

# Los Angeles Classic Martial Arts Tournament Rules

## October 21<sup>rd</sup> 2018

### Rules

**COMPETITOR:** Each competitor must present him/herself to the referee suitably attired with proper uniform and equipment and physically prepared to compete. If he/she is not prepared to compete as **deemed by the center referee**, the competitor may be penalized for delay of time

**PROOF OF AGE RULE:** All competitors must have a proof of age **document**. If there is a legitimate reason to question a competitor's age, he/she must present a proof of age (**birth certificate**, driver's license, or other acceptable **documents**) to prove his/her age.

**LEGAL AGE RULE:** All competitors have the **option** of competing in the same division all year long for rating purposes, by establishing a legal competition age for the year. The age a competitor is on June 30<sup>th</sup> of the current competition year is their legal competition age for that year. They can compete all year at that age so he/she can earn rating points in one age division all year. A competitor can always compete in his/her chronological age if they chose.

**UNIFORM:** All competitors must wear a **complete** (top and bottom) traditional or professional sport karate (Kung Fu, Tae Kwon Do, etc.) uniform in a good state of repair. The appropriate color belt or sash must be worn in competition. **Sparring:** All sparring uniforms must have sleeves that reach at least to the middle of the **Biceps**. No T-shirts, sweats, tank tops or unapproved **shoes** are allowed in the sparring divisions (see sparring foot pads). **Form & Weapons:** T-shirts, tank tops and sweatshirts are allowed in form if they are part of the competitor's official school uniform. Uniforms in the form and weapons divisions are allowed more liberties because form is not one-on-one competition where the uniform could cause a decisive disadvantage or advantage to a competitor. Removal of the uniform top is allowed if the removal is considered relevant to the artistic expression or safety of the competitor. Shoes may be worn in form competition if they do not damage or mark the competition floor.

**COMPETITOR RESPONSIBILITIES:** It is the responsibility of the competitor to know the rules and be ready for competition when called to do so. He/she must be suitably attired, weighed-in and at the appropriate ring when competition begins. Three calls will be made for competition at ringside. If the competitor is not at his/her ring ready to compete when competition begins, he/she will not be able to compete (see delay of time rule). If a competitor leaves the ring after the competition begins and is not present when his/her name is called to compete, his/her name will be called three times at ringside. If he/she is still not present to compete, he/she will be disqualified (see delay of time rule).

**REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED SAFETY EQUIPMENT** Foam type head , hand ,and foot gear , mouth guard males must Have groin protector. Ring star are allowed.

**THE RING:** The size of the fighting and form adult black belt rings shall be approximately 20' x 20'. Starting lines should be marked approximately six feet apart in the middle of the ring. Additionally, each ring should be posted with a ring number visible to competitors, officials, and medical personnel from across the floor. All youth and under black belt adult rings can be a minimum of 16' to a maximum of 20'

**CENTER REFEREES** The referee is the most experienced official in the ring and is thoroughly versed on the rules and order of competition. He/she promotes the safety of the competitors, enforces the rules and ensures fair play. **The center referees will control the action in the ring including the judges making on time calls. Only the center referees can call time outs.** To this end, he/she starts and stops the match, awards points, makes penalty decisions, administrates the voting of the other judges, communicates clearly with the scorekeeper and timekeeper, and announces the winner of each match.

**Added Powers of the Referee:** 1) Match starts and ends only with his/her command (not the command of the timekeeper); 2) Has final decision on any disputes on score; 3) Has the power to issue warnings and award penalty points without a majority decision; 4)

**OFFICIALS:** Each ring should have a **REFEREE**, two to four **JUDGES**, a **TIMEKEEPER/SCOREKEEPER**. The judges call points and rule infractions as they see them. They also vote on disqualifications. The referee also calls points and rules infractions but is also in complete control of the ring and ring personnel. Referees make all final decisions on penalty points and warnings (except for disqualifications) but can consult judges before making their decisions. The majority vote of the judges and referee determines a scoring point and/or a competitor's disqualification

**CALLS AN OFFICIAL MAY MAKE:** When the referee believes there has been a significant exchange of techniques, or when signaled to do so by a corner a judge/s, he/she shall call out the word, **“STOP!”** in a loud voice. The referee shall then returns the competitors to their starting marks and addresses the judges by saying **“JUDGES CALL!”** All judges and the center referee cast their votes simultaneously and assertively in the following manner.

1. Judge Sees a Point – He/she should hold up both colors or hold up one arm if colors are not being used. At the same time, he/she yells out the word **“CALL!”** in a loud, clear voice to let the referee know he/she has a call.
2. Point Calling – When signaled by the referee (referee says “Judges Call” in a loud clear voice) a judge raises the appropriate color (red or white usually) if colors are being used or points to the competitor who scores the point. If a competitor scores a two point kick, the officials should hold up or point with two fingers (index and middle fingers). If only one point is being called, the judge should point with only one finger (Index finger).
3. No Point Scored – An official crosses his/her wrist at waist level or holds both colors down to indicate that he/she believes that a point was not scored.
4. Did Not See If A Point Was Scored – The officials holds his/her hand over his/her eyes indicating that he/she could not see whether a point was scored or not. Indicates the official was not in position to see if a point scored. (When using this signal, it has the same effect as saying “no point”, but it indicates to the referee, competitors and fans the reason why you are not calling the point).
5. Clash – Officials make a motion as though they are hitting both fists together, indicating that both competitors scored at the same time.
6. Penalty – The judge waves the color of the offending competitor in a circular motion. If no colors are used the judge waves the hand and arm in a circular motion while pointing at the offending competitor.
7. Disqualification – A disqualification vote is taken separately from any other vote. When a disqualification vote is asked for, the referee will say, **“JUDGES CALL”**. The judges will then hold the color or point to the competitor who is to be disqualified. If the judge does not feel the competitor should be disqualified, he/she crosses his/her wrist or holds both colors down at waist level.

**NUMBER OF OFFICIALS: 2 or 4 judges and one referee are allowed in all weapon, form and sparring divisions (4 or 6 judges and 1 referee is allowed in weapons and form grand championships).** If only two judges and one referee are used in the weapons and form divisions, the “Maximum Deviation Rule” will be used in all form and weapon divisions.

**LATE CALLS:** All officials should make their calls at the same time. If, in the opinion of the referee, the corner judges are making a late call intentionally, the referee can disqualify the call and/or judge (noise not allowing the judges to hear the referee and the honest mistake of raising the wrong color or pointing at the wrong competitor should be taken into consideration not to disqualify the call or judge).

**MAXIMUM DEVIATION RULE:** Since the high and low scores are not dropped when three officials are used in form and weapons, the maximum deviation rule limits the impact of a single judge's score to control with his/her high or low score the outcome of placement. The judge's score that is between the other two judges scores (middle score) is considered the middle score. Once that score has been determined, the other two judges cannot be higher or lower than .02 points of that middle score. If their score is higher or lower than .02, they must adjust their score up or down accordingly to that .02 maximum deviation. See complete Maximum Deviation Rule for more details.

**LATE ENTRIES:** Once a division has started (the first competitor has started his/her form/weapon routine or the first divisional fight has started) no competitor/s can be added to that division. **BE ON TIME! Only exception to this rule is the “Fairness Rule” at the end of this rules summary.**

## FIGHTING

In the youth division, the competitors should be lined up by height (Smallest to the tallest) and split into tall and short divisions if required or offered. Determining tall and short divisions is for **safety reasons**, not just to split the division equally. A true break in size should be found to determine the taller competitors from the shorter competitors. Once the tall and short divisions are determined by height, determine who fights whom by random draw. Consideration should be given to competitors who are from the same school or team that have been drawn to fight each other in the first round

**LENGTH OF MATCH:** Two minute running-time unless a competitor is seven points ahead (Five Point Spread Rule) before time has expired. If a match is tied at the end of two minutes, sudden victory (first person to score a point) overtime period will determine the match. **At the 1 minute 45 second mark of a sparring match, the time keeper will shout out “FIFTEEN SECONDS”.** **New: Overall Grand Championship matches are two, two minute rounds**

**POINT VALUES AND WINNER DETERMINATION:** All legal hand techniques that score will be awarded one (1) point. All legal kicking techniques that score will be awarded two (2) points. All penalty points awarded will be awarded one (1) point. The competitor who is ahead by 5 points (**5 Point Spread Rule**) before the two minute time period is automatically declared the winner or whoever is ahead at the end of the two minutes is declared the winner. All grand championship matches are also two-minute running time with a **7 Point Spread Rule** or who is ahead at the end of two minutes. **The competitor who executes a legal takedown technique has 3 seconds to score at that time will be awarded 1 point** . If a competitor goes down to the ground, to avoid fighting without being pushed or shoved down, the upright competitor receives a point. Down is when any part of your body is touching the competition floor except your feet and/or one hand. If a competitor goes out of bounds to avoid fighting without be pushed or shoved out, the inbounds competitor receives a point. **New: All Grand Championship matches must win by two points**

**MARJORITY VOTE:** Points are awarded by a majority vote of all judges. The majority of judges do not have to agree on the same technique being scored, only that a point was scored. A **majority of the judges calling the point** must call a two (2)-point kick before two points can be awarded. Otherwise only one point is awarded.

**WHAT IS A POINT:** A point is a sport karate technique that is scored by a competitor in-bounds and up-right (not considered down) without time being called that strikes a competitor with the allowable amount of **focused touch contact** and **focused control** to a legal target area. **Focused Touch Contact:** the

legal amount of contact allowed to certain scoring areas. **Focused Control:** an amount of controlled force that would have incapacitated the opponent, at least momentarily, if the technique had not been controlled.

**LEGAL TARGET AREAS:**, Groin (10 yrs & up), upper body, ribs, chest, abdomen, collarbone and kidneys. **ILLEGAL TARGET AREAS:** Spine, back of neck, throat, sides of the neck, groin, legs, knees and back. **NON-TARGET AREAS:** Hips, shoulders, buttocks, arms, and feet. **LEGAL TECHNIQUES:** Legal techniques are all controlled sport karate techniques, except those listed as illegal.

**ILLEGAL TECHNIQUES:** Head butts, hair pulls, bites, scratches, elbows, knees, eye attacks of any kind, take downs on a hard surface floor, ground fighting on a hard surface, any stomps or kicks to the head of a downed competitor, slapping, grabbing for more than one second, uncontrolled blind techniques, any uncontrolled throws, takedowns or sweeps and any other uncontrolled dangerous techniques that are deemed unsafe in sport karate.

**GRABBING:** A competitor may grab the uniform top of his/her opponent in an attempt to score with a sport karate technique for only one second (**immediately**), after which time he/she must release the uniform. Likewise, the uniform pants may be grabbed for one second to an upright opponent in an attempt to score.

**SWEEPS, TAKEDOWNS, GRABS AND GROUND FIGHTING:** Sweeps not to take down an opponent, but only to obstruct the balance so as to follow up with a sport karate technique can only be executed to the back of the front leg at mid-calf or below. A sweep must be deemed a proper sweep and not a kick, to be legal. Controlled Takedowns and sweeps that are meant to take down an opponent are not allowed. A point is awarded only when the legal sweep or takedown is followed up effectively legally and **immediately** with an appropriate sport karate technique.

**LIGHT TOUCH CONTACT:** Means there is no penetration or visible movement of the competitor because of the contact. Light touch is required to all legal target areas in all black belt sparring divisions. The face shield of a headgear along with the headgear is a legal target area.

**MODERATE TOUCH CONTACT:** Means slight penetration or slight target movement. Moderate touch contact may be made to all legal target areas except the headgear, face shield and face.

**WARNINGS AND PENALTIES:** One and only one warning is allowed for breaking the rules before a penalty point is awarded. After the first warning is given, a penalty point is awarded for each and every rules violation. If a competitor receives four warnings (three penalty points) in any one match, he/she will be disqualified. If the severity of the first rules violation is deemed by the referee to be too severe, a penalty point can be issued immediately and the first warning will be forfeited.

**Other Penalty Rules:** A competitor cannot be penalized and still receive a point on the same call. A competitor can receive a point for a proper technique and another point from a penalty call against his/her competitor. If, in the opinion of the referee and/or the medical personnel, a competitor cannot continue because of an injury caused by **an illegal penalized attack** executed by his/her competitor, the offending competitor shall be automatically disqualified.

**Other Cause for Penalization:** Attacking illegal and non-target areas, using illegal techniques, running out of the ring to avoid fighting, falling to the floor to avoid fighting, continuing after being ordered to stop, excessive stalling, blind, negligent or reckless attacks, uncontrolled techniques, showing unsportsmanlike behavior by the competitor, his/her coaches, friends, etc., excessive contact, and delay of time are just some examples of possible penalization. See new **Limiting Contact between Officials and Competitors for other possible penalizations.**

**DISQUALIFICATION:** Requires a majority vote by all officials, unless it is an automatic disqualification. **Non-Competing Penalty:** If, in the majority opinion of the officials, it is considered that one or both competitors are not making an obvious attempt to compete in the sparring match in the true spirit of competition, one or both competitors will be warned and if it continues, will be disqualified. **Wrong**

**Division:** If any competitor competes in a division he/she does not qualify to compete in due to age, weight, rank, gender, style, etc., he/she will be disqualified

**COACHING: NO COACING AT ANYTIME**

**OUT-OF-BOUNDS:** A competitor is out-of-bounds as soon as he/she does not have at least one foot touching inside or on the boundary line. An out of bounds competitor cannot score a point while out of bounds. In bounds competitor can score on an out of bounds competitor if the center referee has not called stop.

**TIME LIMIT:** Each divisional form or weapons routine must be three (3) minutes or less. The time starts once the competitor enters the competition ring.

**SCORING RANGES OF FORM AND WEAPONS:** **The Scoring range should always be discussed by the center referee and judges before the divisions starts.**

**TIES:** If there is a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> place, the majority of the judge's scores determine the winner. If there is not a majority of judges for one competitor and one judge or more gave the same score for the tied competitor, the judge that gave the same scores must be ask to make a decision and break the tie. All judges must make scoring decisions by giving different scores to the competitors. Ties for 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> place are never broken. They will remain tied and all will receive points. If there is a tie and there is not a majority judge's decision and no judge gave the same score to any one competitor, the tied competitors will compete again and be scored again.

**STARTING A FORM OVER:** If a competitor starts his/her form over because of a memory lapse or any other reason due to his/her own negligence, he/she may perform the form again. The officials will score as though there was not a mistake, but the center referee will instruct the scorekeeper to subtract **.50 points** from the competitor's final score. The three-minute time limit will start over. A competitor can only start over one time for scoring. If a competitor has to start over not due to his/her negligence, he/she will not be penalized on the start over.

**FAIRNESS RULE:** If a question arises that is not completely covered by this rule book, the official rules arbitrator may at his/her discretion, overrule, modify or change a delineated rule if he/she believes that enforcing such a rule would result in a inherent unfair outcome to a competitor. However, the rules arbitrator should overrule, modify or change a delineated rule only in extreme cases.