

COMPETITION RULES

For the 13th World Open Karate Championship

Revised on August 30th, 2023

Judging Criteria

1. The five referees including the Main Referee shall judge the competition. However, the final decision rests with the Head Judge.
2. Since the decision should be a majority decision, in the case of “IPPON”, “WAZA-ARI”, “HANSOKU”, “JOGAI”, “HANTEI”, etc, the decision is valid if at least three out of the five referees support it. A decision not supported by the majority, that is less than three of the referees, or a decision supported by only the Main Referee is not valid. However, any of the five referees have the right to make a protest against a decision and claim further discussions. In the discussions, a monitor (videotape-recording image) might be used as a reference.
3. The weighing shall be done with the attendance of referees at a weighing site outside the competition area whenever necessary. The weight at this time shall be the valid weight for the competitor in case “a decision by weight” has to be made. The valid weight difference in the case of “a decision by weight” is 10 kg or more in the Male category, and 8 kg or more in the Female category. In this case, the competitor with a lighter weight shall be the winner.
4. In case a competitor cannot continue the bout due to his opponent’s “YUKO WAZA (effective attack)”, “HANSOKU WAZA (foul attack)” etc., the tournament doctor may give a so-called ‘doctor’s stop (request to stop the fight)’ after consulting with the five referees or the Head Judge.
 - a) In case of “HANSOKU WAZA”, the competitor who made the foul attack loses the bout. The opponent will be a winner of the bout, but will not be able to continue on to a next bout.
 - b) In case of “YUKO WAZA (effective attack)”, if the opponent is so seriously damaged by the attack that he will not be able to continue on to a next bout, he will lose the bout.
5. The 1st to the 4th places shall be decided by bouts, but the 5th to the 8th for those defeated in the men quarterfinals will be decided by the content and performance in the bouts that they won, by the Executive Committee, based on the following criteria. The order of [a] to [e] demonstrates the order of priority (a is at the top, and e at the bottom).
 - a) The number of IPPON victories (advantage to the higher number)
 - b) The number of WAZA-ARI (advantage to the higher number)
 - c) The number of extensions (advantage to the lower number)
 - d) Weight (advantage to the lighter)
 - e) Other factors
6. The tournament schedule is to be strictly followed, but in case of an unavoidable situation, the Executive Committee Chairman may, after consultation with the Head Judge, decide to change the tournament schedule.

Kumite Rules

1. Time of one bout:
 - a) Male: As per Appendix..
 - b) Female: As per Appendix.
2. Use of Protector: As per Appendix.

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3. Victory is awarded to the competitor who has scored one full point (IPPON) or the one who has won by decision (including 'WAZA-ARI' - half point) or the one whose opponent has been charged with a foul, or whose opponent has been disqualified.
4. The competitors shall enter the competition mat from opposite sides and stand by two lines, red and white, respectively in the center of the fighting area, taking postures of "FUDODACHI", facing the front.
Looking at them from the front (official seats), the competitor for "AKA" – Red – should stand on the left side (the one whose entry number is smaller) and the competitor for "SHIRO" – White – should be on the right side (the one whose entry number is larger).
5. The bout starts with the Main Referee's command "HAJIME" and ends with the Main Referee's command "YAME".
6. In case of any accident during the fight, the Main Referee may stop the bout.
7. When the Main Referee makes the sign of "Time", the bout shall stop for a moment, and when he makes the sign of "ZOKKOU" (continue) the bout shall start again.

IPPON-GACHI (full point victory)

The following cases will be judged as IPPON-GACHI (full point victory).

- a) A thrust (TSUKI), kick (KERI), and elbow strike (HIJI UCHI) or any other technique, excluding actions listed as fouls, which vigorously downs the opponent for three or more seconds.
- b) If the opponent has lost his will to fight for three or more seconds.
- c) When having obtained two WAZA-ARI (half-points), which results in one IPPON (full-point).

WAZA-ARI (half-point)

The following cases will be judged as WAZA-ARI (half-point).

- a) When a thrust (TSUKI), kick (KERI), elbow strike (HIJI UCHI), etc., excluding actions listed as fouls, downs the opponent for less than three seconds, but he stands up and resumes the fight.
- b) If the opponent has lost his will to fight but resumes the fight within three seconds.
- c) If the opponent has received so much damage that he loses his balance, but not that he falls down.
- d) When a well-focused GEDAN TSUKI (downward punch) is followed immediately in good timing after either downing the opponent with foot sweeps (ASHI-BARAI) or dodging the opponent's DOMAWASHI-KAITEN-GERI (rolling kick).

Criteria of HANTEI (decision)

- a) In case there is neither IPPON nor disqualification, the decision supported by three or more out of the five referees (one Main Referee, four Corner Referees) is valid.
- b) In case of one of the competitors having a WAZA-ARI, the WAZA-ARI will be the first priority in a decision.
- c) In case of no WAZA-ARI, the amount of damage will be the first priority in a decision.
- d) In case of no damages, the amount of techniques (punches, kicks), including YUKO-DA (point-giving techniques, but not enough for being a WAZA-ARI), will be the criteria for decision.
- e) In case of same amount of techniques, including YUKO-DA, the referees shall give victory to the competitor who is more active or more aggressive in fighting. (This applies to the final extension where a winner has to

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be decided.)

- f) If CHUI (warning) or GENTEN (penalty) has been given to either of the competitors, the referees shall follow the criteria stated in “Judging Criteria”).

JOGAI (step outside competition area)

- a) If either of the competitors has stepped outside the area line completely with his both feet, it will be judged as JOGAI.
- b) “JOGAI” will be concluded upon the Main Referee’s command “YAME”.

HANSOKU (fouls)

The following actions are considered as HANSOKU (Fouls)

- a) Attacks with techniques using hands or elbows (such as Ken, Shuto, Nukite, Elbow strike, etc.) to the opponent’s face or neck. Even a slight touch may result in HANSOKU. However, making feints to the face is allowed.
- b) Attack with the HIJI-UCHI-OROSHI technique to the shoulder or collarbone.
- c) Attacks to the groin and lower abdomen.
- d) ZU-TSUKI (head thrusts).
- e) TSUKAMI (grappling). (For whatever reason, to grapple the opponent’s dogi is not allowed, neither to clinch hands with each other.)
- f) KAKE (hooking). (To grapple or hook the opponent’s neck, head, shoulders, etc.)
- g) OSHI (pushing). (Pushing with open hands, closed hands or with the body is not allowed. Basically it will be considered as HANSOKU even if you push only with one hand.)
- h) To Attack whilst leaning the head or body against the opponent.
- i) KAKAEKOMI (hugging and holding). (The person who puts his arms around the other one first will be given a foul.)
- j) Attacks from the back.
- k) To attack an opponent who is already down.
- l) KAKENIGE (run-away attack). (Pretend to attack whilst actually running away from the opponent.)
- m) Kicks to the knee joint and throwing.
- n) Running away by repeatedly doing JOGAI. (Step outside the area.)
- o) Any action that may be considered a bad attitude towards the competition.
- p) Any other actions that the referees may regard as fouls.

MITOMEZU (No count)

When IPPON (one full point), WAZA-ARI (one-half point), HASOKU (fouls), etc. is not approved of, it will be judged as MITOMEZU (no count).

CHUI (warning) & GENTEN (penalty)

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- a) A foul is charged with one warning “CHUI ICHI”.
- b) When any action is considered as a deliberate or malicious foul, or when severe damage has been caused by a foul, a GENTEN ICHI (first penalty) may be given at the first time.
- c) CHUI NI (two warnings) results in GENTEN ICHI (first penalty), and GENTEN NI (second penalty) results in SHIKKAKU (disqualification).

SHIKKAKU (disqualification)

The following cases result in SHIKKAKU (disqualification);

- a) Failing to obey the referee’s instructions during the bout.
- b) Being late for a bout or failing to appear.
- c) Facing each other for more than one minute without engaging in fight. This shall be regarded as lack of will to fight and both competitors shall be disqualified.
- d) Any actions considered as sheer violence, seriously deliberate fouls or deliberate bad attitude towards the competition.
- e) In case of GENTEN-NI (second penalty)

Giving up Competition

Anyone who fails to take part in the bout as scheduled without any good reason shall be fined no more than 150,000 Japanese Yen. However, the following circumstances are exceptions;

- a) When the Tournament Doctor has, after medical examination, made the decision that the competitor cannot continue the bout.
- b) If any unforeseen misfortune to anyone closely related to the competitor (such as family members, etc.) happens immediately before or during the bout, permission to leave the competition area will be given after consultation between the Head Judge and the Executive Committee Chairman.

Standard Actions of Referees

Requests to Referees

1. The most important thing for the referees is to respect the life of the competitors and give it the highest priority during the bout. In case of any accident during the bout, the referee shall have the capacity to stay calm, and to see clearly the situation in order to take quick and appropriate actions.
2. The Referees must not be biased in judging but must have the capacity to make fair judgments.
3. The Referees must give signs and actions clearly and promptly.

KUMITE (fighting)

Opening of Bout

1. Both competitors will be called to enter the competition mat by the tournament assistant.
2. The Main Referee shall stand in the center between both competitors, and give the commands “SHOMEN NI REI” (Bow to front), “SHUSHIN NI REI” (Bow to Main Referee), “OTAGAI NI REI” (Bow to each other), and then the bout will start with his commands “KAMAETE” (Take fighting position) and “HAJIME (Start).”

During the Bout

1. The Corner Referees shall show IPPON, WAZA-ARI, HANSOKU, and JOGAI by blowing the whistle and showing those judgments with flags. The Main Referee shall give the command “YAME” (stop) and instruct both competitors to go back to their initial positions and show the judgment results both verbally and physically.
2. The signals to be given by the Corner Referees both by whistles and flags, and the judgments and actions to be given by the Main Referee are as follows:

a) IPPON

Corner Referee – Shall raise diagonally upwards the flag with the color corresponding to the competitor who got the IPPON and at the same time blow a single long and loud blast on the whistle.

Main Referee – Shall stop the bout by the command “YAME”, state the color of the raised flags and count them, including himself in the count, state the technique that resulted in IPPON, and raise upwards his arm of the winner’s side and declare “IPPON”.

b) WAZA-ARI

Corner Referee – Shall raise horizontally the flag of the competitor who took the WAZA-ARI, giving a single loud blast on the whistle strongly once.

Main Referee– Shall stop the bout by the command “YAME”, state the color of the raised flags and count them, including himself in the count, state the technique that resulted in WAZA-ARI, and raise horizontally his arm of the winner’s side and declare “WAZA-ARI”.

c) From WAZA-ARI to IPPON

If the competitor does not stand up within three seconds or does not regain his will to fight within three seconds;

Corner Referee – Shall change the flag position from WAZA-ARI to IPPON, and at the same time blow a single long and loud blast on the whistle.

Main Referee – Shall state “IPPON” if the majority of the referees, including himself (three or more) has made such a judgment. If less than three referees give IPPON, the judgment will remain “WAZA-ARI”.

d) HANSOKU

Corner Referee – Shall wave diagonally downwards the flag with the color corresponding to the competitor who made a foul, and at the same time blow several short, sharp blasts on the whistle.

Main Referee – In case of a foul being equal to “CHUI”, he shall stop the bout by giving the command “YAME”, state the color of the waved flags, count the number of flags including himself, and then he shall state the actions that resulted in HANSOKU, pointing with his forefinger at the competitor who got the CHUI and declare “CHUI ICHI.” The same action shall be taken in the case of GENTEN ICHI.

(In case of directly giving GENTEN ICHI or SHIKKAKU at one foul, the Main Referee must consult with

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the Corner Referees first.)

e) **TSUKAMI-AI, KAKAEKOMI (grappling and clinching each other)**

Corner Referee – Shall wave both flags diagonally downwards, and at the same time blow several short, sharp blasts on the whistle.

Main Referee – Shall stop the bout by giving the command “YAME”, separate both competitors and start the bout again by the command “ZOKKOU” (continue). Depending on the way of grappling, both competitors may be given CHUI ICHI respectively.

f) **JOGAI (out of bounds)**

Corner Referee – Tapping the floor several times with the flag of the side of the competitor who got JOGAI, he shall blow several short, sharp blasts on the whistle.

Main Referee – He shall immediately give the command “YAME” and call “JOGAI”, and then bring back the competitors to the center of the fighting area, start the bout again with the command “ZOKKOU”.

g) **FUMEI (unclear)**

Corner Referee – Shall cross two flags in front of his face, and blow a single short sharp blast on the whistle.

Main Referee – Shall let the bout go on without any interruption.

h) **MITOMEZU (no count)**

Corner Referee – Shall Cross the two flags and wave them back and forth and blow a single long and loud blast on the whistle.

Main Referee – Depending on the situation, he may declare MITOMEZU.

i) **HANTEI-GACHI (victory by decision)**

Corner Referee – Shall raise diagonally upwards the flag with the color corresponding to the competitor who is considered to be the winner, and at the same time blow a single long, loud blast on the whistle.

Main Referee – Shall ask the Corner Referees for their decisions by stating “HANTEI O TORIMASU” (take a decision) and “HANTEI” (decision), declare the color of the flag of the winner, count the number of flags including himself, raise his arm diagonally upwards and declare the color of the flag of the winner.

(The number of flags for a draw and for the opponent shall also be counted, even though the number is not enough for a majority decision.)

j) **HIKI-WAKE (draw)**

Corner Referee – Shall cross the flags in front of his knees, and at the same time blow a single long, loud blast on the whistle.

Main Referee – Shall count the number of flags indicating a draw and cross diagonally downwards his arms in front of himself, and declare “HIKI-WAKE”. (The number of raised flags shall also be counted, even though they are not enough for a majority decision.)

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k) SHIKKAKU (disqualified)

Corner Referee – Especially for seriously vicious fouls, the Corner Referee shall request the Main Referee for consultation.

Main Referee – Shall raise diagonally upwards his arm on the side of the competitor who has been disqualified, and then point with his finger in the direction outside the competition mat and declare “SHIKKAKU”.

3. In case the dogi of the competitor comes into disorder during the bout, the Main Referee may stop the bout, bring back the competitors to their original positions, and adjust the dogi of the competitor or have him adjust it by himself.

End of Bout

1. In case of IPPON or SHIKKAKU;

The Main Referee shall stop the bout and make both competitors face to the front and declare IPPON or SHIKKAKU, and give commands “SHOMEN NI REI” (Bow to the front), “SHUSHIN NI REI” (Bow to Main Referee), and “OTAGAI NI REI” (Bow towards each other). And then instruct the competitors to leave the competition mat.

2. In case of no IPPON nor SHIKKAKU;

The Corner Referee shall, at the same time as the signal for ending the bout, blow a single long, loud blast on the whistle.

Main Referee - Shall give the command “YAME” and stop the bout immediately, get the competitors back to their original positions, make them face to the front, and request the Corner Referees for their decisions by stating “HANTEI O TORIMASU” and “HANTEI”.

Corner Referee – When asked by the Main Referee for “HANTEI”, he shall raise diagonally upwards the flag on the side of the considered winner and at the same time blow his whistle strongly once. In case the bout is a draw, he shall cross the two flags in front of his knees and at the same time blow a single short, sharp blast on the whistle.

Main Referee – Shall declare the color of the flag on the winner’s side, count the number of raised flags including himself, and raise his arm diagonally upwards, declaring the winner if the number of flags of the same color gets the majority. (The number of flags for a draw and for the opponent shall also be counted.)

An example (1): “AKA (red) ICHI (1), NI (2) SAN (3), SHI (4) and GO (5)” “AKA (red)”

An example (2): “HIKIWAKE (draw) ICHI (1), NI (2), “AKA (red) ICHI (1), NI (2) and SAN (3)”
“AKA (red)”

In case of a draw, the Main Referee shall count the numbers for a draw, crossing his arms diagonally downwards in his front and declare “HIKIWAKE (draw)”. And he shall proceed to an Extension or “Decision by Weight”.

An example: “AKA (red) ICHI (1)”, “HIKIWAKE (draw) ICHI (1), NI (2), SAN (3) and SHI (4)”

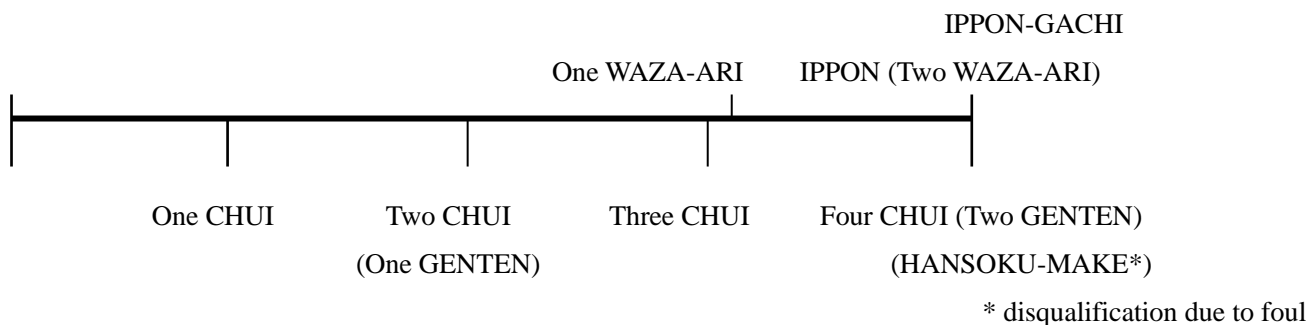
“HIKIWAKE (draw)”

3. The Main Referee shall declare the winner, and give the commands “SHOMEN NI REI”, “SHUSHIN NI REI”, “OTAGAI NI REI” and instruct the competitors to leave the competition mat.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Down below is a description of the relation between CHUI (warning) and WAZA-ARI (half-point), which of those two shall be the decisive part in different situations.

1. Judging Criteria (Chart)



2. Judging Criteria (Description)

① WAZA-ARI and IPPON

0 < One WAZA-ARI < IPPON (Two WAZA-ARI)

② In case there is no CHUI nor WAZA-ARI

- a) Damages shall be given the first priority in judging the winner.
- b) In case no damage is seen in both competitors, the first priority to judging shall be given to the number of punches and the number of kicks.
- c) In case there is no difference in number of punches and kicks between the two competitors, the one who shows more fighting spirit will win the bout (in case of a final round where a winner has to be decided).

③ In the case of one competitor having one CHUI more than the other, this does not influence the decision much. The decision shall be made mainly on the contents of the fight. However, in case of a final extension, if there is no difference in the fighting between the two competitors, the one with one CHUI will lose the bout.

< < <

0 = One CHUI = Two CHUI = Three CHUI > Four CHUI

> > (One GENTEN) > (Two GENTEN)

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- ④ **In case of a difference of two CHUI, basically the one who has got two more CHUI will lose. However, if he is obviously leading his opponent, it is possible to make a draw.**

$$\begin{array}{l} 0 \quad \geq \quad \text{Two CHUI (One GENTEN)} \\ \text{One CHUI} \quad \geq \quad \text{Three CHUI (One GENTEN + One CHUI)} \end{array}$$

- ⑤ **In case of a difference of three CHUI, the one who has got three more CHUI will lose, no matter how much he is leading the fight.**

$$0 \quad > \quad \text{Three CHUI (One GENTEN + One CHUI)}$$

- ⑥ **When one competitor has both WAZA-ARI and CHUI, basically the WAZA-ARI is stronger and that competitor will win. However, depending on the number of CHUI (and/or GENTEN) and contents, it may be judged like down below:**

- a) $0 < \text{WAZA-ARI} + \text{One CHUI}$
- b) $0 < \text{WAZA-ARI} + \text{Two CHUI (One GENTEN)}$
- c) $0 \leq \text{WAZA-ARI} + \text{Three CHUI (One GENTEN + One CHUI)}$

Basically, the one holding one WAZA-ARI and three CHUI is the winner, but if his opponent is leading the fight very clearly, it is possible to give a draw.

- d) $0 > \text{WAZA-ARI} + \text{Four CHUI (Two GENTEN)}$

Even if one has one WAZA-ARI, two GENTEN will disqualify him.

World Karate Organization **Competition Rules**

World Championship – Appendix

Kumite – Time of Bout

【Male】

	Main Bout	Extension	The 2nd Extension	Decision by Weight	Final Extension
Elimination	2 minutes	2 minutes	No 2 nd Extension	No decision by weight	2 minutes
Main Bout (From the quarter-final)	3 minutes	2 minutes	2 minutes	One with lighter weight shall win. (Valid difference is 10 kilograms.)	2 minutes

【Female】

	Main Bout	Extension	The 2nd Extension	Decision by Weight	Final Extension
Elimination	2 minutes	2 minutes	No 2 nd Extension	No decision by weight	2 minutes
Main Bout (From the quarter-final)	2 minutes	2 minutes	2 minutes	One with lighter weight shall win. (Valid difference is 8 kilograms.)	2 minutes

(Use of Protectors)

【Male】

Mouthpiece	Groin protector	Taping
Optional	Must	Prohibited *

【Female】

Mouthpiece	Chest protector	Groin protector	Shin protector	Taping
Optional	Must	Must	Must	Prohibited *

* Taping/bandage with tape is principally prohibited unless the Tournament Doctor gives a stamp of approval. For details, refer to the “Attention to All the Competitors” by Tournament Doctor.

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Both male and female fighters must not wear anything under the Dogi Pants except for the above protectors and underwear.