



2015 WKU Rules
General Part

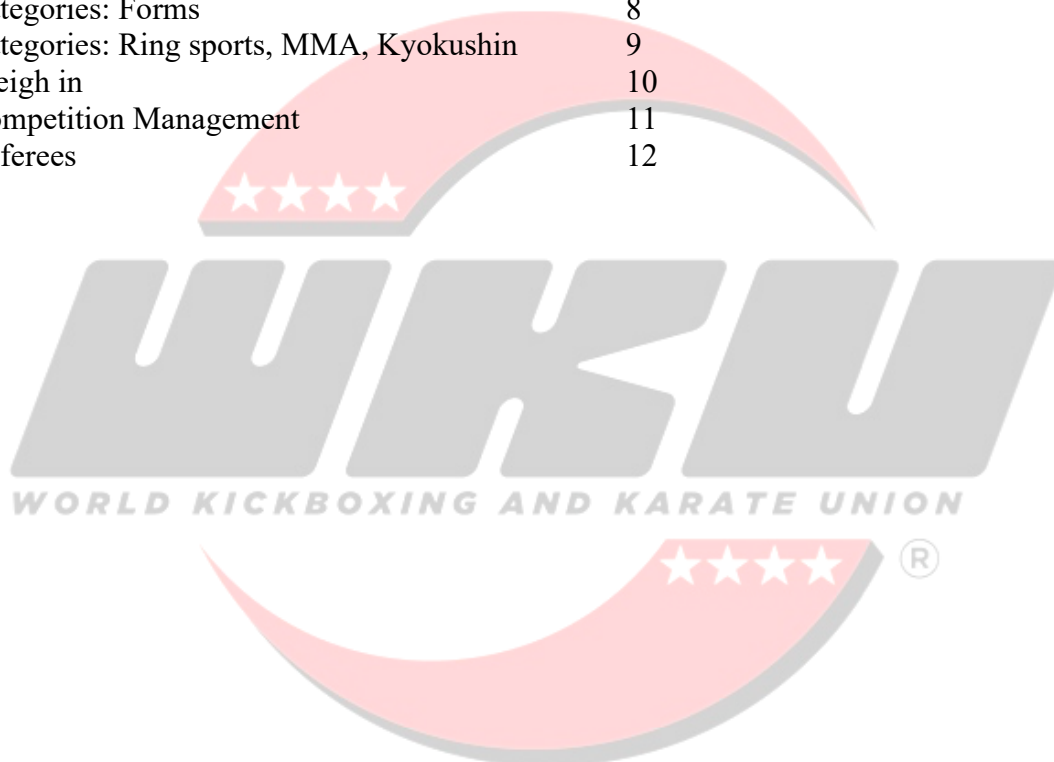


WKU RULES
Under the Registration of GCO





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INTRODUCTION

This rulebook replaces all previously issued rules.

These current rules are valid for members from all states, whereas consideration can be given to local law, in case the law requires such adjustments.

English is the official language of the WKU. This rulebook can be translated into other languages by the WKU headquarters (hereinafter referred to as the “WKU HQ”). In case of any discrepancies, the official English version shall prevail.

Without a written consent from WKU HQ this rulebook shall not be used (copied, published, distributed, etc...) for commercial or business purpose in any way, even electronically.

It is WKU members' responsibility to be aware of and to know the WKU official rulebook, including its changes and amendments. Ignorance of the updated version of the WKU rulebook, which is available on the WKU official website, will not be taken into consideration at any WKU event.

General

1. WKU

WKU stands for the WORLD KICKBOXING AND KARATE UNION, which has its seat in Germany. The affiliated National Federations are members of WKU.

WKU HQ

WKU HQ stands for WKU headquarters, which has seat in Nördliche Uferstr.4-6, 76189 Karlsruhe, Germany.

WKU Executive Board

WKU Executive Board consists of all WKU world presidents.

2. Amateur Status

The term “Amateur” is used to refer to the Full Contact, Original WKU Kickboxing (K-1 style), Thai Boxing, Mixed Martial Arts, and Submission Grappling competitors. However, in this rulebook it is used to describe all non-professional competitors.

A professional is a competitor who is under a professional contract and simultaneously earns more than 100,000 Euro per year by professional fights.

A professional competitor cannot participate in amateur events; especially the amateur WKU World Championships. If the WKU HQ should discover non-amateur participation in such events, one or more of the following consequences might be considered:

- a. a) Disqualification of the non-amateur; and/or
- b. b) Participation ban , time to be determined by the WKU HQ;
- c. c) Fine of 250 Euro; and/or
- d. d) Revocation of the won title; a revocation of the World title requires the WKU Executive Board approval.

3. Doping

It is prohibited to use any substance to boost one's performance, if such substance is banned by one of the appropriate organizations as a doping substance (IOC, Anti-Doping Agency, National Olympic Committee, etc.).

The WKU supervisor, tournament promoters, and the official doctor can and may perform tests. Other qualified and authorized organizations or persons may also perform such tests in case the local law dictates that.

Competitors who intentionally avoid or evade such controls or try to obstruct or manipulate the testers in any way can be disqualified and banned for a period of time to be determined by the WKU HQ.

Privacy, especially for children and female competitors, shall be respected. Doping tests must be made by a qualified person of the same gender. Whenever this is not available, a WKU supervisor of the same gender shall supervise the collection of the test samples.



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4. Registration

Competitors who wish to be admitted to any competition, tournament, or gala should fulfill the following conditions:

- a) Possess a WKU issued or accepted sport book (sport pass); and
- b) Have a valid stamped license for the current year applied in the sport book; and
- c) Have proof of an appropriate entry in the sport book, or show a medical test not older than 12 months, proving that they are “fit to fight”; and
- d) Have no medical or any other reason preventing them from participating in the event; and
- e) Show a medical proof of EEG examination in case of having experienced three head knockouts within a period of less than 12 months, with the EEG made after the banned period; and
- f) Female participants must not be pregnant; and
- g) Fighters in Ring Sports divisions must undergo an AIDS test if the test is available and to provide it according to local law where possible.

Entries into the WKU sport book:

Promoters of the tournaments, competitions or galas are responsible to make the following entries into the WKU sport book:

- a) Place, date and name of the event;
- b) Fact that the competitor took part in the event;
- c) Discipline and place (1st, 2nd, 3rd) of the competitor; and
- d) The fact of any head knockout.

In addition to the promoter, the head referee, a WKU supervisor, or, in the case of a head knockout, the physician can also make the entries.

Banning periods after a head knockout:

- a) 1 month after the first head knockout within 12 months;
- b) 3 months after the second head knockout within 12 months; and
- c) 12 months after the third head knockout within 12 months (EEG required).

After being banned for 12 months due to three head knockouts within 12 months, the competitor must submit medical documentation with a negative EEG examination result before he/she can participate in any competition again.

Identification of the competitors:

In international tournaments, competitions or galas, competitors must prove their identity and nationality by showing a government-issued ID.

Competitors who show an ID card issued by WKU HQ displaying their 5-digit MAP number, and who have already had their passport or ID scanned need not to show further identification.

At international competitions, competitors must be in possession of their WKU-issued ID card in order to gain access to the venue and to the competition area. At tournaments, this ID shall serve to prove to the referee the identity of the competitor as well as the division(s) for which the competitor has registered.

Exceptions from nationality requirements:

A competitor can prove his/her special relation to a country other than the one of his/her nationality (the “chosen” country) by submitting to WKU HQ one of the following documents:

- a) Birth certificate of the country of choice;
- b) Marriage certificate with a citizenship of the country of choice; or
- c) Proof of a permanent residence of the country of choice.

Competitors must submit a written application to start “the country of choice” process through the national federation, which then forwards the application to WKU HQ.

Competitors who have selected a “country of choice” can only change the country after obtaining a new citizenship or after moving to another country for permanent residency.

The WKU Executive Board has the right to decide upon such applications, which must be submitted at least one month prior to the competition in which the competitor intends to participate. Exceptions may be made only where approved only by the WKU HQ .



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5. Age and weight Categories for all WKU Disciplines

The cut off date for an age category is always the 30th of June of the calendar year in which the competition is held.

Kids:

A kid who is 12 years old or under on the cut off day can compete in this age category. The promoter of tournament must inform all country representatives in the official invitation about the age limit within which kids can compete in the tournament.

Juniors:

A junior who is between the age of 13 and 17 (inclusive) years old on the cut off day can compete in this age category.

Juniors – Ring Sports:

A junior who is between the age of 15 and 17 (inclusive) years old on the cut off day can compete in this age category.

Adults:

An Adult who is 18 years or older on the cut off day can compete in this age category.

Veterans:

A Veteran who is **BETWEEN 35 AND 45 YEARS OLD** on the cut off day can compete in this age category. There is no Veteran category in Full Contact, Thai Boxing, Original WKU Kickboxing (K-1 style), and MMA (Mixed Martial Arts). Veterans may compete down one age category.

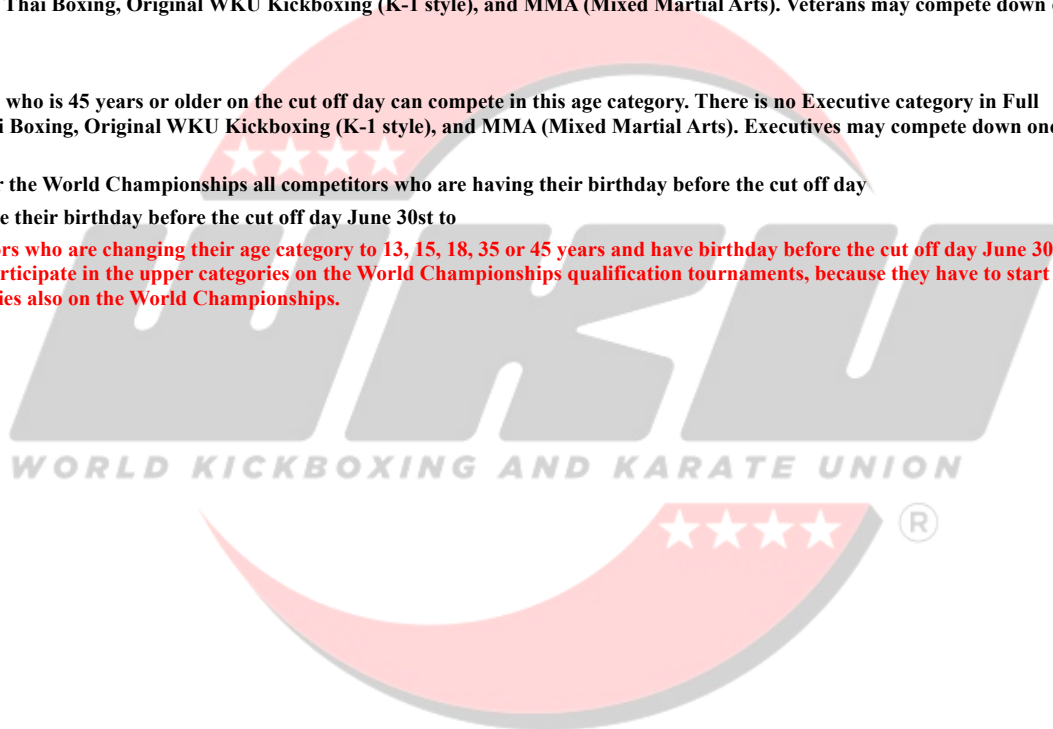
Executives:

An Executive who is 45 years or older on the cut off day can compete in this age category. There is no Executive category in Full Contact, Thai Boxing, Original WKU Kickboxing (K-1 style), and MMA (Mixed Martial Arts). Executives may compete down one age category.

To qualify for the World Championships all competitors who are having their birthday before the cut off day

Who will have their birthday before the cut off day June 30st to

All competitors who are changing their age category to 13, 15, 18, 35 or 45 years and have birthday before the cut off day June 30st are allowed to participate in the upper categories on the World Championships qualification tournaments, because they have to start in these categories also on the World Championships.





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6. Weight and Age Divisions: Pointfighting, Light Contact, Karate Kumite

Kids Girls 12 years old and under /-25kg, -30kg, -35kg, -40kg, -45kg, -50kg, +50kg
Kids Boys 12 years old and under /-25kg, -30kg, -35kg, -40kg, -45kg, -50kg, +50kg
Junior Girls 13-17 years old / -45kg, -50kg, -55kg, -60kg, -65kg, +65kg
Junior Boys 13-17 years old / -45kg, -50kg, -55kg, -60kg, -65kg, -70kg, -75kg+75kg
Adult Women 18-34 years old /-50kg, -55kg, -60kg, -65kg, +65kg, Allcategory
Adult Men 18-34 years old /-60kg, -65kg, -70kg, -75kg, -80kg, -85kg, -90kg, +90kg, Allcategor
Veteran Women 35-44 years old /-60kg, +60kg
Veteran Men 35-44 years old /-70kg, -80kg, +80kg.
Executive Women 45 years old and up /-60kg, +60kg
Executive Men 45 years old and up /-70kg, -80kg, +80kg.

Team Competition: Pointfighting and Light Contact

Female Teams consist of three (3) members from the (kids, juniors and women).

Male Teams consist of five (5) members from the (kids, juniors and men)

Each Team is allowed One (1) competitor for an alternate, in case a member of the Team is injured during competition.

The Team Coach that is the winner of the coin toss will have the option to decide if they want to send out their first Competitor or have the opposing Team send out their first Competitor. After the first match the Team Coaches must take turns sending out their next Competitor.

Team Weight Classes for Kids Divisions: Pointfighting and Light Contact

The Team Coach has the option to pick from two (2) separate weight divisions to fill a spot. (For example a Girls Team Coach can pick either a -25kg or -35kg.

Kids Girls Divisions are: 1x -25kg or -35kg/ 1x -40kg or -45kg/ 1x -50kg or +50kg.

Kids Boys Divisions are: 1x -25kg or -30kg / 1x -35kg or -40kg/ 2x -45kg or -50kg/ 1x +50kg.

Team Coaches do not have to follow a specific order when they decide on which weight class they want to send out. But once a Team Coach sends out their Competitor the opposing Coach must match their Competitor from the same weight Division.

Team Weight Classes for Juniors and Adults: Pointfighting and Light Contact

There are no weight divisions in the Junior and Adult Team competition.

The Team Coaches will choose their Competitors alternatively matching the weight Divisions from both Teams.



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7. Age Divisions: FORMS

Divisions by Age:

- Kids 11 years old and under
 - Juniors 12-14 years old
 - Teens 15-17 years old
 - Adults 18-34 years old
 - Veterans 35-44 years old
 - Executives 45 years old and up
- Divisions for Kids, Juniors and Adults: Males and Females are in separate Divisions except for Team Forms
- Hard Style, Korean Style, Japanese/Okinawa Style, Chinese Style, Free Style, ITF Style Forms, Weapons with Music, Weapons No Music, Traditional Karate Weapons
 - Hard Style and Traditional Team Forms, Free Style Team Forms

Divisions for Veterans: Men and Woman are in separate Divisions

- Veterans Traditional, Veterans Hard/Soft Style, Traditional Karate Weapons, Weapons No Music, Veterans with Music

Divisions for Executives: Men and Women are in separate Divisions

- Executive Traditional, Executive Hard/Soft Style, Traditional Karate Weapons, Weapons No Music

WORLD KICKBOXING AND KARATE UNION





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8. Weight and Age Divisions RINGSPORTS:

Applied weight divisions for Full contact and Original WKU Kickboxing (K-1 style) are as follows

CHILDREN	BOYS 8-9YRS	-25KG, -30KG, -35KG, -40KG, +40KG
CHILDREN	GIRLS 8-9YRS	-25KG, -30KG, -35KG, +35KG
CHILDREN	BOYS 10-11YRS	-30KG, -35KG, -40KG, -45KG, -50KG, +50KG
CHILDREN	GIRLS 10-11YRS	-30KG, -35KG, -40KG, -45KG, -50KG, +50KG
CHILDREN	BOYS 12-14YRS	-35KG, -40KG, -45KG, -50KG, -55KG, -60KG, +60KG
CHILDREN	GIRLS 12-14YRS	-40KG, -45KG, -50KG, -55KG, +55KG

Cadets Girls 15-17 years old - 50 kg, - 55 kg, - 60 kg +60kg

Cadets Boys: 15-17 years old - 50 kg, - 55 kg, - 60 kg, - 65 kg, - 70 kg, - 75 kg, - 80 kg, - 85 kg, + 85 kg

Women : -50kg, -55kg, -60kg, -65kg, +65kg

Men: -60kg, -65kg, -70kg, -75kg, -80kg, -85kg, -90kg, +90kg

MMA:

Men: -60kg, -65kg, -70kg, -75kg, -80kg, -85kg, -90kg, +90kg

Kyokushin:

Junior Girls: 15-16 years old. -60kg and +60 kg

Junior Girls 17-18 years old. -58kg and -65kg +65kg

Junior Boys: 15-16 years old. -60kg,- 70kg,-80kg + 80kg

Junior Boys: 17-18 years old. -70kg,- 80kg,-+80kg

Senior 19-40 years old. -70kg,-80kg,- 90kg and +90kg

Veteran +40 years old. -85kg -95kg +95kg.



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9. Weigh-In

Time:

The weigh-in must be completed at least two hours prior to the first bout.

International Tournaments, Competitions or Galas:

Whenever possible, a selection of volunteer referees, preferably from different countries, shall supervise the weigh-in on the day before the competition.

Tolerance:

Generally, there is no tolerance. Only kids will be allowed a half kilo discrepancy of weight.

Only **FOUR** participants from each country are permitted per weight division. No overbooking is allowed except with written consent from WKU HQ, which may be given in electronic form (e-mail). The WKU Representative shall apply for the aforementioned WKU HQ consent a minimum of one month prior the competition in written or electronic (e-mail) form.

Overbooking in the case of the aforementioned exception of a weight division in any age must be handled in such a way that the number of participants of the same country in one particular weight division is reduced to **FOUR**.

The corresponding national coach or country representative can influence the placement of his/her competitors for the “fight-off” during the pool drawing.

Medical Examination

All competitors must present medical check no older than 12 months, undersigned by a physician. Otherwise the competitor must undergo a medical check by the present physician, who shall be designated by the promoter of the tournament. Whenever there are male and female participants, the medical examinations must be held in separate rooms or, depending on availability, in one room at different times.

If a competitor is not in possession of his or her sport book with the annual WKU license stamp at the time of the physical examination and the weigh-in, he or she shall not be permitted to fight.



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10. Competition Management

Fighting Areas:

Fighting Areas for Point Fighting, Forms, Light Contact, and Karate Kumite:

- a) The fighting area must be square. Each side must be 8 meters in length (8 m X 8 m) maximum or 6 meters (6 m X 6 m) minimum.
- b) Around the fighting area, a safety zone strip of two meters shall be kept clear. Only referee tables are allowed to be placed within this safety zone. No spectators are allowed to be within that zone. The safety strip zone can be marked.
- c) The timekeeper and scorekeeper are located at the referee table facing the head referee.
- d) In the case that there is only one fighting area, sufficient space for the medics and/or emergency personnel shall be provided at the referee table.
- e) The referee table must be equipped with the following items:
 - Pool lists
 - Score displays
 - Table stop watch. A hand stop watch is not acceptable.
 - Acoustic signal (Bell, whistle, or horn for ring sports; voice is sufficient for other disciplines)
 - “Bean-Bag“ is allowed
 - Spare paper and pencils
 - PC and printer are allowed

Box Rings:

- a) Full contact competitions shall be held inside a box ring.
- b) The box ring's components, including but not limited to, all side protection and ropes, must be inspected for suitability and safety prior to the first competition.
- c) The length of each side of the box ring shall be at minimum 4.5 meters and at maximum 6.00 meters (side length of the rope). It shall consist of 4 ropes.
- d) The minimum diameter of the 4 ropes is 2.5 centimeters (1 inch).
- e) The lowest rope must be placed 33centimetres (13 inches) above the platform, while the top rope shall be placed no more than 1.30 meters above the platform.
- f) All ropes must be covered with soft, tightly fitted materials.
- g) The four corners must be made of metal. The diagonal distance between opposite corners must not exceed 10.6 meters (outside measurement).
- h) The height of the corners must not be more than 1.30 meters (52 inches) above the platform of the ring.
- i) All corners must be covered with commonly used cushions in order to avoid possible injuries.
- j) The platform itself may not be placed higher than 1.20 meters above ground level. It must be covered with a shock absorbent (Mat Puzzles or similar) material below the ring floor layer.
- k) Stairs shall be placed in the red and the blue corners as well as in one white corner.
- l) Sufficient chairs must be provided for coaches.
- m) The referee table must be equipped with the following items:
 - Pool lists
 - Score cards
 - 6 clickers
 - Table stop watch and hand stop watch as a reserve
 - Acoustic signal (Bell, whistle or horn)
 - PC and printer are allowed
 - Spare paper and pencils
- n) Judges tables and chairs shall be located along the other three sides of the ring box.
- o) If there is only one ring in use, sufficient space for the medics and/or emergency personnel shall be provided at the referee table.
- p) To avoid possible injuries, media are not allowed on the platform during the rounds.



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11. Referees

All provisions in this article set the basic duties of referees. Referees must fulfill other conditions, requirements and duties set in other WKU official documents related to referees, which are published on the WKU web page.

Referee Categories:

International referee categories:

Referees of the categories “master referee“, “international referee“ and “international judge“ are identified by a different color ID card marked with “REFeree.”

A Master Referee is required to take part at the WKU World Championships as an international referee for 3 years (3 times) and pass the Master Referee test. A Master Referee must also have sufficient knowledge of English.

An International Referee is required to take part at the WKU World Championships as an International Judge for 3 years (3 times) and pass the international referee test. An International Referee must also have sufficient knowledge of English.

An International Judge is required to have 3 years of practice in refereeing as a first class national referee and pass the International Judge test. An International Judge must also have sufficient knowledge of English.

WKU HQ organizes referee super seminars one time per year before the World Championships for training and licensing “Master Referees“, “International Referees“ and “International Judges“. Attendance of this seminar and successful passing of the appropriate test as well as sufficient knowledge of English (the official language of the WKU) are the conditions to become a “Master Referee“, “International Referee“ or “International Judge“.

Each country is responsible for its own graded referees’ training and licensing of national class referees. However, the WKU may also offer such seminars.

The power of the “Master Referee“, “International Referee“ and “International Judge“:

- “Master Referee“: Entitled to be head referee and ring inspector at the WKU World Championships or to act as a supervisor in international titled competitions. A WKU Master Referee cannot have a leading position in other world kickboxing associations.
- “International Referee“: Entitled to be a referee in the WKU World Championships finals and/or to act as a referee or judge in international titled competitions. An International Referee is entitled to be a ring inspector at the WKU World Championships as well in the case that there is no master referee on the fighting area in this position.
- “International Judge“: Entitled to be a referee in the elimination competitions in the WKU World Championships or to act as a judge in national titled competitions.

Licensed referees are registered in a central database. Their names, categories, nationalities and MAP-numbers will be published in the official WKU members’ website (www.WKU-members.de).

Conflict of Interest:

Nationality:

In continental and world championships competitions, the referee team has two composition options:

a) One referee from the nationality of the red corner competitor, one referee from the nationality of the blue corner competitor, and one or more referees neither from the nationality of red nor blue corner competitors.

b) All referees have different nationalities than both the red and blue corner competitors. Note:

If a referee has several nationalities, or if he/she, based on the exception of the nationality principle, has chosen a country, he/she must step down whenever the competitor is either from one of the referee’s nationalities or from his/her country of choice.

Note: This rule concerning the nationality of referees can be broken only by the decision of the supervisor and only in the case that there are not enough referees of different nationalities at the tournament.

It is the referee’s responsibility to report any possible conflict of interest. In case of an omission, the WKU HQ, after consulting with the Head Referee may impose one or more of the following measures:

- a) Warning;
- b) Exclusion of further participation as a referee in the event;
- c) Reduction of the referee’s compensation; and/or
- d) Withdrawal of the referee’s license for a period of time to be determined by the WKU HQ.

• Head Referee:

A Head Referee must be designated for every competition.

In a competition with several competition areas or rings, the Head Referee appoints a ring inspector, who supervises application of WKU rules at one fighting area or ring.



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The Head Referee can replace referees who have been obviously not neutral or who violate the official WKU competition rules, just as in such cases the Head Referee can overrule their decisions.

- **Ring Inspector:**

On each fighting area, the head of the officials is the ring inspector. He/she is responsible for all WKU rules being correctly applied on his/her fighting area. It is the responsibility of ring inspector to place officials at his/her competition area or ring according to their nationalities or affiliations with school, club or particular competitor.

He/she reports the results according to the instructions of the Head Referee.

At events with only one competition area or ring, the Supervisor acts as a ring Inspector.

- **Supervisor:**

The supervisor is responsible for managing all referees and supervising the work at all competition areas and/or rings. He/she shall take care that the time schedule will work and the safety of the fighter is provided for (by the compulsory attendance of the physician and first aid team).

The supervisor is the part of the WKU Event Organization Team (of the WKU World Championships). At international events or galas, the supervisor is appointed by WKU HQ and, after the championship or gala, must send a report about the event to WKU HQ.

- **Protests:**

Decisions of the official doctor can be subject to protests if a second doctor is present at the event. The second doctor will make the decision about the protest.

Protests are only possible in the following situations, and shall be considered after a fee of 100 Euro in cash has been paid to the ring inspector or the Head Referee:

- a) A proven agreement between the referees /judges;
- b) The mathematical addition of the scores is wrong;
- c) An obvious confusion between the red and blue corners occurs; and/or
- d) The official WKU Rules were violated.

Note: Video recordings cannot be used to justify a protest.

A protest does not hold back the competition. However, the Head Referee can interrupt the continuation of the fights for a short period of time if the result of the protest has a significant influence on the proceeding of the competition.

After hearing the protest from both coaches and the referee's comments, the Head Referee shall then make the final decision.

The protest fees shall go into the general account of the WKU HQ fund for future referee training and development.

If a protest is submitted after the competition, the WKU HQ shall then make the decision after hearing the protest from both coaches and the referee's comments. The national federation has a limit of 30 days to make a statement about a protest.

If the decision of a protest leads to a loss of a European or World title, the final decision can be only made by the Executive Board of the WKU.

- **Clothing:**

All referees shall wear black trousers, black socks, and black Polo shirts with the WKU logo on the shirt.

WKU Rules Committee members shall wear a white shirt and black trousers.

To minimize injuries, it is forbidden for referees to wear any jeweler, watches, pens, etc. Judges are excepted from this rule since no bodily contact with competitors is possible.

The use of medical gloves is recommended.

Registration of referees per country for the WKU World Championships: ^{[[SEP]]}For every country, the following number of referees must be present:

0-4 competitors	0 Referees
5-25 competitors	1 Referees (Master or International referee)
26-50 competitors	2 Referees (both Master or International referee)
51-75 competitors	3 Referees (at minimum one Master and one International referee)
76-100 competitors	4 Referees (at minimum one Master and one International referee)
101-125 competitors	5 Referees (at minimum one Master and two International referees)
126+ competitors	6 Referees (at minimum one Master and three International referees)

Each country that does not fulfill the number of referees' requirement will be fined 250 Euro per each missing referee. The money shall go into the WKU HQ general account.

Countries which pre-register their referees for championships and receive confirmation from the WKU will receive priority.

The referee's payment is as follows:

Master referees	10 € per hour
International referees	7 € per hour
International judges	5 € per hour



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Payment is due on the morning of the final competitions' rounds before the competitions start.

The organizer/host is responsible for the payment of referees as well as general care of said referees. This includes providing separate rooms containing food and beverages. In addition, it is necessary to have mineral water on the referees' and judges' tables.

12. World Championships Finals

In all Adult Divisions, two (2) Competitors may advance to the Finals!!!

In all Kids and Juniors Division four (4) Competitors may advance to the Finals!!!

