

W.K.F. COMPETITION RULES - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

KUMITE

Q. If after Yame two judges signal ippon for Aka and the other judge signals Mienai can the referee give a point to Ao?

A. No. The rules say that the referee cannot go against two judges unless he has the positive support of the other judge. Mienai is not considered to be positive support because it indicates that the judge did not see a scoring technique.

Q. If after Yame two judges signal Mienai and the other judge signals ippon for Aka can the referee give a point to Ao?

A. Yes. The rules say that the referee cannot go against **two** judges. Mienai is not a vote or opinion because it indicates that the judge did not see a scoring technique. Therefore it is the referee's opinion against that of one judge. The referee has to have the power to resolve one on one and two on two decisions, otherwise the whole match could break down.

Q. When the referee sees a score and stops the match why is it required to indicate the scoring competitor?

A. This is to indicate to the judges why the match has been stopped and so that the public can understand that the referee too has a vote. This is especially important when resolving 2-2 decisions.

Q. Is it correct that the referee will only give Mubobi if a competitor is actually hit or injured through their own fault and if so, why?

A. One of the reasons why Mubobi was introduced more than twenty years ago was so that when a competitor was injured through their own fault the referee had a way of indicating why the opponent was not being penalised for excessive contact. In recent years some referees and judges were giving Mubobi when the competitor was not in the least endangered and so it was decided to "re-introduce" the original concept.

Q. Why is it necessary for the judges to indicate their opinions again when the referee has returned to his place after Yamae?

A. It is rarely possible for the referee to see all three judge's flags during action in process. Sometimes a judge is signalling at the referee's back and obviously cannot be seen therefore it is important to either keep the flag in position after Yamae is called or to repeat the signal when the referee has returned to his line. If all three judges indicate their opinions at the same time it means that the referee will have to call for fewer re-considerations.

Q. If three judges signal "Mienai" after the referee has stopped the bout can the referee give a score?

A. Yes. Paragraph III of the Explanations in Article 12 states "However, when the bout is halted, the majority decision will prevail." Since the judges have seen nothing they are not considered to be offering an opinion or vote and therefore the referee can make almost any decision he wants within reason. It was felt necessary for the referee to have this power to resolve situations that can occur near the match area perimeter on the referee's side in which the judges are unable to see what happened.

Q. How do I start the kumite bout?

A. Since the bouts are in theory unlimited scoring, there is no longer a three Ippon limit. Therefore, no more Shobu Sanbon. The referee now starts the bout with the command "Shobu Hajime".

Q. How do we calculate the score in a team match when a competitor gets a Hansoku, Shikkaku, or Kiken?

A. The scores are set at 8-0 regardless of any previous points scored by either competitor. This means that the winning competitor has their final score recorded as eight regardless of any points they may have already scored in the bout. Their opponent who has received Hansoku, Shikkaku, or Kiken will have their final score recorded as zero again regardless of any points they may have already scored in the bout.

Q. Where can I get the answers to the question paper?

A. The same place as I got them from. the Rule Book. A lot of people are asking for the answers to the questions giving all kinds of reasons as to why they need them. The whole point of having a theory examination is to ensure that candidates actually know the rules. Remember this has been a total re-write of the rule book, there are changes in every article and the questions are designed to ensure that candidates read the rules not just once, but over and over again. When they do that they will have all the answers in their heads where they can be used to resolve difficult situations properly as and when they occur on the Tatami? The competitors prepare long and hard for competition. As referees and judges we must do the same.

KATA

Q. Does the kata competitor still have to perform Shitei kata in the first two rounds?

A. This depends on the number of competitors. For example if there are less than 16 competitors (but more than eight) then only one Shitei kata will be required. If there are more than 16 then two Shitei kata will be included in the programme. As there are usually 50+ male and 40+ female competitors in a World Championship all competitors should prepare for two Shitei kata.

Q. How many katas do I need to prepare?

A. Competitors expecting to reach the finals in a WKF World Championships should prepare at least six katas, two Shitei and four Tokui. The system works exactly as in kumite eliminations so that in a competition where there might be more than 64 competitors then seven katas will have to be prepared.

Q. This surely means that kata competitors must prepare a lot of katas. Is that not unfair?

A. Under the old rules kata competitors had to prepare four katas, since they might need a tie-breaker. Under the new rules there are no ties and no repetition of kata is allowed. The number of katas required is similar to the number of bouts a kumite competitor will have and of course in a kata competition with 64 competitors it is only the top four who will need more than four katas!.

Q. Where do we find the Shitei kata?

A. Since the Japan Karate Federation (JKF) already has a Shitei Kata book WKF decided it would use that book as the basis. The latest edition is called "Karatedo Kata Model for Teaching Shiteigata". The book number is **ISBN4-583-03645-0**.

Q. Does this mean that a competitor can only choose from the two katas allocated to their style?

A. There is nothing in the rules to prevent a competitor choosing a Shitei kata from another style but that might be extremely risky since the rules state that the kata must be performed without variation and show the correct kihon of the style being demonstrated. A lot will depend on the knowledge and experience of the Judging Panel.

Q. What is the procedure if a kata competitor makes a mistake in their performance?

A. If it is Aka who makes the mistake the panel should wait until Ao completes their kata and then call for Shugo. If the error is sufficient to warrant disqualification the Chief Kata Judge will indicate, first by a circular motion of the appropriate flag (in this case red), then make the same signal as in kumite for Torimasen and then raise the blue flag overhead to indicate that Ao wins. However don't forget that in Tokui Kata the rules allow variation as taught by the contestant's school.

Q. What happens if two contestants make major errors such as forgetting the kata?

A. Both contestants would be disqualified just as they might be in a kumite match.

Q. What happens if this happened in the finals?

A. This would be a very unusual situation at a World Championships but if it did occur then both contestants would be disqualified and there would be no winner. There would probably be two Silver Medals given for a shared second place.

Q. What happens in the finals if a kata team performs their kata and then does not perform Bunkai? Should they be given Shikkaku?

A. It has happened (not in WKF) that a team had not prepared Bunkai because they did not expect to reach the final. In such a straightforward case the other team wins. The losers would receive 2nd place as they have successfully beaten their opponents to arrive at the finals. This is similar to a contestant giving up in the middle of a kumite match and receiving Kiken.

Q. Some instructors are stating that the Shitei kata should be completed in a set time, for instance, that Shitoryu Bassai Dai should take 66 seconds.

A. This may well be offered as a training guide to coaches and competitors but the WKF/JKF Shitei Kata seminar held in Tokyo in July 2001 to define the details of the eight Shitei Kata did not discuss this issue. Nor do the rules provide for accurate timing of specific kata duration (Kata Team Finals Bunkai is a different matter).