



Tournament Rules and Regulations

Revision-9 1/31/05

WHA PRO-HAPKIDO Tournament Rules and Regulations

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Article 1. Purpose

The purpose of the WHA PRO-HAPKIDO Tournament Rules and Regulations is to manage fairly and smoothly all matters pertaining to competitions of all levels to be promoted and/ or organized by the WHA ensuring the application of standardized rules.

Article 2. Application

The WHA PRO-HAPKIDO Tournament Rules and Regulations shall apply to all the competitions to be promoted and/or organized by the WHA. Any Regional Director wishing to modify some part of the Competition Rules must first gain the approval of the WHA.

Article 3. Competition Area

The Competition Area shall measure 24ft x 24ft and have a flat surface without any obstructing projections.

The Competition Area shall be covered with a WHA approved high impact foam mat.

1. Demarcation of the Competition Area

I. The 20ft diameter circle in the inner part of the Competition Area of 24ft x 24ft shall be called the Contest Area and the outer part of the Contest Area shall be called the Judges Area.

II. The demarcation of the Contest Area and the Judges Area shall be Distinguished by the different colors of the two area's surface, or indicated by a white line 2 inches wide when the entire surface is one color.

III. The demarcating line between the Contest Area and the Judges Area shall be called the Ring Line and the marginal line of the Competition Area shall be called the Boundary Line.

2. Indication of Positions

I. Position of the Referee

The position of the Referee shall be marked at a point in the center of the Competition Area 10ft from the South Boundary Line and designated as the Referee's Mark.

II. Position of the Main Judge

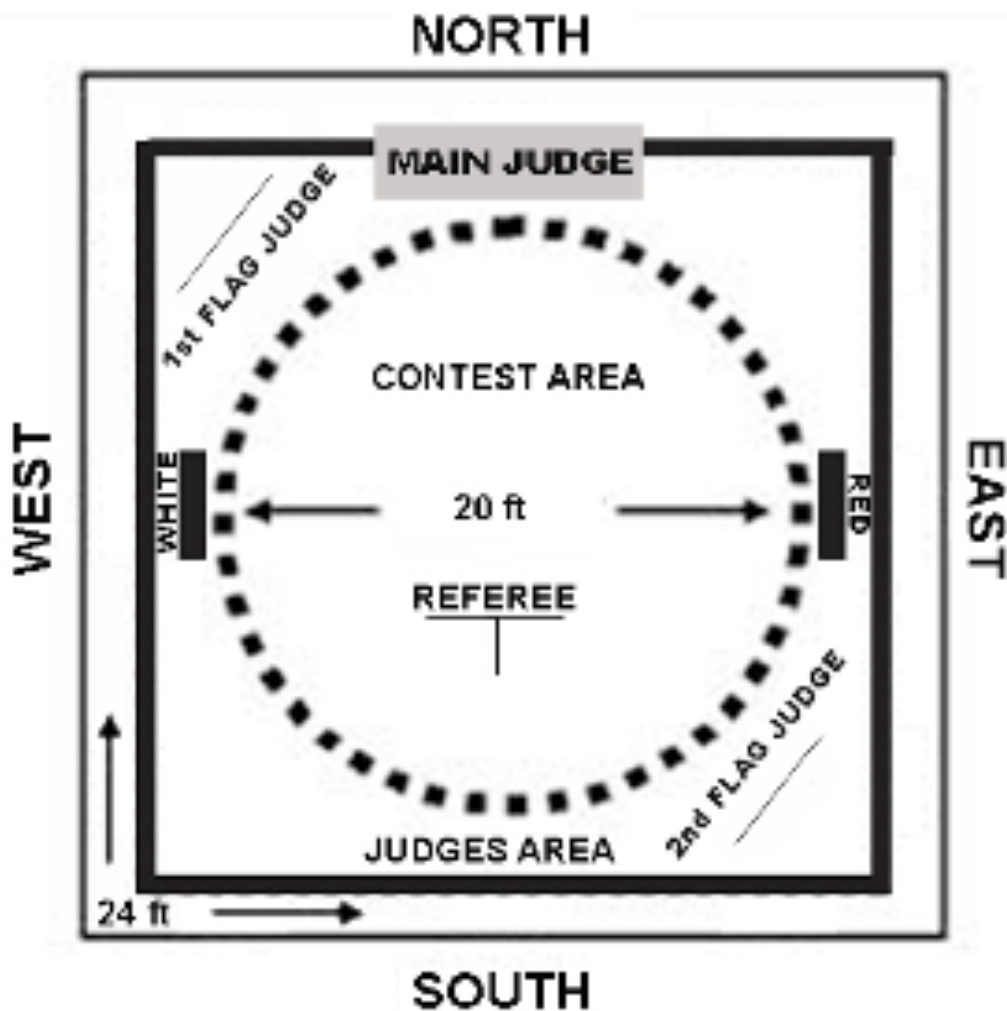
The position of the Main Judge shall be marked by a table parallel to the North Boundary Line facing the center of the Contest Area.

III. Position of Flag judges

The starting position of the 1st Flag Judge shall be marked at the North West corner of the Competition Area facing towards the center point of the Contest Area and the starting position of the 2nd Flag Judge shall be marked at the South East corner of the Competition Area facing the center of the Contest Area. In order for the flag judges to get a clear view of all action they will be permitted to move around the ring line as they see fit.

III. Position of the Contestants

The position of the Contestants shall be marked at a point on the respective East and West sides from the center point of the Competition Area facing towards the opposing direction. The East side shall be the White Contestant's Mark and the West side shall be the Red Contestant's Mark.



Article 4. Contestants

1. Qualification of Contestants

I. Holder of the nationality of the participating team

II. One recommended by the World Hapkido Association

III. Holder of Hapkido rank issued by any Master recognized by the WHA, and in case of World Championships, Contestant must have previously won appropriate regional championship.

2. The Costume for Contestants

I. The contestant shall wear a White Hapkido uniform (Dobok) and protectors recognized by the WHA.

II. The contestant shall wear groin guard, mouthpiece, Gloves and shin/instep guards before entering the contest area. The groin guard shall be worn inside the Hapkido uniform, and the contestant shall bring the WHA-approved protectors for personal use.

III. Female contestants shall be allowed to wear a feminine chest protector to be worn inside the Hapkido uniform, and the contestant shall be responsible for supplying the WHA-approved protectors for personal use.

3. Medical Control

I. The use of drugs or chemical substances is prohibited.

II. The WHA may carry out any medical testing deemed necessary to ascertain if a contestant has committed a breach of this rule, and any winner who refuses to this testing or who proves to have committed such a breach shall be removed from the final standings, and the record shall be transferred to the contestant next in line in the competition standings.

III. The organizing committee shall be liable for arrangements to carry out medical testing.

Article 5. Weight Divisions

1. Weights are divided into male and female divisions.

2. Weight divisions are divided as follows:

Weight Classes

<u>Men</u>		<u>Women</u>	
Fly	129 and under	Light feather	100 & under
Light feather	130 - 139	Feather	101 - 115
Feather	140 - 149	Light	116 - 130
Light	150 - 159	Middle	131 - 145
Middle	160 - 169	Super middle	146 - 160
Super middle	170 - 179	Light heavy	161 & Up
Light heavy	180 - 189		
Heavy	190 - 199		
Super heavy	200 - 209		
Ultra heavy	210 - Up		

Article 6. Classification and Methods of Competition

1. Competitions are divided as follows:

I. Individual competition shall normally be between contestants in the same weight class. When necessary, adjoining weight classes may be combined to create a single classification.

II. There will two rank divisions.

Black belt division: Any Hapkido black belt rank holder awarded by a recognized Hapkido organization or club.

Under belt division: All Hapkido ranks below black belt.

2. Systems of competition are divided as follows:

I. Single elimination tournament system

II. Round robin system

3. All international-level competitions recognized by the WHA shall be formed with participation of at least 4 countries with no less than 4 contestants in each weight class, and any weight class with less than 4 contestants cannot be recognized in the official results.

Article 7. Duration of Contest and Time limits

1. Maximum time limit on the contest shall be 5 minutes. The contest shall end when a contestant scores 2 full points. In the case of world championships the maximum time limit shall be set to 10 minutes and the first contestant to score 4 full points shall be considered the winner of the contest.

2. As soon as both contestants enter into “Wah-Ki” (ground sparring) a 45-second time limit shall go into effect. At the conclusion of 45 seconds if there is no tap out the referee will announce a five count then stand up both contestants and send them back to their respective marks before continuing the contest.

Article 8. Matching of Contestants

1.The Matching of contestants shall be conducted one day prior to the first competition in the presence of the WHA officials. Any matching can be overturned if 2 or more judges see fit at time of the contestants reporting to the contest area.

Article 9. Weigh-in

1.Weigh-in of the contestants on the day of competition shall be completed one hour prior to the competition.

2.During weigh-in, the contestants shall wear uniform pants and a T-shirt. No exceptions will be made.

3.Weigh-in shall be made once, however, one more weigh-in is granted within the time limit for official weigh-in to the contestant who did not qualify the first time.

Article 10. Procedure of the Contest

1.Call for Contestants

The name of the contestants shall be announced three times beginning three minutes prior to the scheduled start of the contest. The contestant who fails to appear in the contest area within one minute after the scheduled start of the competition shall be regarded withdrawn.

2. Physical and Uniform Inspection

After being called, the contestants shall undergo physical and costume inspection at the designated inspection area by the referee designated by the WHA, and the contestant shall not show any signs of aversion, and also shall not bear any materials which could cause harm to the other contestant.

3. Entering the Competition Area

After inspection, the contestant shall enter into the waiting position.

4. Start and End of the Contest

The contest shall begin with the declaration of "Shijak" (start) by the referee (or taiko by main judge) and shall end with the declaration of "Keuman" (stop) by the referee.

5. Procedure Before the Beginning and After the End of the Contest

I. The contestants shall face each other and make a Seated bow at the referee's command of "Kyeongrye" (bow). A seated bow shall be made from the seating on knees position both hands placed in front making a triangle with the thumbs and index fingers of both hands and touching forehead lightly on the top of hands.

II. The referee shall start the contest by commanding "Joon-bi" (ready) and "Shi-jak" (start).

III. At the end of the contest, the contestants shall exchange a standing bow at the referee's command of "Charyeot", "Kyeongrye" and then return to their respective positions facing each other and wait for the referee's declaration of the decision in a seated posture.

IV. Both flag judges and the referee shall approach the main judges table to confirm the total points awarded/ deducted and receive final judgment from the main judge.

V. The referee shall declare the winner by raising his/her same colored Flag to the appropriate side and declaring “Seung”.

VI. After judgment both contestants shall exchange a seated bow.

VII. Retirement of the contestants

6. Contest Procedure in Team Competition

I. Both teams shall stand facing each other in line in submitted team order towards the North Boundary Line from the Contestants' Marks.

II. Procedure before the beginning and after the end of the contest shall be conducted as in item 5 of this Article.

III. Both teams shall leave the Contest Area and stand by at the designated area for each contestant's match.

IV. Both teams shall line up in the Contest Area immediately after the end of the final match facing each other.

V. The referee shall declare the winning team by raising the appropriate flag to the winning team's side.

Article 11. Permitted Techniques and Areas

1. Permitted Techniques

I. Punching techniques: Delivering techniques by using the front parts of the forefinger and middle finger of the tightly clenched fist.

II. Kicking techniques: Delivering kicking techniques by using the parts of the leg below the Knee bone. Knee strikes to the body will be permitted.

III. Takedown techniques: All throwing techniques including joint locks, sweeps and throws. A takedown is recognized as any technique where one contestant forces another to the ground. Any throwing/ takedown technique done with the intent to injure or Drop opponent on his/ her head or neck will result in immediate disqualification.

IV. Ground techniques: All submission techniques including:
All chokes not including neck cranks.
All upper body wrist, arm and shoulder locks.
All lower body hip, knee and ankle locks.

2. Permitted Areas of attack

I. Trunk: Within the limits of the area from a horizontal line at the base of the acromion down to a horizontal line at the iliac crest, attack by Punch and kick techniques are permitted. However, such attacks shall not be made on the back parallel to the spine.

II. Legs: All sweeps to the legs shall be below the knee on the front of the leg and from the thigh down on the backside of the leg.

III. All locks and chokes excluding shin or hands pressing on windpipe.

Article 12. Valid Points and Scoring Areas

1. Legal Scoring Areas

I. Mid-section of the trunk: the abdomen and both sides of the flank.

II. Takedowns: Any takedown or throw exhibiting full control throughout the length of the fall. Judges must recognize the takedown as proper technique in order for a point to be awarded.

III. Ground submissions: Any tap out. Any judge may stop the contest before a tap out if it is deemed necessary to do so.

2. Points shall be awarded when permitted techniques are delivered accurately and powerfully to the legal scoring areas of the body. In the case of striking techniques visible impact and reaction must be present in order to be awarded a point. Both flag judges must agree in order for a point to be awarded for any striking technique.

3. Each striking technique shall earn 1/2 (plus half) point.

Any striking technique resulting in knockdown will earn 1 point.

Each takedown technique shall earn 1/2 (plus half) point.

Each ground submission technique shall 1 (plus one) point.

4. Match score shall be the first contestant to reach 2 points.

5. Invalidation of points: When the following are committed, the delivered technique will not be scored.

I. Intentionally falling, immediately after delivery of the legitimate technique.

II. Committing an illegal act after delivery of the legitimate technique.

III. Use of any of the prohibited actions.

IV. Loss of control over delivered technique.

Article 13. Scoring and Publication

1. Valid points shall be immediately recorded and publicized by each flag judge by using the appropriate flag signal and recorded by the main judge by means of electronic scoring instrument or scoring sheet.

2. Valid points shall be the ones recognized by two or more judges.

Article 14. Prohibited Acts

1. The referee shall declare penalties on any prohibited acts.

2. In the case of multiple penalties being committed simultaneously, the heavier penalty shall be declared.

3. Penalties are divided into "Kyong-go" (warning penalty) and "Gam-jeom" (deduction penalty).

4. Two "Kyong-gos" shall be counted as deduction of half (1/2) point. However, the odd "Kyong-go" shall not be counted in the grand total.

5. A "Gam-jeom" shall be counted as minus-half (-1/2) point.

6. Prohibited acts: "Kyong-go" penalty

I. Negative acts

- a. Intentionally retreating out of Ring.
- b. Intentionally pulling, pushing or throwing opponent out of ring.
- c. Evading by turning the back to the opponent.
- d. Intentionally falling down.
- e. Pretending injury.

II. Attacking acts

- a. Intentionally attacking the groin.
- b. Intentionally stomping on any part of the leg or foot.
- c. Striking the opponent's head or neck.
- d. Striking or grabbing of the clavicle.
- e. Striking with the elbow.
- f. Pulling on the gloves of an opponent.

III. Undesirable acts

- a. Uttering undesirable remarks or any misconduct on the part of the contestant or team members.

7. Prohibited acts: Game-jeom penalty

I. Attacking acts

- a. Striking the fallen opponent.
- b. Intentionally striking the back.
- c. Striking the opponent's head or neck severely.
- d. Pulling hair.
- e. Gouging or striking of eyes.
- f. Small joint manipulation (I.E. fingers and toes)
- g. Chokes using hands squeezing on the windpipe.
- h. Any intentional striking while ground fighting.
- i. Intentionally striking with elbow.
- j. Biting.
- k. Scratching, clawing, pinching or twisting the flesh.
- l. Intentionally throwing an opponent on their head or neck.

m. Neck cranks

n. Absolutely no slamming from ground positions.

II. Negative acts

- a. Crossing the Boundary Line
- b. Intentionally interfering with the progress of the match

III. Undesirable acts

Violent or extreme remarks or behaviors on the part of the contestant or the members of a team shall result in immediate removal from contest. No exceptions!

8. Out of ring will be announced and contestants will be separated when the any of the following occurs.

- I. When any contestant is pushed, pulled or thrown out of ring.
- II. During stand up or ground grappling 50% of body is out of ring.
- III. Both fighters are on the ring line.

9. When a contestant refuses to comply with the Competition Rules or the referee's order intentionally, the referee may declare the contestant loser by penalty.

10. When the contestant receives a total of minus two (-2) points, the referee shall declare him/her loser by penalties.

11. "Kyong-go" and " Gam-jeom" shall be counted in the total score at the conclusion of the contest.

12. Any judge can immediately order the removal of any contestants showing any disrespect towards any judges or tournament staff.

Article 15. Decision of Superiority

1. In the case of a tie score by deduction of points, the winner shall be the contestant awarded more points through the entire contest.

2. In the case of a tie score other than case 1. above, (where both contestants received the same number of points and/or deductions) the winner shall be decided by the referee based on superiority throughout the contest.

3. Decision of superiority shall be based on the initiative shown during the contest.

Article 16. Decisions

1. Win by K.O.
2. Win by Tap Out
3. Win by Referee Stop Contest (RSC)
4. Win by score or superiority
5. Win by withdrawal
6. Win by disqualification
7. Win by referee's punitive declaration

Article 17. Knock Down

1. When any part of the body other than the sole of the foot touches the floor due to the force of the opponent's delivered technique.
2. When a contestant is staggered showing no intention or ability to pursue the match.
3. When the referee judges that the contest cannot continue as the result of any power technique having been delivered.
4. When contestant can no longer continue "Wah-Ki" Ground sparring.

Article 18. Procedure in the Event of a Knock Down

1. When a contestant is knocked down as the result of the opponent's legitimate attack, the referee shall take the following measures:

I. The referee shall send the attacker back to their mark away from downed contestant by declaration of "Kalyeo" (break).

II. The referee shall count aloud from "Hanah" (one) up to "Yeol" (ten) at one-second intervals towards the downed contestant, making hand signals indicating the passage of time.

III. In case the downed contestant stands up during the referee's count and desires to continue the fight, the referee shall continue the count up to "Yeodul" (eight) for recovery of the downed contestant. The referee shall then determine if the contestant is recovered and, if so, continue the contest by declaration of "Kyesok" (continue).

IV. When a contestant who has been knocked down cannot demonstrate the will to resume the contest by the count of "Yeodul", the referee shall announce the other contestant winner by K.O.

V. In case both of the contestants are knocked down, the referee shall continue counting as long as one of the contestants has not sufficiently recovered.

VI. When both of the contestants fail to recover by the count of "Yeol", the winner shall be decided upon the match score before the occurrence of knock down.

VII. When it is judged by the referee that a contestant is unable to continue, the referee may decide the winner either without counting or during the counting.

2. Procedures to be followed after the contest

Any contestant suffering a knockout as the result of a blow to the head will not be allowed to compete for the next 30 days.

Before entering a new contest after 30 days, the contestant must be examined by a medical doctor designated by the WHA, who must certify that the contestant is recovered and able to compete.

Article 19. Procedures for Suspending the Match

When a contestant is to be stopped due to the injury of one or both of contestants, the referee shall take the following measures:

1. The referee shall suspend the contest by declaration of "Kalyeo".
2. The referee shall allow the contestant to receive first aid within one minute.
3. The contestant who does not demonstrate the will to continue the contest after one minute, even in the case of a slight injury, shall be declared loser by the referee.
4. In case resumption of the contest is impossible after one minute the contestant causing the injury by a prohibited act to be penalized by "Gam-jeom" shall be declared loser.
5. In case both of the contestants are knocked down and are unable to continue the contest after one minute, the winner shall be decided upon points scored before the injuries occurred.
6. When it is judged that a contestant's health is at risk due to losing consciousness or falling in an apparently dangerous condition, the referee shall suspend the contest immediately and order first aid to be administered. The referee shall declare as loser, the contestant causing the injury if it is deemed to have resulted from a prohibited attack to be penalized by "Gam-jeom", or in the case the attack was

not deemed to be penalized by Gam-jeom, shall decide the winner on the basis of the score of the match before suspension of the time.

Article 20. Referees and Judges

1. Qualifications

Holders of International Referee Certificate registered by the WHA.

2. Duties

I. Referee

- a. The referee shall have control over the match.
- b. The referee shall declare "Shijak", "Keuman", "Kalyeo", "Seung", "Kyesok" and "Kyeshi", winner and loser, deduction of points, warnings and retiring. All the referee' declarations shall be made when the results are Confirmed.
- c. The referee shall have the right to make decisions independently in accordance with the prescribed rules.
- d. The referee shall not award points.

II. Main Judges

- a. The main judges shall mark the valid points immediately.
- b. The main judges shall state their opinions forthrightly when requested by the referee.
- c. The main judges shall signal the end of "Wah-Ki" by throwing the ceremonial belt out into the ring.

d. Responsible for final Judgment

III. Flag Judges

a. The flag judges signal the valid points immediately.

b. The main judges shall state their opinions forthrightly when requested by the referee or main judge.

Decisions made by the referees and judges shall be conclusive and they shall be responsible to the Board of Arbitration for those decisions.

4. Three Judge system.

When a match is conducted by three judge system (1 main, 2 Flag judges) the second flag judge shall act as the referee.

The flag judges remain outside the ring (moving around) during the stand up sparring, when both competitors go down on the ground, The second flag acting as the referee will step inside the ring and monitor the ground sparring until the 1 minute limit is reached.

5. Uniform of the Referees and Judges

I. The referees and judges shall wear the uniform designated by the WHA.

II. The referees and judges shall not carry or take any materials to the Arena that might interfere with the contest.

Article 21. Recorder

Recorders shall only be used during regional or world championships. When present recorders shall sit at the main judges table. The recorder shall time the contest and periods of time-out, suspension, and also shall record the awarded points, and /or deduction of points.

Article 22. Flag signals

1. Announcement of points: Judge raises corresponding flag straight up above head.
2. No point: Judge drops both flags down and shake them side to side.
3. Beginning of Wah-Ki (1-minute time limit begins): Judge points both flags downward 45 degrees.
4. Out of ring: Judge holds both flags out to sides.

Article 23. Assignment of Officials

1. Composition of Refereeing Officials

- I. The officials are composed of one referee and three judges.

2. Assignment of Refereeing Officials

- I. The assignment of the referees and judges shall be made after the contest schedule is fixed.

II. Referees and judges with the same nationality as that of either contestant shall not be assigned to such a contest. However, an exception shall be made for the judges when the number of refereeing officials is insufficient as the case may be.

Article 24. Other matters not specified in the Rules

In the case that any matters not specified in the Rules occur, they shall be dealt with as follows:

1.The refereeing officials of the pertinent contest shall decide matters related to the competition through consensus.

2.The Executive Council or its proxy shall decide matters that are not related to a specific contest.

3.The organizing committee shall prepare for a video tape recorder at each court for recording and preservation of the match process.

Article 25. Arbitration

1.Composition of the Board of Arbitration

I. Qualifications: Member of Executive Council of the WHA or person of sufficient Aikido experience recommended by the WHA President or Secretary General.

II. Composition: One chairman and less than six members

III. Procedure of appointment: The chairman and members of the Board of Arbitration will be appointed by the WHA President on the recommendation of the WHA Secretary General.

2. Responsibility: The Board of Arbitration shall make corrections of misjudgments according to their decision regarding protests and take disciplinary action against the officials committing the misjudgment or any illegal behavior and the results of which shall be sent to the Secretariat of the WHA.

3. Procedure of Protest

I. In case there is an objection to a judgment, a delegate must submit an application for re-evaluation of decision (protest application) together with the prescribed fee to the Board of Arbitration within 10 minutes after the pertinent contest.

II. Deliberation of re-evaluation shall be carried out excluding those members with the same nationality as that of either contestant concerned, and resolution on deliberation shall be made by majority.

III. The members of the Board of Arbitration may summon the refereeing officials for confirmation of events.

IV. The resolution made by the Board of Arbitration will be final and no further means of appeal will be applied.