WAKO
GENERAL RULES CHAPTER 1

Table of Contents

Art. 1. Rule changes **4**

Art. 2. WAKO Event **4**

Art. 2.1. WAKO World Cups 4

Art. 3. Health and Security **4**

Art. 3.1 Health of Fighters 4

Art. 4. General, Equipment, Fighting Areas, Fighting Rules **4**

Art. 4.1 Basic 4

Art. 4.2 Competitions 5

Art. 4.3 Equipment for competitions 6

Art.4.4 General for fighting/Equipment/Clothing 6

Art. 4.5 Drawing 7

Art. 4.6 WAKO Competition calendar 7

Art. 4.7 Registration/Drawing System 8

Art. 4.8 Ranking/Seeding 8

Art. 4.9 Etiquette 8

Art. 5. Official Championships and Tournament **9**

Art. 5.1 Promoters 9

Art. 5.2 Championships 9

Art. 5.3 World Cups 9

Art. 5.4 Championship Trophies (World/Continental Championships) 9

Art. 5.5 Championship Headquarters 10

Art. 5.6 Scales 10

Art. 5.7 Refreshments 10

Art. 5.8 Tournament Check-List 10

Art. 5.9 Weigh in Procedures 10

Art. 5.10 Weight Classes 11

Art. 5.11 Nationality of a fighter: 11

Art. 6. Protests **12**

Art. 6.1 Event Protest/appeal 12

Art. 6.2 Irregular protests 12

Art. 7. Video evidence **13**

Art. 8. Officials in General **13**

Art. 9. Unsportsmanlike behavior **13**

Art. 10. WAKO Representative **13**

Art. 11. Referee Committees of Tatami sports / Ring sports **14**

Art. 11.1 Tournament Committee / Computer Man 14

Art. 11.2 Organizer / Observer 14

Art. 11.3 Referee / Judges / Kick counter / Time and Score Keeper 14

Art. 11.4 Announcer 14

Art. 11.5 Doctor with Medical team 15

Art. 11.6 Tournament Committee 15

Art. 12. International Referee/Judge seminars and registration **15**

Art. 13. Medical, Health and Anti-Doping Committee **16**

Art. 14. Technical Committee **16**

Art. 14.1 Important for all WAKO officials 16

Art. 15. Participation of WAKO members in other dissident international organizations **17**

Chapter One – WAKO General Rules

Art. 1. Rule changes.

- Only WAKO Board of Directors have the power to officially decide rule changes either nominated by them or nominated by committees appointed by them. A change of rule must be communicated with the committee related to the subject. When changes of rules in the chapters (sport rules for each discipline), the changes become operative at minimum of 1 month after decisions taken. The date for an operative new rule must be communicated well to all committees and member countries in WAKO.
- Changes can be operative with immediate action if obvious mistakes are found in the text or if defined from the board of directors if it is seen as critical for health and security or in case of "force majeure". If a change is valid immediately it must be well communicated to all member countries by mail and by publishing on the internet. The exception for such practice is that there cannot be rule changes just in front of or during the World or Regional Championships.
- The Board of Directors can change rules in chapter 1 - General Rules – at any time. However, changes must be communicated well to all member countries by mail and on the internet. The date for an operative change must be well communicated.
- The Revised V18 rules will remain in force for a minimum of four years. Effective Date first of August 2016, Review Date March 2020.

Art. 2. WAKO Events.

All WAKO World Cup - A, B, C Class events must follow the WAKO rules completely.

Art. 2.1. WAKO World Cups.

- Each World Cup must follow the WAKO World Cup Minimum Criteria.
- A member of the WAKO Organising Committee/Technical Committee must be present at all World Cups. Attendance is agreed with TD.
- Every World Cup must agree to appoint a chief referee of Tatami and Ring with WAKO Technical/Referee Committees approval.
- Every World Cup Arena configuration must be approved by WAKO Organizing Committee.

Art. 3. Health and Security.

Art. 3.1 Health of Fighters.

WAKO is an official member of WADA, having fully adopted the World Anti-Doping Code. Every fighter is obliged to respect the Code both in and out of competition.

WAKO allow a maximum of 2 matches per day, during Continental or World Championships, in all ring sports, while there is no limited number of matches in the Tatami sports.

WAKO refers to its Medical Procedures and Health Security Guidelines that takes care of:

- Introduction
- Anti-Doping
- Weight-Reduction and Nutrition Methods
- Medical Fitness Certificate - Examinations
- Medical Check before competitions
- Medical Suspensions
- Medical Personnel
- Health Security at competitions

Art. 4. General, Equipment, Fighting Areas, Fighting Rules.

Art. 4.1 Basic.

- The basis of all kickboxing competitions is honor, fair play and honest competition.
- Results of matches will determine placing and final achievement of fighter, club or national team at the competition.
- Results and rank achieved by dishonorable acts will not be recognized by judges, referees and competition committees and officials will initiate penalty procedures.
- All WAKO official competitions and official National competitions, professional and amateur matches, prestige or title matches, must be under these rules.

- All competitions and matches are on a voluntary basis. Also, the basis of all our activity in kickboxing must be according to fair play, respect of all participants, officials and respect a fundamental of WAKO rules.
- All sportsmen, coaches, officials, representatives, promoters and members of WAKO organizations must respect WAKO rules and the honor, dignity and moral values of all members, clubs, national federations and WAKO.
- All competitions on World, continental, national and all other levels must promote the development, popularization and rising quality of kickboxing as a sport and WAKO as an organization.

Art. 4.2 Competitions.

Official WAKO competitions directly under WAKO headquarters' authority are (in repetition):

- World championships for all age categories (cadets, juniors and seniors) and in all kickboxing disciplines

(Point Fighting, Light Contact, Kick Light, Full Contact, Low-Kick, K1 Rules, Musical Forms) as follows:

- Point fighting: younger cadets, older cadets, juniors, seniors, veterans - male and female division
- Light contact: Older Cadets, Juniors, Seniors, Veterans - Male and Female divisions
- Full contact: Younger Juniors, Older juniors, Seniors - Male and Female divisions
- Low kick: Younger Juniors, Older Juniors, Juniors, Seniors - Male and Female divisions
- K1-Rules - Younger Juniors, Older Juniors, Seniors - Male and Female divisions
- Musical forms (Styles - with Weapon/s and Without Weapon/s) Younger Cadets, Older Cadets, Junior, Senior - Male and Female divisions
- Kick Light: Older Cadets, Juniors, Seniors, Veterans - Male and Female divisions
- Continental championships for all age categories and in all kickboxing disciplines are the same as for world championships
- Regional Championships for all age categories and in all kickboxing disciplines, are the same as for world championships
- World cups for all age categories and in all kickboxing disciplines
- Continental cups for all age categories and in all kickboxing disciplines
- Open Championships, are the same as for world championships
- In World, Continental and regional championships only national teams may participate.
- Continental championships cannot be open championships for national teams from other continents.
- Clubs and members of National federations which are WAKO members can participate In World and continental cups.
- In senior championships only one member per national team can participate in each weight category in a fighting discipline
- In cadets and junior championships two members of national team can participate in each weight category in a fighting discipline
- For cups and other open tournaments there is no restriction on the number of competitors in one weight or fighting disciplines from same nation or club
- For Continental/World Championships a fighter can only fight in a division a maximum of one weight above his/her actual weight class. For example, if you weigh 65.5 kg, you can only fight in -69kg or -74kg.
- World and continental champions will take place every other year - in one year will have world senior championships, the next year will have continental senior and world juniors and cadet's championships
- World and Continental championships may be held in two parts in different disciplines and in two countries, according WAKO Board decision.
- Point Fighting - Kick Light - Full Contact - Musical Forms
- Light Contact - K1 - Low Kick
- This may vary dependent on the WAKO Executive Board.
- Continental championships can be held at just one venue - for all disciplines
- World and continental cadets and junior championships will be held at the same time and place for all kickboxing disciplines
- World and continental cadet's championships can be held separately from junior championships.
- A fighter in one of the ring sports can only compete in one discipline during the same Continental/World Championships or any other kind of tournaments, including World Cups and cannot enter the tatami sports. A fighter can compete in Point Fighting, Light Contact and Kick Light during the same Continental/World Championships or any other kind of tournaments, including World Cups and cannot enter the ring sports.

If a fighter is called for a fight in Point Fighting, Kick Light or Light Contact at the same time, the fighter must choose discipline with immediate response. In practice the fighter will be deleted in the category they do not choose.

Art. 4.3 Equipment for competitions.

Promoters of competition (championships or cups) must provide necessary equipment for normal proceeding of tournament:

- Electronic digital or mechanical scales (minimum two)
- Amplifier with sufficient number of microphones
- Flags and CD with national anthems of each competing national team
- Equipment for cleaning and drying floor
- Copying machine
- Timers for all official tables. Timers must be visible all times for the coaches
- Small pads for each Tatami (for giving sign that time of round has expired) or gongs for each ring
- Every fighting area must be marked by a number
- For each Tatami a pointer with two big black numbers (from 0 to 30) to display results and 4 small red numbers from 0 to 3 (2 at each side of big numbers) to display warnings or exits.
- An adequate display of current fight number
- An adequate time display
- The rules also refer to a Tournament Checklist which is produced.

Art. 4.4 General for fighting/Equipment/Clothing.

- At the beginning of the match the Referee gives an order to kickboxer to shake hands and then he says fight.
- The Referee has right to give an official warning to the kickboxer who is not ready for the fight or is late coming to the Ring or Tatami.
- If a kickboxer comes to the Ring or Tatami inappropriately dressed (wrong colour of the head-guard or gloves, using the safe equipment which is not approved by WAKO, using shorts with Muay Thai symbols, without wraps or mouth-guard) they will not be disqualified immediately; instead they will be given two minutes to remedy the matters. If the allowed time is up and the kickboxer is not ready, they will be disqualified.
- It's forbidden to turn the shorts inside out in order to hide Muay Thai symbols. Wearing of spectacles by a kick-boxer during a bout is not permitted, but soft contact lenses are allowed.

Stop Time.

- If the Referee wants to stop the time of the bout he gives the command' 'STOP TIME'', to resume the fight they give the command' 'TIME'' and then the command ''FIGHT''.

Beard and Hair (clarification).

- Kickboxers with a beard are allowed to participate in any WAKO tournaments, only if their beard has a reasonable length of not more than 2 centimetres. Females with a long hair, must be controlled so it does not disrupt the contest.

Please note:
It is Recommended that the hair be tucked inside the head guard or platted.

Change of Referee's Decision.

- Only the Chief Referee and the Supervisor can change a Referee's decision in case of "material mistake".

Safety equipment.

- **Approved manufacturers:**
  Only WAKO Approved manufacturer's equipment/safeties may be worn or used at WAKO Events.
- **Elbow Pads:** Mandatory for all fighters in Points Fighting discipline.
- **Gloves:** Thumb MUST be fully attached to the main body of the glove (if the glove attachment is cut or broken the gloves cannot be used).

WAKO General Rules

- **Coaches** (World – Continental Championships):
  - Coaches must wear the National Team Track Suit.
  - Coaches must wear long trousers.
  - Coaches must wear training shoes.

- **Clothing Referees.**
  - Referee's and Judge's Uniform:
  - Navy blue jacket with emblem of WAKO or National Federation.
  - White WAKO shirt with short sleeves.
  - WAKO bow tie (Ring and Tatami).
  - Black trousers without turn-ups.
  - Dark blue or black socks.
  - Black gym shoes without heels or laces.
- **Tooth Protection:**
  - It's not allowed to use a mouth-guard over tooth braces unless a dentist doctor's certificate allows that.
  - If the kick-boxer has braces on both upper and lower teeth he/she must have mouth-guard on both upper and lower teeth.
  - Mouth-guard must enable free breathing and must be adapted to the fighter's mouth configuration. Mouth-guards can be of any colour. But must not protrude outside the mouth in any way.
- **Spectacles:**
  - Wearing of spectacles by a kickboxer during a bout is not permitted, but soft sport contact lenses are allowed

Art. 4.5 Drawing.

- No alterations can be made to drawing list once produced by organising committee. Only in a case of material mistake (wrong weight category, wrong age division, wrong discipline by WAKO Administration) which must be approved by Technical Committee in writing.

Order of criteria:

- Competitors from the same club or national teams in the same weight category must be split into separate parts (one in upper, the other in lower part of drawing list - the competitors can only meet in the final).
- Champions from last two championships (World and Continental) will be placed in separate parts of drawing list (one in upper, the other in lower part of drawing list - competitors can only meet in the final).
- If in a category there are an odd number of fighters, the defending champion (or favorite) will draw a bye (walkover) in the first match.
- Every draw list must have data as follows: name of tournament, place and date, name of discipline, sex, age, weight division, competitor's name and surname, club or nation and number of fight.
- All draw lists must be printed in 3 official copies - for chief referee, for official table and for notice or bulletin board - all three lists must be the same and any changes must be repeated on all three with the signature of the chief referee. Also, unofficial copies of draw lists will be distributed to national team chiefs.
- Completed official copies with results, stamp and chief referee's signature are official WAKO documents and will be kept in archives for a minimum of 2 years.

Art. 4.6 WAKO Competition calendar.

The WAKO calendar will be on the official web site at all times

The WAKO calendar will include:

- World and continental championships - a minimum of two years before the date of championships
- Regional championships and world and continental cups - a minimum of one year before date of tournaments
- International Open Tournaments of WAKO National federations, a minimum of one year before date of event (National federations are responsible for informing WAKO headquarters of dates and other details about Open tournaments) on the calendar there will also be other official activities such as seminars, meetings, etc.

Art. 4.7 Registration/Drawing System.

- **Registration Compliance:**
  - All WAKO Approved Events must use the WAKO IF Approved Draw Systems including World and Continental Championships.
  - All World Continental Championships registrations must be done online.
  - Registration closes Two (2) weeks in advance of the World - Continental Championships, weight control start date.
  - All WAKO World and Continental Championships must use the approved WAKO IF approved registration and draw system
- **Registration Accuracy/Responsibility** (World - Continental Championships only):
  - When registration closes the Athlete must remain in their age/weight bracket. No changes are allowed. (If a kickboxer is overweight they will be disqualified and they cannot move up or down).

Art. 4.8 Ranking/Seeding.

WAKO World Championships:

- World Champion (1)
- World Silver medallist (8 - 16 - 32)
- Bronze Medallist who Lost to WC (5 - 9 - 17)
- Bronze medallist who Lost to Silver medallist (4 - 8 - 15)

Continental Championships:

- Continental Champion (1)
- CC Silver medallist (8 - 16 - 32)
- Bronze Medallist who Lost to Continental Gold medallist (5 - 9 - 17)
- Bronze medallist who Lost to Continental Silver medallist (4 - 8 - 15)

Art. 4.9 Etiquette.

- **Podium:**
  - No personal or National Flags are allowed at or on the podium.
  - No Coach or official is allowed to go to the podium during or immediately after the presentation.
  - Athletes must present themselves to the podium in their National Track suit and T-shirt.
- **Coaches Behavior:**
  - A Coach / Second must remain seated during the contest.
  - A Coach / Second must not comment on the referee or judge's decision at any time.
  - A Coach / Second must adhere to all WAKO rules and Ethic state
  - A Coach must not approach or talk to a Referee before, during or after a contest and discuss the contest / fight in any manner whatsoever.
  - Coaches must be seated on the chairs provided and must not interfere with the smooth running of the bout by word, gesture or deed.
  - If a Referee feels a coach is being inappropriate:
    After two (2) verbal warnings they have a right to punish the kickboxer if the coach or the second does not obey his orders.

Art. 5. Official Championships and Tournament.

Art. 5.1 Promoters.

The promoters of all international WAKO events must be the President of the host country or any other but under the responsibility of the President. The President of the host country may if he wishes to have a partner, but this in no way relieves him of the overall responsibility of the tournament. The Promoter shall communicate directly with the WAKO World President on all matters concerning the event. The promoter shall send a written report to the Wako World President every sixty (60) days concerning the promotion of the event. Promoters of international events shall be responsible for the following:

Art. 5.2 Championships.

The championships like World Championships and Continental Championships, or regional Championships (Asian, Arabian, Oceania, Pan Americans, African Championships) are promoted alternatively every second year. The championships can be organized as one championship including all disciplines or be divided in maximum two championships for the different disciplines and in agreement with promoter.

The venue for a championship:

- shall be a suitable auditorium seating of minimum 2000 spectators
- must have good space for all fighting areas and between all fighting areas
- must have a warming up section to take care of the numbers of participants attending
- must have areas for referees, organizers and WAKO officers
- must have relaxing rooms and dressing rooms for the numbers of participants attending
- headquarter and administration rooms, faxes and copy machines

WAKO sanctioning fees of Championships and Cups differ and they are dealt directly by WAKO President in accordance with the majority agreement of the Board of Directors.

Art. 5.3 World Cups.

A WAKO World Cup is such when it is promoted with normal Championship routines as:

- Tournament for at Minimum 3 days.
- Arrival and Weigh-in day before start of fights.
- Point Fighting, Kick Light and Light Contact – 2 x 2 minutes .
- Ring sports 3 x 2 minutes.
- Musical Forms.
- Only WAKO rules shall be used.
- Official WAKO referees and judges only.
- World Cups are only open to WAKO members and their clubs/teams.

A WAKO Open tournament should not be open to all clubs of different international organizations. When using WAKO name though, it shall be promoted under WAKO rules only.

Art. 5.4 Championship Trophies (World/Continental Championships).

A suitable and high class reward must be furnished for the following categories:

- Medals: first, second and two third places for all Competition Divisions.
- Trophy for all gold winners. Trophy must be of an acceptable standard befitting the Continental/World status of the event.
- Trophies for Team competition in Point Fighting.
- These awards shall be decided in the following manner:
- First place = 3pts; Second place = 2pts; Third place = 1 pt.

Art. 5.5 Championship Headquarters.

The promoter shall select a Hotel which will serve as the tournament Headquarters.

Art. 5.6 Scales.

There shall be a minimum of two medical weighing Scales made available to the Fighters a minimum of two days before the official weigh-in.

Art. 5.7 Refreshments.

A refreshment area shall be provided for the use of the Referees, Judges and Officials. It should have a minimum of tea, coffee and soft drinks. The promoter will be responsible for sending the national WAKO Presidents all relevant information concerning the locations, dates, lists of hotels and prices, airport transportation and a complete schedule of events. The Promoter shall have transportation.

Coordinators assigned at the airport of the tournament city to assist the competitors upon their arrival. The National Presidents are responsible for providing their flight times to the promoter. The promoter shall be responsible for the providing of all personal and equipment necessary to conduct and administer the tournament.

Art. 5.8 Tournament Check-List.

WAKO has made a tournament checklist to be distributed to the promoters of World and Regional Championships. If the promoter has to deviate from this checklist it is the promoters' responsibility to establish contact with WAKO and its Organizing Committee to find best possible solution.

A tournament Checklist can be changed by the Organizing Committee or by the Board of Directors.

Art. 5.9 Weigh in Procedures.

Chairman of the referee committee and / or the Technical Director outpoint the WAKO officials to organize the weigh-in. During the weigh-in, two WAKO officials will be present, one female official and one male official.

Also one representative of a national federation connecting to each national team may be present, but only when their own teams weigh-in. However, they are not allowed to intervene on any occasion. The national representative cannot be in physical contact with the fighter, they should stand away from the scales at least 1 meter.

Each fighter must have their own WAKO sports pass with medical certificate included, valid for one year, to be shown at weigh-in. In addition, they must have available their official passport. After being weighed, each fighter must be declared fit for fighting by a qualified doctor.

The fighters of each weight category will be weighed the day before the start of competition or on the same day that they have been drawn to fight. For a single fight for a fighter, a normal procedure is to have weigh-in approx 24 hours before the fight.

If weighing in on the same day of the fight, the fights will start at least 3 hours after the weighing time, or in a shorter lapse of time if the Board of Directors so decide, after consulting the Medical Committee, provided that the decision is not prejudicial to any fighter taking part in the first bouts of the tournament.

The weigh-in will be held according to the tournament schedule. The announced time in each competition is understood as official and must be respected. Weighing in outside the official announced time will not be allowed, except if the weigh- in is not considered as finished of those teams present within the announced time. For the first official weigh-in (in the registration period) there may be given possibility to weigh-in after the official time, if any delays of travel for a team, properly announced and warned from the national federation if such may happen. However, it is not allowed for any team to speculate in arrival after official weigh-in time announced in the invitation papers. All teams must have weighed-in before drawing. If the fighter exceeds their weight, they can within the official time get a second and last chance to reach the limit one hour after the first attempt. If a kickboxer does not make the weight at this second weigh-in, they will be disqualified.

It is also allowed for all national federations to substitute one fighter with another, before the end of the official weigh-in and before the medical check-up, on condition that, within each competition where substitutes are allowed, the fighter in question has been registered as a reserve for that, or in any other weight category.

Daily weigh-ins: Ring sports have mandatory daily weigh-ins during the tournament. The weigh-in is done in the morning at an announced time, considered as official. Weighing in outside the official announced time will not be allowed, except if the weigh-in is not considered as finished of those teams present within the announced time. All fighters must bring their own national passport as identification. If the fighter exceeds their weight, they can within the official time get the second and the last chance after 45 minutes after the first attempt to reach the limit. The weight registered on that occasion is final. If the fighter does not make the weight at this second weigh-in they will be disqualified.

The weight is what the scale shows when the fighter is undressed. The weight must be displayed in metric measures. Electronic scales can be used. A fighter is allowed to fight solely within the category defined by the weigh-in. The weight must be on hard floor and not on carpet.

The weigh-in must be done in a discrete manner, respecting both male and female's need for discretion. It is to prefer to use separate rooms for male and female.

Any speculation or deliberate actions that will question or break the above rules will be sanctioned, both for fighters involved and the national federation responsible.

Art. 5.10 Weight Classes.

A fighter cannot compete in two different weight classes at a WAKO World or Continental Championship

If a competitor fails their weight during the registration period, they can within the official time get only one time a second chance to reach the limit. Second chance can be given only after one hour from the start of weigh-in. The weight registered on that occasion is final.

Weigh-in procedure (registration period): The second and the last chance to reach the limit will be done after one hour after the first attempt.

Daily weigh-in: The second and the last chance to reach the limit will be done a maximum after 45 minutes after the first attempt but must before the publicized closing time.

If a kickboxer does not make the weight at this second weigh-in, they will be disqualified.

Art. 5.11 Nationality of a fighter.

In Continental/World Championships or any other kind of tournaments, including World Cups competitors must represent nationality for the country they represent, showing the passport for the respective country.

Under special circumstances a competitor can change representation one time but the requirements for that is:

1) Official national confirmation of permanent residence in their new country.
2) The change of representation must be applied on to WAKO HQ, explaining the reason for the change.
3) There must be a written agreement with the country of origin.
4) Any speculation for such representation will not be allowed. Such can be punished for the competitor as well as for the new country.
5) They cannot again switch back and participate for their origin country.

A competitor having two passports form different countries can only make a switch one time. If changing representation, it must be done according to a written agreement between the countries and applied on to WAKO HQ. At weigh-in, official passports must be shown to the registration/weigh-in officials in charge. In Continental Championships competitors from other continents are not allowed to participate.

Art. 6. Protests.

Art. 6.1 Event protests/appeal.

The written protest must describe clearly the problem. The Chief Referee must deliver the protest to the Appeal Board/Referee Committee who will also consider the problem. The protest will be handled immediately.

- ***Official Appeal Protest Panel.***
  - Composition of the Appeal Panel. The Appeal Jury is composed by the following:

    IF Referee Committee of Ring and TD for Ring.
    IF Refereeing Committee Tatami and TD for Tatami.

  - No two members may be appointed from the same National Federation. The IF RC and TC should also appoint three additional members with designated numbering from 1 to 3 that automatically replace any of the originally appointed Appeals Jury members in a conflict of interest situation (same nationality, family relationship by blood, etc...)

- The following sequence must be followed when making a protest. It is hoped that at each stage the priority is for an amicable resolution, but if not then.
  - The Chief Referee of the Ring/Tatami must receive the protest in written form within 30 minutes after the fight
  - If not resolved escalate issue to Area Control Referee
  - If it is not resolved it must be write down, sign and hand the complaint to Area Control Referee to escalate along with WAKO Complaint fee €100 (Within two matches)
- WAKO Appeal Committee review complaint and make final judgement.
- If the protest is found invalid, the deposit (protest money) will be donated to WAKO IF.
- If the protest is successful, the money will be refunded.

Note that in the Full Contact, Low-Kick, K-I, Light Contact and Kick Light there will be no changing in decisions as described in Article 18 in the Ring Sports and in Article 17 in Light-Contact.

Art. 6.2 Irregular protests.

Irregular protests regarding disagreements of decisions, where fighter's protests by delaying further program in the ring/tatami, such as sitting down in the ring/tatami, decided by himself or stimulated by his coach/team to do so, will be reacted on by the Referee Committee or by the Board of Directors directly. The consequence can be that the total team of the discipline can be excluded. If security staff has to intervene and in case of conflict due to this action, it will lead to immediately disqualification of the whole national team. A protest will only be accepted in a written letter and a protest will not be handled if actions mentioned above are in place.

Art. 7. Video evidence.

Video footage is not applicable to WAKO events. Video footage may not be used to resolve any queries, complaints or points of clarification.

Art. 8. Officials in General.

All Officials on championships and cups are WAKO Officials. They are not Officials of their own countries or federations. They must be completely neutral. At all times during championships they represent WAKO. They must show a positive, honest attitude and fair play to everyone.

Officials at WAKO World, Continental and Regional Champions and WAKO World Cups are:

- Representative of the WAKO Board of Directors.
- Chief Referee Committees (Ring sports and Tatami sports).
- Chairman of the various Committees.
- Administrator / computer man.
- Chief referees for Tatamis or Rings.
- Referees.
- Judges.
- Kick counters.
- Time keeper.
- Score keeper
- Announcer.
- Doctor with medical team.

Art. 9. Unsportsmanlike behavior.

If the competitor, coach or non-combat members of the contestant's delegation behave in such a way towards any WAKO Official, delegation, competitor or volunteer, including members of the general public, as to harm the prestige and honour of WAKO and Kickboxing, as examples but not limited to

- Verbal Abuse;
- Physical Abuse;
- Inappropriate Gestures;
- Intimidation;
- Obstructing the continuation of the championships
- Trying to manipulate or influence the judge´s decision, the delegation will be penalized in one or both of the following ways:

1. at the sum adopted by WAKO Appeal/Complaint Committee at the Championships by majority vote.
   - €5,000
   - €10,000
   - €20,000

   The president and the National Federation will be responsible for the payment of the fees for their entourages.
2. The WHOLE delegation will be disqualified for the period up to two years from all future International WAKO Championships.

Art. 10. WAKO Representative.

A WAKO representative must be present in all WAKO World and Continental Championships and/or World, Continental and Regional Cups. The representative at a tournament can be the WAKO President or a member of the WAKO Executive Board. They are responsible for seeing that all championships or cups are under WAKO rules and that all results will be WAKO official results. For each championship or cup the WAKO Board or WAKO President will nominate a WAKO Representative.

Art. 11. Referee Committees of Ring sports / Tatami sports.

In WAKO we have created two Referee Committees: one for Tatami sports and one for Ring sports.

The Chairman of each Committee is responsible to name Supervisors for Tatami or Rings and with Supervisor deploy referees and judges for Tatami and Rings. With each Supervisor they check tatami, rings, official table equipment, referee and judge uniforms and they will permit the start of competition. They will divide draw papers to the official tables and collect them after finished matches. They are the supervisor of the weigh-in. They are responsible for making draw lists (with the administrator) and only they can make changes to official draw lists. They will be the supreme referee in protests. His decision about protests will be binding.

Referee Committees are named by WAKO Board of Directors and stay in charge for 4 years unless decided by the WAKO Board .

WAKO General Rules

Art. 11.1 Tournament Committee / Computer Man.

The Administrator is responsible for collecting all registration material and loads data into a computer to prepare draw lists. With the Tournament Committee he makes the draw lists and distributes them to the official tables. He collects completed draw lists after matches are finished and transfers the results to the computer. He will make an official report of the Championship or Cup and distribute the official report to all representatives of national teams. If the promoter of a championship cannot appoint a responsible person for administration, the WAKO Board or WAKO President will nominate an adequate person.

Art. 11.2 Chief Referees.

Chief Referees (named by the Chairman of Tatami sports / Ring sports) are responsible for normal procedures for matches held on tatamis or rings. They will deploy referees and judges for every match according to their quality and with respect for neutrality rules. They are responsible for the correct compilation of the draw list with results, and at the end they will sign the draw list and give it to the responsible. In case of protests, they must follow procedures and they make a first-level decision. If the protester is not satisfied with their decision, the Chief Referee will explain all details of the protest to the WAKO Appeal Committee, who make a final decision. Chief Referee supervises referees and judges and can change a referee's decision only in case of a "material mistake".

In musical forms the Chief Referee will give the signal to competitors to start performing and they coordinate the work of other judges.

The Chairman of Referee Committee of championships or cups will appoint Chief Referees from well experienced referees who come with their national teams.

Art. 11.3 Referee / Judges / Kick counter / Time and Score Keeper.

The duties of Referees, Judges, Kick Counter, Time and Score Keeper are descript in the chapters General Rules of Tatami Sports or General Rules of Ring sports.

Age Limit for Referees and Judges.

The official age for officiating at WAKO title tournaments as Referee or Judge has to be 21 years minimum. There is no age limit for WAKO Referees and Judges as long as they are medically fit and healthy and can perform their duties on Tatami or in the Ring.

Art. 11.4 Announcer.

Before the match they call the fighters to the Ring. First they call the fighter in the red corner and after they call the fighter in the blue corner.

At championships and cups, the announcer will call the next two fighters to prepare for the next match. After calling the fighter three time, and they do not arrive at the ring/tatami, they will give the order for the time keeper to start the timer. If the fighter does not arrive within the two minutes, the Chief Referee will give a sign to the referee and announcer who will announce the winner of match by opponent's WO. In musical forms competitions, they will read loudly each mark of judges. Time Keeper will be nominating by Chief Referee or by promoter.

Art. 11.5 Doctor with Medical team.

Doctor must be ready for immediate intervention on the Referee's call. Before the Referee's call they cannot enter on the tatami or in ring. Medical team must have enough equipment and enough doctors and technicians for safe and quick intervention at all fighting's areas. Doctors must have experience in treating kickboxing specific injures. The Promoter is responsible to provide adequate medical team, with ambulance vehicle. WAKO Medical Procedures and Health Security Guidelines must be followed.

Stop Time.

In Tatami sports maximum time for medical stop in one match is a rolling 2 minutes for each athlete. After which the contestant who has exceeded the two minutes is deemed as being no longer able to continue. In Ring sports official Doctor has two (2) minutes each time they are called to the Ring.

Cuts /Bleeding.

- In case of a cut or bleeding the official Doctor should decide within 2 minutes if a competitor can continue or not. The medical treatment of the injury is <u>not</u> allowed in this period.
- Heeding the tournament Doctor's opinion, the Referee will then decide whether the bout should be continued, however only in case when the Official Doctor allows a kickboxer to continue the bout.

Art. 11.6 Tournament Committee.

The WAKO Board of Directors shall select the Tournament Committee. The Committee shall consist of at least three members. The leader of the Committee shall be known as Tournament Director. It is of importance that all members of the group speak English.

The Committee meets in front of World Cups and/or Continental/World Championships. If necessary, they initiate other meetings, but are requested to meet during events/tournaments. Otherwise they communicate by mail and by telephone.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- They are responsible for the disciplines.
- They will be responsible for all Chiefs referees and their staff in the arena throughout the event.
- They will have the responsibility of being in complete charge of all paperwork regarding results and complaints.
- They will have a close cooperation to the Referee Committee and will facilitate all referee seminars.
- They will together with the promoter take care of the event/promotion/tournament and make sure everything is arranged according to the WAKO rules. Any deviation to the rules has to be cleared by the committee or through the Board of Directors.
- They will take care of all official weigh-ins or point out Referees/Officials who will take care of it.
- They will report to the Board of Directors and to the WAKO President.
- They will take care of protests and give advice to the Board of Directors present. The Board of Director's decision will be final and based on a majority decision.

Art. 12. International Referee/Judge seminars and registration.

In preparation of World /Continental Championships and Cups the Committee organizes seminars so to make sure that the judging and behavior of referees are at their best.

When sending out letters of invitation to championships, WAKO will write an extra note concerning referees and judges including all demands for their preparations.

The organization of seminars will be as follows:

- All referees and judges must have a copy of the updated rules which will be used during the seminar.
- By tests, make sure that all judges and referees talk a minimum of English. By the English also rate the referees and judges into categories (both in language and experience).
- The seminars will deal with each kickboxing style and the rules to be used during the tournaments.
- Make sure that all referees and judges wear the same uniforms which are important for the WAKO image.
  The sequence in a seminar contains:
- Verbal introduction and explanations.
- Verbal explanation of main issues that normal causes problem in order to harmonize the judges.
- Any video presentation to explain situations.
- Practice teaching using fighters in action.
- Using scorecards or/and explaining digital system.
- Written tests/exams.
- Registration.
  All referees and judges are registered and are given points during a championship and approbated events.
  The best referees and judges will be invited as official referees to participate in the Championships.
  The referees and judges will get their license based on their performance in the Championships.

Art. 13. Medical, Health and Anti-Doping Committee.

The Committee has at least Three (3) members. The leaders take the initiative to organize the work inside the committee. It is important that all members of the group speak English.

The committee meets in front of World Cups and/or Continental/World Championships. If necessary, they initiative other meetings, but are requested to meet during events/tournaments.

RESPONSIBILITY:

- Their responsibility is to make sure of all safety rules are followed in the tournaments/championships both according to doctors and medical staff.
- They will make sure that the anti-doping rules are informed and together with the Board of Directors and/or promoter in a championship aim an Anti Doping control.
- Make sure that WAKO work effectively to eradicate weight reduction problems.
- The Committee work together and report to the Board of Directors.
- The Committee has the power to postpone start of fights if weigh-in are too close to normal start of fights or if the weigh-in are delayed or in other way, fighters were not properly informed.

Art. 14. Technical Committee.

The Committee has at least three (3) members. The leader takes the initiative to organize the work inside the Committee. It is of importance that the members of the group speak English. The committee meets in front of World Cups and/or Continental/World Championships. If necessary, they initiative other meetings, but are requested to meet during events/tournaments.

RESPONSIBILITY:

- Improve the existing WAKO Syllabus.
- Improve the present grading WAKO system.
- Advise the Board about improvement of Rules/regulations in both ring and tatami sports.
- Assist technically WAKO regions in need of improving their skills.
- Be responsible for approving all fighting safety equipment supplied by promoters. The Committee will also be responsible for inspecting all fighting areas during Championships to be in top quality.

Art. 14.1 Important for all WAKO officials.

All referees, judges and officials represented in the tournament (both on and off-duty) are not allowed to take action for their team / nation as a coach or in other way act or behave partial (screaming and move as a coach/fan). It is NOT allowed to change to their role from official to coach or competitor during the same championship.

Again WAKO stress the importance for referees and judges to talk a minimum of English to communicate during the championships.

Art. 15. Participation of WAKO members in other dissident international organizations.

WAKO members are not permitted or allowed to participate in any other national or international dissident kickboxing organizations World, Continental or Professional Galas. (WKA, WKN, WKF, ISKA Etc...).

All WAKO events, World, Continental and national/international tournaments are reserved to WAKO members only. When it relates to North America and South America and in order to give our members the opportunity to organize themselves, they can allow non WAKO members to take part in their event and vice-versa until a final decision is made by WAKO board in the future.

According to previous agreed rules, a non-WAKO member cannot take part in any of the activities where WAKO (IF) and its continental Division/Federation are in charge of the competition and or the competition is held under WAKO (IF) and or its Continental Divisions/Federations rules and regulations. If in any country, there exists the different kickboxing organization and association, WAKO national federation/organization in that country is allowed to accept the membership of other athletes coming from other organization ONLY if they stop their activities and collaboration with other existing dissident international or continental kickboxing organizations and their national organization if any, according to WAKO (IF) and WAKO Continental rules and regulations.

Once an athlete of another organization becomes a member of a WAKO National Federation, they are no longer allowed to go back to the organization of origin. And in case the athlete returns back or continues their activities or collaboration with a dissident kickboxing organization their membership in WAKO is subject to an immediate and automatic permanent expulsion, without possibility to return.