

**KYOKUSHIN-KAN INTERNATIONAL**  
**KUMITE IN WEIGHT CATEGORIES**  
**COMPETITIONS RULES**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS (SHINPAN KIJUN)**

1. When judges determine the winner by decision (hantei) the referee (shushin shinpan, shushin) and the corner judges (fukushin shinpan, fukushin) have equal rights; during a bout the referee shall be obliged to pay attention and react responsibly to corner judges' signals.

2. Usually bouts are served by a judging panel consisting of 1 referee (shushin), 4 corner judges (fukushin) and 2 referee assistants (shushin hosa). But organizers of competitions have the right not to assign referee assistants (shushin hosa).

3. If two corner judges show the clear victory (ippon gachi), the half point (waza-ari) or any violation of the Rules (hansoku), the referee can add his third vote and, by the majority of votes, award the clear victory (ippon gachi), the half point (waza-ari) or penalize a competitor for the violation of the Rules (hansoku).

4. Even if three or all of the four corner judges see a violation of the Rules (hansoku) by a competitor, the referee, unless the situation in the bout evolves in favor of the offender, has the right not to stop the bout and show «Mitomezu!» («No count!»). At the same time, if referee does not stop the bout, he has to show this to the corner judges by gesture and to the competitors by the command «Zokko!» («Continue!»).

5. If three judges, including the referee, determine a violation of the Rules (hansoku), and if the referee stops the bout, he, depending on the seriousness of the violation, may give an oral warning (keikoku), the rebuke (chui) or the penalty point (genten).

6. If the referee determines a violation of the Rules (hansoku) and stops the bout, but does not receive support from the corner judges and is not able to penalize the offender with the rebuke (chui), he may give the offender an oral warning (keikoku).

7. If three or four corner judges show the clear victory (ippon gachi) or the half point (waza-ari), but the referee has a doubt in the propriety of their judging of the situation, he may stop the bout, gather corner judges for debate, consult with the Superior Arbitrator (saiko shinpancho), the Arbitrator of competitions (taikai shinpancho) or the Deputy Arbitrator of Competitions (taikai fukushinpancho), and upon the consultation he can either declare the clear victory (ippon gachi), or give the half point (waza-ari), or give the command «Mitomezu!» («No count!»), or give the rebuke (chui). In case, if the referee announces «Mitomezu!» («No count!») or gives the rebuke (chui), he has to precisely explain to the competitors the reasons for such a decision.

8. Any corner judge is to express clearly his judging of the situation in response to signals of other corner judges and the referee and to show whether he supports their judging of the situation, or if not, by showing «Mitomezu!» («No count!») or «Miezu!» («Has not seen!»).

9. If a corner judge believes, that the referee has made a clear mistake in judging of a situation, he must immediately clarify the judging of the situation by the referee, not letting the episode through.

10. A decision of judges (hantei) comes into effect in case if it is supported by at least three judges. The duration of the base time (honsen) of bout shall be 3 minutes (2 minutes for the elimination part of competitions); the time for the performance of one kind of breaking

during the tameshiwari test shall be 2 minutes. However, in case of need, the Superior Arbitrator (saiko shinpancho) shall have the right to change the duration of the base time of bout and the time for the performance of one kind of breaking during the tameshiwari test by his decision.

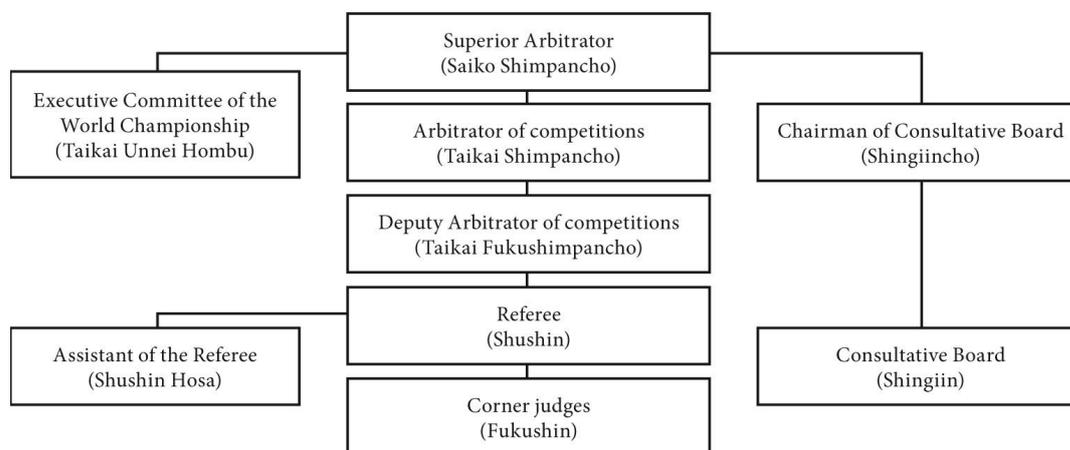
11. The Consultative Board (shingiin) shall make decisions on presentation of special prizes («For the best technique», «For the will to win», etc.) and consult judges in case of a protest against a decision of a judging panel or in case, when a situation, the settlement of which is not expressly stipulated in the Rules, occurs in the course of competitions; in such cases the right of final decision belongs to the Head of Consultative Board (shingiiincho) and to the Superior Arbitrator (saiko shinpancho).

12. Using pieces of cloth or protective equipment, besides karatedogi, groin guard, bite-board and breast protector (for women), is prohibited. The sleeves of karatedogi shall be of such a length, that the edge of the sleeve covers the elbow of the hand when bent in elbow.

13. If a competitor got injured and needs bandaging, the bandaging shall be made on the order of the competition's physician, and the order has to be supported by the seal of the competition's physician on the bandage. Bandaging with view to enhance efficiency of attacking and defensive techniques shall not be allowed.

14. The assistants of referee (shushin hosa) shall verify observance of requirements specified in points 12 and 13 of the Rules herein by the competitors before their entry to the competition area. They also substitute the corner judges for the given bout, when competitors belonging to the same team to which the judges belong enter the competition area. However, organizers of competitions, taking into account the conditions of holding competitions, shall have the right not to appoint the assistants of referee (shushin hosa). In this case the referee himself shall check protective equipment and pieces of cloth of the competitors directly at the competition area before the bout starts.

15. Competitions shall be governed according to the scheme provided below.



16. The right of final decision in evaluation of a bout result belongs to the Superior Arbitrator (saiko shinpancho). In case of absence of the Superior Arbitrator (saiko shinpancho) in competition hall, the right of final decision in evaluation of a bout result passes to the Arbitrator of competitions (taikai shinpancho), and in case of his absence it passes to the Deputy Arbitrator of the Competitions (taikai fukushimpancho).

17. The standard competition area is the square with sides of 9 meter long. But dimensions of the competition area may be changed, if the conditions of the competition place require.

18. The standard security stripes around the competition area (jogai) have the width of 1.8 meter, but the width of security stripes around the competition area may be changed, if the conditions of the competition place require. However, if the competition area is raised over the floor more than 5 cm, the security stripes around the competition area shall have the width of no less than 1 meter.

19. The beginning lines of fighters (shiai kaishi sen) are situated in the middle of the competition area at the distance of 3 meters between them. The stripe, that marks the beginning line of a fighter, situated on the right side, viewing from presidium, is of white color, the one on the left side is of red color. The length of each stripe is 1 meter.

### **DURATION OF BOUTS (SHIAI JIKAN)**

1. In elimination competitions (yosen) the base time of bout (honsen) is 2 minutes. In case of tie the extension time (enchosen) equal to 2 minutes shall be assigned. If the tie repeats, the weighing shall be announced, and the competitor inferior to the opponent in weight by 3 kg or more shall be declared the winner. If the winner is not determined by the weighing results as well, the final extension time (saigo-no enchosen) equal to 2 minutes shall be assigned.

2. In main competitions, beginning with the 1st round (ikkaisen), the base time of bout (honsen) is 3 minutes. In case of tie the extension time (enchosen) equal to 2 minutes shall be assigned. In case of repeated tie the second extension time (saienenchosen) equal to 2 minutes shall be assigned.

3. As a rule, the bouts preceding the official opening ceremony shall be considered elimination bouts (yosen), and the bouts next to the official opening ceremony shall be considered the bouts of the 1st round (ikkaisen). However, taking into account the number of competitors and conditions of holding the competitions, competition organizers may shorten the base time of bout (honsen) and make it to 2 minutes.

4. Timing of bout shall begin from the moment of the referee's command «Hajime!» («Begin!»). The duration of bout is measured by the time-keeper (tokei-gakari), who is a member of the Executive Committee of the Championship. Even if a competitor loses his consciousness during the bout, or the bout stops for any other reason, the time-keeper may not stop measuring the duration of bout by his own decision without a relevant signal from the referee.

5. As well as the referee, the measuring the duration of bout may be stopped by the representative of the Executive Committee of the Championship, responsible for holding bouts, for reasons listed below:

a) if the representative of the Executive Committee of the Championship, responsible for holding bouts, decides that the referee forgot to give a signal to stop the time in a situation when the bout is discontinued due to an injury of a competitor, for putting karatedogi in order, or for any other reason. In this case the responsible representative shall announce «Stop the time!» («Jikan-wo tomete kudasai!») in order to inform on this decision all competitors and guests;

b) if senior judge — the Deputy Arbitrator of competitions (taikai fukushinpancho) and above — demanded to stop the time. In this case the responsible representative shall announce «Stop the time!» («Jikan-wo tomete kudasai!»).

6. All half points (waza-ari), penalty points (genten), recorded violations of the Rules (hansoku) shall be cancelled upon the expiration of the time of bout and upon announcement

of decision of judges (hantei), and during the next time of the bout (in the extension time, etc.) they shall not be valid. The only exclusion is for oral warnings (keikoku), which do transfer to the next time of the bout, including the extension time (enchosen) and the second extension time (saienchosen).

### **WEIGHT CATEGORIES (KAIKYU)**

1. In competitions by weight categories the following weight categories shall be provided for:

- a) lightweight (70 kg and below);
- b) middleweight (80 kg and below);
- c) light heavyweight (90 kg and below);
- d) heavyweight (over 90 kg).

2. If the weight of a competitor exceeds the upper limit for his weight category the competitor shall be disqualified. If the weight of a competitor is less than the lower limit for his weight category the weight of the competitor is considered being equal to the lower limit for this weight category.

3. Competition organizers shall have the right to change weight categories system by their decision, taking into account the number of competitors and the conditions of holding the competitions.

### **KUMITE WINNER DETERMINATION CRITERIA (KUMITE SHOHAI)**

1. The acts of a competitor in the competitive bouts (kumite) shall be in conformity with spirit and principals of real fight. The competitor must keep distance that allows him to defend himself from any attacks, including the attacks forbidden by the Rules and aimed to any vulnerable body zones.

2. In karate-do competitions etiquette must be rigorously observed. Therefore behavior of disrespect to opponent shall not be allowed in the competition area. It shall be forbidden to express exultation because of the victory, or clamor because of decision of judges in any manner, including taking guts-pose.

3. The bout winner shall be determined by awarding the clear victory (ippon gachi); the victory by getting two half points (waza-ari) which in total give the clear victory (awasete ippon gachi); by decision of judges (hantei gachi); due to competitor disqualification (shikkaku); or due to competitor's refusal from the bout (kiken).

4. If the bout winner is not determined by awarding the clear victory (ippon gachi), due to competitor's opponent disqualification (shikkaku); or due to competitor's opponent refusal from the bout (kiken), then the bout winner shall be determined by decision of the judges panel (hantei).

5. A decision (hantei) comes into effect in case of its support by three or more of five judges, serving the bout (1 referee and 4 corner judges).

6. If none of competitors receive the half point (waza-ari) or the penalty point (genten), the following factors listed in order of their significance, shall be taken into account when determining the winner by decision of judges (hantei): 1) damage to opponent (dameji); 2) efficient techniques delivered (yukowaza); 3) attack activity (kosei).

1) “*Damage to opponent (dameji)*” shall be considered an effect of a strike that though is not equal in quality to a strike estimated for half point (waza-ari), but is close to it.

2) “*Efficient techniques delivered (yukowaza)*” shall be considered a strike that did not knocked the opponent down but was delivered clearly, reached a target and was delivered with correct hip and body movement; or a counterattack delivered upon evading the opponent’s strike that failed to reach target; a qualitative techniques shown during the bout.

3) “*Attack activity (kosei)*” shall appear in a greater number of strikes delivered with hands and legs as compared with the opponent. Just moving forward not delivering strikes is not considered as an attack activity.

7. The first rebuke (chui ichi) shall not be taken into account when the judges deliver their decision (hantei) upon the expiry of base time of bout (honsen). But the first rebuke (chui ichi) during the extension time (enchosen) shall be taken into account when the judges deliver their decision after the extension time (enchosen). However, independently of the first rebuke (chui ichi), preference shall be given to the competitor, who had an advantage during the bout.

8. If the winner is not determined on the expiry of bout time, then the winner shall be determined in order prescribed below:

- the competitor who broke more boards during the tameshiwari test shall be declared the winner;

- in case of equality in the numbers of boards broken during the tameshiwari test, the competitor inferior to the opponent in weight by 3 kg or more shall be declared the winner.

9. Should the winner be not determined nor by comparing of numbers of boards broken during the tameshiwari test, neither by the difference in weights, the final extension time (saigo-no enchosen) equal to 2 minutes shall be assigned, upon the expiry of which judges are obliged to show the winner by flags.

10. The number of competitor’s seconds, who may escort him to the competition area, is restricted by 10 persons. Competition organizers shall have the right to reduce the number of seconds for security reasons, but in this case the organizers must obtain consent of the Superior Arbitrator (saiko shinpancho) in advance. The seconds have to observe etiquette and behave themselves with respect.

### **AWARDING CLEAR VICTORY (IPPON GACHI)**

1. Clear victory (ippon gachi) shall be declared for an effective fist or elbow strike or a kick delivered to any body zone allowed by the Rules, which brought the opponent to the floor and put him into knock-down lasting more than 3 seconds, or which became the reason why the opponent lost his desire to continue fighting for more than 3 seconds.

### **AWARDING HALF POINT (WAZA-ARI)**

1. For a fist or elbow strike, or a kick delivered to any body zone allowed by the Rules, which brought the opponent to the floor and put him into knock-down, if the opponent stood up less than in 3 seconds after the strike or for a strike, after which the opponent kept standing but temporarily lost his desire for fighting or lost balance;

2. For the timely, clear and technically correct marking (without actual contact) of the final strike by straight downward fist punch (gedan-zuki) to the opponent knocked-down to

the floor, for example, by leg sweep (ashi-kake). The final straight downward fist strike (gedan-zuki) shall be delivered with clear fixation of the fist in final position of the punch, so that judges could assure themselves, that the strike was accurate. The final fist strike with quick pulling the striking hand back (hikite), which does not allow judges to be assured that the strike was accurate, cannot be counted.

3. For the timely, clear and technically correct marking (without actual contact) of the final strike by straight downward fist punch (gedan-zuki) to the opponent who tried to deliver a kick with deliberate fall (sutemi-waza). In this case the requirements to the gedan-zuki are the same, as in subpoint 2;

4. Two half points (waza-ari) give in total the clear victory (awasete ippon gachi).

### **RULE VIOLATIONS (HANSOKU)**

1. The following shall be considered as the Rule violations:

a) Hand and elbow strikes to the face. In some cases even finger touches to the face may be considered as the violation. However the imitation of strikes to the face is allowed;

b) Hand and elbow strikes to the throat, sides or back of the neck;

c) Strikes to the groin;

d) Head strikes (zutsuki);

e) Attacking fallen opponent;

f) Strikes to the spine;

g) Attacks from the position with head set to opponent;

h) Hooking opponent's neck, head and shoulder. In case of knee strikes (hiza-geri), above elbow is considered to be a shoulder and will be a violation if hooking opponent's arm;

i) Grasping opponent's karatedogi, hands or legs;

j) Pushes (oshi) to the body and shoulders with palms, forearms or fists;

Subpoints from k to m, listed below, in a wide sense can be interpreted as the violation of the prohibition to push opponent (oshi). When moving toward the opponent delivering of strikes shall be necessary! The movement toward the opponent without strikes shall not be regarded as attack activity (kosei). At the same time moving forward toward the retreating opponent without delivering strikes shall not be considered as the violation of the Rules, but even in such a case approaching toward the opponent until coming in touch is prohibited.

k) Delivering of strikes series from the position standing in front of opponent with feet parallel to each other on one line, as if falling on the opponent and pushing him out of his position;

l) Approaching the opponent without strikes; standing still without delivering strikes pressing body to the opponent's body or laying hands on the opponent's hands or body; delivery of any attack or defense techniques from the position of pressing body to the opponent's body or laying hands on the opponent's hands or body;

m) Approaching the opponent with a strike with the following entering the position, stipulated in subpoint l) Approaching the opponent with a strike, after which pushing the opponent from his position with hands or body follows. At the same time short touching of opponent's hands or body when stepping back to keep the distance is not considered the Rules violation;

n) Attacks of the knee joint with direct leg kicks: mae-geri, sokuto (foot edge kick) or heel kick (kakato);

o) In case if a competitor's seconds who came beside the competition area using abusive language and showing abusive gestures in respect of competitor's opponents or judges, the referee or the Executive Committee of the Championship shall give to this competitor an oral warning (keikoku). If afterwards his seconds continue performing abusive acts the rebuke (chui) will be given to this competitor, and in case of especially malicious abusive acts he will be given the penalty point (genten). In international competitions in case of giving the rebuke (chui) or the penalty point (genten) to a competitor for the disgraceful behavior of his seconds, when a representative of the same country which the punished competitor belongs to (in domestic competitions – of the same branch or club) enters the competition area for participation in a bout the number of his seconds shall be limited to 1 person;

p) The judges may also recognize the avoidance of fight (kakenige) to be the violation of the Rules (hansoku).

1) Such acts of a competitor, who earlier received the half point (waza-ari) or gained advantage due to penalizing his opponent with the penalty point (genten), as multiple attempts to deliver kick with deliberate fall (sutemi-waza) that yield no result, going out of the competition area (jogai), stops for putting clothes in order etc., can be estimated as avoidance of fight (kakenige). After a competitor commits 3rd act of such a kind the referee penalizes the competitor with an oral warning (keikoku).

2) If the competitor, having received an oral warning (keikoku), continues to commit similar acts, that can be considered as the avoidance of fight (kakenige), he can be penalized with the rebuke (chui).

2. The Rules violations shall be punished with rebukes (chui) in following order: the first violation shall be punished with the first rebuke (chui ichi), the second violation shall be punished with the second rebuke (chui ni) and with the first penalty point (genten ichi), the third violation shall be punished with the third rebuke (chui san), the fourth violation shall be punished with the fourth rebuke (chui yon), with the second penalty point (awasete genten ni), and with the disqualification of the competitor (shikkaku). Especially dangerous and malicious violation can be punished with the penalty point (genten ichi) straight away, without giving him first an oral warning (keikoku) or the rebuke (chui).

### **ORAL WARNINGS (KEIKOKU)**

1. If the referee perceived a violation of the Rules (hansoku) in competitor's acts and stopped the bout but was not supported by the corner judges, or if three or four corner judges showed «Hansoku!» («Violation of rules!») and the referee stopped the bout but reckoned the violation to be minor and not deserving to be punished by the rebuke (chui), the referee may give the offender an oral warning (keikoku).

2. If a competitor, having received an oral warning (keikoku) for a violation, continues to commit similar violations, he may be given the rebuke (chui), even if the violation was minor.

3. Oral warnings (keikoku) shall not be taken into account when the judges make their decision on the result of bout (hantei).

4. If a competitor was given an oral warning (keikoku) due to the abusive behavior of his seconds, and if his seconds continue to behave themselves abusively, the competitor may be given the rebuke (chui).

### **PENALTY POINT (GENTEN)**

1. The first penalty point (genten ichi) shall be given in the following cases:
  - a) if a competitor receives the second rebuke (chui ni);
  - b) in case of especially serious violation of the Rules;
  - c) if the referee regards behavior of a competitor during the bout as disrespectful to the opponent or to the judges; the competitor shall be liable for the same acts of his seconds;
  - d) the penalty point (genten) correlates with the half point (waza-ari) in this way: penalty point (genten) + the rebuke (chui) = the half point (waza-ari).
2. If a competitor receives the second penalty point (genten ni), it shall entail his disqualification (shikkaku).

### **DISQUALIFICATION (SHIKKAKU)**

1. A competitor's disqualification shall be announced in following cases:
  - a) if a competitor receives the second penalty point (awasete genten ni);
  - b) if a competitor fails to obey orders of the judges during a bout;
  - c) in case of rude and disrespectful behavior or especially gross violation of the Rules;
  - d) in case of demonstration of exultation (guts-pose including) after declaration of victory by the decision of the judges (hantei gachi), by the clear victory (ippon gachi) or of awarding to him of the half point (waza-ari), that can be considered as the breach of etiquette or demonstration of disrespect to the opponent;
  - e) if a competitor comes to the competition area for a bout more than 1 minute later than the time or does not enter to it at all;
  - f) in case if a competitor's weight exceeds the limit set for his weight category.
2. Doping shall be prohibited. In case of positive doping test disqualification of the competitor shall be announced, and all results of the fights he participated shall be cancelled.

### **CONSTANT VIGILANCE (ZANSHIN)**

1. Having heard whistle of a corner judge pointing to the rule violation (hansoku) or to the exit from the competition area (jogai), the competitor has in no circumstances the right to make by himself/ herself decision to stop fighting and relax, losing vigilance.
2. Bout competitor must always obey the referee's commands.
3. Bout competitor has to maintain vigilance even after the referee's «Yame!» («Stop!») command. If a competitor loses vigilance (zanshin), allows delivering him a strike and is knocked out, the judges may decide to admit his clear defeat (ippon make).
4. If a bout competitor delivered a strike to his opponent after the referee's «Yame!» («Stop!») command, in case his opponent preserved the capability to continue fighting, depending on the damage caused to him, the competitor may be punished with disqualification (shikkaku), the penalty point (genten), the rebuke (chui) or an oral warning (keikoku):
  - a) in case a competitor, having received a strike, was knocked down, got a serious injury, which became the reason for brief loss of consciousness by him, or got an injury, which could influence the further development of bout, even if he raised to his feet, the competitor, who delivered the strike, is disqualified (shikkaku);

b) in case a competitor, having received a strike, was knocked down, but did not lose consciousness, got a light injury, or only temporarily lost his ability to move, the competitor, who delivered the strike, is given the penalty point (genten);

c) in case a competitor received a strike, but did not get serious injury, the competitor, who delivered the strike, is given the rebuke (chui);

d) in case the strike missed the target, the competitor, who delivered the strike, is given an oral warning (keikoku).

### **REFUSAL TO TAKE PART IN BOUT OR COMPETITIONS (SHIAI HOKI)**

1. If a competitor refuses to take part in a bout without any good reason he has to pay compensation in the amount of up to 150 thousand Japanese yen (in competitions outside Japan organizers shall fix an appropriate penalty amount). Exceptions to this rule are listed below:

a) if upon the medical examination the chief physician of the competitions decides that the competitor is not capable to continue fighting;

b) if any contingencies (e.g. a misfortune in the competitor's family and the like) occur immediately before the beginning of or during the competitions, the competitor can leave the place of the competitions upon the authorization granted by the Arbitrator of the Competitions (taikai shinpancho), the Head of the Consultative Board (Shingiiincho) and the competitions' advocate.

### **LACK OF THE FIGHTING SPIRIT (MUKIRYOKU SHIAI)**

1. If the competitors, who won victories in preceding bouts, demonstrate sluggish, inactive fighting manner during their fight with each other, which contrasts sharply with the active fighting manner they showed in the previous bouts, then the referee (without consulting corner judges) has the right to punish both of them with the rebuke (chui). If this measure does not help to change the character of fighting during the bout, the referee has the right to stop the bout and, after consultation with the Superior Arbitrator (saiko shinpancho), to disqualify both competitors (shikkaku).

2. When disqualification (shikkaku) happens in a bout for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places, then the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places remain vacant. When disqualification (shikkaku) happens in a fight for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> places, then the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> places remain vacant.

3. When disqualification (shikkaku) happens during the tournament bouts, then those competitors who lost bouts to the disqualified competitors will continue competing in the next round of the competitions.