

2025 WORLD OYAMA KARATE CHALLENGE CUP TOURNAMENT RULES

1. JUDGES

A. Tournament Chief Judge

1. All tournament Referees and Judges are under the authority of the Tournament Chief Judge
2. The Tournament Chief Judge decision is final in all matters, including the awarding of points, minus points, disqualifications, etc.
3. The Tournament Chief Judge may call a conference of all the Referees, judges, and the timekeeper.
4. The Tournament Chief Judge has the right to expel any of the Referees and judges for failure to act in the spirit of the tournament.

B. Fight Judge Team

1. The Fight Judge Team consists of one Referee, four corner judges, and a timekeeper.
2. The Referee:
 - a. Except when overturned by the Tournament Chief Judge, his decision is final in all matters, including the awarding of points, minus points, disqualifications, etc.
 - b. The Referee has only one vote in determining the match winners, awarding points, taking away points, and determining disqualifications.
 - c. If the Referee alone observes a flagrant violation of the rules, after consultation with the Tournament Chief Judge, he can issue a disqualification.
3. Corner Judges:
 - a. Each Corner Judge has one vote in determining the match winners, awarding points, taking away points, and determining disqualifications.
 - b. Each Corner Judge will communicate his observations or judgments by using flags and whistles.
4. Timekeeper:
 - a. The timekeeper will be responsible for keeping time and record of match winners.

2. COACHES

- A. Each fighter may have no more than two coaches.
- B. Only the coaches of each competitor may sit beside the fighting area. They are allowed to give the fighter water/sports drinks only between rounds. The coaches will not be allowed onto the actual fighting area at any time.
- C. The head coach can end the fight by throwing a towel into the ring.

3. MATCHES

- A. At or over 19 years old semi-knockdown: This first round is two minutes, first overtime round is two minutes, the second overtime round is one minute.
- B. At or under 18 years old semi-knockdown: This first round is 90 seconds, first overtime round is one minute, and there is no second overtime.

4. WINNING A MATCH

- A. Ippon (One Point)
- B. Ippon by two Waza Aris (half points)
- C. If three or more judges/referee call one of the competitors the winner, he automatically wins.
- D. If one competitor is disqualified, the other automatically wins.
- E. If one competitor forfeits the match or can't return for the next fight, the other competitor (in that fight) is automatically the winner and will advance.

5. HOW POINTS ARE AWARDED

- A. Ippon (one point) is awarded when a competitor knocks down or stuns his opponent for 3 or more seconds by using any legal technique. The Referee will signal the timekeeper and then he will count the seconds out loud so that it is clear to all of the judges.
- B. Waza Ari (half point) is awarded when a competitor knocks down or stuns his opponent for less than 3 seconds by using any legal technique.
- C. Two Waza Aris will result in Ippon.

6. KOUKA

- A. Kouka is counted by each judge/referee himself and considered when the judges/referee make a decision of the winner.
- B. A Kouka is awarded when a competitor gives his opponent a clean shot with momentary light damage by any legal technique.
- C. When a competitor throws down the opponent and follows up immediately with a controlled strike, the competitor may not be awarded with Half Point but Kouka.

7. GRABBING

- A. Attach and sweep techniques with momentary grabbing are legal. Momentary hooks to the neck and head are legal, grabbing the hair is illegal.
- B. Momentary means to hold your opponent for only a split second, not even a full second. Holding your opponent longer will not be allowed.

8. FAKE PUNCHES AND PALM HEELS

- A. Pushing with Palm heels is legal.
- B. Fake technique with fists to the face without contact is legal. Accidental contact may result in the loss of a point.

9. ILLEGAL TECHNIQUES

- A. All intentional kicks to the knee joint, such as gedan yoko geri, kakato geri, and gedan mawashi geri.
- B. Punches, elbows, and head-butt to the face or throat.
- C. Striking to the groin, neck, or back.
- D. Sweeping technique following up by falling on the opponent for the purpose of doing damage to the opponent.
- E. Running out of the fighting area for the purpose of avoiding an opponent is illegal and will result in a minus half point.

10. WARNINGS

- A. Referee may issue unofficial warnings to fighters while a fight is in progress.
- B. An official warning is either a decision of three or more judges/referee or the referee alone.

11. DISQUALIFICATION

- A. If a violation is accidental:
 - i. 2 warnings will result in a minus half point
 - ii. 4 warnings will result in a disqualification
- B. If the violation is clearly intentional:
 - i. Referee may award a minus half point immediately.
 - ii. If a second intentional violation seriously injures one of the competitors, the Referee may award the violator a minus point.
- C. If a competitor acts in an unsportsmanlike manner the Referee may immediately disqualify him.

12. COMPETITORS

- A. All competitors required wear Cloth made knuckle padded guards, shin & instep guards
- B. All Competitors required wear head protector; age of under 18 must wear head protector with face shield.
- C. Upper Chest protector permitted for FEMALE competitors only
- D. Groin protector are required for all MALE competitors, FEMALE competitors are optional
- E. Mouth guard are optional

13. Competitors and coaches cannot talk to the judges or referee during the match, exceptions are for injuries

ABSOLUTELY NO CAMERAS OR VIDEO TAPING AT ANY TIME DURING THE CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION.