

**TOURNAMENT RULES
and
REGULATIONS**



HANDBOOK

Revised July 2018

United States Karate Alliance

SUMMARY OF TOURNAMENT RULES

A full copy of the Alliance rule book including Alliance Judges & Referee certification exam may be downloaded for free at the USKA website. www.uskaratealliance.com

Sparring (Kumite)

1.0 Match

The winners of match shall be the competitor who has scored five (5) points or the most points scored prior to expiration of time.

2.0 Duration of Match

Time limit of all matches shall be two (2) minutes running time. The Center Referee is the only person authorized to stop time (i.e. equipment repair, injury or safety of competitors). In the event of tied score, the match will continue into a sudden-victory overtime with the first point awarded to determine the winner.

3.0 Points Awarded

The Center Referee will award all points by majority vote of the Center Referee and the Corner Judges. Scoring areas are the head (except the top of the head), face (adult brown belts and black belts only may lightly touch the face; children competitors and adults under brown belt may score to the face, provided there is NO contact), chest, abdomen (upper and lower), back (excluding shoulders and spine), kidneys and groin. The Center Referee will call to score all points (which have been observed to the scoring area by controlled hand or foot techniques) and the Corner Judges will indicate their award simultaneously after command from the Center Referee; late flag or call will not be considered for award of point. There must be at all times a majority vote to award points. There will be no half points awarded; only full points.

4.0 Face Contact or Uncontrolled Techniques

Uncontrolled or blind techniques will not be tolerated in any division. Face contact will not be allowed in any division except Adult Brown and Black Belt divisions. Face contact which rocks the head will result in a warning, penalty point, or disqualification. Face contact which severely rocks the head, causes immediate swelling, redness, bleeding (except from a minor scratch in the Adult Brown and Black Belt divisions), or unconsciousness will not be allowed and will result in immediate disqualification. If a competitor executes a technique which inflicts any injury, damage, bruise, abrasion, redness of the face, swelling, laceration, fracture, dislocation, bleeding (except from a minor scratch in the Adult Brown and Black Belt divisions), unconsciousness, or any condition stated in the Rule Book, the competitor executing the technique will be disqualified. There are three (3) levels of penalties which may be imposed during a match; a warning, a point penalty, and disqualification. Penalties are cumulative in nature. Once a penalty has been imposed, the next penalty will automatically be escalated, except for violation of the out-of-bounds rules. In the event of injuries, medical personnel will make the decision as to whether or not the competitor will continue to compete.

5.0 Out of Bounds

A competitor who steps out of bounds; or, steps on the out of bounds line with one or both feet and is not forced out of bounds and is evading the opponent, will be penalized by: (A) warning for the first infraction; and (B) a penalty point awarded to the opponent for each infraction thereafter.

6.0 Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated at any time during the tournament by the competitor, the competitors' instructor, or anyone associated with the competitor. Violations will result in a warning, a point penalty, or a disqualification depending upon the severity and will be included in the competitor's cumulative penalties. Coaching will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and is not allowed.

7.0 Team Sparring

Each team round shall be one (1) minute in duration. The team with the most total points scored shall be declared the winner. In case of a tie, then a representative from each team will compete in a sudden-victory overtime extension match. The team winner will be the team competitor first awarded a point. If a member of a team is disqualified, that team member's points will be deducted from the team's total points and the opposing team shall receive two additional points.

Individual Forms (Kata)

1.0 Board

The Kata and Weapons Board shall be comprised of an odd number between three (3) and seven (7) qualified judges; however, five (5) are recommended if a sufficient number of qualified judges are available. Five (5) judges are required for all Black Belt Kata divisions. There may not be more than two (2) black belts from any one instructor nor more than one (1) black belt from a single school on any Kata or Weapons Board if there are other qualified judges available and they are willing to judge.

2.0 Scoring

Scoring in all kata divisions shall be by the ten (10) point decimal system. The lowest possible score shall be 0.00 while the highest possible score shall be 10.00. If there are less than three (3) competitors in any one division, each competitor shall be scored after performing his/her respective kata. The Center Judge shall call for all judges to score simultaneously. If there are more than three (3) competitors in any one division, the Kata Board shall observe the first three competitors prior to any competitor in the division receiving a score. Once the three competitors have performed their katas, their scores will be awarded; thereafter, each competitor will be scored after his/her kata has been performed.

When the Kata or Weapons Board is comprised of three (3) judges, all scores received will be added together to determine the winner. When the Kata or Weapons Board is comprised of five (5) or more judges, the highest and lowest scores are eliminated from computation of the scores. If, after computation of the scores, there is a tie, the competitors who have tied will be required to perform an additional form to break the tie. For intermediate and advanced competitors, the additional form performed must be a different form to break the tie. For beginning competitors, the additional form may be the same form again, or a different form to break the tie. (Excluding Weapons divisions.) When two (2) competitors are tied, the Board will determine a winner after both competitors have performed their respective tie-breaking form, by each member of the Board pointing one arm to the competitor they perceive to be the winner simultaneously when the Center Judge calls for score. When more than two (2) competitors are tied or the Board determines, the winner will be decided by scoring the individual competitors after they have performed their respective katas.

3.0 Weapons Requirements

All Weapons utilized in weapons kata competition shall be real weapons, such as were used in ancient times and were designed specifically for fighting or as farm implements or tools; authentic weapons per their style. Children under the age of 13 shall not use a weapon with a live blade. The katas must incorporate actual fighting techniques, as if the use of the weapon was for a real fighting situation. All weapons must have lethal strength and hardness to inflict serious physical injury to an opponent when used in an actual encounter. Specific weapon requirements are stated in the Rule Book. The Weapons Kata Board shall inspect each competitor's weapon to ensure that the minimum requirements are met or exceeded for weapons competition. A wooden weapon should not break with the application of a normal force when applied to its middle. Failure to meet or exceed these minimums may result in the weapon being disqualified and the competitors rejected from weapons competition.



United States Karate Alliance

Tournament Rules and Regulations Handbook

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ARTICLE 1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE TOURNAMENT RULES HANDBOOK:

1.1.a The Tournament Rules Handbook (Rules) establishes competition rules for tournaments sanctioned by the United States Karate Alliance, Inc. (hereinafter "Alliance").

1.1.b The Rules serve as a reference guide to provide standards and to enhance uniformity of the judging methods and safety of the competitors.

1.1.c The Rules establish clear standards to promote fair and impartial treatment of competitors by officials.

1.1.d The Rules establish requirements and define authority for all referees, judges, arbitrators, competitors or anyone associated with an Alliance-sanctioned tournament.

1.2 ALLIANCE LICENSED TOURNAMENT COMPETITION OFFICIALS:

1.2.a The Alliance has established licensing requirements for tournament competition officials to allow for fair and impartial judging. Listed below are the requirements to obtain certification as tournament officials. The individual seeking certification must meet or exceed these minimum requirements.

1.2.b An Alliance certified referee or judge may not be removed from a ring without good cause shown.

1.3 REFEREE:

1.3.a A referee is qualified to direct (center) a kumite ring or kata judging panel at local, regional, national or world championship events.

1.3.b The duties of an Alliance Referee are set forth below and may be amended from time to time by the Alliance Rules and Referee Committee. The duties of an Alliance Referee are to:

Exercise general supervision over the activities of the competitors;

Attend periodic technical training instruction in conjunction with the Rules and Referee Examining Board and be re-certified every other year;

Interpret, explain or define any provision of the Rules to any person requesting such assistance;

Enforce all provisions of the Rules at any Alliance sanctioned tournament; and,

Apprise the Alliance Rules and Referee Committee of any matter or activity as it pertains to the interpretation or enforcement of the Rules; and,

Inform other Alliance licensed referees and judges within their respective region of all changes to methods, rules, policies or procedures as provided by the Alliance Rules and Referee Committee.

1.3.c In the event that more than one (1) Alliance Referee should attend the same tournament, the line of authority shall be the Alliance Directors, Rules and Referee Committee Chairman, highest ranking member of the Rules and Referee Committee, and then the highest ranking Referee.

1.3.d The candidate for Referee must have obtained a minimum rank of 1st Dan, be at least eighteen (18) years old, have been certified as a judge, have attended at least two (2) Alliance-sanctioned Rules & Referee seminars, have successfully passed the Referee's examination conducted under the authority of the Alliance Rules and Referee Committee, and be approved by the Rules Committee Chairman or the Alliance Directors.

1.4 JUDGE:

1.4.a A Judge is qualified to direct (center) a kumite ring or kata panel at local and regional events. At national or world events, the judge may be used as a corner judge or kata panel judge.

1.4.b The duties of a Judge are set forth below and may be amended from time to time by the Alliance Rules and Referee Committee. The duties of a Judge are to:

Exercise general supervision over the activities of the competitors at tournaments within their respective regions;

Attend periodic technical training instruction in conjunction with the Alliance Rules and Referee Committee and be re-certified every other year (or be certified as a Referee as set forth in section 1.3);

Interpret, explain or define any provision of the Rules to any person requesting such assistance;

Enforce all provisions of the Rules at any Alliance sanctioned tournament; and,

Apprise the Alliance Rules and Referee Committee of any matter or activity pertaining to the interpretation or enforcement of the Rules;

1.4.c The candidate for Judge must have obtained a minimum rank of Brown Belt, be at least eighteen (18) years old, have attended one (1) Alliance-sanctioned Rules & Referee seminar, and have successfully passed the Judge's examination conducted under the authority of the Alliance. Sixteen (16) and seventeen (17) year old Brown and Black Belts who have successfully passed the Judge's examination conducted under the authority of the Alliance will be given a certificate of completion.

ARTICLE 2 - SANCTIONING OF TOURNAMENTS

2.1 BENEFITS OF ALLIANCE-SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS:

2.1.a Alliance promoters may request that the Alliance sanction their tournaments. The Alliance will notify its members of the tournaments and apply points for placing toward the Alliance national point standings. At the annual Alliance World Championships, Bushido awards for the national point championships will be bestowed upon the 10 competitors with the highest accumulated total points in each division.

2.2 PROCEDURES TO SANCTION A TOURNAMENT:

2.2.a An Alliance school owner member desiring to obtain either an Alliance maximum point sanctioned tournament must submit a written request using the tournament sanction request form (Exhibit 1) at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of the proposed maximum point tournament. To assure publication of the tournament on the Alliance website (uskaratealliance.com), notice should be given to Alliance Headquarters as soon as possible.

2.2.b Promoters, or their representative, shall endeavor to attend the Alliance Annual Convention each year in order to continue to host Alliance sanctioned tournaments.

2.2.c The Board of Directors of the Alliance reserves the right to deny a tournament sanction.

2.2.d All sanctioned tournaments must be held on a Saturday or Sunday. The only exceptions will be Alliance National or World Championship events, or with prior approval from Headquarters.

2.2.e Failure to pay the fee in a timely manner will result in a \$100.00 late charge, and the possible denial of future sanctions.

2.3 SANCTIONING APPROVAL PROCESS:

2.3.a Upon approval by Headquarters, the appropriate Regional Director and State Representative will be notified of the sanctioned tournament.

2.3.b All advertisements of sanctioned tournaments will state that the tournament is sanctioned by the Alliance, has a maximum sanction, and that Alliance Rules will be utilized and enforced unless special permission has been obtained as set forth in 2.4.

2.3.c There shall be no more than two (2) sanctioned tournaments held per state during any given calendar month.

2.3.d Other Alliance sanctioned tournaments within a region may not be held on the same date as the State or Regional tournament.

2.3.e Other Alliance sanctioned tournaments may not be held on the same date as the Nationals or World event within the country.

2.4 UTILIZATION OF RULES:

2.4.a The current Alliance competition rules will be utilized and enforced at all times during Alliance-sanctioned tournaments. Exceptions to Alliance rules are allowed if prohibited or contrary to Federal or State Law, local ordinances or insurance regulations, or with special approval of the Board of Directors. All exceptions must be cleared by the Alliance Headquarters 30 days prior to the sanctioned tournaments. Failure to abide by the rules will result in disciplinary actions against the Tournament Promoter, which may include, but is not limited to, refusal of the Alliance to sanction future tournaments with the promoter and denial of points to competitors.

2.5 REQUIREMENT OF ALLIANCE CERTIFIED REFEREE AS CHIEF REFEREE:

2.5.a An Alliance certified Referee must be the Chief Referee at all Alliance sanctioned events to ensure that Alliance rules are followed and enforced. Failure to do so may result in denial of future sanctions. Exceptions may be allowed by Alliance Headquarters to encourage competition with other karate organizations, but must be cleared by headquarters 30 days prior to the sanctioned tournament.

ARTICLE 3 - TYPES OF TOURNAMENTS

3.1 TYPES OF TOURNAMENTS:

3.1.a Presently, the Alliance will sanction six (6) types of tournaments which allow members to earn points toward the national point championships:

A double maximum point tournament reserved for the World Championships. The World Championships are open to all competitors of all styles;

A double maximum point tournament reserved for the Alliance National Championships. Alliance Nationals are open to all black belts of all styles. Adult and children kyu ranks must qualify to compete at Nationals (Black Belts do NOT need to qualify). Under black belt competitors may qualify by winning or placing at the latest **Alliance sanctioned** state tournament, regional tournament, double maximum point tournament, World championships, Nationals, or by being ranked in the top twenty (20) of the current and previous years National points standings;

A double maximum point tournament as approved by Alliance Headquarters.

A Regional tournament, which is a maximum plus ten points event;

A State tournament, which is a maximum plus five points event;

A maximum point tournament;

3.1.b The Alliance may provide for additional types of sanctioning if approved by Alliance Headquarters.

3.2 MAXIMUM POINT TOURNAMENTS:

3.2.a The sanction fee for a maximum-point sanction for Alliance school or association members is \$300.00 per tournament. Any changes in the fee for a tournament sanction will be announced at the Alliance Nationals Annual Convention and on the Alliance website. Maximum point tournaments must be sanctioned sixty (60) days before the tournament.

3.2.b Alliance competitors who place at Alliance maximum point tournaments will receive twenty (20) points for first place, fifteen (15) points for second place, ten (10) points for third place, and three (3) points for fourth place. Competitors will also receive an additional five (5) points for Grand Champion in sparring or forms.

3.2.c Competitors may compete in one kata, kumite, and kobudo point division. However, competitors may enter any specialty division not required nor counted in the National points competition in which they qualify to compete. (Example: A black belt kata competitor may enter black belt men kata and black belt musical kata divisions, but points are only tabulated from the black belt men kata division since that is a required division.) Some examples of specialty divisions which are not required

nor counted in the National points competition are continuous sparring, musical forms, self defense, team kata, and team kumite.

3.3 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, NATIONALS, REGIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENTS:

3.3.a The World Championships and the Nationals will be held by the United States Karate Alliance, Inc. The World Championships and the Nationals are double maximum point tournaments.

3.3.b Alliance Competitors who place at a double maximum point tournament such as World Championships and Nationals will receive double the points of a maximum point tournament for first, second and third place and will receive ten(10) points for fourth place. Competitors will receive an additional ten (10) points for a Grand Champion in sparring or forms.

3.3.c State and Regional tournaments will only be held by the appointed State and Regional Representatives unless otherwise provided for by the Alliance Directors due to compelling circumstances. These events must be sanctioned sixty (60) days prior to the tournament and must be published on the Alliance website.

3.3.d The sanction fee for State and Regional tournaments for Alliance school or association members is \$275.00 per tournament.

3.3.e Alliance competitors who place at a State tournament will receive an additional five points per place for first, second and third place, and will receive five (5) points for fourth place. Competitors will receive an additional five (5) points for a Grand Champion in sparring or forms.

3.3.f Alliance Competitors who place at a Regional tournament will receive an additional ten points for first, second and third place, and will receive seven (7) points for fourth place. Competitors will receive an additional seven (7) points for a Grand Champion in sparring or forms.

3.4 TOURNAMENT FLYERS:

3.4.a Promoters of Alliance sanctioned tournaments must send out flyers announcing the date, location, and time of their tournament at least thirty (30) days prior to the tournament. Tournament flyers must be sent to Alliance headquarters at least 30 days prior to the event to be posted on the Alliance website. Tournament promoters may contact Headquarters for an email mailing list and mailing list for Alliance members and school owners in their area. Such email list and mailing list is the sole proprietary information of the Alliance and not to be given to others or used by anyone for any purpose other than advertising an Alliance sanctioned event. Promoters that violate this provision may be subject to a claim of damages.

3.5 AWARDS:

Tournament awards must be given for first, second, third and fourth places in each division. The awards must be commensurate to the entry fees charged.

3.6 GRAND CHAMPION POINTS:

3.6.a Additional points may be earned for Grand Championship wins if the promoter chooses to offer the additional divisions, as points may only be awarded if separate Grand Champion kata or kumite

rounds are held and judged as additional divisions. Kumite Grand Championships may only be held for Adult Black Belts. Since Grand Champion rounds are optional, if the promoter decides to offer these divisions, points may be awarded to one Youth Beginning Kata Grand Champion, one Youth Intermediate Kata Grand Champion, one Youth Advanced Kata Grand Champion, one Adult Kyu Kata Grand Champion, one Youth Weapons Grand Champion, one Adult Kyu Weapons Grand Champion, and all Black Belt Grand Champions. All Grand Champions will be awarded Grand Champion points as set forth in Sections 3.2 and 3.3 above. In order to earn additional points for Grand Championship wins, a grandchampion match for kumite or grandchampion kata runoff must be held and consist of two or more winners from separate divisions.

3.7 SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS:

3.7.a All USKA tournament promoters MUST have a current USKA School Membership in good standings.

ARTICLE 4 - TOURNAMENT RESULTS

4.1 SUBMISSION OF TOURNAMENT RESULTS:

4.1.a Tournament results, copies of entry forms and bracketing sheets must be submitted to Headquarters or the National Point Coordinator by mail within two weeks after the sanctioned tournament. The tournament promoter shall make sure the bracketing sheets are legible and fully completed. Exhibit 4 gives instructions of what needs to be included in the submission of tournament results.

4.1.b Failure of the Tournament Promoter to submit tournament results timely to Headquarters may result in disciplinary actions against the Tournament Promoter, which may include, but is not limited to, refusal of the Alliance to sanction further tournaments with the Promoter, possible denial of points to competitors, a 1 year suspension from holding an Alliance sanctioned tournament and/or a \$100.00 late charge.

4.1.c A state or regional representative who fails to submit state or regional tournament results and the addresses of the winners to Alliance Headquarters within the allotted time may be subject to disciplinary actions as set forth in 4.1.b above, and may be placed on probation from holding a state or regional Alliance sanctioned tournament in the next point year. Any probation shall be determined by the Directors.

4.1.d INQUIRIES regarding the National Points Competition may be made by E-mail or by sending a self addressed stamped envelope to Alliance Headquarters.

4.1.e Possible DISCREPANCIES on the National Points Competition must be made by E-mail or by mail to Alliance Headquarters and must be made within thirty (30) days of the publication of the Points Standing on the website, wherein the discrepancy occurs. Any discrepancies that are not timely protested will remain as published and carry forward to the next publication of points.

4.1.f In the event of tied scores in any division in the individual point competition, the tie will be broken in the following manner and order until a tie is broken:

1. Total 1st places at Double maximum tournaments (such as World Championships and Nationals);
2. Total points at double maximum tournaments;
3. Total 1st places at regional tournaments;
4. Total points at regional tournaments;
5. Total 1st places at state tournaments;
6. Total points at state tournaments;
7. Total 1st places at maximum sanctioned tournaments;
8. Total points at maximum sanctioned tournaments;
9. Total 1st place points in all tournaments;
10. Total 2nd place points in all tournaments;
11. Total 3rd place points in all tournaments;
12. Which competitor obtained the position first in the division in which the tie occurred.

4.1.i Any discrepancies in the point standings must be brought to the attention of Headquarters in accordance with Section 4.1.e above. If a discrepancy is verified, and brought to the attention of

Headquarters as required by Section 4.1.e above, it will be corrected in the next publication of the point standings.

4.2 NATIONAL POINT STANDINGS:

4.2.a On at least a quarterly basis, Alliance Headquarters will post the current National Point Standings on the Alliance website. An individual may receive a copy of the current National Point Standings by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to headquarters requesting a copy.

4.2.b To be eligible for placement in the Final National Point Standings, a competitor must be a current Alliance member. Failure of the individual to become an Alliance member by May 30 after the end of the point year, will result in the removal of the individual from the National Point Standings.

4.2.c To be eligible for placement in the National Point Standings in the Team of the Year and/or cumulative team points, a school must be registered with the Alliance.

4.2.d Copies of the applicable forms to register an individual or school are included as Exhibits 5 and 6 and may be downloaded from the Alliance website. Individuals and school owners may make copies of the applicable forms to submit to Headquarters with the required fee.

4.2.e The national points competition will include the following divisions of competition:

Black Belt Men Forms	Teen Boys & Girls Forms (14 - 15 yr.)
Black Belt Men Sparring	(Beg. & Adv.)
Black Belt Women Forms	Teen Boys Sparring (14 - 15 yr.)
Black Belt Women Sparring	(Beg. & Adv.)
	Teen Girls Sparring (14 - 15 yr.)
Intermediate Men Forms*	(Beg. & Adv.)
Intermediate Men Sparring*	
Intermediate Women Forms*	Junior Boys & Girls Forms (12 - 13 yr.)
Intermediate Women Sparring*	(Beg., Int. & Adv.)
*(blue through brown)	Juniors Boys Sparring (12-13 yr.)
	(Beg., Int. & Adv.)
Novice Men Forms**	Juniors Girls Sparring (12-13 yr.) (Beg. & Adv.)
Novice Men Sparring**	
Novice Women Forms**	
Novice Women Sparring**	Youth Boys & Girls Forms (10 - 11 yr.)
** (white, orange and yellow)	(Beg., Int. & Adv.)
	Youth Boys Sparring (10-11 yr.)
Young Men & Women Forms (16-17 yr.)	(Beg., Int. & Adv.)
(Beg. & Adv.)	Youth Girls Sparring (10-11 yr.) (Beg. & Adv.)
Young Men Sparring (16-17 yr.) (Beg. & Adv.)	
Young Women Sparring (16-17 yr.)	Dragon Boys & Girls Forms (8 - 9 yr.)
(Beg. & Adv.)	(Beg., Int. & Adv.)
	Dragon Boys Sparring (8-9 yr.)
	(Beg. Int & Adv.)
	Dragon Girls Sparring (8-9 yr.)
	(Beg. & Adv.)

Tiny Tigers Boys & Girls Forms (6-7 yr.)
(Beg. & Adv.)
Tiny Tigers Boys & Girls Sparring (6-7 yr.)
(Beg. & Adv.)

Mini Mites Boys & Girls Forms (5 & under)
Mini Mites Boys & Girls Sparring (5 & under)

Black Belt Men Weapons
Black Belt Women Weapons
Adult Kyu Weapons
Teen Weapons Male & Female (14 - 17 yr.)
Youth Weapons Male & Female (10 - 13 yr)
Tots Weapons Male & Female (9 yrs. & under)

Team of the Year
Instructor of the Year

4.2.f Bushido awards will be given to the top ten (10) competitors in each category. First, second and third place winners will receive a trophy or plaque and a certificate. Fourth through tenth place winners will receive a certificate.

4.2.g All points in the national points competition must remain for that point year in the first division in which the competitor receives points. If a competitor is promoted in rank and wishes any future points to be tabulated in the higher division, the competitor must notify headquarters in writing within 30 days of their promotion and relinquish claim to the competitor's current points in the old division, which will not be moved to the new division. If this change of divisions is not requested within 30 days, the points will continue to be tabulated in the original (first) division.

4.2.h The point year commences on May 7th of each year. The final day of the national point year is on the 6th of May.

4.2.i The divisions for youth are divided by age as listed in the United States Karate Alliance Rule Book. When a child has a birthday, the child must compete in the new age division. All points in the national points competition must remain for that point year in the first division in which the competitor receives points. If a competitor has a birthday which moves him/her to a new age division and wishes any future points to be tabulated in the new age division, the competitor must notify Headquarters in writing within 30 days of their birth date and relinquish claim to the competitor's current points in the old division, which will not be moved to the new division. Any points received after the competitor's birthday will then appear in the new age division. If this change of age divisions is not requested within 30 days, the points will continue to be tabulated in the original (first) age division.

4.2.j When an age group is divided into beginning, intermediate, and advanced divisions, the divisions are divided as set forth in 7.2.b below. When an advanced division has been divided into intermediate and advanced, the points will go to the advanced division unless the intermediate division is an Alliance required division.

4.2.k When a competitor competes in an Executive Division offered by a tournament promoto, their points are tabulated in their rank division as set forth in 4.2.e above.

4.2.l If a point competitor changes instructors during the point year, the competitor's points prior to the change remain with his old instructor. Any points the competitor receives after his change of instructor

then go to the new instructor's points and new team points, if applicable. The competitor must inform headquarters of the change in instructor status.

4.2.m A competitor who competes in the wrong division may lose their points and the points the competitor earned for their team and instructor. The Rules Committee will make this determination if an infraction has occurred.

4.3 NATIONAL INSTRUCTOR & TEAM-OF-THE-YEAR AWARDS:

4.3.a The instructor and team of the year awards will be based on the total number of points accumulated by their students who are current Alliance members.

4.3.b An instructor can only claim his/her individual students and black belts in the instructor and team competition. An instructor with more than one school must be present and teach at least once a week in the school in order to receive instructor points from that school.

4.3.c An instructor cannot designate his/her students' individual or team points to another instructor or team.

4.3.d Black belt instructors can designate his/her individual points to that black belt instructor's respective instructor. However, their points for team of the year must go to their own school.

4.3.e Any instructor who violates the rules will be disqualified from the Instructor and Team of the Year Competition.

ARTICLE 5 - TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

5.1 CHIEF REFEREE:

5.1.a The Chief Referee of an Alliance sanctioned tournament must have a current Alliance referee license. The Regional Representative and Alliance Headquarters must approve a proposed chief referee with an expired Alliance referee license.

5.1.b The Chief Referee shall enforce and interpret Alliance Rules and ensure that Alliance Rules are utilized at all times during the tournament.

5.2 REFEREE PANEL:

5.2.a The Referee Panel for sparring divisions shall consist of one (1) Center Referee and either two (2) or four (4) Corner Judges. Four (4) Corner Judges are recommended for all divisions if a sufficient number of qualified judges are available. Grand championship and black belt matches must have four (4) Corner Judges.

5.2.b The Referee Panel for form divisions shall consist of a Center Judge and a minimum of two (2) other judges. The total Referee Panel for form divisions shall be comprised of an odd number between three (3) and seven (7) qualified judges. Five (5) judges are recommended if a sufficient number of qualified judges are available. Grand championship and black belt divisions must have at least five (5) judges.

5.2.c The Referee Panel must be unbiased and impartial at all times. Qualified Black or Brown Belt Judges will not participate in a panel where a past or present family member is competing, if other judges are available. Qualified Black or Brown Belt Judges should not participate in a panel where their student is competing, if other judges are available.

5.2.d Brown Belts may be used on a Referee Panel in the event there is not a sufficient number of Black Belts available. In no event may Brown Belts judge Black Belt divisions. All members of the Referee Panel at the National Championships and the World Championships must be Black Belts.

5.2.e All members of the Referee Panel must be at least sixteen (16) years of age. All members of the Referee Panel at the National Championships and the World Championships must be at least 18 years of age.

5.2.f If five or more judges are on a Referee Panel for forms or weapons, the high and low score will be dropped. If only three judges are on a Referee Panel, all scores will be counted.

5.2.g An Alliance certified Referee or Judge may not be removed from a ring without good cause shown.

5.3 CENTER REFEREE:

5.3.a The Center Referee shall have complete control and authority over all competitors and all actions within the ring, including starting, suspending, extending, and ending of the matches. The Center Referee shall award points, provide explanations of point awards, determine the majority vote for point awards,

impose penalties or warnings (before or during the match) and request opinions of Corner Judges or Arbitrator.

5.3.b When a Corner Judge indicates a point has been scored or an infraction of the rules has occurred, the Corner Judge must inform the Center Referee. The Center Referee is responsible for acknowledging the Corner Judge's call.

5.3.c The Center Referee may disqualify a competitor if there is blood, unsportsmanlike conduct, or major rocking of the head, without a majority vote of the Corner Judges, provided that the appointed arbitrator for the tournament concurs with the Center Referee's decision.

5.4 **CORNER JUDGE:**

5.4.a The Corner Judge shall assist the Center Referee at all times during the match. The Corner Judge shall indicate whether a point has been scored, or an infraction of the Rules has occurred, and shall consult with the Center Referee, when so requested by the Center Referee.

5.5 **ARBITRATOR:**

5.5.a Arbitrator(s) shall be appointed by the tournament director and shall oversee the operation and actions of the competitors, judges, and coaches so as to enforce the Alliance Rules. The Arbitrator must have a current certification with the Alliance as a referee.

5.5.b If a controversy arises, the Arbitrator shall advise on technical issues and rule enforcement.

5.5.c The Arbitrator will make a final ruling on all protests at the tournament site.

5.5.d **A competitor must protest in writing an Arbitrator's decision to Alliance Headquarters within thirty (30) days of the incident as provided for in Article 14.**

5.6 **MEDICAL PERSONNEL:**

5.6.a There shall be in attendance at all Alliance sanctioned tournaments qualified medical personnel. Medical personnel must be a licensed and practicing medical doctor or a licensed professional within the medical field (EMT, paramedic, nurse, or other qualified and licensed medical personnel).

5.6.b Medical personnel will have the final authority as to whether or not an individual is fit to continue competition.

5.7 **TIME KEEPER:**

5.7.a Parents of competitors should not time keep in the same ring as their son or daughter if other Time Keepers are available.

5.7.b The Time Keeper will receive instructions from the Center Referee.

5.7.c During sparring, the Time Keeper shall tell the Center Referee when time has expired.

5.7.d During forms, the Time Keeper will assist the Score Keeper and announce in a clear and loud voice all scores for the Score Keeper to write down.

5.8 SCORE KEEPER:

5.8.a Parents of competitors should not score keep in the same ring as their son or daughter, if other Score Keepers are available.

5.8b The Score Keeper will receive instructions from the Center Referee.

5.8.c During sparring, the Score Keeper shall keep track of the points awarded to each competitor and tell the Center Referee when the maximum number of points has been awarded to a competitor.

5.8.d All disqualifications must be noted on the bracketing sheet. All disqualifications must also be reported to the Chief Referee and/or other tournament official and promoter, who must report it to headquarters.

5.8.e The criteria for the breakdown of divisions must be noted on bracketing sheets and results. For example: sex, age, rank, weight, and etc.

5.8.f During forms, if there are three judges on the panel, the Score Keeper shall add all three scores to determine a competitor's total score. If there are five judges on the panel, the Score Keeper shall strike the high and low score for each competitor and add the remaining three scores to determine the competitor's total score.

ARTICLE 6 - TOURNAMENT EVENTS

6.1 GENERAL INFORMATION:

6.1.a The events in any Alliance sanctioned tournament will consist of sparring, empty hand forms and weapons forms. Competitors may enter as many events as they desire, provided the competitor meets the requirements for that particular event; however, they may enter only one form, one sparring, and one weapons division that meets the requirements for an Alliance sanctioned competition and is a National Point division. For example, a 41 year old kyu competitor may not enter both Colored Belt Men Sparring and Executive Kyu Men Sparring. Competitors may also enter any specialty division for which they qualify that is not a required division nor counted in the National Point competition, i.e., Musical Forms, Team Sparring, Koshiki, Chanbara, and Self Defense. A sample entry form is included as Exhibit 7. Any competitor or team member who is not present when competition is called for his/her event will be disqualified and will not be allowed to compete in that particular event if the competition has begun unless the Chief Referee and Arbitrator allows such. In no event may a late competitor compete in a sparring division if the first bracket has been completed.

6.1.b A competitor must compete in the division which is appropriate for his/her current rank. They may not "compete up."

6.2 SPARRING:

6.2.a Individual sparring competition shall be divided into adult and youth categories. It is further divided into belt ranks and age divisions, with possible weight and gender divisions within each rank category as provided for in Article 7. A sample form for the bracketing and scoring of sparring divisions is included as Exhibit 8.

6.2.b Competitors may not have exhibition sparring matches with competitors of different sex, age, or rank divisions than their own.

6.3 FORMS:

6.3.a Form competition shall be divided into Adult and Youth categories. It is further divided into belt ranks for adults and belt ranks and age divisions for the youth. A hard style, soft style, or system category may be added, depending upon the desires of the Tournament Director if at least 3 competitors participate in each such division. A sample form for scoring form divisions is included as Exhibit 9.

6.3.b Any competitor in a form division must do the style of form required for the division. The judges will score an improper form with a lower score. Example: A competitor who competes with a hard style form in a soft style division will receive a lower score than the competitors performing a soft style form.

6.4 WEAPONS:

6.4.a Weapons competition is divided into tots, youth, teen, adult kyu, black belt men, and black belt women. Other divisions may be added depending upon the number of competitors and the desires of the Tournament Director. Tots weapons competitors are 9 years of age and under. Youth weapons competitors are 10 to 13 years of age. Teen weapons competitors are 14 to 17 years of age.

6.4.b If the tournament promoter chooses to divide the tots, youth, teen, or adult kyu weapons divisions, and there enough competitors to make the split (see 7.3 below), the promoter may make the split using their own discretion. The division will be labeled according to the criteria used.

ARTICLE 7 - TOURNAMENT DIVISIONS

7.1 ADULT

7.1.a Adult men or women divisions are comprised of competitors eighteen (18) years and older. Executive divisions are comprised of competitors 40 years and holder. Masters divisions are comprised of 6th degree black belts or higher and 50 years and older. The divisions are divided by rank for both men and women with novice (white, orange or yellow belt), intermediate (blue through brown) and black belt divisions. Sparring may also be divided into separate weight classifications for men and women. The minimum required divisions for adults at a tournament are the same as in the National Points Standings and are set forth in 4.2.e above.

7.1.b Additional divisions required at World Championships and Nationals are:

Executive Black Belt Kata

Executive Black Belt Men Sparring

Executive Black Belt Women Sparring

(Executive divisions are comprised of competitors 40 years and older)

7.1.c. The Tournament Director may decide to have lightweight and heavy weight classifications, provided there are at least three (3) competitors per weight division. In such case, the dividing point is 185 lbs. and under for men and 140 lbs. and under for women. Some tournament promoters may offer other weight classifications for men provided there are at least three (3) competitors per weight division. Here are some recommended guidelines:

Men's sparring:

Lightweight =	159 lbs & under	OR	Lightweight =	159 lbs. & under
Middleweight =	160 lbs. to 184 lbs.		Middleweight =	160 lbs. to 179 lbs.
Heavyweight =	185 lbs. and over		Light heavyweight =	180 lbs. to 199 lbs.
			Heavyweight =	200 lbs. and over

7.1.d Competitors must compete in their proper weight division for any event divided by weight class when the weight classes have been posted and so advertised.

7.2 YOUTH

7.2.a The minimum required divisions for youth competitors at a tournament are the same as in the National Points Standings and are set forth in 4.2.e above.

7.2.b When beginning, intermediate and advanced divisions are offered, they shall be divided as follows:

A beginning student **8 years old & up** is a 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th ... kyu, gup, kup, or grade **OR** is a student who has been continuously training for 1-1/2 years and under – whichever is most restrictive;

An intermediate student **8 years old & up** is a 4th, 5th, 6th kyu, gup, kup, or grade **OR** is a student who has been continuously training for between 1-1/2 years to 4 years – whichever is most restrictive;

An advanced student **8 years old & up** is a 3rd, 2nd, of 1st kyu, gup, kup, or grade, a black belt **OR** a student who has been continuously training for over 4 years - whichever is most restrictive.

A beginning student **7 years old & under** is a 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th ... kyu, gup, kup, or grade **OR** is a student who has been continuously training for 2 years and under – whichever is most restrictive;

An intermediate student **7 years old & under** is a 4th, 5th, 6th kyu, gup, kup, or grade **OR** is a student who has been continuously training for between 2 years to 4 years – whichever is most restrictive;

An advanced student **7 years old & under** is a 3rd, 2nd, or 1st kyu, gup, kup, grade, or a black belt **OR** has been training more than 4 years- whichever is most restrictive.

When only beginning and advanced divisions are offered, they shall be divided as follows:

A beginning student **8 years old & up** is a 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th ... kyu, gup, kup, or grade; **OR** is a student who has been continuously training for 1-1/2 years and under – whichever is most restrictive.

An advanced student **8 years old & up** is a 6th, 5th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, 1st kyu, gup, kup, grade, or a black belt **OR** who has been training more than 1-1/2 years continuously - whichever is more restrictive.

A beginning student **7 years old and under** is a 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th ... kyu, gup, kup, or grade **OR** is a student who has been continuously training for 2 years and under – whichever is most restrictive.

An advanced student is a 6th, 5th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, 1st kyu, gup, kup, grade, or a black belt **OR** is a student who has been continuously training for over 2 years - whichever is most restrictive.

Competitors with learning or physical special needs may petition headquarters for an exception.

7.2.c Age divisions which require beginning and advanced, or beginning, intermediate, and advanced, stand on their own as required divisions. For example, Teen Boys Advanced Sparring could be divided into intermediate and advanced if there are a minimum of three competitors in advanced, and three competitors in intermediate, and are not dependent on the number of competitors in the beginning division.

7.2.d Males and females will not compete against each other in the Young Men & Women (16-17), Teen (14-15), Junior (12-13), Youth (10-11), or Dragons (8-9) sparring divisions. Males and Females shall compete together in the forms division, unless the tournament promoter decides to divide them, provided there are three (3) competitors in each newly formed division..

7.2.e If the age of a competitor is challenged by an opponent's instructor, a tournament official, or the Tournament Director, the competitor shall provide proof of age within thirty (30) days of said challenge to the Tournament Director; otherwise, the competitor's points awarded for the tournament will be nullified and the competitor disqualified from the national point standings.

7.2.f The divisions for children are divided by age as listed in the United States Karate Alliance Rule Book. When a child has a birthday, the child must compete in the new age division. However, the child's points continue to go to the age division of the child where he/she first placed during the point year (the point year begins on May 7th), unless he/she has made the proper request as set forth in 4.2.i. When competing in an Alliance multi-day tournament, such as Alliance Nationals or World Championships, the child may compete in the age division of the child on the 1st day of the tournament.

7.3 MINIMUM NUMBER OF COMPETITORS NEEDED TO INCREASE DIVISIONS:

7.3.a The divisions listed in the Alliance Rule Book are the minimum required divisions. Example: A Promoter may not combine brown and black belt women in an advanced division or combine two age divisions for the youth divisions. If the Promoter has three competitors to create additional divisions, the Promoter may increase the number of divisions, provided that the remaining divisions have at least three

competitors. Example: If there are twenty teen advanced (14-15) competitors, the Promoter may split the division into teen intermediate (14-15) and teen advanced (14-15), as set forth in 7.2.b. There are no required minimum number of competitors for a required division. Example: If there are three advanced tiny tigers (6-7) competitors and one beginning tiny tigers (6-7) competitor, the Promoter may not combine the tiny tots competitors into one division because it is required to have both a beginning tiny tigers (6-7) division and an advanced tiny tigers (6-7) division.

7.3.b If a competitor competes in a multi-sanctioned Alliance tournament, and competes in a division with less than three people, the competitor must notify headquarters in writing within 30 days of the event in order to have their points tabulated.

7.3.c All Advertised point divisions offered at Double Maximum point tournaments will be tabulated regardless of the number of competitors. The Advertised point divisions would be treated as required divisions.

ARTICLE 8 - TOURNAMENT ATTIRE

8.1 LICENSED REFEREES AND JUDGES:

8.1.a All licensed Alliance tournament officials should wear a martial arts uniform or a white shirt (long or short sleeves), light gray trousers, a single-breasted navy blue blazer with the Alliance patch displayed on the breast pocket (the blazer may be removed if the situation so dictates), a plain red tie, and dark slip-on shoes for use when not officiating. Alliance Hall of Famers may wear HOF Polo shirt with gray trousers, if desired.

8.2 OTHER TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS:

8.2.a A non-Alliance licensed official may wear the attire of a licensed Alliance official or the appropriate uniform for his/her particular style.

8.3 COMPETITORS:

8.3.a Competitors will wear a clean and appropriate martial arts uniform. When competing in sparring divisions, a uniform top must be worn in which the sleeves extend past the elbow.

8.3.b All competitors shall present themselves in a clean and safe manner.

8.3.c The following objects are prohibited from wear during sparring competition: metal hair clips, jewelry or other metallic objects, eye glasses which are not safety eye glasses, metal or plastic medical braces or bandages, and plaster casts of any type.

8.3.d If, in the opinion of the Center Referee, and in consultation with the Arbitrator, any competitor's attire violates this Section, the Center Referee may declare the competitor ineligible for further competition until such attire has been corrected.

ARTICLE 9 - PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

9.1 PURPOSE:

9.1.a The purpose of competitors' use of protective equipment is to minimize injuries to the competitors. The key to safety and prevention of injuries in any sparring competition does not lie solely in utilizing safety equipment, but also in the competitors' control and attitude.

9.1.b If there is any conflict between these Rules and any local or state law, rule or regulation, such local or state law, rule or regulation shall supersede Alliance Rules.

9.2 APPROVED EQUIPMENT:

9.2.a The following is a list of mandatory protective equipment at all sanctioned tournaments; approved head gear, hand gear, foot gear and mouth guards for all divisions and groin cups for all male competitors. If local law, rule or regulation requires additional equipment, such additional equipment will be required.

9.2.b Ace bandages and other cloth bandages/braces are allowed provided they are made completely of fabric and do not contain any metal, plastic or other hard material.

9.2.c Head, hand & footgear must be dipped foam or molded foam covered in vinyl. The gloves must have capability of at least $\frac{3}{4}$ finger coverage, and footgear must cover toes. Hand pads and instep pads covered in elastic cloth which do not give coverage for fingers & toes will not be permitted. Hard plastic shin and forearm guards are prohibited. MMA gloves and shoes, Tiger Claw gloves and WKF gloves may not be worn in the sparring divisions.

ARTICLE 10 - COMPETITION AREA

10.1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS:

10.1.a The competition area (ring) shall be flat and devoid of any potential hazard to the competitors or ring officials. It shall include the individual ring and the competitor waiting area. A separate warm-up area may be provided; however, such warm-up area will not be within a close proximity of the ring in order to avoid disruption of the tournament.

10.1.b The only authorized personnel within the ring shall be the referees, judges, and competitors involved in the actual match in progress. The Corner Judges shall remain in their respective corners. The Arbitrator, Score Keeper and Time Keeper shall remain outside of the ring. If there are two (2) Corner Judges, they will be at opposite corners of the ring. The Corner Judges may sit on chairs while officiating. The Corner Judges and the chairs will be removed during the match if required for safety reasons. At the Alliance World Championships or National Championships, Corner Judges may be required to be seated.

10.2 SIZE OF RING:

10.2.a The ring will be square, no less than sixteen (16) feet nor more than twenty-six (26) feet on each side. The recommended ring size is twenty (20) by twenty (20). The ring may be elevated no more than three (3) feet above the floor and must have sufficient space to prevent competitors from falling.

10.3 MARKINGS INSIDE OF THE RING:

10.3.a Two parallel lines, opposite each other, two (2) feet in length and each two (2) feet from the center point of the ring at right angles to the referee line will be placed for the competitors (one for the white side and one for the red side, placing the competitors four (4) feet apart from each other).

10.3.b An example of a ring with its particular markings is illustrated in Exhibit 10.

ARTICLE 11 - SPARRING

11.1 TYPE OF MATCH:

11.1.a At any sanctioned tournament there shall be individual sparring and there may be team sparring.

11.1.b Individuals or teams who are not present when their competition event has been called will be disqualified from the event and will not be allowed to compete in that particular event, unless allowed to do so by the Chief Referee provided that the first round has not been completed..

11.2 INDIVIDUAL SPARRING:

11.2.a The winner of a match will be the competitor who has scored a total of five (5) points, or the most points scored during the match when time has expired, or when the competitor is awarded the match because his opponent failed to arrive at the ring when the event was called, or the opponent is disqualified or injured and is unable to compete further.

11.3 DURATION OF A MATCH:

11.3.a The match will commence when the Center Referee gives the command to start the match and will end upon expiration of the time allowed or when a winner is declared. The Center Referee is the only ring official who may instruct the Time Keeper to start or stop time.

11.3.b Time allowed for matches in individual competition shall be two (2) minutes running time.

11.3.c Time allowed for each team members' match for team competition shall be one (1) minute running time.

11.4 BRACKETS:

11.4.a The competitors will be selected by utilization of the bye system and "luck of the draw". A bye sheet is included as Exhibit 8a. This sheet should be utilized when there are four (4) or more competitors in any division.

11.4.b Contestants from the same school or team will be separated from each other as much as possible during the eliminations. The coach must inform the Center Referee or Arbitrator for such action to be taken. The tournament promoter may have the option of separating the current top three Kumite (Sparring) National Points competitors from each other as much as possible during the eliminations.

11.4.c Contestants from the same state competing in national or international competition, and contestants from the same state traveling out of state to compete, will be separated from each other as much as possible during sparring eliminations, as if they were teammates. It is the contestant's responsibility to notify the bracketeer.

11.4.d If there are three (3) competitors in a division, a modified bye system will be utilized. All three (3) competitors will draw numbers to determine the bye. The competitor which receives the bye (Competitor "C") will fight the loser of the two (2) competitors who did not receive the bye (Competitors "A" and "B"). If A wins, B will compete against C; then, if C wins, A and C will compete for 1st and 2nd and B will be 3rd. However, if B wins, A will be 1st, B will be 2nd, C will be 3rd.

11.4.e Adult Black Belts ranked in the top three of the current National Point Standings in Black Belt Kumite will be seeded at the National Championships. These competitors will be given byes, if available, and will be separated from each other in the sparring divisions. The current World Black Belt Kumite Grand Champion and the defending National Black Belt Kumite Grand Champion are seeded into the Grand Champion Kumite rounds at Nationals. These competitors will be given byes, if available, starting with the defending National Champion, and will be separated from each other as if they were teammates. Black Belts ranked in the top three of the current National Points Standings in Black Belt Kata will be placed in the bottom half of the forms division. Non-seeded pre-registered forms competitors will go after those that register at the door. The Black Belt Kata defending National Grand Champion and the current World Grand Champion are placed in the bottom half of the Grand Champion Kata round at finals to compete for the National Grand Champion Kata Title. The Black Belt Kobudo defending National Grand Champion and the current World Grand Champion are placed in the bottom half of the kobudo run-off to determine which two competitors will go to finals to compete for the National Grand Champion Kobudo Title. In order to receive the seed, you must be pre-registered. These competitors may opt not to accept the seed into the Grand Champion round or Grand Champion run-off round and compete in their regular division, if they so choose.

11.4.f Competitors ranked in the top three of the final National Point Standings, including those who have moved into another division whether it be by age or by rank (the seed flows with the competitor), will be seeded at the World Championships. These competitors will be given byes, if available, and will be separated from each other in the sparring divisions. The current National Black Belt Kumite Grand Champion and the defending World Black Belt Kumite Grand Champion are seeded into the Grand Champion Kumite rounds at World. These competitors will be given byes, if available, starting with the defending World Champion, and will be separated from each other as if they were teammates. Competitors ranked in the top three of the current National Point Standings in Kata will be placed in the bottom half of the forms division. Non-seeded pre-registered forms competitors will go after those that register at the door. The Black Belt Kata defending World Grand Champion and the current National Grand Champion are placed in the bottom half of the kata run-off to determine which two competitors will go to finals to compete for the World Grand Champion Kata Title. The Black Belt Kobudo defending World Grand Champion and the current National Grand Champion are placed in the bottom half of the Grand Champion Kobudo round at finals to compete for the World Grand Champion Kobudo Title. In order to receive the seed you must be pre-registered. These competitors may opt not to accept the seed into the Grand Champion round or Grand Champion run-off round and compete in their regular division, if they so choose.

11.5 STARTING OF A MATCH:

11.5.a The competitors will stand outside of the ring directly in front of their indicated starting positions.

11.5.b Upon direction from the Center Referee, the competitors shall bow into the ring and shall walk forward to their respective starting positions. The Center Referee will instruct the competitors to face the Center Referee and will instruct the competitors to bow. The Center Referee will then instruct the competitors to face each other and bow.

11.5.c The Center Referee will give the command to begin the match and the match will commence.

11.6 SCORING OF A MATCH:

11.6.a Scoring shall be awarded by the Center Referee who has determined the majority vote. The Center Referee and the Corner Judges are the only ring officials authorized to cast votes for award of points.

11.6.b The Corner Judges will be provided with a red and a white flag, with which to score points for the competitor.

11.6.c When an effective technique has been observed by either the Center Referee or the Corner Judges, the Center Referee will stop the match.

11.6.d The Center Referee shall then call for score from the Corner Judges as described below.

11.7 REFEREE'S CALLS AND SIGNALS:

11.7.a The Center Referee will utilize the following calls and related signals:

1. To start a match: The Center Referee will give the command "Begin" or "Fight"; at such time the match shall begin.
2. To stop of match: The Center Referee will give the command "Stop", at which time the match will stop.
3. To continue a match: After the Center Referee has stopped the match and has awarded the point or called for the warning or penalty, the Center Referee will restart the match by giving the command "Continue", "Begin", or "Fight" and at such time the match will resume.
4. To call for Corner Judges to score: When the Center Referee or a Corner Judge determines a score has been made by a competitor against his opponent, the Center Referee will stop the match and will direct the competitors to return to their starting positions. The Center Referee will give the command "Judges, Score" and the Center Referee and the Corner Judges will indicate the score observed. Untimely calls will not be awarded.
5. To award a point: If a score has received a majority vote by the Judges, the Center Referee will award the point to the competitor receiving the award by raising his arm upright on the side of the competitor receiving the award and, simultaneously, the Center Referee will give the command "Red (White) Point".
6. To indicate a winner: When a competitor has received 5 points or has been awarded the most points prior to expiration of time, the Center Referee will give the command "Winner" and simultaneously raise his arm on the side of the competitor who won.

7. To call a penalty: When the Center Referee or Corner Judge indicates a penalty is justified by waving their flag, the Center Referee shall stop time and call the judges to the side for a conference. When a majority vote has determined a penalty is justified, the Center Referee will then award a warning, a point, or a disqualification, as set forth herein; provided however a Center Referee may disqualify a competitor without a majority vote of the Corner Judges in accordance with Section 5.3.c.

11.8 JUDGE'S CALLS AND SIGNALS:

11.8.a The Corner Judges may call a score. The Corner Judges will utilize the following calls and related signals (All applicable signals are illustrated in Exhibit 11). When a Corner Judge observes a point being scored, he shall immediately say "Score" or "Point". Upon hearing the Corner Judge say "Score" or "Point", the Center Referee will stop the competition. **All flags indicating a score must be thrown by the Corner Judges immediately upon the command of the Center Referee. An untimely call will not be tabulated.** The Corner Judge's signals are as follows:

1. To indicate a score: When instructed by the Center Referee, the Corner Judge will snap the flag directly in front with the appropriate color raised to indicate the winner of the point.
2. To indicate a penalty: The Corner Judge will raise the flag directly in front and execute small circles immediately upon seeing a penalty and call "Score" or "Point".
3. To indicate going out of of bounds: The Corner Judge who observes a competitor going out of bounds will tap the boundary line with his flag and/or call "Out".

11.9 SCORING AREAS:

11.9.a The scoring areas at sanctioned tournaments shall consist of the following:

1. head (excluding the top of the head)
2. face (adult brown belts and black belts only may lightly touch the face; children competitors and adults under brown belt may score to the face, provided there is NO contact)
3. chest
4. abdomen (upper or lower)
5. back (excluding shoulders and spine)
6. groin

11.9.b Local or state laws, rules or regulations or insurance policy stipulations may exclude a scoring area. Other exceptions to these scoring areas must be approved by Headquarters as set forth in Section 2.4.a of the Rule Book.

11.10 REQUIREMENTS FOR AN EFFECTIVE SCORE:

11.10.a Requirements for an effective score shall consist of proper stance and form, control, strength, attitude, correct distance and proper timing.

11.11 CRITERIA FOR AWARD OF POINT:

11.11.a Control of all executed techniques must be exercised at all times during each match. If control is not exercised during the match, then the Referee Panel is responsible for imposing penalties.

11.11.b A point may be awarded, if the competitor is performing one of the following:

1. Kicks or hand strikes with control to allowable scoring areas.
2. Successfully scoring at the precise moment of the opponent's attack.
3. Deflecting an attack and simultaneously scoring on the opponent's unguarded back.
4. Sweeping the front foot of the opponent boot to boot with control, and scoring with an effective technique within a three (3) second time limitation.

11.11.c An effective technique which has been delivered at the moment time has expired will be considered as a valid technique and may be scored accordingly. An effective technique which has been delivered after time has expired or when the Center Referee has stopped competition will not be considered as a valid technique and may subject the competitor executing the technique to penalties.

11.11.d Simultaneous effective scoring techniques of the competitors will be called a clash with no points awarded.

11.11.e Foot sweeps, and grabbing the foot, arm, or uniform may be utilized, but must be effective and controlled and followed with an effective technique within three (3) seconds after utilizing the initial setup technique. If the initial set-up techniques are not controlled, the competitor attempting the technique may be subject to penalties or disqualification.

11.11.f Foot sweeps must be:

- a. boot to boot;
- b. to the back area of the foot being swept; and,
- c. only to the forward foot of the person being swept.

All other sweeps (i.e. such as to the rear leg, rear foot, or higher than the foot area of the opponent) are illegal and a warning or penalty shall be imposed.

11.11.g If, after time has expired for the individual competition and the score is tied, the match will be extended to a sudden-victory overtime with no rest period provided between the original match and the overtime. The winner will be the first competitor to be awarded a point.

11.12 FACE CONTACT:

11.12.a Light face contact is allowed in adult black and brown belt divisions. NO face contact is permitted in all other divisions. There is no face contact in the Intermediate Adult Divisions if colored belts and brown belts are combined.

11.12.b Face contact occurs when a competitor is touched in the face area which would normally be covered by a baseball player's catcher mask. Face contact DOES NOT INCLUDE the top, sides, or back of the head.

11.12.c A technique which touches the face and does not move the head and which results in no apparent damage or injury to the competitor is considered light face contact. In adult Black and Brown Belt only divisions, light face contact is a valid score. In all other divisions, the judges will impose a warning or award a point to the receiver of the face contact, or disqualify the offender, depending on the severity of the infraction if the face is touched at all, no matter how light. The penalties shall escalate. A judge may not award two warnings or points as a penalty. After one warning, the next penalty to a competitor must be a point. After one point, the next penalty to a competitor must be disqualification.

11.12.d Face contact which results in rocking of the head will result in a penalty point being awarded to the injured competitor in all divisions.

11.12.e Face contact which results in major rocking of the head, bleeding, or produces swelling or injury, or results in unconsciousness, will result in automatic disqualification of the offender if the officials verify the competitor executing the technique inflicted the injury to the opponent. Injury is defined in 11.15.b.

11.12.f Face contact is NOT allowed in any division below adult Brown Belt. Face contact is not allowed in Intermediate Adult Divisions if colored belts and brown belts are combined. Only focused techniques short of contact will be allowed. In the event of a touch, a warning or point will be awarded to the opponent. If the head is rocked, a point will be awarded. Disqualification shall result in the event a penalty point has already been awarded or in the case of swelling or injury. Face contact is to be called even if competitors are out of bounds, the regulated time has expired, or after a referee commands a competitor to break or stop the match. There are only three calls when face contact occurs in all divisions under Brown: (1) there is touch, and a warning or point is awarded; or (2) when a second touch or rocking of the head is rendered, resulting in a penalty point; or (3) when a penalty point has already been awarded, or swelling, bleeding, injury or unconsciousness, then disqualification occurs.

11.12.g Adult Brown and Black Belts shall be allowed light face contact. Face contact is not allowed in Intermediate Adult Divisions if colored belts and brown belts are combined. Moderate contact will result in a warning or a point being awarded. Excessive contact shall call for immediate disqualification.

11.13 INJURIES AND ACCIDENTS DURING A MATCH:

11.13.a Any competitor declared unfit to compete by the tournament medical personnel will not be allowed to compete in any of the remaining tournament events. The competitor, competitor's coach, or competitor's parents may not override the decision of the tournament medical personnel.

11.13.b When a competitor is injured during competition, the Center Referee will at once stop the match and call for assistance from the tournament medical personnel. Medical personnel will examine the competitor to determine the extent of the injuries sustained. If, in the opinion of the medical personnel, the injuries sustained were minor and the competitor is physically able to continue, the competitor may be

allowed to continue. If, in the opinion of the medical personnel, the injuries sustained are considered significant, the competitor will not be allowed to compete further.

11.13.c Unless otherwise stated herein, an injured competitor, if so authorized by tournament medical personnel, will be allowed five (5) minutes in which to return to the ring for the conclusion of the match. If the competitor does not return within the allowed time, the competitor will forfeit the match and the opponent will be declared the winner if the opponent has not been disqualified. If the competitor cannot return due to an injury inflicted by his opponent, and it is confirmed by medical personnel, the opponent will be disqualified.

11.13.d Any competitor who has been awarded a match and was injured by an opponent who was disqualified by reason of excessive contact or lack of safety may not be allowed to compete further **WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE TOURNAMENT MEDICAL PERSONNEL**. If the competitor is awarded another match because of being injured a second time, the competitor will not be allowed to compete further in the tournament. **In the event the Medical Personal determines that a competitor has sustained a possible concussion, the competitor may not compete again in that tournament until the competitor has received a written authorization from a physician allowing said competitor to compete.**

11.13.e If the competitors injure each other during the match and both competitors are declared unfit to compete, the Judges shall either disqualify both competitors or the winner of the match will be the competitor who has the most points if the match is for first or second place or third and fourth place.

11.13.f A competitor who is disqualified may not compete further in that fighting division. The competitor may not compete in any other fighting event of the tournament if the competitor's actions which caused the disqualification were flagrant, willful, wanton, reckless, intentional or with disregard for the opponent's safety or the injury caused by said disqualified competitor was more than a minor injury. The medical personnel at the tournament shall make the determination as to whether the injury caused is minor. The tournament arbitrator or chief referee shall determine whether the competitor's actions were flagrant, willful, wanton, reckless, intentional or with disregard for the opponent's safety based upon the input from the judges present in the ring when the disqualification occurred. The disqualified competitor may not compete further in the particular event in which the competitor was disqualified.

11.14 **PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR AND SCORING AREAS:**

11.14.a The following paragraphs address techniques and behaviors which will **NOT** be acceptable at any sanctioned tournament. Violation of any of the following shall result in penalties or disqualification from the tournament and possible further sanctions against the competitor by the Alliance.

1. Any deliberate attempt to hit an opponent with excessive contact.
2. Any deliberate and overt techniques attempted or achieved which make contact with any part of the body which would result in disability (either temporary or permanent in nature) or death to the opponent of the competitor executing the techniques. Some of the restricted areas, include, but are not limited to: the throat area, joints, or instep.
3. Any excessive contact designed to have a total disregard of the opponent's or the competitor's safety. Lack of safety is a situation whereby one or both competitors display a total lack of consideration for the safety of the competitor or his opponent. All

techniques executed must have a safe stopping point with pullback ability; otherwise, such techniques fall in the lack-of-safety consideration. Some examples include, but are not limited to, blind techniques, axe kicks, techniques which cannot be controlled, and any technique considered unsafe.

4. Any technique to the face with open hands.
5. Any malicious and/or repeated attacks to the arms, legs or joints.
6. Any sweeping technique which results in the opponent's inability to land safely.
7. Any grabbing when the competitor does not execute a simultaneous effective scoring technique within three (3) seconds.
8. No wrestling; no violent pushing, butting or ramming with the head to the opponent's head or body; no choking, biting, or hair pulling. No elbow strikes or knee strikes.
9. Repeated exits from the ring without fighting or being propelled out of bounds, or pretending to be injured, or any action designed to delay the match. Out of bounds is a situation whereby one competitor's foot or any part thereof moves outside of the ring. When a competitor is propelled out of the ring by his opponent, the out-of-bounds rule does not apply.
10. Any discourteous behavior or remarks by words or actions to ring officials by any competitor, competitor's instructor, or anyone associated with the competitor, may result in the competitor being disqualified from the event or the tournament. Furthermore, coaching is considered discourteous and unsportsmanlike conduct and will be treated as such.
11. Any occurrence of unsportsmanlike conduct or disrespectful or flagrant breaking of the Rules by a competitor, an instructor or coach, will be decided by the Referee, the Chief Referee, the Alliance State Representative, and/or the Alliance Regional Directors, and/or the Alliance Directors. Such Alliance representatives shall be empowered to immediately suspend the violator from Alliance activities, pending a final determination by the Alliance Directors.

11.15 PENALTIES:

11.15.a Any competitor who violates the Rules will be either warned or penalized by the Center Referee.

11.15.b If a competitor, while executing a technique, should make contact to the opponent which inflicts any injury, damage, bruise, abrasion, redness of the face, swelling, laceration, fracture, dislocation, bleeding (except from a minor scratch in the adult brown & black belt divisions), unconsciousness, or any condition previously stated in these Rules, the competitor executing the technique will be disqualified if the contact is verified by the tournament officials. This penalty shall be called even if the injury is not immediately apparent and surfaces later in the match, but must be called prior to the beginning of the next match or prior to lining up for awards in the case of the last match of the division as long as the competitor has not left the immediate ring area. If the officials verify the competitor executing the technique inflicted the injury to the opponent, the competitor will be disqualified.

11.15.c The Referee Panel will determine by majority vote whether or not a violation has occurred and the penalty. The Center Referee may disqualify or penalize a competitor, without confirmation by the Referee Panel, in the event of redness, swelling, bleeding, unconsciousness, or malicious attacks, provided the tournament arbitrator concurs with the Center Referee's decision.

11.15.d There are three (3) levels of penalties which may be imposed during a match:

- a. a warning
- b. a point penalty
- c. disqualification.

Penalties are cumulative in nature. Once a penalty has been imposed, the next penalty will automatically be escalated. Penalties imposed for violation of the out-of-bounds rules will not escalate with the other penalties imposed but will escalate by themselves. Penalties incurred during the match will be carried into any extension of the match.

11.15.e A competitor may receive a warning for a minor infraction of the Rules.

11.15.f A one (1) point penalty shall be imposed on the next infraction if a warning is already in place or face contact has occurred resulting in the head rocking or the Referee Panel calls for a one (1) point penalty for an infraction. If one (1) point is awarded as a penalty and, as a result, the competitor receiving the point has five (5) points, then said competitor shall be declared the winner of the match.

11.15.g Disqualification will be imposed for serious and major infractions of the Rules, or if a full point penalty is already in place.

11.15.h Disqualification may result from the following:

1. When a competitor knowingly disobeys or fails to instantly follow the instructions and commands of the Chief Referee or Center Referee.
2. When the competitor or the competitor's instructors or anyone associated with the competitor jeopardizes the operation of the match or the tournament or interferes with the Referee Panel.
3. When the competitor knowingly commits any act or actions considered dangerous and reckless (addressed under prohibited behavior), even though there are no visual signs of injury observed.
4. When a competitor, after being injured and advised against returning to competition by the tournament medical personnel, returns to the ring for the sole purpose of competition.
5. When actions reflect total disrespect for the Rules by the competitor or the competitor's instructor or anyone associated with the competitor.
6. When a competitor or competitor's instructor or anyone associated with the competitor loses his/her temper, makes remarks or gestures derogatory to the opponent, referees, judges, tournament officials, the Alliance or the public.

7. If during competition, both competitors are outside of the ring and one competitor is struck with enough force to warrant disqualification as if the situation had occurred within the boundary of the ring, then the competitor who struck the opponent will be disqualified.

11.15.i The Center Referee may disqualify a competitor if there is blood (except from a minor scratch in the adult brown & black belt divisions), unsportsmanlike conduct, or major rocking of the head, without a majority vote of the corner judges, provided that the appointed arbitrator for the tournament concurs in the Center Referee's decision.

11.15.j If a competitor is disqualified, said disqualified competitor may not continue to compete in that fighting division. The competitor may also not compete in any other fighting matches during that tournament if the competitor's actions which caused the disqualification were flagrant, willful, wanton, reckless, intentional or with disregard for the opponent's safety or the injury caused by said disqualified competitor was more than a minor injury. Tournament Officials may prohibit any competitor from competing at any time if the officials feel the competitor intentionally or recklessly does not abide by the rules.

11.15.k A competitor who is disqualified three times in a twelve month period (regardless of the point year time period) will be suspended for a minimum of six months. After the suspension period, they will be placed on a three month probationary period. If they are disqualified again during the probationary period, they will again be suspended for a minimum period of six months or may be prohibited from competing at Alliance tournaments.

11.15.l Coaching will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and is not allowed and may subject the competitor to penalties.

11.16 SUSPENDING AND ENDING OF A MATCH

11.16.a The Center Referee or the Arbitrator are the only ring officials authorized to start or stop a match. The match may be stopped by the Center Referee because of any of the following:

1. The safety of one or both of the competitors is in doubt;
2. Time has expired or a winner has been declared;
3. A competitor's feet or body are out of bounds;
4. When the Center Referee instructs either or both of the competitors to tie their belts or adjust their uniforms or equipment;
5. When either or both competitors have violated or are about to violate one or more of the Rules;
6. When either or both of the competitors grabs the opponent and does not follow up with an authorized technique within the allowed three (3) second time limitation;
7. If the spectators are so loud as to be disruptive to the match.

11.16.b When the Center Referee stops the match, he/she will step forward and give the command "Stop" and upon hearing such command, both competitors will return to their starting positions. The Center Referee shall also instruct the Time Keeper to stop time.

11.16.c Once a match has been stopped by the Center Referee, the match will not continue until instructed to do so by the Center Referee. The Center Referee will restart the match as set forth above.

11.17 OUT OF BOUNDS:

A competitor who steps out of bounds; or, steps on the out of bounds line with one or both feet and is not forced or propelled out of bounds while fighting, will be penalized by (A) a warning for the first infraction; and (B) a penalty point awarded to the opponent for each infraction thereafter. The penalties shall not escalate to disqualification on out of bounds violations.

11.18 TEAM SPARRING:

11.18.a Each team must have an odd number of members. The number of team members is usually decided by the Tournament Director or Promoter. All members of the team are considered team members; there are no fixed reserves for any team.

11.18.b Scoring for team competition will be the same as utilized during individual competition, with the exception of overtime.

11.18.c Each team round shall be one (1) minute in duration. The team with the most total points scored shall be declared the winner. In case of a tie, then a representative from each team will compete in a sudden-victory overtime extension match. The team winner will be the team competitor first awarded a point. If a member of a team is disqualified, that team member's points will be deducted from the team's total points and the opposing team shall receive two additional points.

ARTICLE 12 - FORMS

12.1 GENERAL INFORMATION:

12.1.a A ten (10) point scoring system with decimal points shall be utilized for forms competition. The Tournament Director shall make available to the Form Board scoring cards or whiteboards which are large enough to be readily visible to the Score Keeper and to the competitor being judged.

12.1.b Hard Style Form: The elements of good hard style form are focus, power, phrasing, coordination, balance, fluidity, and flexibility. All elements should be present in a good hard style form. No one element shall dominate. The competitor shall present a strong, balanced form with power throughout the form.

12.1.c Soft Style Form: A soft stylist being KENPO, KUNG FU, KAJUKENPO, etc. will have rhythm with style, balance and elegance. The moves should consist of fluid-circular motion both up and down and in different directions. Each movement should be precise and not be robotic in nature. Good focus and looking in the direction where one is fighting should be clear. A soft stylist will use the upper body consisting of claws, finger darts, elbow, hammer fists, etc. as well as the lower body which will consist of low stances as well as positioned kicks. Proper body alignment should make the center. A soft stylist should be explosive with clear defined technique.

12.1.d It is recommended that the competitor bow into the ring and to the Form Board prior to performing the form for competition. It is recommended that the competitor state his/her name, style and name of the form to be performed.

12.1.e Form interpretation may be required at finals in the black belt divisions.

12.1.f At the World Championships, Black Belt Kata Grand Champion will be determined as follows: A run-off round will be held for the first place Adult Black Belt Kata winners. The two competitors receiving the highest scores will advance to the finals where the competitors each perform their kata, then be given scores based on the technical execution of the kata. Then the competitors each perform their kata showing the bunkai (with opponents), then be given scores based on the realism of the bunkai. The two scores would be combined to give a total score after the high and low scores from each performance have been dropped.

12.2 FORM BOARD

12.2.a The Form Board shall be comprised of an odd number of judges of between three (3) and seven (7) qualified judges; however, five (5) judges are recommended if a sufficient number of qualified judges are available. **Five (5) judges are required for all black belt form divisions.**

12.2.b There may not be more than two (2) black belts from any one instructor nor more than one (1) black belt from a single school on any Form Board if there are other qualified form judges available and willing to judge.

12.2.c Form judges shall be seated. Judges shall not engage in inappropriate conversation or behavior during periods when competitors are performing their forms.

12.2.d All form judges shall score simultaneously when instructed to do so by the Center Judge.

12.2.e A form judge may ask of any competitor any applicable question pertinent to the form being performed.

12.2.f Once a division has started, all members of the Form Board shall remain on that Board until the division has been completed, unless instructed otherwise by the Chief Referee.

12.3 DIVISIONS:

12.3.a The divisions of form competition shall include, but shall not be limited to, youths and adult. The form divisions must be divided into rank categories as provided for in Sections 7.1 and 7.2. The Black Belt divisions may be broken down into general form (hard or soft or by major systems, such as Japanese, Chinese, Korean or Okinawan) provided there are at least three (3) competitors in each division.

12.4 SCORING:

12.4.a Scoring in all form divisions shall be by the ten (10) point decimal system. The lowest possible score shall be 0.0 while the highest possible score shall be 10.0. Form judges should not score strictly with whole numbers, but to combine whole numbers with double decimals.

12.4.b The Center Judge is encouraged to set a range for scoring for each division so as to prevent a wide range of scores which may detrimentally affect the outcome of the divisions. Some examples of acceptable ranges are: 8.0 to 9.0 for black belts; 7.0 to 8.0 for brown belts; 6.0 to 7.0 for colored belts; 5.0 to 6.0 for beginning divisions. These ranges are intended to be a guide. If the Judges feel a competitor's performance was exceptionally good or poor, the Judges may score outside the range.

12.4.c If there are three (3) or less competitors in any one division, each competitor shall be scored after performing his/her respective form. If there are more than three (3) competitors in any one division, the Form Board may observe the first three competitors prior to any competitor in the division receiving a score. Once the first three (3) competitors have performed their forms, the first competitor shall be called forward to receive his/her score, then the second will be scored, and then the third will be scored; thereafter, each competitor will be scored after his/her form has been performed.

12.4.d The Center Judge shall call for all judges to score simultaneously by giving the command "Judges score", at which time all judges shall face the scoring cards to the score keeper. The score keeper shall call the individual scores back to the Form Board in a clear and audible voice. Once the scores have been called back to the Form Board, the Form Board shall face their scoring cards forward to allow the competitor and the spectators to view the scores. This procedure shall be repeated for each competitor in each division.

12.5 DECISIONS:

12.5.a When the Form Board is comprised of three (3) judges, all scores received will be added to determine the winner. When five (5) or more judges are present on a Form Board, the highest and lowest scores are eliminated from computation of the scores to determine the winner.

12.5.b Once computation of the scores has been completed and there is a clear and decisive winner for first, second, and third, the division is complete.

12.5.c If, after computation of the scores, there is a tie, the competitors who have tied will be required to perform an additional form to break the tie. For intermediate and advanced competitors, the additional form performed must be a different form to break the tie. For beginning competitors, the additional form may be the same form again, or a different form to break the tie. (Excluding Weapon divisions). When two (2) competitors are tied, the Form Board will determine a winner, after both competitors have performed their respective tie-breaking form, by each member of the Form Board pointing one arm to the competitor they perceive to be the winner. When *more* than two (2) competitors tied or if the Form Board determines, the winner will be decided by *scoring* the individual competitors after they have performed their respective forms.

12.6 PENALTIES:

12.6.a Any competitor who violates the Rules during forms will be either warned or penalized by the Referee Panel.

ARTICLE 13 - WEAPONS

13.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

13.1.a In addition to the requirements described below, all procedures utilized for Form competition stated above shall be utilized for weapons competition.

13.1.b Prior to performing the weapons form, the competitor will make his/her weapon available for inspection by the Weapons Form Board.

13.1.c Control of the weapon and the other elements described in the forms section 12.1 are the criteria for judging weapons forms. The Referee Panel may disqualify a competitor for not controlling his weapon or if his/her weapon is unsafe.

13.2 WEAPONS DIVISIONS:

13.2.a The divisions of weapons form competition shall at least include divisions for Tots (9 and under), Youth (10 to 13), Teen (14 to 17), Adult Kyu, Black Belt Men, and Black Belt Women.

13.2.b If the tournament promoter chooses to divide the tots, youth, teen, or adult kyu weapons divisions, and there enough competitors to make the split (see 7.3 below), the promoter may make the split using their own discretion. The division will be labeled according to the criteria used.

13.3 WEAPON REQUIREMENTS:

13.3.a All weapons utilized in weapons competition shall be authentic weapons, such as were used in ancient times and were designed specifically for fighting, as farm implements, or tools. The forms must incorporate actual fighting techniques, as if the use of the weapon was for a real fighting situation.

13.3.b The Weapons Form Board shall inspect each competitor's weapon to ensure that the following minimum requirements are met or exceeded for weapons competition. Failure to meet or exceed these minimum requirements may result in the weapon being disqualified and the competitor rejected from weapons competition. Children under 13 shall not use a weapon with a live blade.

1. A blade weapon must be an authentic weapon per their style. Some styles require a blade weapon to be made of steel or an iron alloy that is hard, strong, rigid, and unyielding. The blade should not break off with the application of normal force to the area where it connects to the handle.
2. A wooden weapon must be made from a hard and dense fibrous substance derived mostly from the stem or branches of a tree or shrub. The weapon should not break with the application of a normal force to its middle. A boken is an acceptable wooden weapon provided it meets the wooden weapon requirements above.
3. A rod or spear weapon should meet the above requirements for a blade weapon and a wooden weapon.
4. A chain weapon must be made with a series of hard metal rings passing through one another and have the strength to bind, restrain, and support 1,200 pounds.

5. A collateral weapon must be coupled together either with a strong chain, leather, or rope that is permanently attached and secured to the weapon. The connecting material should meet the above requirements for chain weapons.

ARTICLE 14 - PROTESTS

14.1 GENERAL INFORMATION:

14.1.a A protest may be either written or verbal. A verbal protest may only be made to the Referee Panel in the event of an obvious mistake occurring during an event and must be made at that time without interruption of the event. A written protest must be submitted to the respective State and Regional Representatives. If the issue has not been resolved at the previous level, a written protest would then be addressed to the Alliance Rules and Referee Committee, care of Alliance Headquarters, P.O. Box 20609, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87154. All facts, pertinent information, and opinions must be included in the protest.

14.1.b Written protests must be postmarked no later than ten (10) days following an incident.

14.1.c If an infraction of the Rules is observed by a competitor, the competitor's instructor or coach, or a tournament official, the infraction should be brought to the immediate attention of the Arbitrator. If the infraction is not brought to the attention of the Arbitrator in a timely manner, the infraction will not be considered as valid at a later time.

14.1.d If an inconsistency during competition is observed in the Rules, the individual noticing such inconsistency should submit written notification to the Alliance Rules and Referee Committee as soon as practical, stating all pertinent facts.

14.1.e An Alliance certified referee or judge may not be removed from a judging panel without good cause shown.

ARTICLE 15 - PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES

15.1 GENERAL INFORMATION:

15.1.a The Alliance Referee Council is responsible for reviewing all proposed amendments to the Rules. Upon completion of the review process, the Referee Council shall submit all recommendations concerning the proposed amendment to the Rules and Regulation Committee meeting held at the annual Alliance Nationals for its consideration.

15.2 SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE REFEREE COUNCIL:

15.2.a All proposed amendments to the Rules must be submitted to the Referee Council at Alliance Headquarters at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual Alliance Nationals. All proposed changes to the Rules must state the following as a minimum: A) reference the appropriate section to be changed; and B) the reason for the change; and C) what advantages and disadvantages will result with the change; and D) if approved, when should the change be implemented.

15.2.b Only changes of a technical nature will be considered. All safety and procedural changes will be under the complete jurisdiction of the Board of Directors.

15.2.c Failure to comply with the time allowed for submission of a proposed amendment may result in the amendment being delayed for consideration until the following year.

15.3 PROPOSED CHANGES:

15.3.a All proposed changes will be read to the general membership at the general assembly of the United States Karate Alliance National Convention. The members will vote on all proposed changes, with a majority vote required to pass. All approved changes will then be submitted to the Rules and Regulation Committee, and various other committees.

15.3.b Only current Alliance members 18 years and older are allowed to vote in the General Assembly. A member must have his/her card in order to vote. One parent of an Alliance member under the age of 18 may vote in the General Assembly.

15.4 REVIEW BY THE RULES AND REGULATION COMMITTEE & etc:

15.4.a The Rules and Regulation Committee and State and Regional Representatives will review all proposed amendments to the Rules passed at the General Assembly at the Alliance National Convention. All approved changes will be forwarded to the Alliance Executive Board for consideration.

15.5 REVIEW BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

15.5.a The Executive Board will review all proposed amendments to the Rules received from the Rules and Regulation Committee and various other committees. All approved changes will be forwarded to the Alliance National Directors.

15.6 REVIEW BY THE NATIONAL DIRECTORS:

15.6.a The National Directors will review all proposed changes to the Rules received from the Executive Board and will approve all such changes deemed appropriate for incorporation into the Rules. The amendments to the Rules will be published on the webpage following the Alliance National Convention and published in the Rule Book. The National Directors may veto any proposal which they deem unsafe, financially untenable, or contrary to laws, regulations or public policy.

ARTICLE 16 - KOSHIKI

16.1 OFFICIALS:

16.1.a The officials will be one referee and two corner judges. The two corner judges are to advise only. All decisions of the referee are final. An arbitrator may be appointed to insure that the rules are followed.

16.2 GEAR:

16.2.a Appropriate koshiki gear must be worn.

16.2.b Adult competitors will not wear hand pads or padded gloves. Youth competitors may wear hand pads, but not padded gloves.

16.3 BRACKETING:

16.3.a The bracketing will be as set forth in section 11.4

16.4 SCORING:

16.4.a A competitor may score with hands, feet, elbows (except to the head), or knees.

16.4.b Two points will be awarded for a properly executed, scoring kick to the head. All other properly executed, scoring techniques will be awarded one point.

16.4.c At the end of two minutes, whichever competitor has the most points wins.

16.5 LEGAL/VALID TECHNIQUES:

16.5.a A properly executed, scoring technique is one::

1. that is a well-executed with medium contact;
2. that is delivered in a traditional Karate stance;
3. in which the hips are fully focused to the opponent
(the side kick is the only exception to this rule;)
4. that has good extension;
5. that has an appropriate weapon;
6. that is delivered with an erect posture;
7. that is executed with good power.
8. that takes your opponent to the mat via a sweep or a throw.

16.6 ILLEGAL TECHNIQUES:

16.6.a The following techniques are illegal:

1. Striking an area other than the chest protection or the plexiglas face shield;
2. An uncontrolled throw;
3. An upward hand technique to the face;

4. An elbow strike to the head;
5. A technique to the face with excessive follow through;
6. Any technique causing unconsciousness is considered to be excessive;
7. Putting one's self in a defenseless position;
8. Full contact techniques;
9. Techniques with injurious intent;
10. Uncontrolled strikes or flailing about wildly.

16.7 PENALTIES:

- 16.7.a There are three (3) levels of penalties which may be imposed during a match:
 a. a warning; b. a point penalty; c. disqualification.

Penalties are cumulative in nature. Once a penalty has been imposed, the next penalty will automatically be escalated. Penalties incurred during the match will be carried into any extension of the match.

- 16.7.b If a competitor exits the ring without being propelled, the non-violating competitor will be given a point penalty thereafter. Penalties imposed for violation of the out-of-bounds rules will not escalate with the other penalties imposed.

- 16.7.c If a competitor shows disrespect for any official, he will be immediately disqualified and will exit the contest area.

16.8 DIVISIONS:

- 16.8.a The recommended divisions of koshiki competition are:

Dragons (8-9)	Young Adult (16-17)
Youth (10 11)	Men's Kyu
Juniors (12-13)	Adult Women (Open)
Teen (14 15)	Black Belt Men
	<u>No Tiny Tigers (7 & under)</u>

16.9 PROTESTS:

- 16.9.a All protests must be in writing and submitted as outlined in section 14.1.

ARTICLE 17 - CHANBARA

17.1 GENERAL INFORMATION:

17.1.a Chanbara competition involves combat with weapons made of the new piston-flex plastic with cushioned padding covering the striking surface. Chanbara matches may include the knife, short sword, long sword, double sword, short sword w/shield, spear, or staff.

17.2 GEAR:

17.2.a Head gear with face mask protection must be worn.

17.3 TARGET AREAS:

17.3.a	Knife/ (Yari) Spear	Short Sword/Long Sword/Double Sword/Spear/Staff
	Head	All main parts of the body
	Chest	Head, Torso, Legs, and Arms
	Stomach	

17.4 WINNING THE MATCH:

17.4.a The first competitor to reach three (3) points shall be declared the winner.

17.4.b At the end of match time (3 minutes), the contestant with the most points shall be declared the winner.

17.4.c In the event the other competitor is disqualified, the other competitor shall be declared the winner.

17.5 DIVISIONS:

17.5.a The highest rank you hold in martial arts determines the division in which you compete.

17.5.b The recommended divisions for Chanbara are the same as those suggested for Koshiki, except that Tiny Tigers (7 & under) may be included.

ARTICLE 18 - IAIDO

18.1 GENERAL INFORMATION:

18.1.a Iaido is a traditional Japanese Sword Martial Art. It involves drawing the sword, cutting, cleaning the blade, and returning it to its scabbard. In the Iaido competition, the competitor will perform their form showing these techniques against an imaginary opponent in different situations. Note: Competitors performing other sword style forms, should be competing in the regular "weapons" divisions. Iaido competition is "style specific."

18.2 JUDGES PANEL:

18.2.a A panel of judges will consist of three qualified judges, if available. One referee may be sufficient for the panel if there are not enough to make up a three-judge board.

18.2.b Judges vote by giving a show of hands. A draw is indicated by lifting both hands overhead. Majority rules.

18.3 BRACKETING:

18.3.a Bracketing is done "head to head" using a kumite bracketing sheet. The first competitor performs, then the second one on the bracket. The decision is made between the two by a show of hands. The winner is moved forward in the bracket.

18.4 COMPETITION:

18.4.a All competitors will perform three forms in traditional Iai fashion. Advanced competitors will perform a different set of three forms each round.

18.4.b Tie breakers are performed with one form only. Show of hands decides the winner. Depending on time, ties may be decided at finals.

18.5 DIVISIONS:

18.5.a The recommended divisions of Iaido competition are:

- Adult Black Belt
- Adult Kyu
- Youth (17 yrs. & under)

18.5.b A competitor's rank for competition is determined by their Iaido rank, not their open hand rank.



United States Karate Alliance, Inc.

• uskaratealliance@gmail.com • uskaratealliance.com



TOURNAMENT SANCTION REQUEST FORM

Name of Tournament Director: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ USKA School Member Number: _____

Tournament Date: _____ Tournament Location: _____

Tournament Name: _____

Tournament Chief Referee: _____

Tournament Arbitrator: _____

SANCTION FEES AND POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES KARATE ALLIANCE, INC.

Sanctioned events may be held by USKA School Owner Members only.

MAXIMUM POINT	\$300	STATE MAX + 5	\$275
RESULTS DATA ENTRY	included in fee	REGIONAL MAX + 10	\$275

Sanction Fee: The United States Karate Alliance, Inc. **MUST** have a current credit card number on file. The United States Karate Alliance, Inc. will automatically charge the sanction fee amount three days after the tournament. You may also send a check two weeks prior to the event, or pay headquarters representative directly to avoid having your credit card on file charged.

Tournament results (bracket sheets) and all entry forms must be submitted to Headquarters within five days after tournament.

A \$100 late charge will be assessed for all results and/or entry forms not received within one week after the event.

• Mail tournament results, entry forms, and bracket sheets to: P.O. Box 1387 • Eagle, CO 81631

The above tournament has been sanctioned by the United States Karate, Inc. for the above date. The Tournament Director named above agrees to maintain liability insurance and to protect, indemnify, and hold all persons and officials connected with the United States Karate Alliance, Inc. harmless from claims, expenses, suits, demands, judgments, and causes of action of any nature arising as a result of sanctioning of this tournament by the United States Karate Alliance, Inc. The United States Karate Alliance, Inc. tournament rules must be utilized and enforced at the tournament. The United States Karate, Inc. must be named as additional insured on the tournament insurance policy and a copy of the policy **MUST** be sent to headquarters prior to the event.

Tournament Director's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Check payable to: United States Karate Alliance, Inc.

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard Discover (no Amex accepted at this time)

CC# _____ Expiration Date: _____ CVV: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____ Phone: _____



United States Karate Alliance, Inc.

P.O. Box 20609 Albuquerque, NM 87154

888-979-8752 • uskaratealliance@gmail.com • uskaratealliance.com



SCHOOL MEMBER'S WEBSITE INFORMATION FORM

*Please Print
Clearly*

Name of School: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____

Instructor: _____ Rank: _____

Style: _____

School Hours: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Website Address: _____

Web Page Release

The United States Karate Alliance, Inc., as a free part of its services to its current school members, has a website. The website is located at www.uskaratealliance.com. Within this website, a page is dedicated to its USKA current school members. In order for the USKA to list your information on the Internet, it is necessary for you to fill out this form and give your authorization to do so. It may be necessary for the USKA or its website manager, to contact you to be sure of the information you would like published is correct on our web page.

By signing below, you hereby authorize the United States Karate Alliance, Inc. and website manager to list specific information about your school on our website. Additionally, you hereby release the United States Karate Alliance, Inc. and its website manager, from any and all liability in conjunction with or as a result of the publication of this information.

Business Name Business Address and Phone #

Printed name of authorizing individual

Signature and Date





United States Karate Alliance

KATA COMPETITOR TICKET

NAME _____

DIVISION _____

____ YRS. _____ MO. IN MARTIAL ARTS

INSTRUCTOR _____

SCHOOL _____



United States Karate Alliance

KATA COMPETITOR TICKET

NAME _____

DIVISION _____

____ YRS. _____ MO. IN MARTIAL ARTS

INSTRUCTOR _____

SCHOOL _____



United States Karate Alliance

KATA COMPETITOR TICKET

NAME _____

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____ YRS. _____ MO. IN MARTIAL ARTS

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INSTRUCTOR _____

SCHOOL _____



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SCHOOL _____



United States Karate Alliance

KATA COMPETITOR TICKET

NAME _____

DIVISION _____

____ YRS. _____ MO. IN MARTIAL ARTS

INSTRUCTOR _____

SCHOOL _____

United States Karate Alliance

Tournament Results Submittal Requirements

Tournament results and entry forms must be submitted to Headquarters by mail within two weeks after the sanctioned tournament. Mailed in results must include copies of the entry forms and fully completed bracketing sheets. (No more handwritten results.)

**Submit points by mail: Mail tournament results and entry forms to:
United States Karate Alliance, Inc., P.O. Box 20609, Albuquerque, NM
87154**

Results must include the following:

- Tournament Name
- Promoter Name
- City, State of tournament
- Date of Tournament
- Number of Competitors
- Sanction: Maximum Point, Max +5, Max +10, Double Max

Division Names

- Please include category: Forms, Sparring, Weapons, Chanbara, Other
- Division Specifics Applicable: Belt Rank, Age, Sex

Competitor Name Instructor Team

**Please do not use abbreviations for instructors or teams.*

Grand Champions:

Competitor Name Category: Sparring, Forms, Weapons

Disqualified Competitors:

Competitor Name Division name Instructor Team



United States Karate Alliance, Inc.

P.O. Box 20609 Albuquerque, NM 87154
uskaratealliance@gmail.com • www.uskaratealliance.com



KYU RANK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Memberships

- New 1 year Membership - \$69**
Includes a USKA patch and membership card
- New 1 year Membership with Certificate - \$89**
Includes a USKA patch, membership card and certificate
- New 1 year Family Membership - \$139**
Includes USKA patches and membership cards for each
- New 1 year Family Membership with Certificates - \$179**
Includes USKA patches, membership cards and certificates for each
- Individual Lifetime Membership (white - brown) \$350**
Includes USKA patches, membership card and certificate
- Family Lifetime Membership (white - brown) \$700**
Includes USKA patches, membership cards and certificates for each

Renewals

- Individual 1 year Membership Renewal - \$49**
Includes a USKA patch and membership card
- Family 1 year Membership Renewal - \$139**
Includes a patch and membership card

Promotions

- Promotion Certificate (white - brown) \$20**
please provide documentation to uskaratealliance@gmail.com
- Promotion Certificate (black belt) please provide documentation and contact uskaratealliance@gmail.com price TBD**
For Black Belt Application, please contact uskaratealliance@gmail.com

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Age: ____ Sex: M/F Phone: ____-____-____
 Email: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____
 State: ____ Zip: _____ Instructor: _____
 School: _____ Style: _____
 Dojo Email: _____
 Rank: _____ Date rank acquired: ____/____/____ Month/Year Started: ____/____

IF RENEWING: USKA Member Number: _____
 Present Expiration Date: ____/____/____ Date of last Rank Promotion: ____/____/____ please enclose a copy of the rank certificate

If applying for a Family Membership, please list additional family members and their information below.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Age: ____ Sex: M/F
 Rank: _____ Date rank acquired: ____/____/____ Month/Year Started: ____/____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Age: ____ Sex: M/F
 Rank: _____ Date rank acquired: ____/____/____ Month/Year Started: ____/____

- Any applicant under 18 must attach a copy of his / her birth certificate or email it prior.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Check payable to: United States Karate Alliance, Inc. **Credit Card:** Visa MasterCard Discover
 CC# _____ (Amex is not accepted at this time)
 Expiration Date: ____/____/____ CVV: _____
 Cardholder's Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Phone: ____-____-____



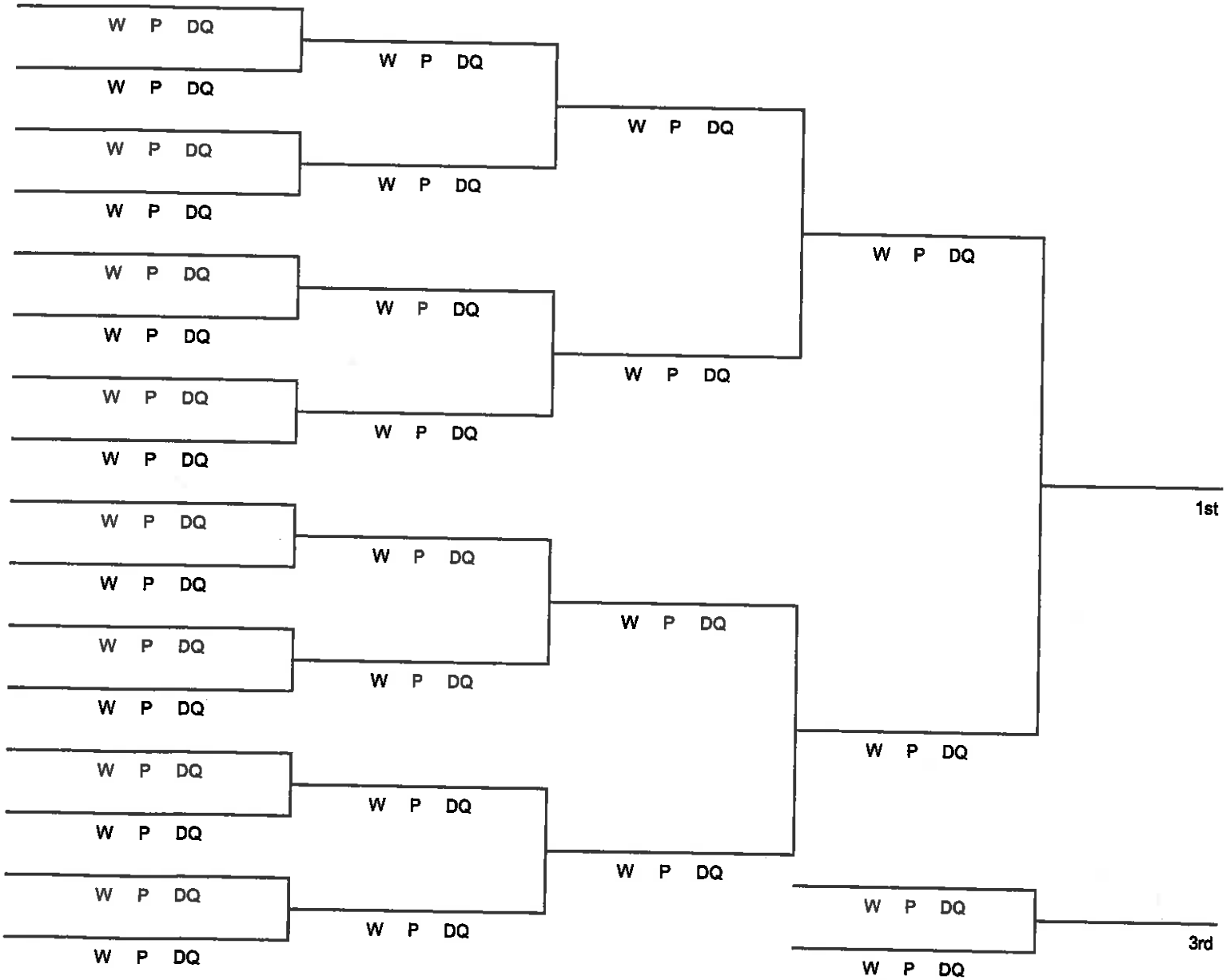
Date: _____

Page ____ of ____

Tournament: _____

Division: _____

	Winners Names	Instructor	Team
1st	_____	_____	_____
2nd	_____	_____	_____
3rd	_____	_____	_____
4th	_____	_____	_____



Competitors Disqualified: _____

Score Keepers: Circle appropriate letter under competitor name when Center Referee issues official Warnings, Penalties, or Disqualifies a competitor.

Legend: Warning: W Penalty Point: P Disqualified: DQ

Bye Sheet

For Single Eliminations

Key:
 Number of Competitors.
 Layout of competitors on bye sheet.
 # bi means number of byes.

 3

1 bi

 4

no bi

 5

3 bi

 6

2 bi

 7

1 bi

 8

no bi

9

 7 bi

 10

6 bi

 11

5 bi

 12

4 bi

13

3 bi

 14

2 bi

 15

1 bi

16

no bi

 17

15 bi

 18

14 bi

19

13 bi

 20

12 bi

21

11 bi

 22

10 bi

23

9 bi

 24

8 bi

25

7 bi

DATE: _____

PAGE: ____ OF ____



TOURNAMENT: _____

DIVISION: _____

WINNERS NAMES

INSTRUCTOR

TEAM

1st: _____
2nd: _____
3rd: _____
4th: _____

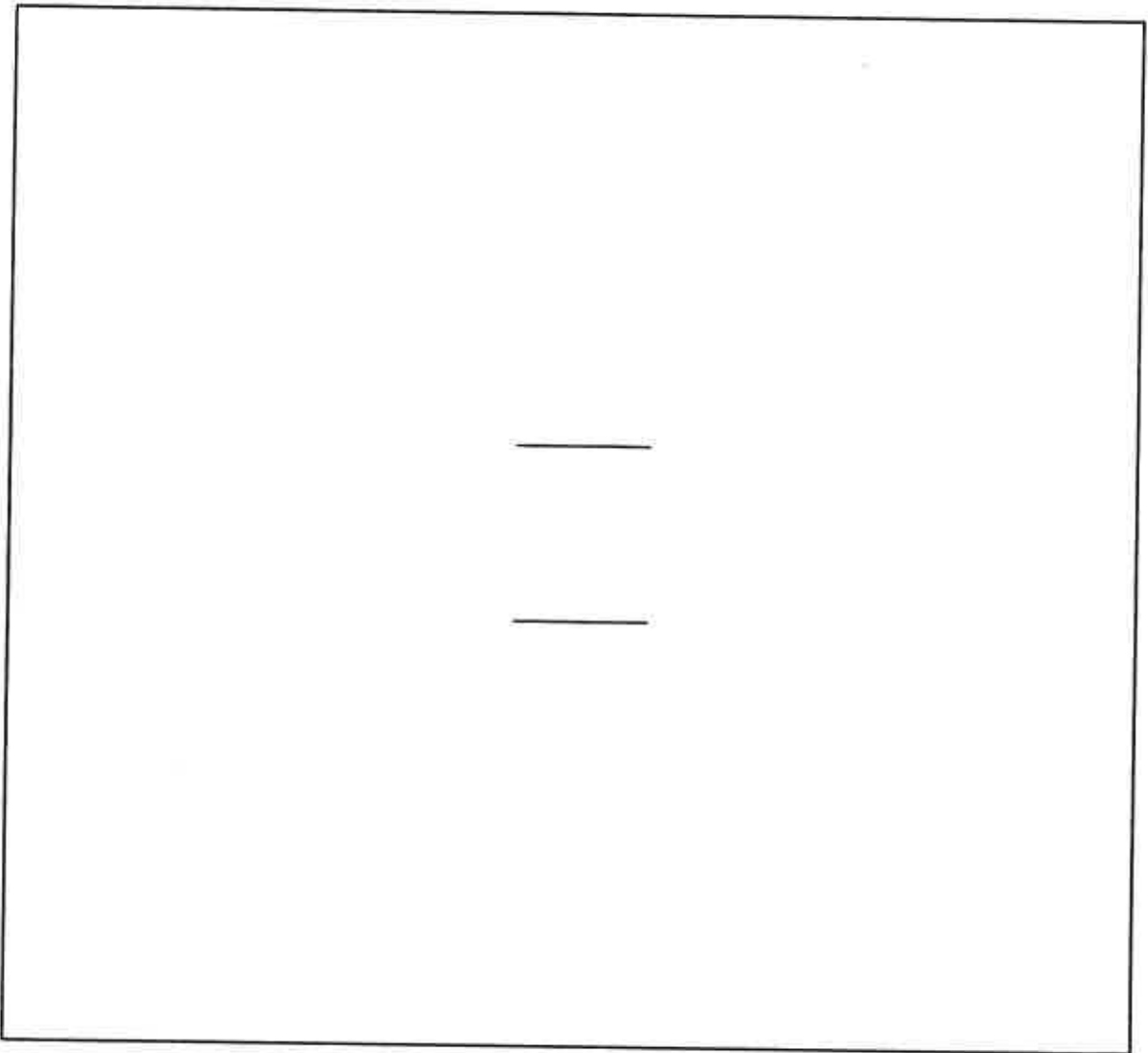
NAME	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	PLACE
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							

JUDGES

1. _____ Center Referee
2. _____ 4. _____
3. _____ 5. _____

SCORE/TIME KEEPERS: _____

Exhibit **10**
Ring Illustration



Judge's Signals

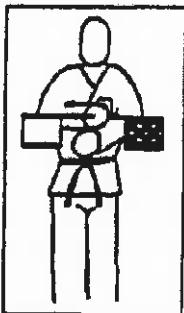


Figure 1
Clash

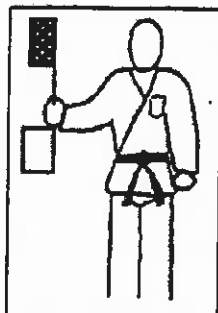


Figure 2
Red Point

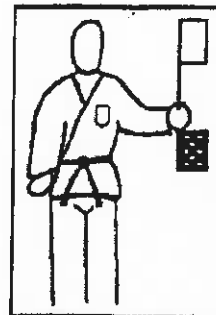


Figure 3
White Point

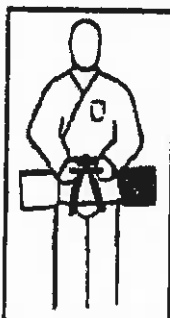


Figure 4
Prepare to Score

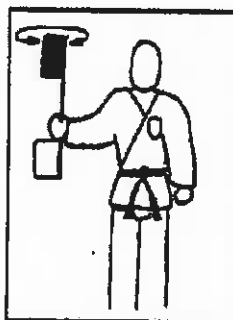


Figure 5
Red Penalty

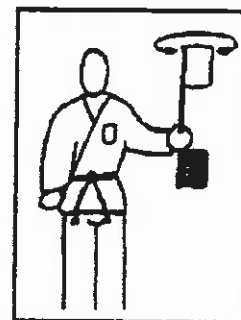


Figure 6
White Penalty



Figure 7
White of Bounds

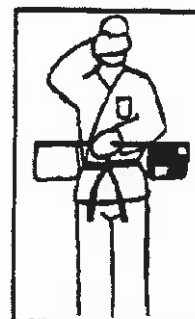


Figure 8
Could Not See