

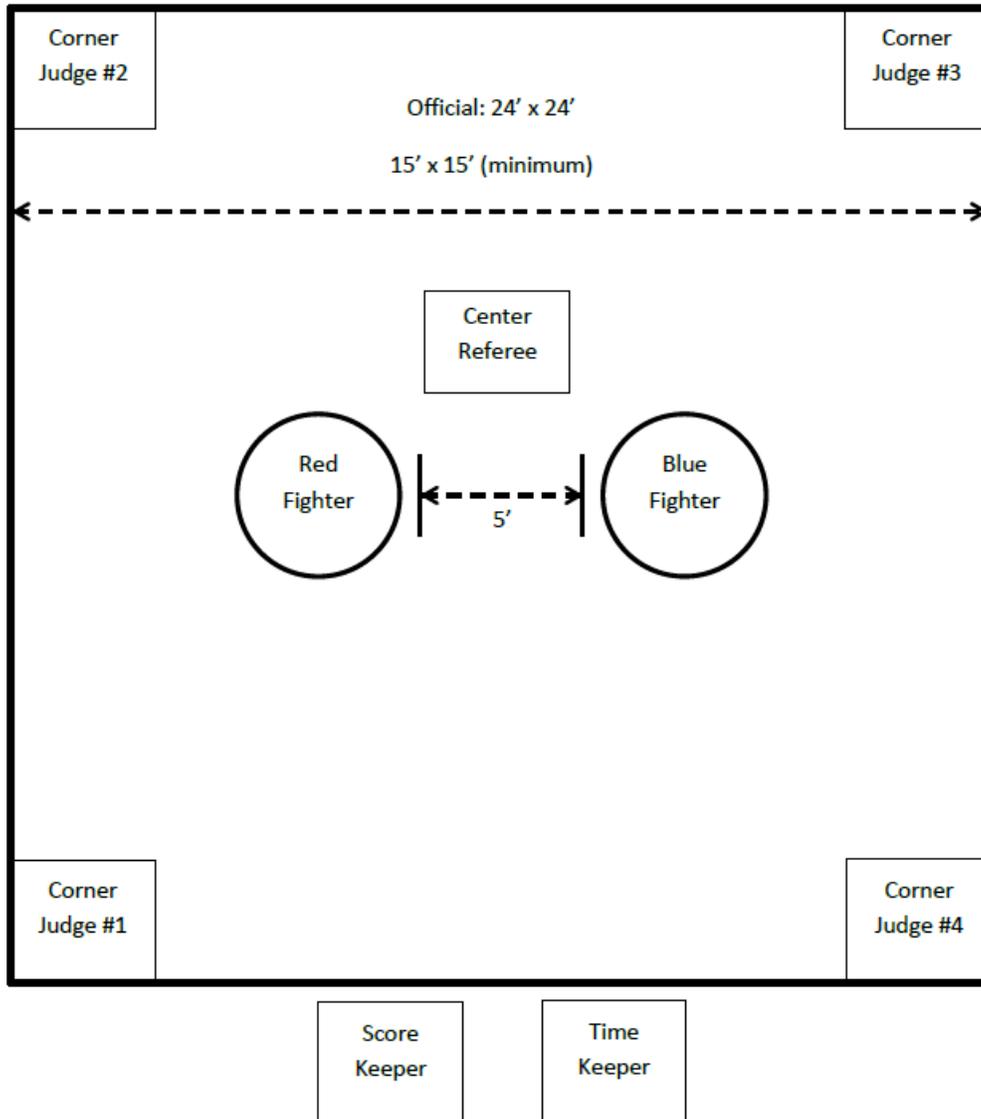


Figure 2: Ring Layout and Personnel Assignments

Sparring Ring Equipment:

- Tape for marking ring and fighter positions.
- 8 Chairs: 4 for corner judges, 2 for coaches, 1 for Timekeeper, 1 for Scorekeeper.
- Timer or stopwatch
- Time marker, such as a bean bag.
- Markers to indicate red and blue fighter.
- Score sheets, pencils (or pens), bracket sheets
- Copy of these Rules & Regulations.

4.2.2. Patterns Competition Equipment

The area needs to be of appropriate size to accommodate individual, two competitors, or a team of 5 for patterns competition. If appropriate, bright tape can be placed to indicate starting positions. Six total chairs are to be provided; 5 for the judges and one for the Scorekeeper. Each Judge will use hand signals (pointing in the direction of the winning competitor) to indicate individual votes for the best pattern for individual competition. If team patterns are being conducted, then a set of numeric scoring cards will be provided to each judge. Bracketing or patterns score sheets along with pens or pencils will be provided to the Scorekeeper, as needed.

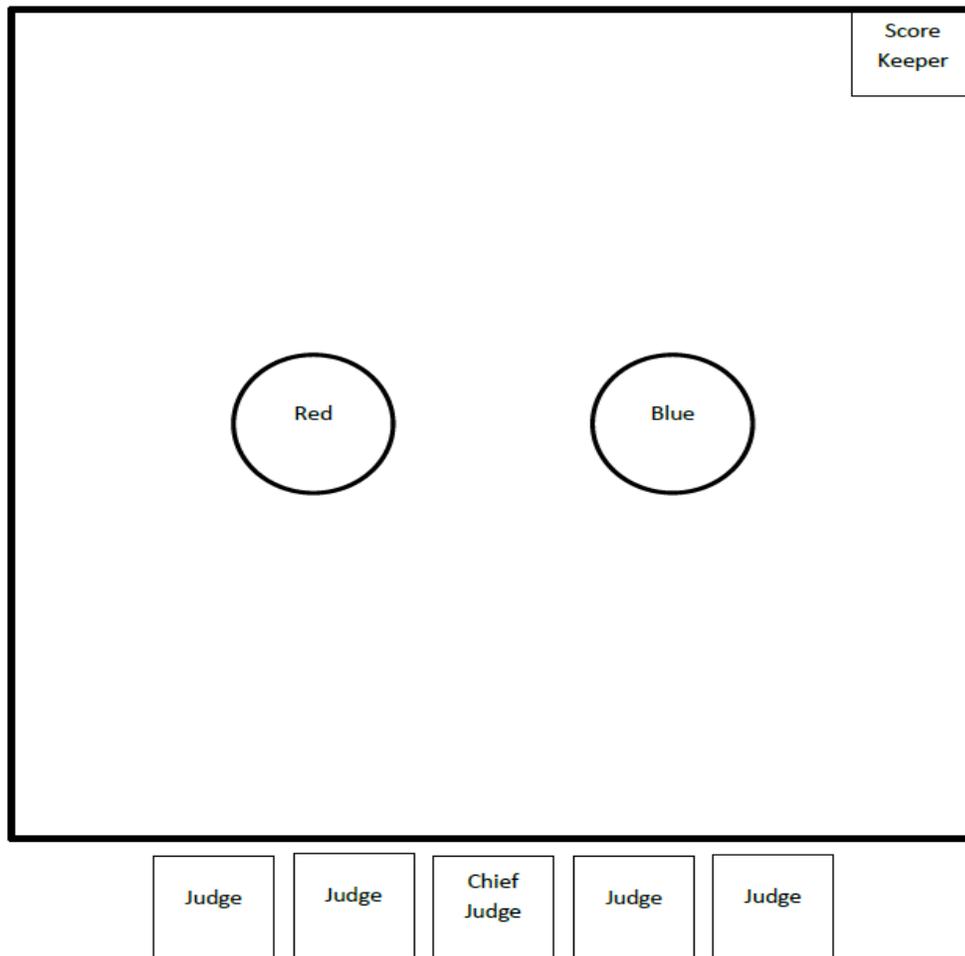


Figure 3: Patterns Competition Set-up

4.3. Traditional TaeKwon-Do Alliance Sanctioning

As previously mentioned, the Promoter must provide the application for sanctioning to the TTA, along with applicable fees. The form must be submitted well in advance of the event, giving the TTA the opportunity to assist the Promoter in providing certified Tournament Officials. Sanctioning will require the Tournament Director, the Chief Referee, Tournament Coordinators be appropriately certified and members of the TTA; although the promoter can select/decide the personnel to fill these roles. Any applicable sanctioning fees must be paid, as well. Contact the TTA for additional information.

4.4. Tournament Director Assignment

The Tournament Director must be a Level 1 TTA-certified referee and be an active TTA member. The Director may be appointed by the Promoter, and must fully understand the Rules & Regulations and approved by the TTA, as well as have extensive experience in tournament settings.

4.5. Chief Referee Assignment

The Chief Referee is selected by the Tournament Director and approved by the Promoter. This individual must be an active TTA member and have a Level 1 TTA referee certification. The Chief Referee must understand the Rules & Regulations and have had experience in various roles in a tournament setting.

4.6. Medical Staff

The TTA recognizes that the safety of competitors is of primary importance, although there is always risk associated with physical activities like TKD; however, the TTA respectfully expects the Tournament Promoter to have a plan to address medical needs and staff. EMTs, Paramedics, other medical professionals approved by the Promoter should be available to assist in case of injuries or other medical needs. These personnel work directly for the Tournament Director and can be subject to being called into service by Center Referees, Chief Referee, or Tournament Director.

4.7. Sales & Marketing

Sales and marketing activities are the responsibility of the Promoter. The TTA may assist and advise, but makes no commitment, outside of sanctioning, to promote the event.

Section 5. Competitor Uniform & Equipment

All competitors must provide their own equipment, as indicated in this section. Although, competitors are allowed to borrow equipment from others, they will not be allowed to compete if the tournament staff believes they are not equipped in a manner that is safe to them or other competitors. If the competitor is not properly equipped, then the competitor risks disqualification from events.

Absolutely no jewelry – piercings, wedding bands, necklaces, etc. – may be worn during competition. Fighters will not compete if they have a cast, a brace (for example, a joint brace), or untrimmed fingernails or toenails.

All equipment will be neat, clean, and free of defects to be deemed worthy for competition. Referees will make the determination of safety, before competition begins, but cannot wait indefinitely.

5.1. Uniform and Belt

All TTA-approved uniforms are allowed. Otherwise, a clean, white uniform without tears, or anything hanging that could create a potential for injury, is acceptable. The competitors should wear the belt of their appropriate rank, as designated by General Choi Hong Hi. Sleeves or pant legs should not be rolled, though the Center Referee can make exceptions for small competitors whose uniforms require rolling to fit.

5.1.1. Indication of Medical Conditions

In recognition that some competitors wear medical alert items that could be deemed un-safe during competition, the TTA recommends writing the following abbreviations indicating the appropriate medical condition on the inside lapel of the uniform:

- DM1 – Type 1 diabetes
- DM2 – Type 2 diabetes
- RAD – Asthma
- EPL – Epilepsy
- HBP – Hypertension
- VP – Anisocoria (unequal pupils)
- ALM – Allergies to medication
- CHX – Cardiac history
- HH – Hearing impaired

5.2. Section 5.2 Head Gear

All competitors must wear head gear for sparring competition, with no exceptions. The head gear is to be a polyurethane, padded head gear that covers the forehead, top of the head, ears, and provides padded protection to the back of the head. No other additional fittings are allowed to be attached to the head gear. Head gear needs to be properly fitted and cannot be too small or too large.

5.3. Hand and Foot Pads

Protective pads shall be of the polyurethane type and no leather pads will be allowed. The pads need to cover the striking tools of the hands and feet appropriately and cannot be similar to boxing gloves. Taping that provides an unfair advantage and the potential for injury to other fighters will not be allowed. The Center Referee may request a change in pads, before allowing the fighter to compete.

5.4. Shin, Elbow, Knee Pads, and Breast Protectors

Although not mandatory, these items may be used by the fighters to protect themselves. If shin or elbow pads are used, they must be soft and provide no unfair advantage to the fighter.

5.5. Mouthpiece

Mouthpieces are required and the fitted type is recommended. No part of the mouthpiece can extend outside of the mouth (for example, the piece that might attach to a football helmet).

5.6. Athletic Cup & Supporter

All male competitors are required to wear an athletic cup and supporter inside their uniforms.

5.7. Referee Discretion

Discretion to allow competitors to compete or not compete is up to the Center Referee, Chief Referee, Tournament Director, Patterns Judges, or Breaking Judges.

Section 6. Sparring Competition

6.1. Sparring Overview

Sparring is intended to demonstrate the art of TaeKwon-Do as taught and promulgated by General Choi Hong Hi. It is dynamic and will display a vast array of techniques that include striking with the hands and feet as well as blocks, dodges, and jumps. Due to the power that innately exists in TKD, emphasis in sparring competition is to display the techniques in a manner that is controlled and intended to score points, rather than hurt an opponent.

Sparring competition, as sanctioned by the TTA, should be continuous bouts where the fighters use combinations of techniques to score points and prevent being scored upon. Judges will count points as the match occurs continuously without stopping the match to award the points. Points will be awarded as 1, 2, or 3 points depending on the techniques used.

Also, there are various things fighters might do that can inhibit their ability to score points and ultimately win the match. These are assessed as warnings, minus points, and disqualifications. It is the goal of the TTA to sanction events that are safe for competitors, yet enjoyable in a way that displays the martial art known as TaeKwon-Do.

6.2. Divisions

As mentioned before, divisions are based upon such factors as: age, gender, weight, rank, and on the number of competitors involved. Every effort will be made to divide divisions in the most equitable manner possible by the Tournament Coordinators.

6.2.1. Rank Divisions

First and foremost, there are no divisions for ranks above V Dan (5th degree black belt). The two major divisions are between color belts and black belts. Based upon the number of overall

competitors, various rank divisions can be made. Essentially, the more competitors there are in the tournament, the more divisions there will be. After designating black belt and color belt divisions, the color belt divisions can be distributed further. All black belts may compete in the same division, based on the number of competitors, at the discretion of the Tournament Director).

Color belts (white, yellow, green, blue and red) are typically separated into:

- White and Yellow
- Green and Blue
- Red

Ultimately, this will be decided by the Tournament Coordinators.

6.2.2. Age Divisions

- Adults – The ages to indicate adults for competition are ages 16 - 34 years.
- Seniors – Competitors aged 35 – 45 years.
- Mature – Covers ages older than 45 years.
 - Special divisions may be created, if there are enough competitors older than 50-55 years.
- Juniors – Ages 11 – 15 years.
- Pre-Teens – Ages 9 – 10 years.
- PeeWees – Ages 6 - 8 years.
- Tots – 5 years old.

6.2.3. Gender Divisions

These will be based upon the competitors' gender. All Junior, Adult, Senior, and Mature divisions will have separate male and female divisions. The younger divisions may or may not be separated into male and female divisions and will be decided based upon the number of competitors.

6.2.4. Weight Divisions

Male Weight Divisions

Bantamweight	Less than 130 lbs.
Lightweight	130 lbs. up to, but not including 143 lbs.
Welterweight	143 lbs. up to, but not including 157 lbs.
Middleweight	157 lbs. up to, but not including 172 lbs.
Light Heavyweight	172 lbs. up to, but not including 186 lbs.
Heavyweight	186 lbs. up to, but not including 201 lbs.
Super Heavyweight	201 lbs. and over

Female Weight Divisions

Flyweight	Less than 115 lbs.
Lightweight	115 lbs. up to, but not including 135 lbs.
Middleweight	135 lbs. up to, but not including 155 lbs.
Heavyweight	155 lbs. and over

6.3. Scoring & Point System

6.3.1. How is a Point Determined?

A point is determined when a controlled, legal technique makes contact with a legal target and does not involve a warning nor minus points. Corner Judges' opinions determine the control and balance used to deliver a legal technique and is scored appropriately. If the Center Referee breaks the fighters and assesses a warning or a minus point, then the Corner Judges shall not award points associated with that infraction. Points can be awarded for individual techniques or with combinations of techniques.

6.3.2. Point System

Points are determined and assessed by Corner Judges on a TTA Score sheet. Points are awarded as 1, 2, or 3 points when delivered with balance and control and demonstrate good technical skill, as determined by the Corner Judges. The points are awarded according to individual techniques or any combination of techniques the fighters use. The fighters cannot simultaneously incur an infraction and score points.

Points	Techniques
1	All legal hand techniques, to any legal target areas. It makes no difference if the hand technique is delivered while standing or jumping and it does not matter if it is to the high section or middle section.
2	Any legal foot technique performed while standing to either the middle section or high section.
3	Any legal foot technique, performed in a jumping or flying (both feet leave the ground) motion to either the middle or high sections. The point must occur while both feet are off the ground.

6.4. Length of Matches

All matches are single-elimination rounds, consisting of continuous sparring of two (2) minutes in length. Time of the matches is controlled by a Timekeeper with a stopwatch or other measuring device supplied by the Promoter. Time will continue to run during the assessment of warnings or minus points. Time can only be stopped by the Center Referee; and usually is done in the case of a fallen fighter, injuries, or the determination of disqualification.

Although the Center Referee is the only official to stop time, if the Center Referee rushes to the aid of a fighter (for example, a fallen fighter or an injury), timekeepers can use their best judgment and stop the time. If this occurs, the timekeeper must inform the Center Referee of this action.

6.5. Targets: Legal and Illegal

Due to the primary interest of the TTA to keep fighters safe, certain areas of a competitors' body are designated as legal and illegal to score points or incur infractions, respectively.

6.5.1. Legal Target Areas

Legal area	Description
High Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Face and head (top, side and back, but not the base of the skull).
Middle Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Above the belt and below the shoulder line. ▪ Chest and ribcage (or side) ▪ Abdominal area
Low Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ALL strikes below the belt are illegal techniques (discussed below) ▪ If a blocking technique is used below the belt, no infractions will be assessed. This includes blocking with the feet, if the intent is not to strike.

6.5.2. Illegal Target Areas

These incur warnings, minus points, and/or disqualifications.

Illegal area	Description
High Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The neck (back or side) or throat. ▪ Base of the skull.
Middle Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anywhere on the back (spine, kidneys, etc.) ▪ Won't incur infractions, but strikes to the arms are not able to receive points. ▪ Joint attacks of the arms.
Low Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ALL STRIKES below the belt are illegal techniques. Any strike to the groin, buttocks, or legs. ▪ Any attacks to joints of the legs. ▪ If a blocking technique is used below the belt, no infractions will be assessed. This includes blocking with the feet, if the intent is not to strike.

6.6. Sparring Techniques: Legal and Illegal

6.6.1. Legal and Approved Techniques

- Punch
- Backfist/sidefist strikes
- Knifehand (or reverse) strikes
- Kicks, including blocks and pushing techniques.
- All Blocks - no points awarded, but legal.
- Feints – (for example, faking a low kick) As long as no contact is made, these are completely legal. If contact is made, the Center Referee may assess an infraction.
- Any of these techniques may be performed stationary, skipping, sliding, mid-air, or flying.

6.6.2. Illegal Techniques

To protect fighters and maintain safe competition, all of the following techniques are illegal, and based upon their seriousness, may incur infractions (warnings, minus points, and/or disqualification):

- Any lack of control or excessive contact.
- Blind techniques (such as a spinning backfist done without control)
- Head-butts
- Elbow strikes or knee strikes
- Open hand slapping
- Chokes
- Fingertip thrusts
- Pushing with the hands
- Takedowns or throws
- Grabbing or grappling (holds of any kind)
- Striking below the belt, unless a block is being performed (for example, side checking kick).
- All sweeps

6.7. Infractions/Fouls: Warnings, Minus Points, and Disqualifications

One of the functions of the Center Referee is to assess infractions, when needed, to fighters that perform illegal techniques. During the match, if the Center Referee feels a foul has occurred, the Center Referee will break the fighters and assess the infraction and inform the Scorekeeper of a

warning or minus point, without stopping time. (If needed, the Center Referee will stop time to assess infractions.)

When the Center Referee assesses the infraction and signals the Scorekeeper to mark a warning or a minus point, the Corner Judges will not award points for the techniques that committed the infraction.

When a fighter incurs three (3) minus points, the Scorekeeper will indicate such to the Center Referee. The Center Referee will stop the match and disqualify the fighter for the three (3) minus points. **In addition, the Center Referee has the power to disqualify any for a foul that was malicious, intentional, or resulted in an injury.**

If the commission of a foul results in the fouled fighter not being able to continue, the following apply:

- An automatic disqualification is given to the guilty fighter.
- The fouled fighter advances to the next round, if capable.
- If unable to continue, the fouled fighter is removed from the tournament.

If both fighters are hurt simultaneously, and it did not involve a penalty, the following apply:

- time, as determined by the Center Referee, is given to see allow both fighters the opportunity to continue.
- If only one fighter can continue, then that fighter will be advanced to the next round.
- If neither fighter can continue, then scores will be added up and a winner declared (Center Referee gives the tie-breaker as normal).
- The winning fighter advances to the next round, if recovered.

If both fighters are injured or hurt during the commission of fouls and neither fighter can continue, then the Center Referee disqualifies both fighters.

All disqualified fighters are ineligible to receive recognition of awards (for example, cannot be declared 1st place, 2nd place, etc.

6.7.1. Severity, Intent, and Result (SIR)

To determine if a fighter incurs a warning (minor infraction), a minus point (serious or major infraction), or a disqualification (worst infraction), the Center Referee will consider **Severity, Intent, and Result** of fouls committed by fighters. The Center Referee can consider these individually, or in combination to determine the seriousness of the penalty:

- **Severity** – Severity relates directly to the rules, and how fighter uses techniques and targets. This is not a matter of intent, but rather a matter of disregard to the importance of the rules. This also does not have to result in injuries. For example, a fighter that continues to throw low techniques that could cause injury, even if the fighter doesn't mean to hurt opponents.
- **Intent** – This issue concerns a fighter's attitude, demeanor, and disposition towards the opponent, ring personnel, or these Rules & Regulations. This involves how malicious or out of control a fighter might be and there may not be any associated injury or result, but

merely the attempt to do so that incurs the infraction. For example, a fighter may rush an opponent out of anger, but never makes any contact.

- **Result** – Infractions that result in a fighter being hurt or injured may have a warning, minus point, or disqualification issued by the Center Referee. If, for example, the hurt fighter has visible injuries, or another result causing him/her to be at a disadvantage for the remainder of the bout, then an infraction might be assessed to the guilty fighter.

The Center Referee considers all of these or any combination of them, to determine if an infraction should be given to a fighter. The Center Referee may consult the corner judges for their opinions, but should be consistent and fair. The Center Referee's decision about the infraction is final.

SIR is the method for deciding the seriousness of infractions and is used at the discretion of the Center Referee.

6.7.2. Warnings

When Center Referees assess a warning to a fighter, they are making the determination that the infraction is relatively minor. The Center Referees will notify the scorekeeper of the warning and the scorekeeper records it on the score sheet for the appropriate fighter – either blue or red. Warnings can affect the fighter's final score and affecting who wins the match. The scorekeeper records the warnings, and at the end of the match, announces the total number of warnings given to each fighter. At the end of the match, when the corner judges are tallying scores to determine a winner, they will deduct one point for every 2 warnings given. Recognizing that a point deduction is different from a minus point (discussed below), a fighter will not be disqualified for the number of warnings given.

Types of minor fouls that might constitute a **warning** (*not intended to be comprehensive, nor exclusive*):

- Low kicks used to strike (blocks and feints are excluded)
- Striking a downed fighter (any portion of the body touching the ground other than the feet is considered down)
- Sweeps
- Falling
- Unintentionally striking illegal target areas
- Holds (including holding down hands to allow a strike)
- Grabbing or holding an opponent's leg
- Evading fighting (for example, intentionally running out of bounds or refusing to spar)
- Not following directions of Center Referee
- Dropping mouthpiece
- Flurries that lack any legitimate or recognizable Taekwon-Do techniques

6.7.3. Out of Bounds Rulings

Out of bounds will be recognized as the point where both feet have stepped outside the boundary of the ring, as indicated by the ring tape. If the Center Referee breaks the fighters for an out-of-

bounds violation, the Center Referee will bring the fighters back into the ring, just inside the edge either one stepped out, assess a warning (minor foul) for stepping out, then continue the match.

The fighters may continue to spar and score points, as long as the Center Referee hasn't made the out-of-bounds call. No points may be scored after the call.

If a fighter goes out of bounds while committing another infraction, only the more serious infraction is called against that fighter. If a fighter goes out of bounds as a result of another fighter's more serious infraction, then the other fighter is given the penalty for that particular foul.

6.7.4. Minus Points

Minus points are assessed for *major or serious fouls*. These types of fouls have an increased potential of risk to the fouled fighters and involve the more serious aspects of Severity, Intent, and Result. When the Center Referee believes that a major foul has occurred and decides to call a minus point, the Center Referee will break the fighters stopping the momentum of the fight and indicate to the scorekeeper a minus point and which fighter (red or blue) incurred the penalty. The scorekeeper marks the minus point for the appropriate fighter on the score sheet. If either fighter reaches three (3) minus points, then the scorekeeper indicates such to the Center Referee. The Center Referee will stop the match and time and disqualify the fighter that incurred the three (3) minus points.

Types of major fouls that might constitute a minus point (*not intended to be comprehensive, nor exclusive*):

- Illegal techniques
- Severely striking illegal areas
- Takedowns
- Unsportsman like conduct
- Attacking after Center Referee has called a break
- Excessive Contact – Contact controlled or otherwise ,that has more power than is needed to score points and has the potential to cause injury. Excessive contact is at the discretion of the Center Referee.
- Vulgar language; a general lack of respect.
- Blind techniques

6.7.5. Disqualifications

Disqualifications are the most severe penalty given to a fighter by the Center Referee. Since the Center Referee's primary responsibility is the safety of the fighters, disqualification is the tool used to give ultimate guarantee of other competitors' safety. Disqualifications occur by the Center Referee's use of the **SIR method** to determine a the probability of the fighter's actions to cause injury due to the fighter's malicious intent or the result of the foul.

Disqualification will occur automatically if the following occurs:

- Any overt display of disrespect or unsportsman-like conduct.
- A knockout.

- Headbutts.
- Purposefully attacking a downed opponent.
- An unstoppable flow of blood that occurs as a result of a foul.
 - This does not include abrasions or a trickle of blood.
 - A bleeding fighter will be given the chance to control the flow and sparring will resume when possible, based upon a reasonable amount of time as determined by the Center Referee (possibly upon the recommendations of Medical Staff).
- Three (3) minus points. (No disqualification may occur from warnings that led to point deductions.)

Disqualification can also be called if a fighter is not available for his/her match. If this occurs, the Center Referee will allow a reasonable amount of time to pass, before disqualifying the fighter. A different match can occur, as long as the bracketing is not violated. Once the Center Referee has made the decision to move on, the fighter is disqualified.

6.8. Center Referee's Authority to Stop the Match

The Center Referee has the power to stop the match by yelling "Time," indicating the timekeeper stopped the watch at that time. There are various reasons that a Center Referee may stop a match, but the primary reason is to maintain the safety of the fighters. The Center Referee might stop for equipment checks, give penalties, explain rules or any other reason he/she deems necessary. The Center Referee might also stop the match for a disqualification or an injury.

If Center Referees stop the match for an injury, they may call Medical Staff to check the condition of a fighter. The Center Referee may consult with the following personnel to render calls, or decide on the safety of fighters moving on:

- Medical Staff
- The fighter's instructor (or coach)
- The competitor's family members
- The competitor
- The Chief Referee
- The Tournament Director

Note: The Scorekeeper is allowed to throw the bag – or stop time – by yelling "Time" in the event a 3rd minus point is incurred and the Center Referee failed to call the match for a disqualification. In this situation, the Center Referee will confirm with the Scorekeeper and uphold the ruling or continue the match.

6.9. Match Progression and Method of Judging

The four Corner Judges are the scoring judges in the match and will be provided score sheets at the beginning of each match. The Center Referee marks each fighter as blue or red, with an appropriate flag or sash, so that the Corner Judges can track the scoring during the sparring round.

Corner Judges mark the points they see each fighter score, based upon the techniques the fighters use. Points may only be associated with good, controlled, valid TKD techniques and must be legal as determined by the Rules & Regulations.

At the end of the match, the Scorekeeper announces the number of warnings and minus points given to each fighter. The corner judges record these penalties on their score sheet to use in the final score. The judges total the points they awarded to each fighter, before penalty consideration. Then each fighter's score is reduced by the number of minus points. Finally, this score is reduced by one (1) point for every two (2) warnings given (two full warnings must be used to deduct a point; no rounding-up).

For example, Corner Judge #1 awarded the Red fighter 8 points and the Blue fighter 11 points during the match. The Red fighter was assessed 2 minus points and three warnings; the Blue fighter was assessed 1 minus point and 5 warnings. The Red Fighter's final score would be: (8 points) – (2 minus points) – (1 point deduction for the 2 warnings) = 5 final points. The Blue fighter's final score would be: (11 points) – (1 minus point) – (2 point deduction for the 5 warnings given) = 8 final points.

The Corner Judges indicate the winner of the bout, from their scoring and penalty assessment tabulations and indicate the Red or the Blue fighter as a winner on their score sheet. Upon completing the score sheet, the corner judges hand the sheet to the Center Referee who delivers all Corner Judges' sheets to the scorekeeper for validation and record keeping. After the score sheet is handed to the Center Referee, no changes may be made, unless the scorekeeper notices an error.

6.10. Determining the Winner

Since the match is a continuous 2-minute round and points are awarded by the Corner Judges on an independent basis, a tallying of the points and determination of winner is determined after the Corner Judges turn in their score sheets to the Center Referee. Each Corner Judge selects a winner on their score sheet, separately from the other Corner Judges, by choosing either the Blue fighter or the Red fighter. This determination counts as a vote for the fighter.

 Traditional Taekwon-Do Alliance <small>In Memory of General Choi Hong Hi</small>	Traditional Taekwon-Do Alliance Sparring Score Card	
	BLUE	POINTS
	1	
	2	
	3	
	Total Scored Points	
	WARNINGS (2 warnings = 1 point deduction)	
	MINUS POINTS	
	Total Deductions	
	NET POINTS	
BLUE	DECISION	RED
○		○
Judge Name & Rank:		Corner #
Judge Signature:		Ring #

Figure 4: Corner Judges' Score Sheet

The Scorekeeper counts votes from each of the Corner Judges, based upon the selection the Corner Judges made. The fighter with the most votes is determined to be the winner. In the event of a tie, the Center Referee is the deciding of tie-breaking vote.

6.10.1. Breaking a Tie

There will be no sudden death matches in continuous sparring competition and the Center Referee provides the tie-breaking vote, independently of the Corner Judges scoring and votes. When time is called by the timekeeper and before the scorekeeper announces penalties, the Center Referee tells the scorekeeper the tie-breaking vote prior to collecting the Corner Judges' score cards. In the event of a tie, the Center Referee's vote decides the winner; if there is not tie, then the center referee's vote is not revealed.

Once a winner is determined, the winner is advanced on the bracket sheet and continues in the competition; the losing fighter is eliminated from the competitions, due to single elimination.

6.11. Miscellaneous

Anytime a fighter goes down, the Center Referee will call time and wipe off the fighter's gloves. This is done to make sure no debris, dust, or dirt is on the gloves. Time will resume when the Center Referee restarts the bout.

Mouthpieces are sometimes lost, inadvertently; the Center Referee will stop time and make sure the fighters have their mouthpieces. A penalty might be called, if the Center Referee believes the mouthpiece was dropped purposefully.

The use of drugs, alcohol, or substances that may affect a competitor's abilities is prohibited.

6.11.1. Disputes

If a dispute arises during a match, a fighter or instructor (or coach, if a black belt) may **respectfully** ask the Center Referee for clarification of a call, decision, or interpretation of the Rules & Regulations. The Center Referee may consult the Corner Judges, Chief Referee and/or the Tournament Director before explaining the call. **ONLY the instructor (or black belt coach) and/or the fighter may request clarification.**

If the fighter (or instructor/coach) is not satisfied with a decision made by the Center Referee, the fighter may request the Chief Referee to evaluate the matter. The next step would be to consult the Tournament Director, **whose decision is final.** Respect and good manners shall be maintained at all times by the fighter and instructor (or coach); and the fighter may be disqualified by either party's lack of respect or unsportsman like conduct.

All requests for clarification should be addressed immediately, before the end of a match. After a decision is made and announced by the Center Referee, it is considered final and no further objection by the fighter or instructor will be accepted.

For other errors (for example, bracketing, scoring, etc.) that occur outside of a fighters direct sparring, the Center Referee will assist in resolving the problems. If all concerned parties are in agreement about the Center Referee's decision, then the matter is considered resolved and operations can continue. If needed, the Center Referee may consult others, such as the Tournament Coordinators, the Chief Referee, the Corner Judges, and the Tournament Director. After the Center Referee announces a decision, the matter is final and considered closed.

Section 7. Pattern Competition

The patterns used to compete, must be from the set of 24 Ch'ang Hon patterns (or Tuls) created by General Choi and intended for white belts through V Dan (5th degree) black belts: Chon-Ji, Dan-Gun, Do-San, Won-Hyo, Yul-Gok, Joong-Gun, Toi-Gye, Hwa-Rang, Choong-Moo, Kwang-Gae, Po-Eun, Gae-Baek, Eui-Am, Choong-Jang, Juche, Sam-Il, Yoo-Sin, Choi-Yong, Yon-Gae, Ul-Ji, Moon-Moo, Se-Jong, and So-San*. The pattern each participant is allowed to use for competition is limited to patterns appropriate for his/her rank or those for one rank below their current one. (For example, a high blue belt may use either Toi-Gye or Joong-Gun; likewise a 3rd degree black belt has a choice of 6 patterns: Eui-Am, Choong-Jang, Juche, Sam-Il, Yoo-Sin, or Choi-Yong.)

**Note: Not all 24 patterns are listed (Tong-Il is excluded), because tournament competition is only allowed for V Dan and lower ranks, therefore the remaining patterns are not qualified for tournaments.*

7.1. Panel of Judges/Officials

The panel of judges shall consist of five (5) black belt members, with the senior rank, designated as the Senior Judge and acts as the competition supervisor. The Chief Judge shall be IV Dan (4th

degree) black belt or higher in rank. It is preferable, that the entire panel consists of active members of the TTA, but it is not required if approved by the Tournament Director. The lowest rank of the panel, must be at least one (1) level of rank higher than the highest rank of the competitors (for example, the panel has a 2nd degree black belt as the lowest ranking member, and the highest rank of competitors is no higher than a 1st degree black belt). The patterns competition will also have one (1) score-keeper assigned for the purpose of recording the winners and maintaining the bracket sheet.

7.1.1. Exceptions to Panel

Recognizing there are certain situations that might warrant exceptions, alterations could be made and implemented by **the Tournament Director ONLY**:

- At no time will the Tournament Director allow any judges that are lower in rank than competitors, but recognizing limits in staffing needs might require a three-member panel in lieu of a five-member panel. Every effort should be made to have a 5-member panel, however.
- Again, a limited number of Judges might be available, and color belt patterns competition might include high red belts on the panel.
- The Tournament Director may assign non-TTA members to the panel, when the members are part of a class or organization that is knowledgeable about General Choi's patterns.

7.2. Divisions of Pattern Competition

The first division of pattern competition designated is separating Individual from Team Patterns. Individual Pattern divisions are further separated into age and rank divisions. Team Patterns may be separated by age and further separated into color belt, black belt or combined rank divisions.

All of these divisions may be altered as the Tournament Coordinators see fit to encourage fair competition and might address the number of competitors, as well. (At no time will the age divisions be mixed.)

7.2.1. Individual Pattern Divisions

All individual patterns divisions will separate competitors by age: Adult, Juniors, and Pee Wees. These divisions, based upon the number of competitors, will be separated by ranks.

Adults: Ages 16 years and older

- White belts (10th – 9th Gup)
- Yellow Belts (8th – 7th Gup)
- Green Belts (6th – 5th Gup)
- Blue Belts (4th – 3rd Gup)
- Red Belts (2nd – 1st Gup)
- Black Belts: 1st Dan – 2nd Dan
- Black Belts: 3rd Dan – 5th Dan

Juniors: Ages 12 – 15 years of age

- White belts (10th – 9th Gup)
- Yellow Belts (8th – 7th Gup)
- Green Belts (6th – 5th Gup)
- Blue Belts (4th – 3rd Gup)
- Red Belts (2nd – 1st Gup)
- Black Belts

Pee Wees: Ages 11 years and younger

- White belts (10th – 9th Gup)
- Yellow Belts (8th – 7th Gup)
- Green Belts (6th – 5th Gup)
- Blue Belts (4th – 3rd Gup)
- Red Belts (2nd – 1st Gup)
- Black Belts

All of these divisions may be altered as the Tournament Coordinators see fit to encourage fair competition and might address the number of competitors, as well. (At no time will the age divisions be mixed.)

7.3. Judging/Scoring Patterns Competition

The basic points to be considered in judging patterns competition come from General Choi's 9 Points To Be Observed While Performing Patterns:

- Accuracy. A pattern must begin and end on the same spot.
- Correct posture and facing should be maintained at all times.
- The muscles of the body should be tensed and relaxed at the proper moments.
- A pattern should be performed in rhythmic movements with an absence of stiffness.
- Moves should accelerate and decelerate, according to the instructions in General Choi's Encyclopedia of TaeKwon-Do.
- Each pattern should be perfected before going on to the next.
- Students should know the purpose of each movement.
- Students should perform each movement with realism.
- Attack and defense techniques should be equally distributed among the left and right hands and feet.

Since General Choi felt that patterns are an essential element of TaeKwon-Do, patterns competition should exemplify the competitors' use of power, technique, balance, and control of the body.

7.3.1. Judging Individual Pattern Competition

Bracketing for pattern competition is similar to sparring competition and involves two (2) competitors performing simultaneously with a winner selected in each single-elimination round. The pattern Judges will use hand signals, pointing to the winning competitor, to record their individual votes as to who performed the better pattern.

At the beginning of each bracket, the scorekeeper calls the two (2) competitors, and announces one as Red and the other as Blue. The competitors will face the judges, and the Red competitor will be on the judges' left and the Blue competitor will be on the judges' right. The scorekeeper calls the competitors to attention (charyot), has them bow (kyong-ye) to the panel, and asks the name of their pattern. The scorekeeper will direct them to prepare by issuing the command of junbi. Once the competitors are in a ready position, the scorekeeper will direct them to begin with the command of si-jak. At the end of their patterns, indicated by each competitor yelling (ki-yap) the name of the pattern (or reasonably seems like he/she is finished), the competitors will return to their respective ready positions with the scorekeeper's command of baro.

The scorekeeper then prepares the competitors for the vote, by calling them to attention charyot. The Senior Judge then commands the panel to prepare for the vote; the panel crosses their forearms in front of their chest and at the Senior Judge's command, each judges indicate their vote by pointing in the direction (right or left) of the winning competitor

The scorekeeper records each vote the competitors receive, and declares a winner by announcing the competitor with the most votes. The winner is then advanced on the bracket sheet.

GRAND CHAMPION

Grand Champion will be determined based upon a compilation of the individual's scores in patterns, sparring and if we have it breaking competition's. The first place winner in each category will receive 3 points. The second place winner receives 2 points and the third place winner receives 1 point. If a competitor decides not to complete in all the events they will not be eligible for Grand Champion. There will be two divisions, Color Belts – all ages and Black Belts – all ages. In the event of a tie the Tournament Director has final say.

Due to the advantages of adults versus juniors in a breaking competition, juniors under the age of 12 will be given an automatic 1 point for competing in breaking, regardless of their finish.