



International Taekwon-Do Federation (ITF)

By Laws

ITF Umpire Rules - Rules and Regulations

In force of January 1st, 2013

(Pages 1-10)



U 1. Purpose

The purpose of these rules is to:

- a) Level and align the judgement criteria of Jury Members, Referees and Umpires.
- b) Protect the authority of the Jury Members, Referees, and Umpires.
- c) Delineate the Rights and Duties of Jury Members, Referees and Umpires.

U 2. Application

These rules are to be applied at every official ITF sanctioned championship for degree holders.

U 3. Umpire Committee

The Chairman of the Umpire Committee is responsible to approve, assign and assemble all the Jury Members and Referees for the ITF Championships.

The Umpire Committee consists of the Chairman of the Committee and a minimum of two (2) members, and no more than four (4) members, as appointed by the ITF Board of Directors.

The Umpire Committee is responsible for the following matters:

- a) To strictly observe and enforce Umpire dress requirements.
- b) To assign Umpires to ring councils.
- c) To assign ring councils to specific rings in co-ordination with the needs of the tournament Committee.
- d) To appoint the substitution and the rotation of Umpires in order to give everyone an opportunity to officiate and to assure fairness.
- e) To supervise, advise and correct Umpires during their work process.
- f) To supervise the Computer Assistants during work.
- g) To investigate protests, deliberate upon their validity and provide the final decision.
- h) To take any disciplinary action, such as though not limited to replacement, suspension or termination of Umpires.
- i) To suggest improvements to the Umpire rules and/or manuals.

U 4. Judgements

Each Umpire is responsible for giving their own adjudications in accordance with both the current ITF Umpire Rules and ITF Competition Rules.

U 5. Unexpected events

All cases not stated herein will be dealt with and discussed by the Umpire Committee who, to the best of his ability, will reach a fair and proper decision. The Umpire Committee's decision shall be final.



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U 6. Ring council

Each ring must be governed by a ring council, appointed by the Umpire Committee and responsible for the administration, management and scoring of all events within their assigned ring.

1. The ring council for pattern competition consists of: one (1) Jury President, one (1) Jury member, five (5) Umpires and one (1) Computer assistant.
2. The ring council for sparring competition consists of: one (1) Jury President, one (1) Jury member, one (1) Centre Referee, four (4) Corner Umpires and one Computer assistant.
3. The ring council for power breaking competition consists of: one (1) Jury President, one (1) Jury member, two (2) Umpires and one (1) Computer assistant.
4. The ring council for special techniques competition consists of: one (1) Jury President, one (1) Jury member, two (2) Umpires and one (1) Computer assistant.
5. The ring council for pre arranged free sparring competition consists of: one (1) Jury President, one (1) Jury member, five (5) Umpires and one (1) Computer assistant.

U 7. Rights & Duties of the Jury President

1. The Jury President must at all times be up to date with the ITF Tournament Rules and Manuals concerning the Centre Referees and Corner Umpires.
2. The Jury President and the Umpire Committee are the only officials authorized to disqualify a competitor in accordance with article T38 and for T39 of the official ITF Rules of Competition for Senior and Junior World Championships, according to the following procedure:

a. Due process for rule T39

1. Apply rule T39

Note: procedure to determine responsibility

- a. Anytime a disqualification situation occurs in the context of T39 due to injury that causes the opponent not to compete any more, the ring council must consult with a member or a staff member of the Umpire Committee in order to verify that the due process is being followed before taking a decision.
- b. A priori, meaning in the initial step, responsibility with consequence of disqualification must come from a warned action whose consequence or penalty is one warning and or a minus point. Because this action, or the consequence of this action, momentarily or definitely impaired the opponent resulting in their inability to continue competing, for the time being and possibly for the rest of the competition, the ring council, represented by the Jury President, assumes a disqualification.



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- c. In order to validate this assumption the following steps must be followed by the Jury President:
 - i. The Jury President, with Centre Referee will make a decision via simple voting: more than 50% of the total considers the motion positive. If they do not arrive to a decisive solution they continue the process below:
 - ii. They call all the corner Referees and Jury Members to help them find a decision with simple voting, more than 50% of the total considers the motion positive. If they don't come up with a solution...
 - iii. The ring council calls the Umpire Committee to vote with one extra vote to outweigh the tie in order to come up with a decision.
3. The Jury President is responsible to supervise all matches and the Umpires' behaviour, in their assigned ring, and as such, is permitted to give his opinion and advice at any time.
4. The Jury President is the supervisor of the Jury Members and Computer assistant within their assigned ring council, and is permitted to substitute them in case of absence or inefficiency.
5. The Jury President must fill in and sign the competition reports that make up the official competition documentation. These reports must be delivered directly to the tournament Committee at the end of each division and/or category.

In pattern competition:

- a) The Jury President will preside over and verify the electronic drawing of the designated patterns.
- b) In the event of an incorrect situation, the Jury President may call the Umpire(s) for clarification or direction.
- c) Once the Referees have forwarded their results, the Jury President must stand up and indicate the winner.
- d) The competitor and/or team having obtained the majority of umpire votes and with a minimum of two (2) Umpire votes in his favour, shall be declared the winner and shall advance to the next round of competition.
- e) In case of a draw, the Jury President must stand up and cross his/her arms in front of his/her chest and then must preside over and verify the electronic drawing of one (1) designated pattern to be the tie-breaker. The competitors/teams will then carry on until the places are decided.

In sparring competition:

- a) In the event of an incorrect situation, the Jury President may call for a "time stop"; and might call the Centre Referee and/or Corner Umpires for clarification or direction.
- b) The Jury President must communicate the foul(s) and warning(s) to the Computer assistant during the bout, verifying that they are assigned to the correct competitor.



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- c) Once the Referees have forwarded their results, the Jury President must stand up and indicate the winner.
- d) The competitor having obtained the majority of umpire votes and with a minimum of two (2) Umpire votes in his favour, shall be declared the winner and shall advance to the next round of competition.
- e) The Team having obtained - after the 5 bouts - the majority of the total of Umpire votes shall be declared the winner and shall advance to the next round of competition.
- f) In case of a draw, the Jury President must stand up and cross his/her arms in front of his/her chest. The competitors/teams will then carry on until the places are decided.

In power and special technique competition:

- a) The Jury President must communicate the given point(s) to the Computer assistant and verify that they are entered correctly.
- b) In the event of an incorrect situation, the Jury President may call for a "time stop"; and might call the Centre Referee and/or corner Umpires for clarification or direction.
- c) In case of a draw situation the Jury President will select by drawing one (1) item to be the tiebreaker.
- d) Individual competitors having obtained the highest scores shall be declared 1st, 2nd and two 3rd places winners.
- e) Teams having obtained the highest scores shall be declared 1st, 2nd and two 3rd places winners.

In pre arranged free sparring competition:

- a) In the event of an incorrect situation, the Jury President may call for a "time stop"; and may call the Umpires for clarification or direction.
- b) Once the Referees have forwarded their results, the Jury President must stand up and indicate the winner.
- c) The team having obtained the majority of umpire votes and with a minimum of two (2) Umpire votes in his favour, shall be declared the winner and shall advance to the next round of competition.
- d) In case of a draw, the Jury President must stand up and cross his/her arms in front of his/her chest. The competitors/teams will then compete again until the places are decided.

U 8. Pattern competition – Rights & Duties of the Referee and Umpires

1. The Centre Referee and Umpires must at all times be up to date with the ITF Tournament rules and manuals concerning the Centre Referees and Corner Umpires.
2. Centre Referees are permitted to issue commands, give instructions and otherwise direct the competitors according to the procedures of the ITF World Junior & Senior Tournament Rules.
3. Centre Referees and Umpires are permitted to take part in consultations when requested by the Jury President.



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4. Umpires are not permitted to talk to each other at any time during a competitor's performance.
5. Umpires must sit correctly (upright, with the back straight and with the soles of the feet on the floor), with a space of 150cm on either side of his colleagues.
6. Umpires must carefully and comprehensively observe the competitors' performances and behaviours, taking these into consideration when assessing their score as according to the following parameters:

Individual pattern

- a) Competitors will compete one against another (1 to 1).
- b) Both competitors will simultaneously perform the designated patterns appropriate to their degree (see article T.27 of the ITF World Junior & Senior Tournament Rules).
- c) The first designated pattern will be randomly chosen from three patterns appropriate to their level of degree.
- d) The second designated pattern will be randomly chosen from those patterns between Chon-Ji to the remaining two patterns appropriate to their level of degree.
- e) All designated patterns shall be drawn randomly using the ITF Electronic Scoring System, and shall be overseen and verified by the Jury President.
- f) The Umpires shall give a score between 0 and 10 points, after having deducted points for errors, for each pattern performance based upon technical content, power, balance, breathing and sine wave.
- g) The competitor having obtained the majority of umpire votes and with a minimum of two (2) Umpire votes in his favour, shall be declared the winner and shall advance to the next round of competition.
- h) In the case of a draw, an additional designated pattern will be randomly chosen from the remaining appropriate patterns, and must be performed until the winner is decided.

Team pattern

- a) Both teams shall perform both one (1) optional and one (1) designated pattern in the following order:
 - i. Team 1 – Optional pattern.
 - ii. Team 2 – Optional pattern.
 - iii. Team 1 – Designated pattern.
 - iv. Team 2 – Designated pattern.
- b) The Umpires shall give a score between 0 and 10 points, after having deducted points for errors, for each pattern performance based upon choreography, teamwork, technical content, power, breathing and sine wave.
- c) The team having obtained the majority of umpire votes and with a minimum of two (2) Umpire votes in his favour, shall be declared the winner and shall advance to the next round of competition.
- d) In the case of a draw, an additional designated pattern will be randomly chosen from the remaining appropriate patterns, and must be performed until the winner is decided.



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U 9. Sparring competition – Right & Duties of the Centre Referee

1. Centre Referees must at all times be up to date with the ITF Tournament rules and manuals concerning the Jury President, Referees and corner Umpires.
2. Centre Referees are permitted to issue commands, give instructions and otherwise direct the competitors according to the procedures of the ITF World Junior & Senior Tournament Rules.
3. Centre Referees are permitted to take part in consultations when requested by the Jury President.
4. If necessary, Centre Referees should re-check the ITF Dobok, safety equipment, groin guard, and the shin protectors of the competitors.
5. Centre Referees are responsible to direct all matches, give all directions and commands, make all the announcements, and use the correct hand gestures, to administer the competition in the ring to which they are assigned.
6. Centre Referees are the only official authorised to assign warning(s) and/or foul(s) to competitors in the ring to which they are assigned.

U 10. Sparring competition – Rights & Duties of the Corner Umpire

1. Corner Umpires must at all times be up to date with the ITF Tournament rules and manuals concerning the Jury President, Referees and Corner Umpires.
2. Corner Umpires are permitted to take part in consultations when requested by the Jury President.
3. Corner Umpires are not permitted to talk at any time during a competitor's performance
4. Corner Umpires must sit correctly (upright, with the back straight and with the soles of the feet on the floor).
5. Corner Umpires shall score electronically point(s) as indicated in the ITF World Junior & Senior Tournament Rules.

U 11. Power & special technique – Rights & Duties of the Umpires

1. Umpires must at all times be up to date with the ITF Tournament rules and manuals concerning the Jury President, Referees and corner Umpires.
2. Centre Referees are permitted to issue commands, give instructions and otherwise direct the competitors according to the procedures of the ITF World Junior & Senior Tournament Rules.
3. Umpires are permitted to take part in consultations when requested by the Jury President.
4. Umpires are responsible to check the board(s) and/or target height, and the correct execution of technique for each attempt as indicated in ITF World Junior & Senior Tournament Rules.
5. The Centre Referee must clearly display the correct number of points scored for each technique.



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U 12. Pre arranged free sparring competition – Rights and Duties of the Umpires

1. Umpires must at all times be up to date with the ITF Tournament rules and manuals concerning the Jury President, Referees and Corner Umpires.
2. Centre Referees are permitted to issue commands, give instructions and otherwise direct the competitors according to the procedures of the ITF World Junior & Senior Tournament Rules.
3. Umpires are permitted to take part in consultations when requested by the Jury President.
4. Umpires are not permitted to talk to each other at any time during a competitor's performance.
5. Umpires must sit correctly (upright, with the back straight and with the soles of the feet on the floor), with a space of 150cm on either side of his colleagues.
6. Umpires must carefully and comprehensively observe the competitors' performances and behaviours, taking these into consideration when assessing their scores according to the following parameters:

Each team shall consist of two (2) participants that follow a prepared scenario, which enables them to skilfully exhibit a wide variety of techniques without fear of injury.

Each team shall perform one at a time, and the Umpires shall give a score between 0 and 10 points, after having deducted points for errors, for each performance taking into consideration the following criteria:

- a) choreography & team work
- b) technical content
- c) sine-wave
- d) power
- e) breathing
- f) execution of only one (1) acrobatic sequence of technique for each of the team members.

Procedure

- a) Both competitors shall enter the ring and bow.
- b) Both competitors must assume an l-stance, guarding block prior to starting their performance.
- c) The bout timing will begin when one of the competitors verbally gives the command "Shi-Jak".
- d) The bout ends with a final blow, and when one of the competitors shouts "Goman" and assumes an l-stance, guarding block.

Teams shall compete according to the following rules and regulations:

- a) Pre arranged free sparring shall consist of movements as shown in the encyclopaedia, manuals or cd rom and as taught during the international instructor courses.
- b) Attacking techniques must be blocked or avoided and must be performed with realism.
- c) Competitors may be from 1st to 6th degree and may be male, female and/or mixed couples.



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- d) Bout duration shall consist of one (1) round: minimum 60 seconds – maximum 75 seconds.
- e) Teams that exceed the 75 seconds duration of bout shall receive 0 points.
- f) Teams that perform less than the required minimum of 60 seconds shall receive 0 points.
- g) Protection gear may be worn as written in I.T.F. World Junior & Senior Tournament Rules art.t.7.a. Point ii and t.7. B.
- h) Only one (1) acrobatic sequence of technique, that is not part of the Taekwon-Do syllabus, may be performed during the bout by each of the team members.
- i) If one or both team members performs more than one acrobatic sequence of technique during the bout the team shall receive 0 points.
- j) The team having obtained the majority of umpire votes and with a minimum of two (2) Umpire votes in his favour, shall be declared the winner and shall advance to the next round of competition.
- k) In the event of a tie, both teams will perform an additional time, until the winner is decided.

U 13. Duties of the Jury Members

- a) The Jury Members must at all times be up to date with the ITF Tournament rules and manuals.
- b) The Jury Members assist the Jury President in the administration of the ring council and all matches in order to declare the winner(s).

U 14. Duties of the Computer Assistants

the Computer Assistants are responsible for:

- a) The operation of the electronic scoring system and data entry.
- b) Keeping the official time for each match.
- c) Recording warnings and fouls and adding or deduction points as indicated by the Jury President in accordance with the I.T.F. Rules of competition.

U 15. Official Terminology

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| a) CHA RYOT | Attention |
| b) KYONG YE | Bow |
| c) JUN BI | Ready |
| d) SHIJAK | Begin |
| e) HAECHYO | Separate |
| f) GAESOK | Continue |
| g) GOMAN | End |
| h) JU UI | Warning |
| i) GAM JUM | Deducting Points |
| j) SIL KYUK | Disqualification |
| k) HONG | Red |
| l) CHONG | Blue |
| m) JUNG JI | Time Stop |



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|-----------------|--------------|
| n) DONG CHON | Draw |
| o) IL HUE JONG | First round |
| p) I HUE JONG | Second round |
| q) SAM HUE JONG | Third round |
| r) SUNG | Winner |

U 16. Dress regulation

The ITF Umpire's dress code consists of:

- A blue blazer/jacket.
- White, long sleeved shirt.
- Blue trousers.
- Blue tie.
- White socks.
- White gymnastic shoes.
- A pen.

The Computer Assistants dress code consists of:

- White sleeved polo shirt.
- Blue trousers.
- White socks.
- White gymnastic shoes.
- A pen.

The Umpire Committee may, at its discretion, change the above dress requirements, for certain international events, due to weather, health or other requirements.

U 17. Presentation before the competition

All Jury Members and Referees must be present at all Umpire meetings during the event.

All Jury Members, Referees and Computer Assistants must present themselves at the appointed meeting place, one half hour prior to the start of their assigned event, according to the schedule laid down by the ITF Umpire Chairman.

U 18. Behaviour

All officials must observe the following rules:

- They must behave with conscience and dignity.
- They must pay maximum attention during competition.
- They must at all times be unbiased when giving a decision.
- They must distance themselves from the competitors.



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U 19. Umpire class & requirements

"A" class - Jury Members, Umpires

The criteria for "A" class Umpire is:

- a) Minimum age of 25 years.
- b) 4th degree holder or above.
- c) To have the International Instructors Certificate.
- d) To have an ITF "B" Class Umpire certificate.
- e) To have a minimum of three (3) years regular, domestic, umpiring experience.
- f) To participate in an authorised ITF Umpire Course and succeed in obtaining the official "A" Class Umpire certificate.
- g) To officiate regularly at tournaments within the ITF Jurisdiction.

"B" class Umpires

The criteria for "B" Class Umpire is:

- a) Minimum age of 21 years.
- b) 2nd degree holder or above.
- c) To participate in an authorised ITF Umpire course and succeed in obtaining the official "B" class Umpire Certificate.
- d) To officiate at tournaments within the ITF Jurisdiction.

U 20. Computer Assistants requirements

The requirements for the Computer Assistants are:

- a) Minimum age of 16 years.
- b) To participate in the authorised Computer Assistants seminar.