



# **WKUWORLD RULES**

## **Under the Registration of GCO**



# **WKUWORLD General Rules**

**\*\*\*THE EIGHT STARS OF WKUWORLD\*\*\***

**Concentration**

**Discipline**

**Courage**

**Loyalty**

**Self-Control**

**Fighting Spirit**

**Strength**

**Respect**



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## 1. General

- WKUWORLD stands for the WORLD KICKBOXING AND KARATE UNION located in Germany
- The affiliated National Federations are members of WKUWORLD.
- WKUWORLD HQ stands for WKUWORLD Headquarters located in New-York-Strasse 11, 76149 Karlsruhe
- WKUWORLD Executive Board consists of all WKUWORLD World Presidents

This rulebook replaces all previous ones issued.

These current rules are valid for members of all states, but consideration can be given to local law, in case the law requires such adjustments. English is the official language of the rulebook, but it can be translated into other languages by the WKUWORLD headquarters. In case of any discrepancies, the official English version shall prevail.

- Without written consent from WKUWORLD HQ, this rulebook shall not be used (copied, published, distributed, etc.) for commercial or business purposes in any way, even electronically.
- It is WKUWORLD members' responsibility to be aware of the WKUWORLD official rulebook, including its changes and amendments. Ignorance of the updated version of the WKUWORLD rulebook, which is available on the WKUWORLD official website, will not be taken into consideration at any WKUWORLD event.

## 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; including the amateur WKUWORLD World Championships. If the WKUWORLD HQ should discover non-amateur participation in such events, one or more of the following consequences might be considered:
  - Disqualification of the non-amateur
  - Participation ban, time to be determined by the WKUWORLD HQ
  - Fine of 250 Euro
  - Revocation of the his/her winning title; a revocation of the World title requires the WKUWORLD Executive Board approval



### 3. Doping

- ❖ It is prohibited to use any substance to boost one's performance, especially if such substance is banned by one of the national or international organizations as a doping substance (IOC, Anti-Doping Agency, National Olympic Committee, etc.)
- ❖ The WKUWORLD supervisor, tournament promoters, and the official doctor can and may perform tests. Other qualified and authorized organizations may also perform such tests in case the local law dictates so
- ❖ 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 to be determined by the WKUWORLD 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 WKUWORLD supervisor of the same gender shall supervise the collection of the test samples

### 4. Registration and Weigh-In

- ❖ The coach is supposed to pre-register the competitors using an excel list
- ❖ Competitor's name, country and MAP-number must be listed
- ❖ Every Sportsperson must have an up-to-date license-book with official annual WKUWORLD license stamp to participate in tournaments
- ❖ A proof of medical examination dated less than 1 year is mandatory showing that the competitor is fit to fight and in a good healthy condition
- ❖ Female participants must not be pregnant and must sign a non-pregnancy form
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Banning periods after a head knockout
- ❖ **N.B: Kids (under 12 years of age) are only permitted one (1) additional weight check if they did not reach their target weight the first time**
  - 1 month after the first head knockout within 12 months.
  - 3 months after the second head knockout within 12 months.
  - 12 months after the third head knockout within 12 months (EEG required)

At international competitions, competitors must have their WKUWORLD-issued ID card to gain access to the venue and 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.

- ❖ The competitor's weight must match with the pre-registered mentioned weight
- ❖ Generally, there is no weight tolerance. Only Kids have a maximum of 500g discrepancy

## 5. Age Categories and Weight Classes

- A minimum of three competitors in each weight class is obligatory
- Less than three competitors in one division will imply to move the competitors in that division up to the next weight class
- In that case, each country must receive for free, and at least a few hours before the start of the tournament, a minimum of one copy of all drawing lists and the list of the competitor's names.
- Protest after the draw is forbidden
- The age cut-off month of a Competitor is June 30th of the current competition year

### **Kids Category**

- A kid aged between 8 and 12 (inclusive) years old on the cut-off date can compete in this category

### **Teens Category**

- A teen, aged between 13 and 14 (inclusive) years old on the cut off day can compete in this category

### **Juniors Category**

- A junior, aged between 15 and 17 (inclusive) years old on the cut off day can compete in this category

### **Adults Category**

- An adult aged between 18 and 34 (inclusive) years old on the cut off day can compete in this category

### **Veterans Category**

- A veteran aged between 35 and 44 (inclusive) years old on the cut off day can compete in this category

### **Executives Category**

- An executive aged between 45 and 55 (inclusive) years old on the cut off day can compete in this category
- There is no Executive category in Full Contact, Thai Boxing, Original WKU Kickboxing (K-1 style), and MMA (Mixed Martial Arts)

### **Seniors Category**

- A senior over 55 (inclusive) years old on the cut off day can compete in this category
- A senior can only compete in Point fighting / Karate Kumite / Forms

- Only Veterans and Executives can drop down one (1) age category
- No one is allowed to compete up in an upper age category
- The weigh-in must be completed at least two hours before the first competition
- Whenever available, a selection of volunteer Referees, preferably from different countries, supervises the weigh-in in the international competitions on the day before the competition

## 6. Safety Equipment

Every competitor must be equipped in all divisions with approved safety equipment in the form of padded protectors:

- Individually fitted breast-protector for females only, in all disciplines and all age categories (no WTF chest-protector is allowed)
- Individually fitted groin-protector for all age categories in all disciplines by males and females
- Instep guards for Ring Sports (Foot protectors is optional)
- Foot protectors or Shin protectors with instep are mandatory for K1
- Foot protectors + Shin guards for Matts Sport. Shin guards must be approved for martial arts. Shin guards of other sports are prohibited
- Individually fitted head-protector (helmet/Headgear), which must protect the top of the head.
- In Ring sport when the promoter provide red and blue headgear the athletes must wear it
- Individually fitted tooth-protector (gum shield/ Mouth guard) inside of the mouth only
- Hand-bandages: maximum length of 4.5 meters
- Gloves: 10 ounces in all styles – Open Hand in Point Fighting and Karate
- Additional tapes on the prescribed shin protection or foot protectors are prohibited
- It is allowed to use sports tape with a maximum length of 2 meters and a maximum width of 3.8 cm to hold the protectors

### Optional Safety Equipment:

- Elbow, forearm and knee guards soft ones only
- Kwon Strike Light or Ring Star Shoes designed for Point Fighting, Light Contact and Kick-Light only
- Face Guards-are allowed in Kids divisions only
- Only “Sport Eyeglasses” are allowed to be worn under the Face Guard in Kids divisions

### Between the rounds

- The following substances are approved for treating competitors’ cuts between rounds: Water, Ice, and Petroleum Jelly.
- Petroleum jelly may be used lightly around a competitor’s eyes and on a competitor’s face or parts of the body.
- The competitor is allowed to have only water and soft drinks between rounds. Any other beverage is prohibited.



### 7. Competition Area

- Matt Sports (Light Contact, Kick-Light, Point Fighting, Kumite): Matted Area with Jigsaw or Roll Mats of at least 1-inch thickness. Maximum Area 8 x 8 Meters, Minimum 6 x 6 Meters fighting square with a 1 Meter safety zone all around.
- N.B, If the venue does not allow for the safety zone the entire matted area can be declared fighting area by the promoter in agreement with the area supervisor.
- Ring sports (Original WKUWORLD/K1, Full Contact, Low Kicks, Thai Boxing): Platform Boxing Ring with Canvas Covering, Corner Post Protectors/Pads Tension Covers, Rope Separating Straps, at least two (2) Access Steps on both (Red & Blue) Corners, Roped with four (4) covered Ropes. Maximum 8 x 8 Meters, Minimum 7 x 7 Meters



### 8. Medical Examination

- The attendance of a registered doctor/physician, is obligatory in national and international tournaments; a first aid team is not sufficient
- Two doctors are required for World Championships along with a first aid team
- The official physician must supervise every match whereas he has the final authority in question of the safety of the competitors. He may at any time stop or terminate a match at his discretion
- No match shall start if the attending physician is not in place, and the physician may not leave his place before the decision at the end of the match
- It is a must to immediately comply with the directions and orders of the attending physician
- The doctor has the right to interrupt or stop a contest by ringing the bell or calling “stop” to the referee if he thinks a competitor is in danger and the referee has not stopped the fight. He is also responsible for making the decision when a referee calls him to examine an injured competitor.
- The attending physician must follow the rules and regulations of the appropriate national health board as well as be approved by the authorities where such rules apply
- The attending physician shall be ready to assist if a serious emergency arises and to manage first aid in the event of less serious injuries
- No one, including coaches, may attempt to aid a competitor during a round before the attending physician has had the opportunity to see the injury. The doctor is the only one allowed to enter the ring and examine the presumed injury to decide if the fight continues or not. The examination must take place in the ring/on the Mats and have duration of not more than one minute. Any kind of treatment of the competitor is explicitly forbidden. Should this one-minute not be enough, the referee shall stop the match and declare the opponent as the winner.
- Doctors’ decisions are in any case final, but it is allowed to protest if a second doctor is present at the event. The second doctor shall decide on the protest.



### 9. Competitor Responsibilities

- Every competitor must have an up-to-date sports book with the official annual WKUWORLD license stamp to participate in tournaments
- The competitor must be in good physical shape and have a good sportsmanlike attitude
- The competitor must be presentable, clean and proper; the hands' and feet nails must be cut short
- The hair must be short or freshly washed
- The face must be clear to avoid any problem during the fight
- It is the privilege of WKUWORLD referee to decide whether facial hair (moustaches, sideburns, beards or any combination in that matter, or the length of the hair) poses a safety risk to the competitor or an obstacle to the unrestricted observation of the match
- The excessive use of petroleum jelly, grease or any other substance shall not be used on the face or any part of the body. Any foreign substance with chemical additives is prohibited
- Every competitor with long hair may wear approved hair bands or holders without any metal and must do so if the hair is long enough to pose a safety hazard or could hinder the observation of the fight.
- The referee is allowed to request facial hair, Vaseline, grease or any other similar substances removal, or in the case of long hair, ask the competitor to contain it by a net before the fight starts.
- The competitors are responsible to bring their equipment to all WKUWORLD tournaments and championships



### 10. Coaches Responsibilities

- ❖ The coach must wear a clean tracksuit and clean sport shoes
- ❖ A coach is granted two minutes to acquire a tracksuit if he/she is not properly attired for his/her competitor's bout.
- ❖ Each competitor can have two coaches while only one of them is allowed to enter the ring
- ❖ The coach may surrender on behalf of his/her fighter by throwing a white towel into the ring
- ❖ Coaches must support and instruct their fighters during the intermission between rounds
- ❖ During the rounds, none of the coaches can enter the ring/matt or act inappropriately disturbing the proper proceeding of the fight
- ❖ Coaches shall comply with all directions of the referee
- ❖ During the rounds the coaches may only in a proper manner, give advice, help, or encourage the competitor. Should a coach violate this rule the referee can issue a warning, expel the coach, or disqualify the competitor
- ❖ A coach who has been expelled will no longer function as a coach during the remaining part of the tournament
- ❖ The coaches must have at their disposal a towel, a sponge, water, and grease for the competitor
- ❖ Before each round, the coaches must make sure to remove the buckets, stools, towels, etc. from the ring. If necessary, wipe the floor to clean the spilled water

### 11. Protest

- Only the coach may make an official protest
- The scoring of the referee and judges is final
- Protests the decisions of a referee or judge can only be accepted if the competition rules have not been correctly applied
- Protests shall be directed to the Head Referee and shall state properly the reason for the complaint along with any supporting evidence that a wrong decision has been made (Video will not be accepted).
- The protest must provide a processing fee of € 100. The fee will be returned if the protest is found valid.
- The protest fee will be transferred to the account of the WKUWORLD HQ for the promotion and training of future referees etc.
- The Head Referee will decide on the protest after hearing evidence from the protesting side and the referees concerned. His/her decision is final.
- Decisions of the official doctor can be subject to protests if a second doctor is present at the event. The second doctor will decide about the protest.

A judge's verdict, given after any match shall be binding and may be altered only if the Head Referee and WKUWORLD supervisor believe that one of the following circumstances has occurred:

- A conspiracy occurred, or an illegal agreement affected the result of the match
- The addition of the scorecards is faulty; one judge has mixed up the corners, resulting in the victory being given to the wrong competitor
- A clear violation of the rules and regulations of WKUWORLD, strictly affecting the outcome of the match, has been executed.



### 12. Rules of Conduct

- ❖ Every competitor must show a fair play
- ❖ Should a competitor not be able to continue the match, caused by fault safety equipment is or for any other reason, he/she shall retreat one step and raise one arm
- ❖ Should a competitor be knocked down or be incapacitated, his/her opponent shall immediately retreat to the nearest neutral corner and wait for the referee to signal that the match can continue
- ❖ When a competitor receives a warning or a remark from the referee, he/she must bow in the direction of the referee to indicate that he/she has understood the reason behind it
- ❖ At the end of the fight, the competitors shall approach the referee standing in the centre, and stand on each of his side relative to their corners, await the speaker's announcement of the verdict; the referee shall then raise the arm of the winner
- ❖ After the fight, the competitors must bow to the referee in recognition of his/her efforts, salute each other, then salute the opponent's coaches
- ❖ Violation of WKUWORLD rules and regulations or infringements of the unwritten laws of good sportsmanship and fair play may lead to a warning or disqualification for a shorter or longer duration of time, depending on the seriousness of the violation or infringement.