



# TOURNAMENT RULES

## REVISED VERSION

Revised June 2004



*Everyone is a Winner...*

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# Songahm Taekwondo Tournament Rules

Revised April, 2004

## **COMPETITOR REQUIREMENTS**

Only members in good standing of the ATA, STF and WTTU are eligible to enter ATA sanctioned tournaments. **In good standing** means that, if they are a color belt, student black belt, Junior Trainee Instructor, Trainee Instructor, Certified Trainer, or Specialty Certified their organization membership must be current. If they are a Certified Instructor, their certification must be current. A member in good standing must also be a member of and be training on a regular and consistent basis at an ATA licensed school or club and have his/her Instructor's permission to attend and compete.

Participants are not required to compete in all aspects of competition (which includes Songahm Taekwondo forms, one-steps/free-sparring, and/or weapons competition). Instructors should encourage students in a positive manner to compete in all divisions in which they have been trained, however, there might be times when a student is not prepared to compete in everything. An instructor should not force or intimidate students into something in which they are not confident.

Competitors must wear the appropriate belt and compete in the division for the rank that they currently hold regardless of how long they have held that rank. A student should take pride in what they have earned and be honored to wear the correct belt. For example, if a new camo belt is not comfortable with free-sparring, he/she may choose to only compete in the form and/or weapons portion of the competition.

## **OFFICIALS AND THEIR DUTIES**

### **International Chairman of Tournaments**

The International Chairman of Tournaments is the overseer of all that happens in the world of tournaments. He/she is part of the ATA International Headquarters staff and is appointed by the Grand Master of Songahm Taekwondo. The Tournament Department is responsible for maintaining all tournament sanction paperwork, the oversight of tournament judging certification, the preparation for World and National tournaments, the arbitration of disputes and rule revisions.

The International Chairman of Tournaments at this time is:

Sr. Master Jay Kohl — 7th Degree Black Belt

### **National Tournament Director**

The National Tournament Director is appointed by the Grand Master of Songahm Taekwondo with the input of the International Chairman of Tournaments based upon their experience with the individual and any recommendations of the organization's seniors. This person is in charge of the general operations of World and National tournaments and supplies a great deal of input on operation procedures and rule revisions.

The National Tournament Director at this time is:

Ms. Betsy Stevens — 5th Degree Black Belt

Assistant Directors at this time are:

Mr. Richard Harman — 5th Degree Black Belt

Dr. Izel Rivera — 5th Degree Black Belt

### **Regional Chief of Tournaments**

The Regional Chief of Tournaments is appointed by the Grand Master of Songahm Taekwondo based upon his experience with the individual plus the recommendation of the Regional Vice-President and/or the Regional Director. The duties of this position vary according to the region in which they are involved. Typically, this person approves the tournament sanction documents for his/her region, verifies that tournament sites are adequate for regional events, oversees the floorplan of regional tournaments, runs the regional tournaments, and administers judging certification clinics and tests.

Check with your Instructor or regional officers as to the name of the Regional Chief of Tournaments for your region.

## **Assistant Regional Chief of Tournaments**

Many regions have elected to establish the office of Assistant Regional Chief of Tournaments (1) because of the enormous responsibility of running regional tournaments, and (2) to provide a training ground for future Regional Chiefs of Tournaments. These Assistant Regional Chiefs are appointed by the Grand Master of Songahm Taekwondo based upon his experience with the individual plus the recommendation of the Regional Vice-President and/or the Regional Director. The responsibilities of these assistants are assigned by the Regional Chief of Tournaments.

Check with your Instructor or regional officers as to the name(s) of the Assistant Regional Chief of Tournaments for your region.

## **Tournament Arbitrators**

If tournament arbitrators are needed they must each be a Level 3 judge. At regional events, tournament arbitrators are appointed by the Regional Chief of Tournaments. During national tournaments, Regional Chiefs of Tournaments may be assigned as arbitrators by the International Chairman of Tournaments. An arbitrator will be responsible for supervising assigned rings and for enforcement of tournament rules. He/she will make on-the-spot corrections and will assist in resolving problems in a diplomatic and respectful manner. If necessary, he/she may replace a judge for appropriate cause. The position of tournament arbitrator is a temporary assignment during that tournament only; it is not a permanent position.

The International Chairman of Tournaments or the Regional Chief of Tournaments is in charge of supervising the event. Center judges and corner judges are under their guidance. At national or world tournaments, the International Chairman of Tournaments and the National Tournament Director are chief officials. The regional chiefs are to assist them.

## **JUDGING LEVELS**

### **Level 1 Judge**

The requirements to be a Level 1 Judge are to be at least 12 years of age, and a 1st Degree Black Belt Decided or higher. This judge may be a corner judge for color belt competition. Judges aged 17 or younger may not judge any division that contains competitors older than they. The judge must know all the color belt forms, the one-step sparring for white, orange, and yellow belts, and be familiar with the following weapons to be able to judge free-style weapons competition; Single Bahng Mahng Ee, Single Ssahng Jeol Bong, Double Bahng Mahng Ee, Double Ssahng Jeol Bong, Jahng Bong, and Ssahng Nat. It is highly recommended that any person who desires to certify as a Level 1 Judge have prior tournament experience as a time and score keeper.

To qualify for a Level 1 judging certification, the student must receive training in ATA tournament rules and procedures and pass the Level 1 written test with a score of at least 80%. This judge will receive a 1-inch wide blue chevron to be put on the right sleeve of the uniform jacket. The chevron should be centered (on a diagonal) on the crease in the middle of the top of the sleeve; left edge (as you look at the uniform) 2 inches from the bottom of the sleeve, right edge 4 inches from the sleeve bottom. The cost of this certification and chevron is \$7.00 (subject to change).

### **Level 2 Judge**

The requirements to be a Level 2 Judge are to be at least 14 years of age, and a 1st Degree Black Belt Decided or higher. This judge may be a corner judge, a center judge for color belt rings, or a corner judge for Black Belt rings up to his/her current rank. Judges age 17 or younger may not judge any division that contains competitors older than they. The judge must know all the Songahm color belt forms, one-step sparring for all color belt ranks, and the black belt forms up to and including his/her current rank. They must also be familiar with the following weapons to be able to effectively judge free-style weapons competition for the color belts; Single Bahng Mahng Ee, Single Ssahng Jeol Bong, Double Bahng Mahng Ee, Double Ssahng Jeol Bong, Jahng Bong, and the Ssahng Nat. They must also be knowledgeable in the weapons included in the association's black belt curriculum for the ranks they are judging. It is highly recommended that any person who desires to certify as a Level 2 Judge have prior tournament experience as a Level 1 Judge

To qualify for a Level 2 judging certification, the student must receive training in ATA tournament rules and procedures and take the Level 1 and Level 2 judging certification tests. The student must score at least 90% on the Level 1 test and at least 80% on the Level 2 test. This judge will receive a 1-inch wide red chevron to be placed on the right sleeve of the uniform jacket. This chevron should be placed 1/4 inch above the blue chevron. The cost of this certification and chevron is \$5.00 (subject to change).

### **Level 3 Judge**

The requirements to be a Level 3 Judge are to be at least 16 years of age and a 2nd Degree Black Belt Decided or higher. This judge may be a corner judge, a center judge for color belt rings, a corner judge for Black Belt rings up to his/her current rank, or a center judge for Black Belt rings up to one rank lower than his/her current rank. Judges aged 17 or younger may not judge any division that contains competitors older than they. The judges must know all the Songahm color belt forms and one-step sparring for all color belt ranks and the black belt forms up to and including their current rank. The Association highly recommends that any person who desires to certify as a Level 3 Judge have prior tournament experience as a Level 2 Judge.

To qualify for a Level 3 judging certification, the student must attend a rules clinic instructed by the Regional Chief of Tournaments (or his/her assistants) and take the Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 tests. The student must score at least 90% on the Level 1 test, at least 80% on the Level 2 test, and at least 80% on the Level 3 test.

This judge will receive a 1-inch wide black chevron to be placed on the right sleeve of the uniform jacket. This chevron should be placed 1/4 inch above the red chevron. The cost of this certification and chevron is \$3.00 (subject to change).

All certifications are valid for one year and can be renewed by attending one clinic and passing the written test(s) required at each level. This requirement is mandatory for all ranks 1st through 9th Degree Black Belt. Everyone must be physically present to be certified. There will be no "write offs." Attending Black Belt meetings the morning of a tournament will not be accepted for judging certification.

Judges must participate in a rules clinic and pass a written test for each judging certification level. These clinics may be "in club/school", regionally hosted, or nationally hosted as follows: "In club" clinics are only available for Level 1 judging certification, Level 1 and Level 2 clinics can be held "in school," and Level 3 must be done at a regional or national clinic. The opportunity to hold these clinics "in club/school" is with the permission of the Regional Chief of Tournaments and the Regional Vice-President.

\* (NOTE: Any Black Belt student, Trainee Instructor, Certified Trainer, Specialty Certified or Certified Instructor who attends tournament judging certification clinics and passes the written test(s) is required to wear the appropriate chevron(s) on his/her ATA uniform. These chevrons should be ordered through the student's Instructor with the appropriate fees included. Chevrons for extra uniforms can be purchased for \$2.50 [subject to change])

At many tournaments there are a sufficient number of judges to help run the rings. Due to this and as a courtesy to senior instructors, 6th Degree Black Belts and higher do not judge competition as often. However, regardless of rank, senior instructors are required to know the current rules, any changes, and maintain current judging certification.

# TOURNAMENT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

## Ring Size

The size of rings for competition shall be square and should measure in the range of 14 - 18 feet per side, depending on the type of division (adult or junior). For “Tiny Tiger” divisions, the previously described rings can be “cut” in half and two divisions may be run side-by-side. Each should be clearly marked, numbered, and have centering marks for free-sparring squaring off.

## Center Judges Responsibilities

The center judge has authority over all competitors in his/her assigned division. That judge’s main duty is to see that each competitor abides by the tournament rules. The center judge conducts form competition first, weapons competition (free-style in color belt rings or appropriate form for chosen weapon in black belt rings) second, and then one-step or free-sparring competition. He/she may award points; warn a competitor when there has been a rule infraction and may award penalty points for the rule violations. He/she also has the power to disqualify a competitor when there has been an infraction. Each of these actions hinge on the appropriate verification from the appointed corner judges and authority granted by the position and these rules. When the winner of a one-step or free-sparring match is announced, the center judge will hold up the winner’s hand to complete the match. At the end of all competition for that division, winners will be announced and awards given.

The center judge is responsible for controlling his/her individual ring during competition (in the way a chairman heads a committee meeting). All judges have equal authority to call points or penalties. A center judge cannot overrule a call by a corner judge, except through his own vote on a point or warning, which has no more weight than each of the other two judges’ votes. No judge is allowed to alter, add, or modify any ATA rules. The definitions of a point, penalty or disqualification are explained in the *Free-Sparring / One-Step Rules*.

It is the responsibility of the center judge to see that results are taken to the tournament officials’ table. All results turned in to the tournament officials’ table must be completed entirely, correctly, and legibly. All blanks must be filled in on the envelope and score sheets. The judges should **PRINT** their names on the result sheets in the appropriate areas and must **PRINT** their names on the outside of the division packet. All registration cards should be placed in the envelope and turned in with the score sheets. It is very important that a competitor have their membership number on their competition card. If the membership number is absent or incorrect, the competitor will forfeit any possible points earned for that competition. The instructor of the competitor will have 5 business days after the event to contact ATA International Headquarters with the missing or incorrect number to avoid the forfeiture of points. If the paperwork is not complete, it will not be accepted by tournament staff and officials. All

judges must remain in their ring until they have been relieved by another authorized judge or dismissed by the appropriate tournament official(s).

All judges are responsible for areas surrounding their ring. In the interest of safety, the judges should make sure that spectators allow ample room around each ring for competition to progress unimpeded. This is based on the type of competition taking place. With the addition of weapons competition taking place in the same ring as the form and one/steps or free-sparring, the judges need to take the space needed by each weapon in consideration when directing the spectators.

Example #1:

For rings in which Tiny Tigers are performing, parents (guardians, etc.) can be close by to take care of their children.

Example #2:

For rings in which 4th Degree Black Belt men are competing, spectators should be aware that sparring competition can carry outside of the ring, so adequate room is necessary.

Judges should have competitors seated around the ring so spectators can have a better view. There will be no coaching from the sidelines by anyone, including color belts, black belts, Instructors, family members or friends. This no-coaching rule is in effect from the time the competitors are “bowed into their ring” through the time they are “bowed out of their ring.”

Unless a senior instructor has been appointed as a tournament arbitrator or called upon for safety reasons, he/she should not interfere in the competition. This includes division break-downs, pairings, point calling, etc. It is understandable that an Instructor would want to “protect” their student from what they may consider improprieties. However, that Instructor is not justified in confronting the judges assigned to that division. This type of action embarrasses the judges, competitors, other Instructors, and often times even the spectators causing embarrassment to the ATA as a whole. If he/she feels there is a problem, that person should notify the Tournament Director or Regional Chief of Tournaments with the concern. The Tournament Director or Regional Chief of Tournaments will decide if any changes should occur.

Junior (rank) judges are under a lot of pressure trying to do the best job they can with as few mistakes as possible. The presence of a senior rank at ringside is intimidating and seems to create more pressure for the junior rank judge. Although it is not the intention of seniors to create this type of situation, it does happen.



## Getting Started

Division breakdowns are handled by the Regional Chief of Tournaments (or his/her assignees). The divisions will be made according to the number of competitors in each of the age and rank groups. Due to the vast difference from region to region in school/club numbers and competitor numbers, it is not feasible to issue a rule concerning how divisions should be formed, except for Junior Black Belt divisions as noted below. These decisions are left in the hands of the Regional Chiefs of Tournaments who use the input from the regional officers and school/club owners. This should be discussed prior to any tournament season and upheld throughout the season. There have been guidelines given to the Regional Chief of Tournaments regarding the forming of all color belt divisions and adult black belt divisions. The competitors will not attempt to influence the Regional Chiefs of Tournaments (or their assigns) in the forming of divisions. Junior black belt divisions must follow the Top Ten breakdowns without exception.

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### **\*\*\* *Special Note 1:***

Some junior black belt divisions may end up with only one competitor because of the above rule stating that junior black belt divisions must follow the Top Ten breakdowns without exception. This can cause disappointment for the student not having the opportunity to actually “compete.” In the case where there is more than one junior division that has only one competitor, the Regional Chief of Tournaments may combine them for the sole purpose of competing and earning trophies. Each “single” competitor will automatically receive 3 points for first in form, 3 points for first in weapons, and 3 points for first in sparring if it was their original intent to compete in each category. A Songahm Taekwondo form sheet, weapons sheet, and a sparring sheet must be filled out to reflect each single competitor listed in his/her individual division. However, to earn trophies, they will be put together. This does mean that a competitor would receive first place points, but may be awarded a different place trophy based on the outcome of the competition. The Regional Chief of Tournaments must use common sense in these groupings and must make sure that everyone involved understands what is happening.

Example: There is one 8 - 10 first degree boy, one 11 - 13 first degree boy, and one 8 - 10 second degree boy at a regional tournament. The Regional Chief of Tournaments should have the black belt result sheets filled out first indicating that all three competitors should receive points accordingly (each receives up to 9 points in his respective divisions). For the sake of competition and earning trophies, the three boys would be grouped together and would compete together.

For this purpose alone, boys and girls could be combined if all parties (competitors, instructors, and parents) are agreeable. Large differences in age should be taken into consideration and should not be combined. As an example, it would not be wise to combine a 9 year old with a 16 year old. As mentioned above, good common sense should come into play. Finally, this is only allowable for junior black belt divisions with only one competitor in them. Junior black belt divisions with two or more competitors cannot be combined.

The one rule that is standard is that divisions will be limited to no more than 16 competitors.

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All competitors are encouraged to pre-register for any tournament with their Instructor or school/club owner and to arrive at the tournament site prior to competition. If for some unforeseen legitimate reason, a competitor is late for his/her division, the center judge will allow the competitor to enter the division if possible based on the following points. If the next competition event has not started (weapons competition after forms or one-steps / sparring after weapons), a late entry will be allowed to enter the competition. If forms competition has ended and weapons competition has started, the forms event has ended and the competitor will not be allowed to compete in the forms event. If the weapons competition has ended and the one-steps / sparring event has started, the weapons event has ended and the competitor will not be allowed to compete in the weapons event. If the first round of one-steps or sparring competition has started, no late entries will be allowed as a late entry would disrupt the bye system.

As soon as a division is assigned to a ring and the center judge has the proper paperwork, he/she should start the competition immediately. Do not do a warm-up with the competitors. By completing competition as quickly as possible, competitors will appreciate your efficiency and you will spend less time judging.

As the competitors arrive at the ring, one of the judges should collect the registration cards. Once all the competitors have arrived, the center judge should re-count the number of competitors and the number of registration cards to insure these numbers match. The center judge will briefly explain the rules to the competitors before the division begins and will ask for and answer questions.

During competition, judges must not show any prejudice regardless of the students' school or region. The center judge will also instruct judges to recognize small differences in form technique by students from different schools and regions as natural and to be expected. They should base their score on the general form criteria, i.e., how well the student performs his/her form. As a courtesy to the competitors, the judges should not talk among themselves during or between forms.

It is very important that the competitors be left with a positive impression and experience. Therefore, each judge should shake the hand of each competitor and congratulate them after the awarding of the trophies.

## **FORM COMPETITION RULES**

It is the duty of the center judge and corner judges to score each form or match according to the rules outlined below:

### **Form Judging Responsibilities**

Forms scoring was divided into three judging sections beginning in the 1988-89 tournament year. Form judging is performed as follows:

Corner Judge A will grade only stances and kicks. For stances, the judge should look for a strong base with correct length and width, correct weight distribution, a level center of gravity while moving, and good balance. For kicks, the judge should look for the correct chamber position and long, strong kicks with good extension and focus. A complete rechamber motion is important, as well as good power and foot speed, not just how high the kick is. Judge A will only judge the techniques that are done and will not make point deductions for moves left out, incorrect kicks, incorrect stances, or an incomplete form. That will be the responsibility of the center judge.

Corner Judge B will grade only hand techniques. For hand techniques, the judge should look for the correct load position, a long, strong technique, good reaction force (where applicable), proper focus, and the speed and power of the technique. Judge B will only judge the techniques that are done and will not make point deductions for moves left out, incorrect blocks, incorrect strikes, or an incomplete form. That will be the responsibility of the center judge.

The Center Judge will grade the overall form presentation including the speed, flow, timing, and completeness of the form as well as the competitor's attitude and enthusiasm. The quality of technique is being judged by the corner judges so the Center Judge can focus on the showmanship of the presentation.

This takes most of the pressure off the judges because the three scores are all for different parts of the form and do not have any relation to each other. It also gives the competitors instant feedback on what part of their form may need improvement.

The center judge must verbally explain to the corner judges who is assigned as Judge A and Judge B. When bowing the division in and the judges are facing the competitors, Judge A will be on the left hand side of the center judge and Judge B will be on the right hand side of the center judge. When announcing form scores, the center judge should call out the scores from left to right keeping in line with the form score sheet structure. Once the center judge has called out the scores, the score-keeper should repeat the scores to the center judge to verify the correct information has been recorded. It is important that the judges continue to display their scores through this process in order to add another level of verification that the correct scores have been recorded.

## **Form Competition Procedures**

To officially start the division, the competitors will line up and bow in to the assigned judges. The center judge will introduce the judges to the competitors and explain what each judge is scoring. He/she should “fire-up” the competitors and insure that everyone understands the rules and procedures.

Prior to the initial bow-in and introductions, one of the judges should have collected all the competitor registration cards. The center judge will turn the cards face down and shuffle them. To begin form competition, he/she will draw one card at a time and call the competitor’s name. He/she will hand the card to the scorekeeper so the scorekeeper can record the name while the person is doing his/her form.

When their name is called, the competitors will answer, “Yes, Sir/Ma’am,” run to the center of the ring, and stand at attention to wait for the judges’ directions. They will follow the judges’ instructions, and when given the command to begin, will demonstrate their form on their own count. They will hold the position of the last movement until given the command to return and will not leave the ring until dismissed.

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### **\*\*\* *Special Note 2:***

Due to the introduction of the “Curriculum Rotation” system (also called “Block Teaching”), the rules on what form a color belt competitor is allowed to do had to be adjusted. Here is that change.

Color belts that participate in the form portion of competition will perform the form their instructor instructs them to. This decision should be based on the form the student is currently learning or just recently tested with. For integrity reasons, the instructor should not have a color belt student do a form that would be considered below his/her current ability level.

Example: A green belt that has learned Songahm #1 thru Songahm #5 should not compete with Songahm #1, Songahm #2, or Songahm #3. Competing with Songahm #4 or Songahm #5 would be more in line with his/her ability.

Students will not be questioned by the judges about the form they perform. There will not be any special consideration given in regard to the color of belt the students are wearing and the form that they compete with (neither higher scores for a higher level form nor lower scores for a lower level form). The students will be judged according to their performance in comparison to the others in their division that day.

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There is not a time requirement to determine which form a color belt must do for competition, however 1st Degree Black Belt competitors must do their new form after 6 months from the date of their successful decided rank test. The only exception for Black Belts is if he/she has for some legitimate reason been unable to receive instruction and has not learned the form.

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\*\*\* *Special Note 3:*

The tournament department has tried to address the issue of what form a black belt should do for competition. With the different teaching methods used in many of the schools, people wanting to “compete up a rank” due to a potential testing, and with the recommended rank issues, creating an “all specific” rule has become impossible. Couple that with the fact that often times black belts will decide not to compete because they are not comfortable with their new forms and we end up creating more reasons for someone not to compete than deciding to compete.

With the start of the 2001 tournament year, a black belt competitor can (with their Instructor’s input) perform any black belt form their rank or lower. The lowest form allowable will be the First Degree Decided form of “Shim Jun.”

The only requirement on this area is that all the competitors that make it to the Top Ten to compete for the title of World Champion in Forms MUST perform one of the standard forms for the division in which they are competing during that final competition. No lower rank forms will be allowed in the final competition. In a combined division of 2nd and 3rd Degrees, either “Jung Yul” or “Chung San” must be done. In a combined division of 4th and 5th Degrees, either “Sok Bong” or “Chung Hae” must be done.

First Decided Black Belts may still exercise the “6 month rule” which states that a competitor has 6 months from achieving their new rank to perform their new form, so they may do “Choong Jung #2 (nothing lower in a black belt ring will be allowed – even with block teaching) but by the time they compete for the title, they must be able to perform “Shim Jun.”

It is the goal of this change to encourage more black belts to compete by allowing them to do a form with which they are most confident and feel they have the best chance to succeed with as well as clearing up all the confusion on form requirements. Now, even if someone wants to “compete up a rank” no one will have to worry about what form they are “required” to do.

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An important aspect of judging forms is not letting personal preferences concerning techniques influence scoring. It is not feasible to expect every member of the ATA to do every technique exactly the same. Differences in body styles, age, and other criteria can make a difference in how an Instructor may teach a student certain techniques. This does not mean that one way is more nearly correct than another. Form judges must judge on the overall look of the techniques and not get caught up in “Well, my Instructor says it should be done this way and the competitor did it differently” concepts. The best “rule of thumb” is to watch the competitor as a judge and not as an Instructor. If a competitor has the best kicks of the group, but kicks with the instep on round kicks (in a form that doesn’t require that), don’t reduce their score for just that. Judge the techniques and the form compared to the rest of the division.

## Form Scoring

The first three competitors will complete their form before being scored. This gives the judges a base for their scores.

Each judge will give a score ranging from 9.0 through 9.9. The scores should be as follows (remember that these scores are given after comparing competitors to one another):

9.9 = Considered among the best of the group

9.6 thru 9.8 = Better than the average of the group

9.5 = The group average

9.2 thru 9.4 = Below the group average

9.1 = Complete, 2nd attempt (for color belts only - must be given by all three judges)

9.0 = Incomplete (only to be given by the center judge on the first attempt or all three judges on the second attempt)

An incomplete form is defined as a competitor leaving out at least an entire segment or stopping any time during the form and not finishing. At times, some competitors may leave out a technique or two, turn the wrong direction, or may do an incorrect technique. This would **NOT** be classified as an incomplete form. Because the emphasis of the organization's teaching is on quality of technique rather than solely memorization, an incomplete form will receive a score of 9.0 from the center judge only if it is the first attempt, and from all three judges if it is the second attempt. If a competitor leaves out a technique or two, turns the wrong direction, or does an incorrect technique, he/she should receive score reductions from the center judge only.

During form competition, the center judge may assist a competitor complete their form through verbal cues and possible physical demonstrations if the competitor is unable to complete their form. This is done solely to help the self-esteem of the competitor by giving them the opportunity to finish their form in front of their peers and audience. The center judge must then score the form as if it were incomplete (with the score of 9.0) which would be the same as if the judge did not offer assistance and the competitor had not completed their form. Cheering and offering encouragement is indeed allowed and encouraged.

Example:

A competitor demonstrating Songahm #3 leaves out both knifehand high blocks or does sidekicks in place of the two round kicks, but does correct techniques during the rest of the form. The Center Judge may make score deductions for the competitor doing the wrong techniques or leaving out techniques, while Judge A and Judge B should give scores that reflect the quality of the techniques demonstrated (when compared to the other competitors).

Judges are encouraged to make the best decision possible when scoring. The scores of all judges will be added to determine the winner.

All color belts are allowed two chances to complete their form. The highest score they may receive on the second attempt is 9.1. Black Belts are not given the opportunity of a second try. If any competitor fails to complete the form, he/she should receive a score of 9.0 from the center judge only if it is the first attempt, and from all three judges if it is the second attempt (for color belts).

There are no boundary restrictions during forms competition. Competitors will not be penalized for stepping beyond the ring boundaries, nor will they be penalized for adjusting their position to avoid obstacles, people, or the ring boundaries. Competitors may not realize that they will not be penalized for stepping beyond the ring boundaries and may adjust to prevent this. It is also possible that equipment bags, spectators, etc., may be in their way and they should be permitted to adjust to avoid these obstacles.

There are no specific time restrictions during forms competition. When forms are described and taught, the written material has a suggested time frame in which the form should be performed. This suggested time frame is there for the purpose of helping the student understand the speed and flow of the form; it is not included as a judging criteria to be used in rank promotion or tournament competition. The center judge is the sole judge that will factor in the speed and flow of the overall form in their score. That adjustment should be based on the actual performance of the form in comparison with the other competitors and not on a “stop watch.”

When recording form scores, only record the number following the decimal.

Ex.: The scores of 9.6, 9.7, and 9.8 will be recorded as 6, 7, and 8. The total of these points would then be recorded as 21.

### **Awards For Form Competition**

There will be three places awarded in form competition; a first place, a second place, and a third place. First place will be awarded to the competitor with the highest cumulative point total from the three judges. Second place will be awarded to the competitor with the next highest total, and third place will be awarded to the competitor with the third highest cumulative point total.

## **Resolving Ties**

Ties are to be run off rather than decided in conference. If there is a tie in the forms competition, the tied competitors will be asked to do their form again. The forms will be done individually, not at the same time. If there is a tie for more than one place, the judges will decide the highest place first.

Example: There is a two way tie for first place and a two way tie for third place. The center judge would have the two competitors tied for first place demonstrate their forms again and a decision would be made as to the victor. Then the two that tied for third place would perform next and a decision made.

All the judges will now be judging the entire form overall rather than their original assignments. After all the tied competitors (for that place) have done their form, they will line up facing the judges. On the command of the center judge, all judges will point at the competitor they felt did the best. If at least two judges pick the same person, that person wins and will receive that place in the competition. If more than one more place was at stake, the judges will immediately decide the next best form, and so on, until all the positions are filled.

If all three judges point to different competitors, those three will step forward one step. Next, the two competitors on the right (the judges' left) will take one more step forward. The center judge will now ask the judges to pick the better form from those two. This winner now steps forward with the competitor on the left; and the judges will again point to the better form. This person is the winner.

If more than one place was at stake, those competitors eliminated by the original vote will now be brought back and the judges will point to the one they felt deserved the next place. This procedure will be used until all places have been determined.

Example: Sue, Mary, Jane, and Betty tied for first place. All four competitors demonstrate their form a second time. All four competitors line up in front of the judges and at the direction of the center judge, each judge points to the competitor they felt earned first place. If each judge points to a different person, one competitor is eliminated from the first place voting (for this illustration Mary was eliminated). Once first place has been decided per the above procedures, second place needs to be determined. In order to do this, Mary would be brought back to be eligible to earn second place. This procedure would be used if there are four or more tied for first or second place; those eliminated in the deciding for one place will be brought back for the next place.

Because we will now decide form ties this way, all forms competitors will be scored only on the first time that they do their form. All ties will be decided by the judges pointing to the best form.

A judge must also remain consistent with his/her choice for best form when deciding ties. If a

judge points for competitor A in his/her initial voting, that judge must continue to vote for competitor A in all subsequent voting.

Example:

There is a three-way tie for 1st place in one of the women's divisions. The top finishers are Ellen, Sally and Jane. After the competitors have completed their form a second time, they are standing in the ring waiting for the judges to point to the choice for the best form, and Mr. Brown votes for Ellen. The other judges each vote for Sally and Jane. When the center judge calls Ellen and Sally to step forward and the judges to vote, Mr. Brown must vote for Ellen again. If Ellen wins that vote and then goes against Jane, Mr. Brown must vote for Ellen again.

## **FREE-SPARRING / ONE-STEP RULES**

The center judge must maintain his/her primary position directly facing the scorekeeper and timekeeper during any calls. This is to insure the scorekeeper and timekeeper receive, understand, and write down all instructions and scores. When the center judge has confirmed a point(s) and calls that out to the scorekeeper, the scorekeeper should repeat the point(s) to the center judge. This will confirm that the proper information was heard and recorded. The center judge should personally check the stop watch to insure it is working properly and should also insure the proper winners of each match are recorded. The other two judges should take a position in the opposite corners from the center judge, creating a triangle. All three judges should try to maintain this triangle, so that as the competitors move around the ring, so do the judges.

### **Bye system**

The ATA bye system should be set up before any one-steps or free-sparring begins. The ATA bye system is based on the concept that each division must achieve a point at which exactly four competitors are left to spar for one of two third places, a second place, and a first place. Simply having an even number of competitors will not insure that a division will reach this point. A bye would be considered an “automatic win.” The competitor who receives a bye would not have to do one-steps or free-spar in the first round of the competition and would move into the next round. There are two procedures that can be used to achieve the desired results.

#### Procedure 1:

If there are 8 or fewer cards, shuffle the cards then lay down the first four on the floor (face down). With the remaining cards, make pairs with the first four. The cards that do not have a pair are the byes for that division. Verify that the pairs do not contain competitors from the same school. If they do, switch one from that pair with one from another pair (again, make sure that they are not from the same school). This change can only happen during the first round of competition. Any subsequent rounds that have pairs containing students from the same school cannot be adjusted. Then give the pairings and the byes to the score-keeper so they can fill out the sparring score sheet.

If there are more than 8 cards, shuffle the cards then lay down the first eight. With the remaining cards, make pairs with the first eight. The remaining cards that do not have a pair are the byes for that division. Check to make sure the pairs do not contain competitors from the same school. If they do, switch one from that pair with one from another pair (again, make sure that they are not from the same school). This change can only happen during the first round of competition. Any subsequent rounds that have pairs containing students from the same school cannot be adjusted. Then give the pairings and the byes to the score-keeper so they can fill out the sparring score sheet.

## Procedure 2:

There are three “base” numbers to remember; 4, 8 & 16. Take the number of competitors and subtract that number from the next highest “base” number. The number left is the number of byes for that division.

### Examples:

6 competitors

8 = next highest “base” number

$8 - 6 = 2$  byes

11 competitors

16 = next highest “base” number

$16 - 11 = 5$  byes

Check, double check and triple check the byes results. This tends to be the biggest problem in running a ring. If the center judge has any difficulty, he/she should call on the Regional Chief of Tournaments or the Tournament Director for help. To help reduce errors in determining byes, the ring packets supplied by the ATA tournament department will include a bye sheet. This sheet can be used to verify the number of byes determined by the center judge is correct.

Once the number of byes has been determined, choose a random way to draw the byes from the registration cards that have been collected (have a spectator pick them, shuffle the cards and draw at random, etc.). Do not throw the cards for any purpose. This looks unprofessional and has caused lost cards (which can cause left out competitors.) Once the byes have been selected, pair up the remaining cards. Again, check the pairs for competitors from the same school and switch if necessary. Give the pairings and byes to the score-keeper to fill out the score sheet.

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### \*\*\* *Special Note 4:*

As of March 1, 2002, a change was made in the selection of byes for one-step or sparring competition. This change states that “Previous World and State Champions in One-Steps or Sparring will receive preference in the awarding of byes.”

The procedure for this will be the following:

Step 1: Calculate the number of byes for the division (either use Procedure 2 from above or refer to the table on the back of the Sparring Result Sheet used in the division packets)

Step 2: Determine the number of previous World and State Champions for one-steps or sparring in the division. The center judge should have all the competitors turn around so he/she can view the uniform backs and determine who is wearing the appropriate uniform indicating a previous championship won. This will be determined by the uniforms being worn that day only. Verbal or written confirmation of past or new champion status will not be allowed.

Step 3: The byes required will be awarded to the previous champions in this order:

The World Champions first -

The most current World Champion receives the first bye

If any other byes are needed, then it will be by descending order of year

If there are two or more of the same year for a bye, a random draw among those tied will be used.

The most current State Champions after all the World Champions

If any other byes are needed, then it will be by descending order of year

If there are two or more of the same year for a bye, a random draw among those tied will be used.

This rule does not guarantee that every World or State Champion will get a bye, they only receive preference. This will be used at all regionals, nationals, and world tournaments. This will not be used in the final competition for the title of World Champion. The order of points earned will still be used to determine those byes.

This procedure for determining byes will hold precedence over the previous rule of competitors being separated by school for the first round. The byes cannot be reassigned if this procedure leaves only members from the same school competing against each other in the first round.

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Each competitor will answer “Yes, Sir/Ma’am!” when his/her name is called, and run to the mark indicated by the center judge. From that point to the end of the match, the competitors will follow the instructions of the center judge. They will not talk unless directly addressed by the center judge or one of the corner judges. Comments, actions, facial expressions or disrespectful body language in response to a judge’s call or to a lack of judge’s call or ruling will not be allowed and may be punished by a verbal warning, penalty point or disqualification.

## **One-Steps**

All white, orange, and yellow belts are allowed to compete with one-step sparring instead of free-sparring. One-steps must be done with a “partner” facing each other and as if in a self-defense situation. One-step sparring matches use the same bye system as free sparring. After the competitors bow in, the center judge assigns one competitor to be red (using a piece of red cloth attached to the competitor’s belt in the back) and one competitor to be white. The competitors then do their one-steps.

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### **\*\*\* *Special Note 5:***

Please refer to page 16 in regard to the “Curriculum Rotation” or “Block Teaching” systems. The set of one-steps a competitor may do will follow the same criteria as described for forms (except that camo belts and above must free-spar).

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A competitor cannot mix one-steps from two different ranks, but the set of one-steps which a competitor uses to compete does not have to match the form the competitor used during form competition; i.e. a competitor may do Songahm 2 form and Songahm 1 one-steps. During one-steps, a competitor must do at least two different one-step combinations on the first two attempts to win both initial points. If a competitor does repeat a one-step during the first two attempts, they are prohibited from winning the second attempt.

## **Required One-Steps**

For safety reasons, a competitor is allowed to do only the #1 and #2 one-steps in any order. The #3 one-step will not be allowed. If there is a tie and a third one-step is necessary, the competitor will use his/her choice of the #1 or #2 one-step. A one-step match will last for a maximum of three one-steps.

## **One-Step Competition Procedure**

The center judge should conduct the match as he/she would free-sparring. The competitor on his/her right will always be red, and low block first. The center judge will start each one-step segment by telling the red competitor to “Step Back, Low Block!” The center judge will break the competitors between each one-step just as in free-sparring.

To seem more like free-sparring, the judges will score the one-steps one at a time. Using flags, the judges will score the first one-step as soon as both competitors have finished. One point will be awarded to either red or white. This will continue until one competitor scores two points and is declared winner of the match.

## **Judging Criteria**

All one-steps will be judged by the following criteria. The judges will check each of the criteria, moving down the list until he/she sees a significant difference between the competitors. This determines the winner of the one-step.

- Look at quality of the basic techniques: stances, blocks, kicks, etc. As mentioned earlier about forms, memorization is not the organization's sole objective. A student that has "great" technique but leaves out a move (or does an incorrect move) should not lose to a student that does the one-step "correctly", but has only "fair" technique. Also, regional/Instructor variances are expected and must be allowed.
- If both are even, look at power; which competitor uses the stronger techniques.
- Next, look at the flow (or smoothness) of the one-step.
- If the judge still can't decide, choose the competitor striking closer to the target.
- If they are still tied, the competitor with the better competitive attitude should win.

If a competitor accidentally makes slight contact during one-step sparring, he/she will not be penalized. If excessive contact is made, a penalty point may be awarded or the student may be disqualified if appropriate.

If a student is wearing a camo belt at a tournament, he/she will not be allowed to compete in one-steps, even if he/she has been recently promoted. He/she has the option to free-spar or may choose not to.

## **Free-Sparring Competition Procedure**

All camo belts through Black Belts will free-spar. Unless a disqualification is declared, the competitor who scores the greater number of points will be declared the winner. If one competitor reaches five points before the end of the two minutes, he/she will be the winner. Time runs continuously unless the center judge or corner judge indicates that time should be stopped.

Ties will be determined by "sudden victory" -- the first competitor to score a point will win. There is no time limit on "sudden victory." Points and warnings do not carry over into "sudden victory." Overtime matches may be decided by penalty points.

## **Legal Target Areas**

Hand techniques -- the front of the torso. This is restricted to the front of the body starting at the hip line and going up to the base of the throat, and from one side seam of the uniform to the other side seam of the uniform. Striking techniques going towards or making contact with areas outside of this definition will be considered illegal.

Foot techniques -- the front of the torso (see above) and the head and neck, excluding the throat. The sides and back of the neck are legal as are all areas of the head including the face mask, the sides, back and top. Kicking techniques going towards or making contact with areas outside of this definition will be considered illegal.

## **Illegal Target Areas**

Illegal target areas include any part of the body not described in the above definitions. Depending on the type of technique, striking or kicking, will determine which definition to use. Illegal target areas will include, but not be limited to, areas below the belt (front, back or sides) and to the back (excluding the neck and head for kicks).

## **Scoring Points**

Scoring points will be done by performing legal hand or foot techniques on or near the legal targets, with varying criteria depending on the rank and division of the competitors.

- Hand and standing foot techniques to the legal torso area will score one point. Legal hand techniques include only punches, backfists, hammerfists, ridgehands and knifehands. Finger tip techniques as well as spinning backfists, spinning knifehands, etc. which are defined as “blind techniques” are not allowed.
- Kicking techniques to the head, face, side or back of the neck will score two points. Jump kicks to the body will also score two points. The criteria to qualify as a jump kick is that the non-kicking foot must be off the ground at the time of the kick coming close to or touching the legal target area.
- Jump kicks to the head target areas score three points. The criteria to qualify as a jump kick is that the non-kicking foot must be off the ground at the time of the kick coming close to or touching the legal target area.

Techniques cannot score if the competitor (the attacker) is falling during the execution of the technique.

Kicks cannot score if anything other than the base foot is touching the ground.

## **Point Calling**

Corner and center judges may make the following calls (center judges point to the proper competitor rather than raising a flag):

*Point - raise the correct flag color and number of fingers corresponding to the number of points scored.*

This means the judge saw a technique come close to or touch a legal target area.

*No Point - cross both forearms downward.*

This means the judge saw a technique, but did not feel that it qualified as a point due to reasons such as, but not limited to:

- The technique was not close enough for the ranks of the competitors
- The technique was blocked by the other competitor
- The technique was not a proper technique (weak or poorly thrown)
- The technique was thrown when the competitor was out-of-bounds

*No See - one hand covers the eyes.*

This means the judge either did not see a technique thrown or was not in a position to judge whether the technique came close to or touched a legal target area.

*Warning - wave the correct flag color down low.*

This means the judge saw the competitor do something that was illegal. This includes, but is not limited to:

- The technique was going in the direction of an illegal target area (this would include fakes or feints)
- The technique came close to or touched an illegal target area
- The technique used was illegal
- The competitor didn't exercise sufficient control of the technique
- The competitor was running out of the ring to avoid being scored on
- The competitor was purposely falling to avoid being scored on
- The competitor's attitude/conduct was not of ATA standards
- The competitor is delaying the match (slow return to mark, slow getting up, etc.)

When the center judge or one of the corner judges sees a point or an infraction, he/she will clearly call out “Break!” to stop the action. On direction of the center judge, each judge will indicate one of the four calls; “point,” “no point,” “no see,” or “warning.” Each judge has one vote with all the votes carrying equal weight. The center judge and the corner judges are required to show their vote at the same time. When indicating a point for either color, the corner judge should raise AND point the appropriate flag and number of points awarded in the direction of the competitor they are calling for. This way if an error is made in the color of flag raised, the judge may change the flag for the correct call.

If a corner judge calls a point for red, but raises the white flag, red is possibly being deprived of an earned point. Honest mistakes do happen. If the judge points in the direction of the proper competitor, but raises the wrong color flag, it is evident to everyone for whom he/she meant. It would be permissible in this event to change the flag color.

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**\*\*\* *Special Note 6:***

A judge must actually see (not just hear contact, etc.), any technique he/she calls. If a judge is not sure that a technique scored, he/she should call “no see.” If he/she calls “no point,” he/she could prevent a competitor from receiving a legitimate point.

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Judges will award points or penalties according to the majority of judges who saw the techniques.

Example:

Two judges call “no see,” and one judge calls “point.” In this case, the competitor who scored will be awarded the appropriate point(s). If a judge calls “no see,” he/she has eliminated himself/herself from that particular scoring vote. In this situation, only one judge saw the scoring technique, so this would make him the majority.

If two or three judges score different points for the same competitor, the highest common score called by the majority of judges will be awarded.

Example 1:

First judge scores Red 1, second judge scores Red 1, and third judge scores Red 2. The highest common score is 1 and Red is awarded 1 point.

Example 2:

First judge scores Red 1, second judge scores Red 2 and third judge scores Red 3. At least two judges scored 2 points or higher, and Red is awarded 2 points.

## Calling Warnings

Safety of the competitors must be a main concern of all the judges involved in a division. It is because of this safety concern that the calling of warnings is a very important aspect of the judges responsibility. The call of warnings always requires special attention whether it is the only call or not.

During sparring, if a judge sees an illegal technique or illegal action, that judge needs to call “Break” to stop the action. When the center judge calls for points, the judge that called for the break should then wave the matching colored flag of the offender towards the ground. At this point, the center judge should look at the time-keeper and say “Stop Time!” A discussion should then take place about what that judge saw and whether any of the other judges saw that illegal action also. Once it has been discussed what the offending action was, the center judge should then call for verification similar to calling for verification of points. Each judge should then use the same calls they would use for verifying points:

*Verify the warning - Wave the matching colored flag of the offender towards the ground*

This indicates the judge saw the action and agrees that it was illegal.

*Disagree with the warning - Cross the arms low*

This indicates the judge saw the action, but did not agree that it was illegal. This could be because of a different visual position to the action and did not see the action as illegal.

*No See - One hand covers the eyes*

This indicates that the judge did not see the action, and cannot agree or disagree with the call.

The results of this call are handled similar to calling for points; the majority indicates the final call. It is important to remember that two calls of “No See” do not negate a warning or a point. The “No See” calls are treated as if the judge wasn’t there at the time and the majority of what is remaining indicates the final call, even if the majority is only one judge.

Example 1:

If one judge calls “no see,” one judge calls “point” for white, and one judge calls “warning” for white, the appropriate warning or point (warnings are always verified first) will be called following the verification process.

Example 2:

If one judge calls “warning” for red, one judge calls “no point,” and one judge calls “point” for red, the competitor will receive the appropriate warning or point (warnings are always verified first) following the verification process.

Example 3:

If one judge calls “point” for white, another judge calls “point” for white, and another judge calls “warning” for the white, the competitor will receive the appropriate warning or point (warnings are always verified first) following the verification process.

A competitor can not be issued a warning and be awarded a point at the same time. During the action, one judge saw “Red” punch towards “White’s” face and two judges saw “Red” kick towards “White’s” head. When the center judge calls for points, the judge that saw the punch waves his/her red flag towards the ground and the other two judges raise their red flags and two fingers indicating an award of two points for “Red.”

Once the center judge sees the call for a warning, he/she should stop time and discuss with the judges what was witnessed. After the discussion, official verification should be asked for. Once verification one way or the other for the illegal action is given, then verification for any points should be asked for. If “Red” received a warning for the punch to the face, “Red” cannot also receive two points for the kick.

If a judge sees two calls at once during a sparring match, he/she should notify the center referee when instructed to score after a break (a corner judge can call time if necessary).

Example: Center referee calls “no see,” one corner judge calls “White 2,” and the other corner judge calls “White 2” but also saw Red make contact to an illegal target area. The center judge would seek verification on the Red warning first then proceed to the point call for White.

In a situation that requires calls for both competitors, time must be stopped and not continued until the final warning and/or scoring decisions have been completed.

Example 1:

One judge calls “White 1,” second judge calls “White 1,” and the third judge calls “Red warning.” The center judge should stop time, discuss the warning first and seek verification, then move on to the point calls.

Example 2:

One judge calls “White warning,” second judge calls “Red 2,” and the third judge calls “no see.” Judges would first verify the warning for “White” and then the points for “Red.”

## **Contact /Non-Contact Penalties**

Contact and penalty rules are for the safety of competitors in their different divisions. The safety equipment is only effective in stopping cuts and bruises from accidental contact made with controlled technique. It will not protect against full-power attacks. All competitors are encouraged to score head kicks without contact. If light contact is made, points may still be awarded. If the judges' vote determines excessive contact was made, the center judge will award a penalty point, or he/she may disqualify the attacker if excessive contact was due to malice or a negligent lack of control.

Neither color belts or black belts are required to make body contact to score points, but may make light to moderate body contact. Black Belt students are not required to make head contact with kicking techniques, but are allowed to make light to moderate contact.

No contact will be allowed, or any points awarded, for any hand techniques to the head. Hand contact to the head or contact to any illegal target area the first time will result in a penalty point; the second time will be automatic disqualification. In all calls relating to contact to illegal target areas, the judges should take into consideration the amount of contact as well as the perception of control of the technique. Please refer to the next page on "No-Fault Rule."

Example:

"Red" has already made contact to an illegal target area and "White" was awarded a penalty point for the infraction. Later in the match, "Red" throws a punch that goes towards the face of "White." The judges may decide that "Red" did make contact with a punch to the face of "White," but that "Red," seeing where the punch was going, did try to control the technique and the amount of contact was very, very minor. A technique like this would not be grounds for disqualification, but would indicate another penalty point awarded to "White."

Also, contact to certain areas that are not defined as legal, may not warrant a warning. Examples would include, but not limited to: punches that hit the shoulder or kicks that make contact to the other competitor's leg while that leg is in a kicking motion and would be considered above the hip line. The judges need to use their experience and knowledge to determine if the competitor needs to be warned.

Non-contact penalties such as running out of bounds, falling down to avoid attack, low fakes, delaying a match (getting up slow, returning slowly when break is called, etc.) grabbing, striking (no contact) to an illegal target area, etc., will receive a warning for the first instance and a penalty point for each subsequent infraction. Excessive contact or unsportsmanlike conduct will be a penalty point on the first offense, and may result in disqualification if the judges deem it was done through negligence or malice. The second instance must result in disqualification. Remember that the purpose of this rule is to protect the competitors physically and mentally, even if it may seem harsh to disqualify a

competitor with poor control.

If a competitor is disqualified during sparring, he/she is eliminated from competition during that tournament only, not from future tournaments.

### **No-Fault Rule**

If a competitor throws a technique that is intended for a legal target area, but due to actions outside of his/her control, strikes (or comes close to) the opponent in an illegal target area, the competitor will not be penalized.

Examples: A competitor throws a reverse punch towards his opponent's chest. The opponent ducks down and is hit in the face, or blocks the punch up into his/her face. A competitor throws a sidekick towards his opponent's ribs. The opponent does a spinning hook kick at the same time and is kicked in the back.

An important factor in determining if the no-fault rule should be exercised is if the competitor recognized what was about to happen and tried to further control the technique. This is not always possible, but would support the concept that the competitor is concerned about the safety of his/her opponent. The judges need to use their experience and the attitudes of the competitors as guidelines when using the no-fault rule.

### **Out Of Bounds**

A competitor is out of bounds when any part of the foot (or more) is beyond the ring boundary. Judges may tap the floor if they see a competitor is near the ring boundary to help him/her realize his/her ring position.

A competitor out of bounds can still be scored upon.

If a competitor has one foot in bounds and one foot out of bounds, the competitor can only score with the foot that was out of bounds. By picking up this foot, he/she is now back in the ring. A competitor cannot score with a jump kick if initiated with both feet out of bounds. However, a #3 style kick can score if the out of bounds foot is the one that initiates the elevation for the kick (and the other foot was in bounds). Once the out of bounds foot lifts off the floor, the base foot is in bounds and the competitor would be considered in bounds. A competitor can score on an out of bounds competitor with a jump kick if initiated inside the ring and the scoring occurs while both feet are still in the air. Out of bounds penalties depend on whether the competitor was forced out of the ring or ran out to avoid an attack. If it becomes apparent that a competitor is running out of the ring to avoid attack or is not making adjustments to avoid being forced out of bounds, he/she should be given a warning the first time (provided he/she does not have a warning for some other infraction or be given a penalty point if he/she already has had a warning for

some other infraction) and a penalty point for each following instance.

### **Competitor's Attitude**

It is important to show the discipline of a good loser as well as a good winner. Songahm Taekwondo students are known for their discipline, courtesy and respect. Any kind of exhibition of disgust, frustration or dissatisfaction with the outcome of competition will not be tolerated. Neither will over-exuberance with winning be allowed. All sparring gear should be left on until the competitor is dismissed and has left the ring. Poor sportsmanship of any kind may result in warnings, penalty points, disqualification, reverse decisions or being barred from future tournaments. Reverse decisions can only be executed by the Regional Chief of Tournaments, National Tournament Director or the International Chairman of Tournaments. Being barred from future tournaments can be recommended by the Regional Chief of Tournaments or the National Tournament Director, but must be approved by the International Chairman of Tournaments with official written notification to the offender coming from the International Chairman.

### **Injuries**

If a competitor is injured, have him/her lie down (or remain where he/she has fallen) and remain still. Ask the competitor to remove his/her mouth piece, unless there was a blow to the mouth or face, and send a corner judge for the medical team. Until they arrive, try to help the competitor stay calm, making sure he/she does not move around. Allow the injured competitor to continue only when you are certain that he/she will not be further injured by continuing. If the competitor is under 18 years old, he/she **MUST** receive permission from his/her parents (if present), instructor (if present), and medical staff, before he/she will be allowed to continue competition. If the parents and instructor are not present, the recommendation of the medical staff will stand.

## APPEARANCE AND DRESS

### Street Clothes

Prior to and after competition, color belts may wear normal “street” clothes, bearing in mind appropriate styles for the occasion. Black belts are held to a higher standard due to their position in the organization and in the eyes of the color belt students. Black Belts should wear “dress” clothes. Females can wear “dress” slacks, or skirts and tops, or dresses. Males should wear “dress” slacks and shirts (or sweaters) with a tie, sport coats or suits. Certified Instructors should wear their Instructor “dress suit.” This dress code is in effect from the first appearance at the tournament site until away from the tournament site. It is understood that younger Junior black belts have “trouble” keeping nice clothes clean and they will be given special consideration. Teenagers and above should be able to care for themselves and are expected to comply to the dress requirements. A proper ATA white uniform is appropriate at all times.

### Uniforms and Safety Equipment

During competition, competitors shall wear clean, pressed ATA white uniforms. An ATA patch is required on each uniform for competitors over white belt. All other lettering, striping, and patches must be in good repair and positioned according to ATA guidelines.

**NO JEWELRY** is allowed during competition. This includes watches, rings (wedding rings may be taped or the stone turned toward the palm), earrings (male or female), necklaces, etc. This is for the safety of the wearer as well as other competitors. Finger nails and toe nails should be trimmed for safety as well.

For those wanting to wear shoes while in ATA white uniforms and not competing, white sport shoes are required.

During free-sparring competition, the following rules apply. All competitors must use a mouth piece. Males must wear a protective cup on the inside of the uniform. Headgear and hand and foot pads are mandatory for all competitors, with no exceptions. Hand pads must be long enough to cover the tips of the fingers. Foot pads must cover the entire top of the foot as well as the toes, sides of the foot, and the back of the heel. This safety equipment must be either the dipped foam style or the vinyl covered foam style. Headgear with some sort of face protection (i.e. a plastic shield or wire “cage”) is allowed.

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### \*\*\* *Special Note 7:*

Two colors of safety equipment are allowed: all competitors may wear red; all black belts and those color belts that are part of a school/club’s Master Club (the Master Club patch must be on the student’s uniform) may wear black gear. **The black gear MUST have**

**the ATA Black Belt Academy logo on it.**

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**\*\*\* *Special Note 7.5:***

Beginning at the 2004 Songahm Taekwondo World Championships, chest protectors will be mandatory for all members that will be sparring either in competition or testing. This will include: the finals for the title of World Champion in sparring, the black belt testing, and the regular sparring competition. This applies to all ages and all ranks that spar.

Chest protectors will be mandatory for all members that will be sparring at all ATA sanctioned tournaments immediately following the 2004 Songahm Taekwondo World Championships. This includes all ages and all ranks that spar at all “Class C,” “Class B,” “Class A,” “Class AA,” and “Class AAA” events.

The chest protectors can be of any model or color as long as they protect the required areas which include the front of the rib cage and sternum and they extend around the sides to include the floating rib. Non-martial art style chest protectors will be allowed (ex. baseball catcher’s chest protector or other styles intended for other sports).

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Other protective equipment must be approved by the competitor’s instructor and the center judge. (Criteria includes safety of opponent, intent of the guards, and special student needs or problems.) If a competitor does not have equipment, at many events, equipment can be borrowed or purchased.

All judges should remain in uniform or “dress blues” until the tournament is over. All judges are expected to stay through the dismissal of the tournament unless they have the permission of the Tournament Director or the Regional Chief of Tournaments to leave early. It is important for all judges to remember that during their color belt tournament experience, there were always black belts to judge them. Now that they are black belts and judges, they have a responsibility to the current color belts and to each other. No one likes to judge all day. If all would do their part (judge when needed and stay available for other assignments), judging responsibilities would stay at a minimum.

## **JUDGING ETHICS**

At any ATA tournament, demonstrations of prejudice, lack of attentiveness in the ring, etc., shall be cause for warnings or reprimands from higher officials and the Chairman of Internal Affairs. Any such warnings shall become part of the judge's permanent record. Three warnings within one year's time shall bring mandatory suspension from all official activities, including judging, participating in tournaments or testing for a period of two years. The names of suspended officials may be published in the ATA official magazine, "*The Way of Traditional Taekwondo.*"

## **ADDITIONAL RULINGS**

Judges who find difficulty in resolving a given problem should ask the proper tournament supervisor for rulings.

## **COMPLAINTS**

Decisions of responsible officials shall be final. Instructor or student complaints or appeals during the tournament shall not be allowed. Any complaints should be made after the tournament through the chain of command, if possible, to the attention of the Regional Chief of Tournaments or the National Chairman of Tournaments. Shows of public discord by any ranks or non-ATA members are open to official censure.

## **TOURNAMENT SECRETARY/ATA RECORDS**

The tournament secretary will be named by the tournament host unless there is a regional appointee. This person(s) must staff the judges' table at all times until all results and all entry cards have been returned from all the rings.

The secretary should have a check-out system to be certain that all results have been returned. If results are missing, tournament officials shall assume that the fault is that of the center judge rather than the secretary. Overall result sheets with award winners' first and last names, ATA number, school owner/instructor, and home town must be kept, and multiple copies made.

Once the tournament is completed, a copy of all result sheets (form, weapons, and sparring) are to be made. All packets (complete with competitor's registration cards), all result sheets (the originals), and a Tournament Recap should be sent in within 7 business days of the event. The host school should keep a copy of the result sheets for at least two years in case of association research needs.

## OPENING CEREMONY AGENDA

The ATA Tournament Department has a proper agenda for the opening ceremonies of a regional tournament. It is very important to follow this agenda and not deviate from it without prior authorization from the ATA Tournament Department or Grandmaster Soon Ho Lee. Here is that agenda:

1. M.C. - Introduction of Seniors (lowest to highest rank) and Guests  
Announce position, city/state, rank, then name  
(if applicable, other achievements such as World Champion, etc. may be included)
2. M.C. - announces "Ladies and gentlemen, please face the flags"
3. Korean National Anthem (either via tape, CD, or singer)
4. American National Anthem (either via tape, CD, or singer)
5. Bow to flags
6. M.C. - announces "Seniors, face the juniors"

**(Please make sure Seniors have had the opportunity to face the juniors before the M.C. or leading student starts the Songahm Spirit of Taekwondo.)**

7. Bow to Seniors
8. Songahm Spirit of Taekwondo
9. Bow to Seniors
10. M.C. - announces "Everyone please be seated"
11. M.C. - welcomes host of tournament
12. If applicable, have special guests give speeches
13. If applicable, give out awards
14. Highest ranking senior recognizes previous and/or current world and state champions present
15. If applicable, announce sponsors

16. If applicable, begin demonstration
17. Regional Chief of Tournaments - swears in judges (see page 40)
18. Regional Chief of Tournaments - administers competitor's oath (see page 40)
19. Regional Chief of Tournaments - gives instructions and explain which divisions are in which rings
20. Regional Chief of Tournaments - asks senior rank for permission to start the competition
21. Dismissed

\*\* It is very important that the opening ceremonies for regional tournaments not exceed a 45 minute time frame (including demonstration). The demonstration should be held to 10 minutes or less.

In case of an unexpected appearance of a high ranking ATA official, (an individual at least one rank higher than the highest official already in attendance), the chairman or chief will call all participants to attention to bow to and welcome the honored guest.

At the conclusion of the tournament, there should be a bowing out ceremony. This would be conducted the same as the ending of a class including the reciting of the Songahm Spirit.

**NOTE: ALL BLACK BELTS MUST STAY TILL BOW OUT**

## **JUDGES' OATH**

The judges' oath will be administered by the International Tournament Chairman, National Tournament Director or the Regional Chief of Tournaments to all personnel who will be judging. Although the association holds respect for certified judges' integrity, the oath is a reminder of the great responsibility held by a judge who is seen by all others as representatives of the ATA. It is vital for judges to project a feeling of ATA unity and that all judges are interested in the growth and continued enjoyment of our martial art.

The administering official shall have all judges raise their right hands with the left hand in the support position, as he/she reads the oath:

**“Do you swear that your judging of the Taekwondo students here present shall be without prejudice of school, region or other variant, and that your judging will be to the best of your ability in keeping with American Taekwondo Association policy and standards for the best interests of all competitors here involved?”**

All judges shall answer:

**“I DO.”**

## **COMPETITOR'S OATH**

In an effort to maintain the proper mental attitude of the competitors present, the proper official shall administer the following oath to all competitors. The administering official shall have all competitors stand and raise their right hands with the left hand in the support position, as he/she reads the oath:

**“Do you promise as a competitor in this ATA Regional Tournament, to compete in the spirit of Songahm Taekwondo, demonstrating safety, courtesy, and respect towards your fellow competitors, the judges, and the spectators?**

**And that you will always remember “to compete is to win.”**

All competitors shall answer:

**“I DO.”**

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR BLACK BELTS**

### **Color Belt or Black Belt Division?**

Prior to the 2001 tournament year it was standard procedure for a 1st Degree Black Belt Recommended (Red/Black) student to have the option to compete with the red belts or with the 1st Degree Black Belt Decideds. This worked well when all 1R Black Belts were doing Choong Jung #2 and were trying to advance to 1D Black Belt as soon as possible.

With the introduction of the “block teaching” system, we are facing 1R Black Belts doing lower level forms thus creating a disadvantage to those black belts that are doing Shim Jun. Also, many schools have started to include mid-terms between 1R Black Belt and 1D Black Belt. This affects the amount of time a student spends at 1R Black Belt and hence they compete with a color belt form longer in a black belt ring.

Starting with the 2001 tournament year, a 1st Degree Black Belt Recommended must compete with the color belt divisions. They will not longer have an option.

For clarification, a 2nd Degree Black Belt Recommended must compete in the 2nd Degree Black Belt division, unless 1st and 2nd Degrees are combined at a regional tournaments.

### **World Champion Program Information**

The World Champion Program tournament season runs from World Championships (usually in June) through April 30 of the next calendar year. Due to the time needed to finalize the Top Ten standings, tournaments are not sanctioned for the time period between April 30 and the World Championships (some exceptions have been made). Only tournaments that are sanctioned by the ATA International Headquarters qualify to have black belts earn Top Ten points. Only students who are members in good standing may earn points in the Top Ten (please refer to page 5 for definition and other rules).

During the tournament season, the ATA Tournament Department will collect the results of all black belt divisions at sanctioned tournaments. The students who placed in black belt divisions will receive Top Ten points according to their placing. These points are awarded in both form and free-sparring competition. These points are totaled at the end of the year and those ten competitors in each division with the most points will earn a spot in the Top Ten.

Tournaments are identified by different class distinctions. Each class has a different criteria that must be met and offers a different point structure. Here is a listing of the different tournament classes, the necessary criteria, and the points awarded:

### ***“Class C” Tournaments -***

“Class C” tournaments are to be “inner-school” events. That means that only members of schools or clubs owned by the same owner (meaning their name is included on the license of the school or club on record with the School Operations Department of the ATA International Headquarters) can participate. If members of other schools or clubs compete in these events, the results may become null and void and any possible points earned may not be awarded.

The “Class C” event must be sanctioned with the Tournament Department of the ATA International Headquarters at least 30 days in advance of the event. These events must not conflict with other regional, national, or international events and will not be officially sanctioned if the dates do conflict.

The points awarded for a “Class C” tournament are as follows:

For all divisions of 5 competitors or more:

1st place	3 points
2nd place	2 points
3rd place	1 point

If the division has fewer than 5 competitors:

	4 comp.	3 comp.	2 comp.	1 comp.
1st place	2 points	0 points	0 points	0 points
2nd place	1 points	0 points	0 points	
3rd place	0 point	0 point		

There will not be any points awarded for divisions with fewer than 4 competitors. The creation of divisions is solely in the hands of the school/club owner. They are not bound by any of the same rules governing the other classes of tournaments. It is not allowable to combine color belts and black belts, however.

To prevent abuse of the system (this limit applies only to “Class C” tournaments), there is a four event limit per tournament year that an owner can host and that a student can earn points in towards World or State Champion standings. These four “Class C” tournaments will count in addition to the current number of events allowed towards either “Champion” group. To provide another safeguard against a competitor winning a title with only “Class C” tournament points, a limit of 50% of a competitor’s point total can come from “Class C” events. As an example, the most points a competitor can earn from “Class C” tournaments are 12 (4 tournaments times 3 points for first place). To be able to apply all 12 points to their total, they would need to have at least 12 points come from higher class level tournaments. As a point to remember, if a competitor places at “Class C” tournaments first, their points will not be reflected in the

standings until they place at a higher class level tournament and meet the 50% rule.

***“Class B” Tournaments -***

“Class B” tournaments are regional events that have been approved by the school/club owner’s region and sanctioned by the Tournament Department of the ATA International Headquarters.

The points awarded for a “Class B” tournament are as follows:

For all divisions of 5 competitors or more —

1st place	5 points
2nd place	3 points
3rd place	1 point

If the division has fewer than 5 competitors —

	4 comp.	3 comp.	2 comp.	1 comp.
1st place	4 points	3 points	3 points	3 points
2nd place	3 points	2 points	2 points	
3rd place	1 point	1 point		

***“Class A” Tournaments -***

“Class A” tournaments are regional events that have been approved by the school/club owner’s region and sanctioned by the Tournament Department of the ATA International Headquarters. In order for a tournament to be eligible for the “Class A” ranking, the history of the previous events hosted by the same school/club owner is reviewed. If the last two consecutive events have had attendance of 750 or more (the number of weapons competitors will NOT be included in this figure), the event will be upgraded from a “Class B” event to a “Class A” event. Because of the the larger size of the event and the potential for more competitors in each division, the points awarded are increased from that of a “Class B” event.

The points awarded for a “Class A” tournament are as follows:

For all divisions of 5 competitors or more —

1st place	8 points
2nd place	5 points
3rd place	2 points

If the division has fewer than 5 competitors —

	4 comp.	3 comp.	2 comp.	1 comp.
1st place	6 points	3 points	3 points	3 points

2nd place	3 points	2 points	2 points
3rd place	2 points	1 point	

***“Class AA” Tournaments -***

“Class AA” tournaments are the two National events hosted by the Grand Master of Songahm Taekwondo and the ATA International Headquarters. At the time of this writing these events include the Spring Nationals held in Las Vegas, Nevada and the Fall Nationals held in Orlando, Florida. The number of these events may change in the future as may the locations.

Due to the size of these events, the points awarded are double that of a “Class B” event.

The points awarded for a “Class AA” tournament are as follows:

For all divisions of 5 competitors or more —

1st place	10 points
2nd place	6 points
3rd place	2 points

If the division has fewer than 5 competitors —

	4 comp.	3 comp.	2 comp.	1 comp.
1st place	8 points	6 points	6 points	6 points
2nd place	6 points	4 points	4 points	
3rd place	2 points	2 points		

***“Class AAA” Tournaments -***

There is only one “Class AAA” tournament each year. This is hosted by the Grand Master of Songahm Taekwondo and the ATA International Headquarters. It is typically called the Songahm Taekwondo World Championships and usually has competitors from all over the world from the ATA, STF, WTTU, and KTC.

Due to the size of this event, the points awarded are triple that of a “Class B” event.

The points awarded for a “Class AAA” tournament are as follows:

For all divisions of 5 competitors or more —

1st place	15 points
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2nd place 9 points

3rd place 3 points

If the division has fewer than 5 competitors —

	4 comp.	3 comp.	2 comp.	1 comp.
1st place	12 points	9 points	9 points	9 points
2nd place	9 points	6 points	6 points	
3rd place	3 points	3 points		

To create the standings, points for the World Champion Program will only be taken from World Championships, one national tournament (the best one of the two will be used if both were attended), five regional tournaments (the best five will be used if more were attended) and up to four “Class C” events (please refer to page 42 for restrictions on “Class C” points).

**\*\*\* Special Note 8:**

Starting with the 1999 -- 2000 tournament year, points were kept separately for form competition and free-sparring competition. A separate World Form Champion and Free-Sparring Champion were awarded for the first time at the 2000 Songahm Taekwondo World Millennium Expo.

This would mean the best score available for the tournament season would be 77 points in either form or free-sparring (15 from World Championships [first place finish - triple “Class B” points], 10 from one national tournament [first place finish - double “Class B” points], 40 from five regional tournaments [first place finishes in all five tournaments if they are all “Class A” events], and 12 from four “Class C” events).

Starting with the 1999 Songahm Taekwondo World Millennium Expo, competitors from the STF (Songahm Taekwondo Federation) and the WTTU (World Traditional Taekwondo Union) were included in the finals to determine the World Champions for each division. Those competitor’s names are provided to the Tournament Department at the end of the tournament year, and will not be posted with the Top Ten standings.

To determine the World Champions in the form category, we have set an order of performance. If all the competitors are ATA students, the order of performance will be in reverse order of their point standings at the end of the tournament year (10th place will go first, etc., 1st place will go last). If the division includes members of the STF and/or the WTTU, the order of performance will be by a random draw.

To determine the World Champions in the free-sparring category, we will use our current bye system. If all the competitors are ATA students, the byes will be awarded to the top point finishers at the end of the tournament year. If the division includes members of the STF and/or the WTTU, byes will be determined by a random draw. Previous World or State Champions in sparring will not have any bearing on the determining of byes for this event.

## Divisions for the World Championship Program

Only competitors in black belt divisions can earn points toward the World Champion Program. The divisions for the Top Ten are set by the International Tournament Department and are designed to give everyone an equal chance. Divisions are based on gender, age of the competitors, and rank. Divisions change as the organization grows and more students in different age and rank groups compete. The divisions for the current time period are:

Juniors —

Boys

7 & under 1st degrees  
7 & under 2nd/3rd degrees

8, 9 & 10 1st degrees  
8, 9 & 10 2nd/3rd degrees

11, 12, & 13 1st degrees  
11, 12, & 13 2nd/3rd degrees

14, 15, & 16 1st degrees  
14, 15, & 16 2nd/3rd degrees

Special Ability  
12 & under/all ranks  
13 - 16/all ranks

Girls

7 & under 1st degrees  
7 & under 2nd/3rd degrees

8, 9 & 10 1st degrees  
8, 9 & 10 2nd/3rd degrees

11, 12, & 13 1st degrees  
11, 12, & 13 2nd/3rd degrees

14, 15, & 16 1st degrees  
14, 15, & 16 2nd/3rd degrees

Special Ability  
12 & under/all ranks  
13 - 16/all ranks

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### \*\*\* *Special Note 9:*

Junior black belt divisions cannot be combined at any sanctioned regional, national, or world event. Please refer to page 13 for more complete information.

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Adults—

Men 17-29 1st Degree	Women 17-29 1st Degree
Men 30-39 1st Degree	Women 30-39 1st Degree
Men 40-49 1st Degree	Women 40-49 1st Degree
Men 50-59 1st Degree	Women 50-59 1st Degree
Men 60 & Up 1st Degree	Women 60 & Up 1st Degree
Men 17-29 2nd & 3rd Degree	Women 17-29 2nd & 3rd Degree
Men 30-39 2nd & 3rd Degree	Women 30-39 2nd & 3rd Degree
Men 40-49 2nd & 3rd Degree	Women 40-49 2nd & 3rd Degree
Men 50-59 2nd & 3rd Degree	Women 50-59 2nd & 3rd Degree
Men 60 & Up 2nd & 3rd Degree	Women 60 & Up 2nd & 3rd Degree
Men 17-29 4th & 5th Degree	Women 17-29 4th & 5th Degree
Men 30-39 4th & 5th Degree	Women 30-39 4th & 5th Degree
Men 40-49 4th & 5th Degree	Women 40-49 4th & 5th Degree
Men 50-59 4th & 5th Degree	Women 50-59 4th & 5th Degree
Men 60 & Up 4th & 5th Degree	Women 60 & Up 4th & 5th Degree
Men Special Ability Black Belt	Women Special Ability Black Belt

These divisions will be followed at national and world events. On a regional level, it is often times difficult to follow these divisions closely. The Regional Chief of Tournaments (or whomever they assign) have the ability to combine divisions where necessary. They have guidelines on how to combine divisions and should also consult the region prior to each tournament year on this subject to formulate a standard that will reflect the number of competitors within that region. It is up to the Regional Chief of Tournaments to keep the best interests of the competitors and the aspect of competition in mind.

## **Age and World Championship Program Divisions**

It is very, very important to understand the following information. The proper division in which a competitor should compete is based on age and rank. The age for competition of the competitors will be determined by their birthday as of midnight December 31st of the tournament season. The age that they are at that time will indicate the division in which they should compete in throughout the entire tournament season.

### **Example #1:**

Billy's birthday is September 10 at which time he will be 11 years old. He should compete in the 11, 12, & 13 year old division starting at the World Championships and continue throughout the entire tournament season (he will be 11 as of midnight December 31st).

### **Example #2:**

Susan's birthday is February 14 when she will be 14 years old. She should compete in the 11, 12, & 13 year old division starting at the World Championships and continue throughout the entire tournament season (she will be 13 as of midnight December 31st).

### **Example #3:**

Dale is a 1st Degree Black Belt and his birthday is December 29 when he will be 17 years old. He should compete in the Men 17-29 1st Degree division starting at the World Championships and continue throughout the entire tournament season (he will be 17 as of midnight December 31st).

### **Example #4:**

Betty is a 4th Degree Black Belt and her birthday is January 3 when she will be 40 years old. She should compete in the Women 30-39 4th & 5th Degree division starting at the World Championships and continue throughout the entire tournament season (she will be 39 as of midnight December 31st).

## **Rank and World Championship Program Divisions**

Rank changes can make a difference also. If a person changes rank during the tournament season and that rank change places them in a different division, that competitor can not gain any further points in the previous rank division and all subsequent points will be awarded to the new rank division. If a competitor is serious about trying for the title of World Champion, they should plan their rank changes accordingly.

If a student knows that they are going to test during the current tournament season, they can compete in the higher rank division before they achieve that rank. It is permissible to enter what may be considered a more “difficult” division. It is not permissible to enter a lower rank or “easier” division.

### **Example 1:**

Mary (an adult) is a 1st degree and after consulting with her instructor, plans to test for 2nd degree in November. Mary can compete in the 2nd & 3rd degree division at the June World Championships. This would allow her to have all her points awarded in the same division throughout the year. If she competed in the 1st degree division at the June World Championships and changed ranks in November, all points she earned from June to November would be in the 1st degree division and all points she earned after November would be in the 2nd & 3rd degree division. This could have a major impact on her World Champion chances.

The one exception to points being carried over to another division after a rank change is if the competitor tests and competes at World Championships.

### **Example:**

Alice is a 33 year old 3rd degree testing for 4th degree at the World Championships. Alice may compete in either the Women 30-39 2nd & 3rd degree division or the Women 30-39 4th & 5th degree division at the World Championships. If she does choose to compete in the 2nd & 3rd degree division, regardless of the outcome of her testing, her points will be awarded in the appropriate division. If she advances in rank, the points will be awarded in the 4th & 5th degree division. If she is unsuccessful, the points will be awarded in the 2nd & 3rd degree division. If Alice competes in the 4th & 5th degree division and is not successful with her testing, points cannot be awarded in the 2nd & 3rd degree division.

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### **\*\*\* *Special Note 11:***

Please consult page 17 about black belts competing in a higher rank division and the proper form they should do.

It is possible to earn sufficient points to be in the World Champion rankings in two age/rank divisions, but a competitor can only compete for the title in one. When the time to compete for the title of World Champion arrives, the competitor will have to compete in the higher rank division.

## **World Championship Program Finals**

At the end of the tournament season and after all the black belt results have been collected and the points tabulated, the World Champion rankings will be announced. All ten finishers will have the opportunity to compete for the title of World Champion in their division. This competition will take place at the World Championships after the tournament season (if the tournament season runs from the June 2003 World Championships through April 30, 2004, the competition will be at the June 2004 World Championships). Points toward the next year's Top Ten are not awarded for results of this final competition.

After the Top Ten are announced, if one or more of the competitors are unable to compete in the final competition (for whatever reason), those empty slots will not be filled.

Example:

James earns the number ten position in the Men 17-29 2nd & 3rd degree division. Due to his work obligations, he cannot attend the World Championships and is unable to compete for the title of World Champion. Sam, who is the number eleven finisher, will not move up to the number ten position because of James's inability to participate. Sam did not earn the number ten position. James will remain in the number ten position and receive the credit for such. Whomever James would have fought in the final competition will receive a bye.

All competitors in the Top Ten will be able to participate in the "Parade of Champions" that takes place at the World Championships. Certificates and jacket pins are given to all the Top Ten finishers and medals are given to the Top Three finishers in form and the Top Four finishers in free-sparring. There will be one gold medal winner, one silver medal winner, and one bronze medal winner in each division for form competition. There will be two bronze medal winners, one silver medal winner and one gold medal winner in each division for free-sparring. The competitor who wins the Top Ten will gain the title of World Champion in his/her division and can wear a special lettered uniform stating so (this uniform is ordered through the student's instructor from World Martial Arts and is done so at the student's own expense).

## **Black Belt Registration for World and National Events**

All Black Belt competitors are required to pre-register for national and world tournaments. All registration cards must be filled out completely, especially the rank, age and height. It is the responsibility of the instructor to double check all registrations and send them to ATA International Headquarters by the deadline. Deadlines are stated in the tournament information provided by ATA International Headquarters.

This is done so that competition and judging assignments can be made prior to the event. A program booklet is prepared and given out so that all black belts will know when and where they compete and/or judge. Form score sheets are then pre-printed for competition. Sparring score sheets will not be pre-printed and must be filled out on-site. Any black belt that does not register by the deadline will be charged a “late” fee and will compete in a “late” division that will be made on-site. Those divisions will not be governed by the standard division criteria and probably will consist of several rank groups and age groups. Those that register late will not receive double or triple points in the late divisions, only single points. Pre-registration is very important to insure proper division assignment and full points awarded.

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### **\*\*\* *Special Note 12:***

The above information has been changed to include color belts as well.

To better prepare in advance of the national and world events, color belts must pre-register as well as the black belts. This will allow for pre-assigned competition assignments and a better opportunity to plan the competition day for all competitors, families, and spectators.

In regard to “late” register color belts, they will be charged the same “late” fee as the black belts, but they will not have to compete in a “late” division. “Late” registered color belts will be assigned to the appropriate ring for their competition.

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## **TINY TIGER TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION FORMAT**

### **Establishing Our Goal**

The overall goal of encouraging “Tiny Tigers” to participate in the Songahm Taekwondo tournament process is to provide them with an “INTRODUCTION TO COMPETITION.”

Children in the age group of our “Tiny Tigers” may not be mature enough to understand “winning” and “losing” as in traditional competition. They do, however, recognize the difference between not getting a “prize” when someone else does or “how come his prize is bigger than mine?” Trying to answer these questions can be a real hardship on parents and instructors.

By handling “Tiny Tiger” divisions as an “INTRODUCTION TO COMPETITION,” we insure that there will not be any “losers,” only “winners.” All children will be rewarded for what is important, their participation and effort.

A key element to this “INTRODUCTION TO COMPETITION” is that it should be FUN! We all know how difficult it can be to perform in front of large crowds, in strange places, performing material with which we are not confident. This is even more frightening for “Tiny Tigers.” We want them to learn that they do not have to be afraid and that participating can be fun and rewarding. Trying their best is what is most important. Our goal is to give them that opportunity and reward them for trying.

## **Age and Rank Guidelines**

The age and rank guidelines for “Tiny Tiger” competition will follow those established in the “Tiny Tiger” manual. The recommended ages are from 3 to 6 years old. Some schools offer lessons to 2 year olds and they will be allowed to participate if they desire. If the child is within this age range and is training as a “Karate Kid” rather than a “Tiny Tiger,” then they should participate in the “Karate Kid” divisions. The child’s Instructor should determine in which division the child should participate. Every case needs to be handled on an individual basis. Special consideration needs to be given to children that have learning disabilities. However, due to potential size problems, 6 years old is the recommended maximum age in a “Tiny Tiger” division. The Instructor needs to indicate on the tournament registration card the appropriate group the child will participate in.

The rank groups for “Tiny Tiger” participation is limited to white belts through 1st Recommended Black Belts.

## **Division Breakdowns**

It is required that a “Tiny Tiger” division be limited to no more than 8 participants. These kids have a limited amount of patience. Having a division larger than eight may cause a problem in keeping the kids attentive. Also, trying to control more than eight “Tiny Tigers” in such a strange atmosphere (for them) can be difficult. It is permissible to have divisions smaller than eight, but do not have more than eight.

It is required that white belts be in a separate division from orange and yellow belts. The remaining rank groups can be paired together. Orange and yellow belts can participate together, as can camo and green belts, purple and blue belts, brown and red and red/black belts. It is recommended that no more than two rank groups be combined (except in the case of the brown, red, and red/black ranks).

## Ring Staff

Due to the fact that “Tiny Tigers” do not actually compete, the ring staff can be different from the normal tournament guidelines. Only one judge and one helper are required in each ring. The judge should be someone who loves working with “Tiny Tigers” and has experience doing so. Enthusiasm and energy are very important qualities. It is recommended that the judge be from a school / club that has a “Tiny Tiger” program. These people work hard to know how to take care of “Tiny Tigers.” They work with them on a daily basis and have the experience to make the event positive.

The helper will be a leader through forms and one-steps. These leaders should be available if the child needs help with any of the material they are performing. These helpers need to know the material for which they are providing help. This can be a good place to assign Junior Leaders or younger Trainee Instructors. If there aren't enough of these two groups, then, of course, use black belts (or specially trained color belts) that know the material. These helpers need to “keep an eye” on the child they are helping so they don't go too fast or too slow. The helpers need to pay very close attention every time they are leading forms or one-steps.

Leaders will only be used for those “Tiny Tigers” that have indicated they need help (perhaps on their registration card) or get stuck. Leaders need to perform each form and/or one-step for the child to be able to follow and be able to move to a position where the child can see them. The leader should also verbally lead the student. They should use the proper names for each technique and include a descriptive term that will remind the child how to do the technique. Examples and recommendations for this include the following:

- “Strong High Block” (using the word “Strong” for all blocks)
- “Fast Knife-Hand Strike” (using the word “Fast” for all strikes)
- “High Round Kick” (using the word “High” for all kicks)

The attitude of every staff member of the ring is very important. This experience must be positive for every “Tiny Tiger.” What happens in the ring will affect their confidence. It is the responsibility of the ring staff to make sure that each “Tiny Tiger” has a fun and rewarding experience.

## Form / One-Step Knowledge

For “Tiny Tigers” to advance in rank, the “Tiny Tiger” manual recommends that they learn half the form for each half-step of rank earned (an 8R Orange belt does the first half of Songahm #2 and an 8D Orange belt does the second half of Songahm #2). This should be the same standard used for participating in tournaments.

\*\*\* Please refer to *Special Note 2* on page 16 concerning the introduction of the “Curriculum Rotation” system in regards to the forms that “Tiny Tigers” are allowed to perform.

The decision of what material the “Tiny Tigers” do should be left up to their Instructor and should be indicated on their registration card.

Here are the form breakdowns:

	1st half	2nd half
White Belt - Songahm #1	1 - 9	10 - 18
Orange Belt - Songahm #2	1 - 12	13 - 23
Yellow Belt - Songahm #3	1 - 14	15 - 28
Camo Belt - Songahm #4	1 - 16	17 - 31
Green Belt - Songahm #5	1 - 17	18 - 34
Purple Belt - In Wha #1	1 - 25	26 - 44
Blue Belt - In Wha #2	1 - 22	23 - 42
Brown Belt - Choong Jung #1	1 - 22	23 - 44
Red Belt - Choong Jung #2	1 - 23	24 - 46
Red / Black Belt - Choong #2	1 - 23	24 - 46

Remember that many of the white, orange and yellow belts only learn one one-step, so the existing rule of having to do two different one-steps will have to be adjusted for the “Tiny Tigers.” Depending on what rank the “Tiny Tigers” are, they may have learned #1 one-step only or both #1 and #2 one-steps. Once again, this is an “INTRODUCTION TO COMPETITION”, not actual competition, so the amount of knowledge is not used as a measuring stick as much for these kids as it is for older divisions. Which one-steps the “Tiny Tigers” will be doing is decided by their Instructor.

While performing one-steps, the “Tiny Tigers” will NOT face each other, they will face the front of the ring and the judge. The judge will direct each “Tiny Tiger” to do his/her one-step.

The leaders need to be available to help any “Tiny Tiger” as mentioned earlier.

## **Judging Criteria/Scoring Format**

Since this is considered an “INTRODUCTION TO COMPETITION,” scoring for forms, one-steps, and sparring will be totally different from other divisions. One difference for form judging will be that a “Tiny Tiger” will not receive a numerical score. Instead the judge should make a positive comment about the performance of the student. The “Tiger” judge can use such comments as, “Super Power Billy” or “Awesome Side Kicks Suzie.” The important aspect is that the “Tiny Tiger” performed in a new and different surrounding. They need to feel very positive about the experience.

The same type of procedure will be used for one-steps. Each “Tiny Tiger” will do his/her one-step(s) per the usual format, but rather than awarding a point, the “Tiger” judge will make a positive comment. Each “Tiny Tiger” will do two rounds of one-steps. When having an odd number of “Tiny Tigers,” one of them will do three rounds (the “Tiger” judge should pick a good positive reason for having that “Tiny Tiger” perform an additional time).

For free-sparring, each “Tiny Tiger” will get to spar twice for two minutes each time. Points will not be issued in the usual manner. Instead, when the “Tiger” judge sees something special to comment on, he/she should stop the action as if they had seen a point and make a positive comment about the move. Comments such as, “Excellent block on that round kick, Tommy” or “Lightning fast punch, Joey.” The “Tiger” judge should always be looking for something positive to comment on. Again if there is an odd number of “Tiny Tigers,” one of them will do three rounds (the “Tiger” judge should pick a good positive reason for having that “Tiny Tiger” perform an additional time).

## **Categories of Awards**

Once the forms and one-steps (or free-sparring) have been completed, the “Tiger” judge will decide on which “Tiny Tiger” will receive an award in each of the following suggested categories:

GREAT KICKS	SHARP HANDS
SUPER SPORTSMANSHIP	LOUD YELLS
BOARD BREAKING POWER	AWESOME BLACK BELT ATTITUDE
PAYING ATTENTION	FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS

Regions may decide to change these categories at their discretion, but it should be done with the input of those Instructors that work with “Tiny Tigers.” Each “Tiny Tiger” will receive one award. This procedure will reinforce the concept “Every Kid Is A Winner” and “Every Kid Is Special.”

## **Awards**

All “Tiny Tigers” will receive a trophy/award. The following recommendations are made in addition:

All the trophies/awards for these divisions should be the same size

There should not be any “place” numbers on the trophy/award

These trophies/awards should either be of comparable size to the other trophies/awards given to the other tournament participants or distinctively different from the other trophies/awards.

## **Final Remarks**

As you may have noticed, the term competitor was not used in this section, but rather participant. Remember that the overall goal of this program is to offer “Tiny Tigers” an “INTRODUCTION TO COMPETITION.” There are many benefits to be gained from “Tiny Tigers” being part of our schools/clubs. Children can learn many valuable lessons at this very early age. Discipline, respect, courtesy, self-confidence, values and better grades are just a few.

# **SPECIAL ABILITY COMPETITION GUIDELINES**

## **Introduction**

It has been several years now since Eternal Grandmaster Lee formed the Special Ability divisions for tournament competition and afforded them the opportunity to earn the title of World Champion. The intent has always been to offer safe and fair competition for those who were unable to compete with others of their age, gender, and rank.

We have been facing the dilemma of determining who can fairly compete in the Special Ability divisions at regional, national, and world tournaments and accumulate points for the Special Ability State and World Champion divisions. This information should answer many questions or lead you to the person (or people) who can.

## **Definitions**

Those eligible to compete in the Special Ability divisions must have either a:

### **PERMANENT PHYSICAL LIMITATION —**

This permanent physical limitation would put the competitor at an extreme disadvantage against non-physically challenged peers. Examples of a permanent physical limitation would be (but not limited to): a bone, muscle, or nerve disorder that severely limits the physical mobility of the competitor (i.e., no arms, no leg(s) or an artificial leg(s), forced to use a wheelchair or other device to maintain mobility, and blindness).

Examples of physical limitations not eligible would be (but not limited to): muscle pulls, strains, or tears, recovering from a surgery or procedure that temporarily limits the physical mobility, an artificial arm or absence of an arm, deafness, seizure disorder, and minor arthritic conditions, or joint replacement.

**OR**

### **IMPAIRED MENTAL ACUITY —**

By impaired mental acuity, the intent is that the competitor is at an extreme disadvantage against non-challenged peers due to the inability to comprehend all aspects of the competition. Examples of impaired mental acuity would include (but not be limited to): cognitively disabled (impaired ability to function independently), autism, and down syndrome.

Examples of conditions not eligible would include (but not be limited to): ADD, ADHD, and learning disabilities.

## **REQUIRED PROCEDURES**

To help with the “checks and balances” of this arena, we are requiring the following to be done for any competitor to enter into a Special Abilities division:

- The student’s instructor must give permission based on the guidelines listed and on their integrity;
- The student’s instructor must verbally apply to the Regional Chief of Tournaments. Following the guidelines listed above and their own integrity, the RCT will determine if the student would be appropriately assigned to the Special Abilities division;
- If the RCT determines the student would be appropriately assigned to the Special Abilities division, written notice must be sent to the International Chairman of Tournaments by the RCT for record keeping and verification;
- Any dispute of the RCT’s decision must be taken to the International Chairman of Tournaments. The decision of the International Chairman of Tournaments is final;
- Any Top Ten points awarded to someone who is inappropriately in the Special Abilities division will be forfeited.

Please remember, the intent of these divisions is to afford those who have a significant and understandable reason to compete in them and the ability to earn the self-respect and self-esteem they could not have previously earned. The competition must be fair and safe.

### **Special Ability Form and Weapons Competition**

Form and weapons competition for the Special Ability Divisions will be run the same as other divisions with one exception; all the judges will watch the entire form quality rather than the original assignments. Because there are competitors that cannot perform kicks and stances it isn’t reasonable to expect a judge that is assigned to judge kicks and stances to give a fair score; likewise for competitors who are unable to perform the hand techniques. By allowing the judges to evaluate all aspects of the form and weapon performance and take into consideration the intent of the competitor while they are doing what they are capable of doing, the judges can fairly judge and score the competition.

### **Special Ability Sparring Competition**

Sparring competition for the Special Ability Divisions will run the same as other divisions with one exception; all scoring techniques will be awarded one point. It isn’t equitable to someone who is confined to a wheel chair or other mobility device that would never be able to have the opportunity to score a two or three point technique, to have to face someone who can. Couple

that with the fact that it is remarkably easier to score a two or three point technique on someone who is seated or lacks sufficient mobility to evade such techniques, a change is warranted. All legal techniques and legal target areas remain the same. The only difference is that any and all scoring techniques will be awarded one point only. This is not meant to discourage competitors that are capable from using any kind of head level or jumping type kicks. They are still allowed and encouraged. They simply will only be awarded one point.

# BLACK BELT WEAPONS FORM COMPETITION RULES

## Competitor Requirements

All black belts are eligible to compete in weapons competition as long as their Instructor, or one of their staff, is certified to teach the weapon with which the student wants to compete with. Certification for Instructors is available through the Protech Department of the ATA/WTTU / STF and is offered at many regional, national, and world events.

## Weapons Available to Use for Black Belt Weapons Competition

The weapons available for a black belt to use during weapons competition will coincide with the mid-term testing requirements established in the “Master Club Curriculum” manual. The black belts will have the freedom (with their Instructor’s input) to choose to compete with a weapon intended for their rank or lower. A black belt may not compete with a weapon intended for a higher rank black belt. The list of ranks and weapons is as follows:

- 1st Degree Decided = Single Ssahng Jeol Bong -or- Single Bahng Mahng Ee
- 2nd Degree Decided = Double Ssahng Jeol Bong -or- Double Bahng Mahng Ee
- 3rd Degree = Jahng Bong (Mid Range or Long Range)
- 4th Degree = Jee Pahng Ee
- 5th Degree = Sam Dan Bong

In the case of the Ssahng Jeol Bong and Bahng Mahng Ee (single or double), the competitor must only use the approved blue Protech weapons. There are two sizes of weapons available at this time; an adult size and a junior size. Competitors 11 years old or younger have the option to choose which size of weapon they will demonstrate with. Competitors 12 years old and over must use the adult size weapons. The weapons may not be altered from their original size, shape, or form by any means. In regards to the Jahng Bong, Jee Pahng Ee, and the Sam Dan Bong, the weapon must be of such quality to be deemed safe and in good repair. Decorations or adornments not included in the manufacturing of the weapon are not permitted. Adornments for the purpose of indicating knowledge of curriculum (i.e. knowledge stripes) are permitted. The uniform may not be altered in any fashion for weapons competition. This includes temporarily altering the length of sleeves, tucking the ends of the belt, etc.

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### \*\*\* *Special Note 12.25:*

Beginning with the 2004 - 2005 tournament season, the Double Ssahng Nat will become a tournament legal weapon. This weapon can only be used by 2nd Degree Decided Black Belts and higher and they must use the form created for this weapon. The weapon used for competition must be the approved Protech version (red foam handle, gray plastic blade, and red protective tip).

## **Weapons Form Judging Responsibilities**

All three judges must judge the overall form, as well as the following:

Corner Judge A will grade on proper stances and accurate strikes (as they relate to the nine angles of strike). For stances, the judge should look for proper weight distribution and foot placement. For accurate strikes, the judge should use the nine angles of strike as the guideline.

Corner Judge B will grade on timing, fluid handling of the weapon, as well as equal precision of the left and right sides of the body and consistency between the first half of the form and the second half. In reference to timing, the judge should look for the coordination of hand and foot movements. For fluid handling of the weapon, the judge should look for smooth exchanges and transitions from one move into the next. In judging the equal precision of the left and right sides of the body, the judge should look for balance of technique quality from one side to the other. And in judging the consistency between the first half of the form and the second half, the judge should look for equal speed and direction of the weapon during both halves.

The Center Judge will grade memory, the transition between segments, appearance of the form, and the attitude of the competitor. In grading these areas, the judge should consider which competitor gave the best performance and who put on the best show.

The center judge must verbally explain to the corner judges who is assigned as Judge A and Judge B. When bowing the division in and the judges are facing the competitors, Judge A will be on the left hand side of the center judge and Judge B will be on the right hand side of the center judge. When announcing form scores, the center judge should call out the scores from left to right keeping in line with the form score sheet structure. Once the center judge has called out the scores, the score-keeper should repeat the scores to the center judge to verify the correct information has been recorded. It is important that the judges continue to display their scores through this process in order to add another level of verification that the correct scores have been recorded.

## **Weapons Form Competition Procedures**

To officially start the division, the competitors will line up and bow in to the assigned judges. The center judge will introduce the judges to the competitors and explain what each judge is scoring. He/she should “fire-up” the competitors and insure that everyone understands the rules and procedures.

Prior to the initial bow-in and introductions, one of the judges should have collected all the competitor registration cards. The center judge will turn the cards face down and shuffle them. To begin the weapons form competition, he/she will draw one card at a time and call the competitor’s name. He/she will hand the card to the scorekeeper so the scorekeeper can record the name while the person is doing his/her form.

When their name is called, the competitors will answer, “Yes, Sir/Ma’am,” run to the center of the ring, and stand in the proper attention stance for that weapon to wait for the judges’ directions. They will follow the judges’ instructions, and when given the command to begin, will demonstrate their form at their own count. They will hold the position of the last movement until given the command to return and will not leave the ring until dismissed.

### **Weapons Form Scoring**

Weapons form scoring will follow the same guidelines used in Traditional Songahm Form Competition (please refer to page 18 of the Songahm Taekwondo Tournament Rules) with two additional items. First, there is an automatic one tenth point deduction from each judge’s score for dropping the weapon(s) and second, there is an automatic one tenth point deduction from each judge’s score for picking up the weapon(s) incorrectly.

### **Awards For Black Belt Weapons Form Competition**

There will be three places awarded in form competition; a first place, a second place, and a third place. First place will be awarded to the competitor with the highest cumulative point total from the three judges. Second place will be awarded to the competitor with the next highest total, and third place will be awarded to the competitor with the third highest total. Black belts in junior divisions will be given competitor awards if they do not officially place.

### **Resolving Ties**

Ties are to be run off rather than decided in conference. If there is a tie in the weapons form competition, the tied competitors will again perform the proper form for the weapon they are demonstrating. At the conclusion of the form, the center judge will give the command for the competitor to return to the proper ready position and then indicate for them to start a 30 second free-style demonstration. This will be done one at a time until all the tied competitors have had an opportunity to perform again. If there is a tie for more than one place, the judges will decide the highest place first (please refer to page 20 of these rules for further information).

In resolving ties for weapons form competition, the key element is still the performance of the original form. The free-style demonstration is not to be the first criteria for resolving ties in weapons competition. The free-style demonstration is included only to help the judges make a decision if the tied competitors perform comparable original forms and they are unable to decide between the competitors.

If a judge cannot decide between the tied competitors based on the original form being repeated and needs to depend on the free-style demonstration to make a choice, the judge should determine the winner based on the difficulty, originality, and fluidity of the presentation in regards to the use of the weapon. The key element of the free-style demonstration must be the use of the weapon. Advanced kicking techniques and the use of gymnastic moves should not receive higher consideration unless the weapon is actually used within the movements.

# COLOR BELT WEAPONS COMPETITION RULES

## Introduction

Starting with the 2001 Songahm Taekwondo World Championships, color belt students can now compete at regional, national, and world events with weapons. This opens new avenues for color belts to be able to explore and enjoy tournament competition. Here are the rules for Color Belt Weapons rules:

## Competitor Requirements

All color belts are eligible to compete in weapons competition as long as their Instructor, or one of their staff, is certified to teach the weapon with which the student wants to compete. This includes “Tiny Tigers” if the Instructor offers weapons training at this level. Certification for Instructors is available through the Protech Department of the ATA/WTTU/STF and is offered at many regional, national, and world events.

## Weapons Available to Use for Color Belt Weapons Competition

There are five weapons available to choose from for color belt weapon competition. Again, availability is based on the certification of each student’s Instructor. The color belt student must confer with their Instructor about the weapon they may compete with. The five weapons available are:

SINGLE BAHNG MAHNG EE    SINGLE SSAHNG JEOL BONG  
DOUGLE BAHNG MAHNG EE    DOUBLE SSAHNG JEOL BONG  
JAHNG BONG

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### \*\*\* *Special Note 12.5:*

Beginning with the 2004 - 2005 tournament season, the Double Ssahng Nat will become a tournament legal weapon for color belt freestyle competition. The weapon used for competition must be the approved Protech version (red foam handle, gray plastic blade, and red protective tip)

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## Content Of Demonstration

The color belt student will demonstrate a free-style routine of his/her own creation that has a maximum duration of 20 seconds. There will not be a penalty for a performance that is less than 20 seconds. The time-keeper of the ring will start the clock running at the command of the Center Judge and will call out “Time” when 20 seconds has expired (at which time the student must stop performing within a second or two). The routine will be based on the material taught

in the student's school by his/her Instructor and must also be approved by the student's Instructor. They will not demonstrate the form created as part of the Black Belt mid-term requirements.

### **Order Of Competition**

The color belt weapons competition will take place within their normal Songahm Taekwondo competition. The order of competition will be:

- Traditional Songahm Taekwondo Form
- Free-Style Weapons Competition
- Traditional Songahm Taekwondo One-Steps / Sparring

### **Judging Criteria**

The color belt weapons competition will be judged on the following criteria (this is not intended to be a specific order but rather a guide to judge one presentation against another):

- Overall Control of the Weapon (deductions for drops, mis-handling, etc.)
- Difficulty (more difficult maneuvers deserve more recognition)
- Originality (is the competitor being creative)
- Presentation (was the display exciting and fun)

### **Free-Style Weapons Scoring**

The same scoring system will be used as the Traditional Songahm Taekwondo Form competition. Scores will range from 9.0 to 9.9 (please refer to page 18 of these rules). One difference from the traditional system will be that all three judges will score the entire performance rather than one specified aspect. Ties will be handled like the Black Belt weapons competition.

### **Awards for Free-Style Weapons Competition**

Awards will be presented for the top 3 places determined by the highest total scores earned. Awards will be given for 1st place, 2nd place, and 3rd place only. In the "Tiny Tiger" divisions, each "Tiny Tiger" that participates in Free-Style Weapons will be awarded a trophy.

# STATE CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAM

## Introduction

Our tournament process has gone through many incarnations through the years with Grand Champions, National Champions, and World Champions. These programs have always been solely for black belts with the color belts watching and waiting for their chance to earn a title.

In 2001 Songahm Taekwondo World Championships the ATA introduced the State Champion Tournament Program for color belts and black belts. Each existing division of the current World Champion Program will be used in the State Champion Program as well as many divisions for color belts (refer to divisions explained later on).

Here are the rules and guidelines of the State Champion Program for color belts and black belts:

## Competitor Requirements

All color belts and black belts who are enrolled in an official Leadership Program with ATA International Headquarters are eligible to earn points towards the title of State Champion. These programs include the *Junior Trainee Instructor Program* for those under 13 years of age and the *Trainee Instructor, Certified Trainee Instructor, Specialty Certified Instructor, and Certified Instructor Programs* for those 13 years and older.

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### \*\*\* *Special Note 13:*

The ability to start earning points towards the State Champion Program begins once the student has received his/her “welcome” letter from the ATA International Headquarters. It does not start once the student completes the paperwork within his/her school.

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## State Champion Program Procedures

Competition will be handled as usual per Songahm Taekwondo Tournament Rules. Divisions for junior and adult color belts and junior and adult black belts will be handled the same as they have been previously on all tournament levels. No changes to existing guidelines in separating or combining ages and ranks will be issued. Everyone will compete and be given the standard awards per the rules.

The only change to take effect will be the reporting process. ATA International Headquarters has established a standard operating procedure for receiving the results of all divisions held at each regional tournament. Once the results are received by the Tournament Department of ATA International Headquarters, those competitors who are enrolled in a Leadership Program will be researched and points will be awarded to them. No one at the regional, National, or World tournaments will have to confirm a competitor’s enrollment in a Leadership Program. That is a duty that will be fulfilled by the Tournament Department.

## **Color Belt Divisions for the State Championship Program**

Because color belts change rank frequently during a year, divisions cannot be based on rank. Divisions for color belts will be based on age and gender. Boys and girls will be separate from each other; men and women will be separate from each other.

The age breakdowns for junior and adult color belts will be the same as it is for the World Champion Program. Please refer to pages 46 and 47.

Due to the structure of “Tiny Tiger” involvement at tournaments (they do not receive scores for doing their form or free-style weapons nor are points awarded for one-steps or free-sparring, so awarding trophies for “places” is not done), they will not be eligible to earn points towards the title of State Champion. The 6 & Under division is strictly for those that compete in the regular (non-Tiny Tiger) divisions.

## **Black Belt Divisions for the State Championship Program**

The black belt divisions will mirror the existing ones available in the World Champion Program (refer to pages 46 and 47 of these rules for a listing of the current divisions).

## **Age and State Championship Divisions**

The State Champion Program runs concurrent with the World Champion Program, starting at the Songahm Taekwondo World Championships and running through April 30 of the next year. There may be times when “Class C” events are sanctioned for the month of May. The points earned and awarded at these events will be included in the next tournament season. The age used to determine the proper division in which points are awarded will be the age of the competitor as of midnight on December 31 during the tournament year, just like the World Champion Program. Please refer to page 48 for examples.

## **Awarding the Title of State Champion**

The same point structure (awarding of points) being used for the World Champion Program will be used for the State Champion Program (refer to pages 42 thru 45). There will not be a limit to how many regional, national, or world tournaments a member can compete in or earn points for.

Points will be awarded separately for form, one-steps/sparring, and weapons. This does mean that there will be a State Champion for each area. The competitors with the highest point total

at the end of the competition year will win the title of State Champion for their state and their age group (and rank group for black belts). There will not be any kind of final competition to determine a winner. In the case of a tie in point totals, all members tied will be declared the State Champion. Official notification from the ATA International Headquarters will be sent to each winner and that competitor will be able to purchase a special uniform indicating State Champion for his/her state and division (form, sparring, or weapons) through the Instructor.

## **APPENDIX A: List of Revisions from Previous Printing**

Previous version: Page 5 paragraph 1

A member in good standing must also be a member of an ATA licensed / franchised school or club and have his/her Instructor's permission to attend and compete.

New version: Page 5 paragraph 1

A member in good standing must also be a member of and be training on a regular and consistent basis at an ATA licensed school or club and have his/her Instructor's permission to attend and compete.

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Previous version: Page 5 paragraph 2

Competitors are not required to compete in both forms and one-steps/free-sparring.

New version: Page 5 paragraph 2

Participants are not required to compete in all aspects of competition (including Songahm Taekwondo forms, one-steps/free-sparring, or weapons competition).

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Previous version: Page 6 paragraph 1

The National Chairman of Tournaments is the overseer of all that happens in the world of tournaments. He/she is part of the ATA International Headquarters staff and is appointed by Grand Master Lee.

New Version: Page 6 paragraph 1

The International Chairman of Tournaments is the overseer of all that happens in the world of tournaments. He/she is part of the ATA International Headquarters staff and is appointed by the Business Council.

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Previous version: Page 6 paragraph 3

The National Tournament Director is appointed by Grand Master Lee based upon his experience with the individual and the recommendation of the National Chairman of Tournaments.

New Version: Page 6 paragraph 3

The National Tournament Director is appointed by The International Chairman of Tournaments based upon his experience with the individual and the recommendation of the organization's seniors.

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Previous Version: Page 6 paragraph 5

The Regional Chief of Tournaments is appointed by Grand Master Lee based upon his experience with the individual plus the recommendation of the Regional Vice-President and the Regional Director.

New Version: Page 6 paragraph 5

The Regional Chief of Tournaments is appointed by the International Chairman of Tournaments based upon his experience with the individual plus the recommendation of the Regional Vice-President and the Regional Director.

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Previous Version: Page 7 paragraph 1

These Assistant Regional Chiefs are appointed by Grand Master Lee based upon his experience with the individual plus the recommendation of the Regional Vice-President and the Regional Director.

New Version: Page 7 paragraph 1

These Assistant Regional Chiefs are appointed by the International Chairman of Tournaments based upon his experience with the individual plus the recommendation of the Regional Vice-President and the Regional Director.

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Previous Version: Page 10 paragraph 2

The center judge conducts form competition first. He/she then conducts one-step or free-sparring competition.

New Version: Page 10 paragraph 2

The center judge conducts form competition first, free-style weapons competition (in color belt rings) second, and then one-step or free-sparring competition.

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Previous Version: Page 11 paragraph 1

There are no spectators allowed in the competition area for any reason. This is for their safety and that of the competitors. Judges should have competitors seated around the ring so spectators can have a better view.

New Version: Page 11 paragraph 1

All judges are responsible for areas surrounding their ring. In the interest of safety, the judges should make sure that spectators allow ample room around each ring for competition to progress unimpeded. This is based on the type of competition taking place.

Example #1:

For rings in which Tiny Tigers are performing, parents (guardians, etc.) can be close by to take care of their children.

Example #2:

For rings in which 4th Degree Black Belt men are competing, spectators should be aware that sparring competition can carry outside of the ring so adequate room is necessary.

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Previous Version: Page 12 paragraph 2

The black belt result sheets must be filled out to reflect this with each single competitor listed in his/her individual division.

New Version: Page 12 paragraph 2

A Songahm Taekwondo form sheet and a sparring sheet must be filled out to reflect each single competitor listed in his/her individual division.

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Previous Version: Page 14 paragraph 7

When announcing form scores, the center judge should call out the scores from left to right keeping in line with the form score sheet structure.

New Version: Page 14 paragraph 7

When announcing form scores, the center judge should call out the scores from left to right keeping in line with the form score sheet structure. Once the center judge has called out the scores, the score-keeper should repeat the scores back to the center judge to verify the correct information has been recorded. It is important that the judges continue to display their scores through this process in order to add another level of verification that the correct scores have been recorded.

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Previous Version: Page 15 paragraph 8

There is not a time requirement to determine which form a color belt must do for competition, however Black Belt competitors must do their new form after 6 months from the date of their decided rank test.

New Version: Page 15 paragraph 8

There is not a time requirement to determine which form a color belt must do for competition, however 1st Degree Black Belt competitors must do their new form after 6 months from the date of their successful decided rank test.

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Previous Version: Page 16

Special Note 3 has been totally reworked.

New Version: Page 16

Special Note 3 has been totally reworked.

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Previous Version: Page 16 paragraph 6

If a competitor has the best kicks of the group, but kicks with the instep on round kicks (in a form that doesn't require that), don't knock off a whole point for just that.

New Version: Page 16 paragraph 6

If a competitor has the best kicks of the group, but kicks with the instep on round kicks (in a form that doesn't require that), don't reduce their score for just that.

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Previous Version: Page 21 paragraph 1

This is to insure the scorekeeper and timekeeper receive, understand, and write down all instructions and scores.

New Version: Page 21 paragraph 1

This is to insure the scorekeeper and timekeeper receive, understand, and write down all instructions and scores. When the center judge has confirmed a point(s) and calls that out to the scorekeeper, the scorekeeper should repeat the point(s) back to the center judge. This will confirm (again) that the proper information was heard and recorded.

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Previous Version: Page 25 paragraph 3

Illegal target areas will include, but not be limited to, areas below the belt (front, back or sides) and to the back (excluding the neck and head).

New Version: Page 25 paragraph 3

Illegal target areas will include, but not be limited to, areas below the belt (front, back or sides) and to the back (excluding the neck and head for kicks).

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Previous Version: Page 25 paragraph 5

Hand and foot techniques to the legal torso area will score one point. Legal hand techniques include only punches, backfists, hammerfists, ridgehands and knifehands. Spinning backfists, spinning knifehands, etc. are defined as “blind techniques” and are not allowed.

New Version: Page 25 paragraph 5

Hand and standing foot techniques to the legal torso area will score one point. Legal hand techniques include only punches, backfists, hammerfists, ridgehands and knifehands. Finger tip techniques as well as spinning backfists, spinning knifehands, etc. which are defined as “blind techniques” and are not allowed.

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Previous Version: Page 30 paragraph 2

Color belts are not required to make body contact to score points, but may make light to moderate body contact. Black Belt students must touch the body, with light or moderate contact to score.

New Version: Page 30 paragraph 2

Neither color belts or black belts are required to make body contact to score points, but may make light to moderate body contact.

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Previous Version: Page 37 paragraph 4

\*\* It is very important that the opening ceremonies for regional tournaments not exceed a 45 minute time frame (excluding demonstration).

New Version: Page 37 paragraph 4

\*\* It is very important that the opening ceremonies for regional tournaments not exceed a 45 minute time frame (including demonstration).

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Previous Version: Page 39 paragraph 1

1st Degree Black Belt Recommendeds (Red/Black) may compete with the red belts or with the 1st Degree Black Belt Decideds. They can only compete in one division per tournament. If they compete with the red belts, there are no top ten points awarded. If they compete with the black belts, they will receive top ten points if they place in competition. A 2nd Degree Black Belt Recommended must compete in the 2nd Degree Black Belt division, unless 1st and 2nd Degrees are combined at a regional tournaments

New Version: Page 39 paragraph 1

Prior to the 2001 tournament year it was standard procedure for a 1st Degree Black Belt Recommended (Red/Black) student to have the option to compete with the red belts or with the 1st Degree Black Belt Decideds. This worked well when all 1R Black Belts were doing Choong Jung #2 and were trying to advance to 1D Black Belt as soon as possible.

With the introduction of the “block teaching” system, we are facing 1R Black Belts doing lower level forms thus creating a disadvantage to those black belts that are doing Shim Jun. Also, many schools have started to include mid-terms between 1R Black Belt and 1D Black Belt. This affects the amount of time a student spends at 1R Black Belt and hence they compete with a color belt form longer in a black belt ring.

Starting with the 2001 tournament year, a 1st Degree Black Belt Recommended must compete with the color belt divisions. They will not longer have an option.

For clarification, a 2nd Degree Black Belt Recommended must compete in the 2nd Degree Black Belt division, unless 1st and 2nd Degrees are combined at a regional tournaments.

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Previous Version: Page 49 paragraph 2

The rank groups for “Tiny Tiger” participation is limited to white belts through blue belts. Brown belts or above will participate in the “Karate Kid” divisions.

New Version: Page 49 paragraph 2

The rank groups for “Tiny Tiger” participation is limited to white belts through 1st Recommended Black Belts.

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Previous Version: Page 49 paragraph 4

Orange and yellow belts can participate together, as can camo and green belts, and purple and blue belts.

New Version: Page 49 paragraph 4

Orange and yellow belts can participate together, as can camo and green belts, purple and blue belts, brown and red and red/black belts.

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Previous Version: Page 50 paragraph 1

Ring staff will remain consistent with normal tournament guidelines with a couple of exceptions. There will be a center judge, two corner judges, and a time keeper. A score-keeper will not be necessary. An additional one or two black belts is recommended. These extra black belts will be leaders through forms and one-steps. These leaders will be available if the child needs help with any of the material that they are performing.

New Version: Page 50 paragraph 1

Due to the fact that “Tiny Tigers’ do not actually compete, the ring staff can be different than the normal tournament guidelines. There will be only one judge and one helper required in each ring. The judge should be someone who loves working with the “Tiny Tigers’ and has experience doing so. Enthusiasm and energy are very important qualities. It is recommended that the judge be a school / club owner that has a “Tiny Tiger” program or someone that works for a school / club owner that has this program. These people work hard to know how to take care of “Tiny Tigers.” They work with them on a daily basis and have the experience to make the event positive.

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Previous Version: Page 51 paragraph 6

While performing one-steps, the “Tiny Tigers” will NOT face each other, they will face the front of the ring and center judge (the center judge will remain in the front of the ring, rather than making the “triangle” as usual). The center judge will direct each “Tiny Tiger” to do their one-step.

New Version: Page 51 paragraph 6

While performing one-steps, the “Tiny Tigers” will NOT face each other, they will face the front of the ring and the judge. The judge will direct each “Tiny Tiger” to do their one-step.

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Previous Version: Page 52 paragraph 1 & 2

Instead each judge should make a positive comment about the performance of the student. The corner judges will comment on the area that they are assigned to (kicks & stances or blocks & strikes). Comments such as, “Super Power Billy” or “Awesome Side Kicks Suzie” are what is expected. The important aspect is that the “Tiny Tiger” performed in a new and different surrounding. They need to feel very positive about the experience.

The same type of procedure will be used for one-steps. Each “Tiny Tiger” will do their one-step(s) per the usual format, but rather than awarding a point, each judge will make a positive comment.

New Version: Page 52 paragraph 1 & 2

Since this is considered an “INTRODUCTION TO COMPETITION,” scoring for forms, one-steps, and sparring will be totally different from other divisions. One difference for form judging will be that a “Tiny Tiger” will not receive a numerical score. Instead the judge should make a positive comment about the performance of the student. The “Tiger” judge can use such comments as, “Super Power Billy” or “Awesome Side Kicks Suzie.” The important aspect is that the “Tiny Tiger” performed in a new and different surrounding. They need to feel very positive about the experience.

The same type of procedure will be used for one-steps. Each “Tiny Tiger” will do their one-step(s) per the usual format, but rather than awarding a point, the “Tiger” judge will make a positive comment.

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**SECTIONS ADDED:**

SPECIAL ABILITY COMPETITION GUIDELINES - Pages 59 - 61

BLACK BELT WEAPONS FORM COMPETITION RULES - Pages 62 - 64

COLOR BELT WEAPONS COMPETITION RULES - Pages 65 & 66

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAM - Pages 67 - 69

## **APPENDIX B: List of Revisions from Previous July 2001 Printing**

Previous Version: Page 6 paragraph 1

The International Chairman of Tournaments is the overseer of all that happens in the world of tournaments. He/she is part of the ATA International Headquarters staff and is appointed by the Business Council.

New Version: Page 6 paragraph 1

The International Chairman of Tournaments is the overseer of all that happens in the world of tournaments. He/she is part of the ATA International Headquarters staff and is appointed by the Grand Master of Songahm Taekwondo.

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Previous Version: Page 6 paragraph 4

The National Tournament Director at this time is:  
Mr. Brent Barnhill — 5th Degree Black Belt

New Version: Page 6 paragraph 4

The National Tournament Director at this time is:  
Ms. Betsy Stevens — 5th Degree Black Belt

Assistant Directors at this time are:  
Mr. Richard Harman — 5th Degree Black Belt  
Dr. Izel Rivera — 5th Degree Black Belt

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Previous Version: Page 8 paragraph 1

The judge must know all Songahm forms and one step sparring for white, orange, and yellow belts.

New Version: Page 8 paragraph 1

The judge must know all the color belt forms, the one one-step sparring for white, orange, and yellow belts, and be familiar with the following weapons to be able to effectively judge free-style weapons competition for the color belts; Single Bahng Mahng Ee, Single Ssahng Jeol Bong, Double Bahng Mahng Ee, Double Ssahng Jeol Bong, and the Jahng Bong.

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Previous Version: Page 8 paragraph 4

The judge must know all the Songahm color belt forms, one-step sparring for all color belt ranks, and the black belt forms up to and including his/her current rank.

New Version: Page 8 paragraph 4

The judge must know all the Songahm color belt forms, one-step sparring for all color belt ranks, and the black belt forms up to and including his/her current rank. They must also be familiar with the following weapons to be able to effectively judge free-style weapons competition for the color belts; Single Bahng Mahng Ee, Single Ssahng Jeol Bong, Double Bahng Mahng Ee, Double Ssahng Jeol Bong, Jahng Bong, and Ssahng Nat. They must also be knowledgeable in the weapons included in the association's black belt curriculum for the ranks they are judging.

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Previous Version: Page 10 paragraph 1

The size of rings for competition shall be square and should measure in the range of 14 - 18 feet per side, depending on the type of division (adult or junior).

New Version: Page 10 paragraph 2

The size of rings for competition shall be square and should measure in the range of 14 - 18 feet per side, depending on the type of division (adult or junior). For "Tiny Tiger" divisions, the previously described rings can be "cut" in half and two divisions may be run side-by-side.

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Previous Version: Page 10 paragraph 2

The center judge has authority over all competitors in his/her assigned division. That judge's main duty is to see that each competitor abides by the tournament rules. The center judge conducts form competition first, free-style weapons competition (in color belt rings) second, and then one-step or free-sparring competition.

New Version: Page 10 paragraph 2

The center judge has authority over all competitors in his/her assigned division. That judge's main duty is to see that each competitor abides by the tournament rules. The center judge conducts form competition first, weapons competition (free-style in color belt rings or appropriate form for chosen weapon in black belt rings) second, and then one-step or free-sparring competition.

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Previous Version: Page 10 paragraph 4

The judges should sign the result sheets in the appropriate areas and must **PRINT** their names on the outside of the division packet.

New Version: Page 10 paragraph 4

The judges should **PRINT** their names the result sheets in the appropriate areas and must

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**PRINT** their names on the outside of the division packet.

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Previous Version: Page 10 paragraph 4

If a competitor does not have his ATA/STF/WTTU member number available, the school owner's name and the city/state where that student trains must be written on the score sheet.

New Version: Page 10 paragraph 4

It is very important that a competitor have their membership number on their competition card. If the membership number is absent or incorrect, the competitor will forfeit any possible points earned for that competition. The instructor of the competitor will have 5 business days after the event to contact ATA International Headquarters with the missing or incorrect number to avoid the forfeiture of points.

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Previous Version: Page 11 paragraph 1

All judges are responsible for areas surrounding their ring. In the interest of safety, the judges should make sure that spectators allow ample room around each ring for competition to progress unimpeded. This is based on the type of competition taking place.

New Version: Page 11 paragraph 1

All judges are responsible for areas surrounding their ring. In the interest of safety, the judges should make sure that spectators allow ample room around each ring for competition to progress unimpeded. This is based on the type of competition taking place. With the addition of weapons competition taking place in the same ring as the form and one/steps or free-sparring, the judges need to take the space needed by each weapon in consideration when directing the spectators.

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Previous Version: Page 11 paragraph 4

There will be no coaching from the sidelines by anyone including color belts, black belts, instructors, family members or friends. This no-coaching rule is in effect between rounds as well as during rounds. Cheering and offering encouragement is indeed allowed and encouraged.

New Version: Page 11 paragraph 4

There will be no coaching from the sidelines by anyone including color belts, black belts, instructors, family members or friends. This no-coaching rule is in effect from the time the competitors are "bowed into their ring" through the time they are "bowed out of their ring." Cheering and offering encouragement is indeed allowed and encouraged.

Previous Version: Page 13 paragraph 2

Each “single” competitor will automatically receive 3 points for first in form and 3 points for first in sparring. A Songahm Taekwondo form sheet and a sparring sheet must be filled out to reflect each single competitor listed in his/her individual division.

New Version: Page 13 paragraph 2

Each “single” competitor will automatically receive 3 points for first in form, 3 points for first in weapons, and 3 points for first in sparring if it was their original intent to compete in each category. A Songahm Taekwondo form sheet, weapons sheet, and a sparring sheet must be filled out to reflect each single competitor listed in his/her individual division.

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Previous Version: Page 13 paragraph 2

If for some unforeseen legitimate reason, a competitor is late for his/her division, the center judge may allow the competitor to enter the division. If the forms competition has not been completed, a late entry may be allowed to enter the competition. If the first round of one-steps or sparring competition has started, no late entries are allowed as a late entry would disrupt the bye system.

New Version: Page 14 paragraph 2

If for some unforeseen legitimate reason, a competitor is late for his/her division, the center judge will allow the competitor to enter the division if possible based on the following points. If the next competition event has not started (weapons competition after forms or one-steps / sparring after weapons), a late entry will be allowed to enter the competition. If forms competition has ended and weapons competition has started, the forms event has ended and the competitor will not be allowed to compete in the forms event. If the weapons competition has ended and the one-steps / sparring event has started, the weapons event has ended and the competitor will not be allowed to compete in the weapons event. If the first round of one-steps or sparring competition has started, no late entries will be allowed as a late entry would disrupt the bye system.

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Previous Version: Page 14 paragraph 3

Judge A will only judge the techniques that are done and will not make point deductions for moves left out, incorrect kicks, or incorrect stances.

New Version: Page 15 paragraph 3

Judge A will only judge the techniques that are done and will not make point deductions for moves left out, incorrect kicks, incorrect stances, or an incomplete form.

Previous Version: Page 14 paragraph 4

Judge B will only judge the techniques that are done and will not make point deductions for moves left out, incorrect blocks, or incorrect strikes.

New Version: Page 15 paragraph 4

Judge B will only judge the techniques that are done and will not make point deductions for moves left out, incorrect blocks, incorrect strikes, or an incomplete form.

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Previous Version: Page 14 paragraph 5

The Center Judge will grade the form presentation. This is for competitive attitude and the proper timing of the complete form. The correct timing of the individual techniques as well as student enthusiasm and a good kihap are important. This judge also makes certain the entire form was done correctly.

New Version: Page 15 paragraph 5

The Center Judge will grade the overall form presentation including the speed, flow, timing, and completeness of the form as well as the competitor's attitude and enthusiasm. The quality of technique is being judged by the corner judges so the Center Judge can focus on the showmanship of the presentation.

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Previous Version: Page 15 paragraph 5

Color belts that participate in the form portion of competition will perform the form their instructor instructs them to. The form chosen should be no more than three ranks lower or higher than their present rank.

Example: A camo belt student may perform any form from Songahm #1 to In Wha #2. It is possible they tested to camo belt by demonstrating the white belt material. Or, the student may have entered the camo belt level when the class was learning the blue belt material so he/she would be doing In Wha #2.

New Version: Page 16 paragraph 5

Color belts that participate in the form portion of competition will perform the form their instructor instructs them to. This decision should be based on the form the student is currently learning or just recently tested with. For integrity reasons, the instructor should not have a color belt student do a form that would be considered below their current ability level.

Example: A green belt that has learned Songahm #1 thru Songahm #5 should not compete with Songahm #1, Songahm #2, or Songahm #3. Competing with Songahm #4 or Songahm #5 would be more in line with their ability.

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Previous Version: Page 16 paragraph 3

The only requirement on this area is that all the competitors that make it to the Top Ten to compete for the title of World Champion in Forms MUST perform the standard form for their rank during that final competition. No lower rank forms will be allowed in the final competition.

New Version: Page 17 paragraph 3

The only requirement on this area is that all the competitors that make it to the Top Ten to compete for the title of World Champion in Forms MUST perform one of the standard forms for the division they are competing in during that final competition. No lower rank forms will be allowed in the final competition. In a combined division of 2nd and 3rd Degrees, either “Jung Yul” or “Chung San” must be done. In a combined division of 4th and 5th Degrees, either “Sok Bong” or “Chung Hae” must be done.

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New Addition: Page 18 paragraph 5

During form competition, the center judge may assist a competitor complete their form through verbal cues and possible physical demonstrations if the competitor is unable to complete their form. This is done solely to help the self-esteem of the competitor by giving them the opportunity to finish their form in front of their peers and audience. The center judge must then score the form as if it were incomplete (with the score of 9.0) which would be the same as if the judge did not offer assistance and the competitor had not completed their form.

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Previous Version: Page 17 paragraph 5

A yellow belt leaves out both knifehand high blocks or does sidekicks in place of the two round kicks, but does correct techniques during the rest of the form.

New Version: Page 18 paragraph 6

A competitor demonstrating Songahm #3 leaves out both knifehand high blocks or does sidekicks in place of the two round kicks, but does correct techniques during the rest of the form.

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Added for clarification: Page 19 paragraph 4

When recording form scores, only record the number following the decimal.

Ex.: The scores of 9.6, 9.7, and 9.8 will be recorded as 6, 7, and 8. The total of these points would then be recorded as 21.

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Previous Version: Page 22 paragraph 5

**\*\*\* *Special Note 4:***

Competitors will be separated by school for the first round only.

New Version: Page 23 paragraph 5

**\*\*\* *Special Note 4:***

As of March 1, 2002, a change was made in the selection of byes for one-step or sparring competition. This change states that "Previous World and State Champions in One-Steps or Sparring will receive preference in the awarding of byes."

The procedure for this will be the following:

Step 1: Calculate the number of byes for the division (either use Procedure 2 from above or refer to the table on the back of the Sparring Result Sheet used in the division packets)

Step 2: Determine the number of previous World and State Champions for one-steps or sparring in the division. The center judge should have all the competitors turn around so he/she can view the uniform backs and determine who is wearing the appropriate uniform indicating a previous championship won. This will be determined by the uniforms being worn that day only. Verbal or written confirmation of past champion status will not be allowed.

Step 3: The byes required will be awarded to the previous champions in this order:

The World Champions first -

The most current World Champion receives the first bye

If any other byes are needed, then it will be by descending order of year

If there are two or more of the same year for a bye, a random draw among those tied will be used.

The most current State Champions after all the World Champions

If any other byes are needed, then it will be by descending order of year

If there are two or more of the same year for a bye, a random draw among those tied will be used.

This rule does not guarantee that every World or State Champion will get a bye, they only receive preference. This will be used at all regionals, nationals, and world tournaments. This will not be used in the final competition for the title of World Champion. The order of points earned will still be used to determine those byes.

This procedure for determining byes will hold precedence over the previous rule of competitors being separated by school for the first round. The byes cannot be reassigned if this

procedure leaves only members from the same school competing against each other in the first round.

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Previous Version: Page 23 paragraph 1

All white, orange, and yellow belts compete with one-step sparring.

New Version: Page 25 paragraph 1

All white, orange, and yellow belts compete with one-step sparring. One-steps must be done with a “partner” facing each other and as if in a self-defense situation.

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Previous Version: Page 23 paragraph 3

A competitor cannot mix one-steps from two different ranks. During one-steps, a competitor must do at least two different one-step combinations on the first two attempts. If a competitor does repeat a one-step during the first two attempts, they are prohibited from winning the second attempt.

New Version: Page 25 paragraph 3

A competitor cannot mix one-steps from two different ranks, but the set of one-steps a competitor competes with does not have to match the form that the competitor used during form competition; i.e. a competitor may do Songahm 2 form and Songahm 1 one-steps. During one-steps, a competitor must do at least two different one-step combinations on the first two attempts to win both initial points. If a competitor does repeat a one-step during the first two attempts, they are prohibited from winning the second attempt.

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Previous Version: Page 30 paragraph 2

Black Belt students are not required to make head contact with kicking techniques, but are allowed to make light to moderate contact.

New Version: Deleted as the information is covered in the previous paragraph

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Previous Version: Page 30 paragraph 3

Hand contact to the head or contact to any illegal target area the first time will result in a penalty point; the second time will be automatic disqualification.

New Version: Page 32 paragraph 3

Hand contact to the head or contact to any illegal target area the first time will result in a penalty

point; the second time will be an automatic disqualification if the majority of judges agree the competitor is not attempting to control the focus or power of the technique.

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Previous Version: Page 30 paragraph 5

Also, contact to certain areas that are not defined as legal, may not warrant a warning. Examples would include, but not limited to: punches that hit the shoulder, kicks that hit the hip just below the belt or kicks that make contact to the other competitor's leg while that leg is in a kicking motion and would be considered above the hip line.

New Version: Page 32 paragraph 5

Also, contact to certain areas that are not defined as legal, may not warrant a warning. Examples would include, but not limited to: punches that hit the shoulder or kicks that make contact to the other competitor's leg while that leg is in a kicking motion and would be considered above the hip line.

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Previous Version: Page 31 paragraph 1

Color belt students are encouraged to score head kicks without contact. If light contact is made, points may still be awarded.

New Version: Page 32 paragraph 1

All competitors are encouraged to score head kicks without contact. If light contact is made, points may still be awarded.

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Previous Version: Page 33 paragraph 5

Hand and foot pads must cover the tips of the fingers and toes.

New Version: Page 35 paragraph 5

Hand pads must be long enough to cover the tips of the fingers. Foot pads must cover the entire top of the foot as well as the toes, sides of the foot, and the back of the heel.

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Previous Version: Page 31 paragraph 7

If it becomes apparent that a competitor is running out of the ring to avoid attack or is not making adjustments to avoid being forced out of bounds, he/she should be given a warning the first time (provided he/she does not have a warning for some other infraction) and a penalty point for each following instance.

New Version: Page 33 paragraph 7

If it becomes apparent that a competitor is running out of the ring to avoid attack or is not making adjustments to avoid being forced out of bounds, he/she should be given a warning the first time (provided he/she does not have a warning for some other infraction or be given a penalty point if they do already have have a warning for some other infraction) and a penalty point for each following instance.

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New addition: Page 36

**\*\*\* *Special Note 7.5:***

Beginning at the 2004 Songahm Taekwondo World Championships, chest protectors will be mandatory for all members that will be sparring either in competition or testing. This will include: the finals for the title of World Champion in sparring, the black belt testing, and the regular sparring competition. This applies to all ages and all ranks that spar.

Chest protectors will be mandatory for all members that will be sparring at all ATA sanctioned tournaments immediately following the 2004 Songahm Taekwondo World Championships. This includes all ages and all ranks that spar at all "Class C," "Class B," "Class A," "Class AA," and "Class AAA" events.

The chest protectors can be of any model or color as long as they protect the required areas which include the front of the rib cage and sternum and they extend around the sides to include the floating rib.

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Previous Version: Page 36 paragraph 6

Reports, including copies of award winners, should be prepared. Regional tournament copies are sent to the National Chairman of Tournaments, the Regional Chief of Tournaments and the Regional Chief of Publications. The host school should keep a file copy at all times for at least two years in case of association research needs. All results must be reported within fourteen (14) days of the tournament.

New Version: Page 37 paragraph 6

Once the tournament is completed, a copy of all result sheets (form, weapons, and sparring) are to be made. All packets (complete with competitor's registration cards), all result sheets (the originals), and a Tournament Recap should be sent in within 7 business days of the event. The host school should keep the copy of the result sheets at all times for at least two years in case of association research needs.

Previous Version: Page 38 paragraph Competitor's Oath

and respect towards my fellow competitors, the judges, and the spectators?

New Version: Page 38 paragraph Competitor's Oath

and respect towards your fellow competitors, the judges, and the spectators?

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Previous Version: Page 39 paragraph 4

The points awarded are as follows:

For all divisions of 5 competitors or more —

1st place	5 points
2nd place	3 points
3rd place	1 point

If the division has fewer than 5 competitors —

	4 comp.	3 comp.	2 comp.	1 comp.
1st place	4 points	3 points	3 points	3 points
2nd place	3 points	2 points	2 points	
3rd place	1 point	1 point		

Top Ten points are doubled for national and world tournaments.

New Version: Pages 41 - 46

The description and points awarded for the different classifications of tournaments.

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Previous Version: Page 40 paragraph 4

This would mean the best score available for the tournament season would be 45 points in either form or free-sparring (10 from World Championships [first place finish - double points], 10 from one national tournament [first place finish - double points] and 25 from five regional tournaments [first place finishes in all five tournaments]).

New Version: Page 45 paragraph 4

This would mean the best score available for the tournament season would be 77 points in either form or free-sparring (15 from World Championships [first place finish - triple "Class B" points], 10 from one national tournament [first place finish - double "Class B" points], 40 from five regional tournaments [first place finishes in all five tournaments if they are all "Class A" events], and 12 from four "Class C" events).

Previous Version: Page 40 paragraph 7

To determine the World Champions in the free-sparring category, we will use our current bye system. If all the competitors are ATA students, the byes will be awarded to the top point finishers at the end of the tournament year. If the division includes members of the STF and/or the WTTU, byes will be determined by a random draw.

New Version: Page 45 paragraph 7

To determine the World Champions in the free-sparring category, we will use our current bye system. If all the competitors are ATA students, the byes will be awarded to the top point finishers at the end of the tournament year. If the division includes members of the STF and/or the WTTU, byes will be determined by a random draw. Previous World or State Champions in sparring will not have any bearing on the determining of byes for this event.

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Previous Version: Page 41 paragraph 2

Juniors —

Boys

Girls

6 & under 1st degrees  
6 & under 2nd/3rd degrees

6 & under 1st degrees  
6 & under 2nd/3rd degrees

7 & 8 1st degrees  
7 & 8 2nd/3rd degrees

7 & 8 1st degrees  
7 & 8 2nd/3rd degrees

9 & 10 1st degrees  
9 & 10 2nd/3rd degrees

9 & 10 1st degrees  
9 & 10 2nd/3rd degrees

11 & 12 1st degrees  
11 & 12 2nd/3rd degrees

11 & 12 1st degrees  
11 & 12 2nd/3rd degrees

13 & 14 1st degrees  
13 & 14 2nd/3rd degrees

13 & 14 1st degrees  
13 & 14 2nd/3rd degrees

15 & 16 1st degrees  
15 & 16 2nd/3rd degrees

15 & 16 1st degrees  
15 & 16 2nd/3rd degrees

Special Ability  
ages 16 & under/all ranks

Special Ability  
ages 16 & under/all ranks

New Version: Page 46 paragraph 2

Juniors —

Boys	Girls
7 & under 1st degrees	7 & under 1st degrees
7 & under 2nd/3rd degrees	7 & under 2nd/3rd degrees
8, 9 & 10 1st degrees	8, 9 & 10 1st degrees
8, 9 & 10 2nd/3rd degrees	8, 9 & 10 2nd/3rd degrees
11, 12, & 13 1st degrees	11, 12, & 13 1st degrees
11, 12, & 13 2nd/3rd degrees	11, 12, & 13 2nd/3rd degrees
14, 15, & 16 1st degrees	14, 15, & 16 1st degrees
14, 15, & 16 2nd/3rd degrees	14, 15, & 16 2nd/3rd degrees
Special Ability	Special Ability
12 & under/all ranks	12 & under/all ranks
13 - 16/all ranks	13 - 16/all ranks

Previous Version: Page 42 paragraph 1

Adults —

Men 17-19 1st Degree	Men 30-39 3rd Degree	Women 40-44 1st & 2nd Degree
Men 20-24 1st Degree	Men 40-49 3rd Degree	Women 45-49 1st & 2nd Degree
Men 25-29 1st Degree	Men 21-29 4th Degree	Women 17-19 2nd Degree
Men 30-34 1st Degree	Men 30-39 4th Degree	Women 20-29 2nd Degree
Men 35-39 1st Degree	Men 40-49 4th Degree	Women 30-39 2nd Degree
Men 40-44 1st Degree	Men 25-37 5th Degree	Women 17-19 3rd Degree
Men 45-49 1st & 2nd Degree	Men 38-49 5th Degree	Women 20-29 3rd & 4th Degree
Men 19 2nd Degree	Men 50-59 1st & 2nd Degree	Men 17-19 2nd Degree
Men 24 2nd Degree	Men 50-59 3rd, 4th & 5th Degree	Women 30-39 3rd & 4th Degree
Men 29 2nd Degree	Men 60 & Up 1st & 2nd Degree	Men 20-29 2nd Degree
Men 30-34 2nd Degree	Men 60 & Up 3rd, 4th & 5th Degree	Women 40-49 3rd & 4th Degree
Men 35-39 2nd Degree	Men Special Ability Black Belt	Men 25-29 2nd Degree
Men 40-44 2nd Degree	Women 17-24 1st Degree	Women 26-49 5th Degree
Men 17-19 3rd Degree	Women 25-29 1st Degree	Women 50-59 1st & 2nd Degree
Men 20-24 3rd Degree	Women 30-34 1st Degree	Women 50-59 3rd, 4th & 5th Degree
Men 25-29 3rd Degree	Women 35-39 1st Degree	Women 60 & Up 1st & 2nd Degree
		Women 60 & Up 3rd, 4th & 5th Degree
		Women Special Ability Black Belt

New Version: Page 47 paragraph 1

Adults—

Men 17-29 1st Degree	Women 17-29 1st Degree
Men 30-39 1st Degree	Women 30-39 1st Degree
Men 40-49 1st Degree	Women 40-49 1st Degree
Men 50-59 1st Degree	Women 50-59 1st Degree
Men 60 & Up 1st Degree	Women 60 & Up 1st Degree
Men 17-29 2nd & 3rd Degree	Women 17-29 2nd & 3rd Degree
Men 30-39 2nd & 3rd Degree	Women 30-39 2nd & 3rd Degree
Men 40-49 2nd & 3rd Degree	Women 40-49 2nd & 3rd Degree
Men 50-59 2nd & 3rd Degree	Women 50-59 2nd & 3rd Degree
Men 60 & Up 2nd & 3rd Degree	Women 60 & Up 2nd & 3rd Degree
Men 17-29 4th & 5th Degree	Women 17-29 4th & 5th Degree
Men 30-39 4th & 5th Degree	Women 30-39 4th & 5th Degree
Men 40-49 4th & 5th Degree	Women 40-49 4th & 5th Degree
Men 50-59 4th & 5th Degree	Women 50-59 4th & 5th Degree
Men 60 & Up 4th & 5th Degree	Women 60 & Up 4th & 5th Degree
Men Special Ability Black Belt	Women Special Ability Black Belt

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Previous Version: Page 42 Paragraph 3

**\*\*\* *Special Note 10:***

5th degree black belts can now compete at regional tournaments and be awarded points. There are special criteria required for this to be allowed and all the criteria must be met. The special criteria is as follows:

- The center judge must be at least a 6th degree black belt. The other two judges must be at least 5th degree black belts.
- There must be at least three (3) 5th degrees competing in both the form and the free-sparring. Men and women 5th degrees may be allowed to compete together to fulfill this requirement.
- 5th degrees CANNOT be combined with any other division.

New Version: Removed as it no longer applies due to revised divisions.

New addition: Page 52

\*\*\* *Special Note 12:*

The above information has been changed to include color belts as well.

To better prepare in advance of the national and world events, color belts must pre-register as well as the black belts. This will allow for pre-assigned competition assignments and a better opportunity to plan the competition day for all competitors, families, and spectators.

In regard to “late” register color belts, they will be charged the same “late” fee as the black belts, but they will not have to compete in a “late” division. “Late” register color belts will be assigned to the appropriate ring for their competition.

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Previous Version: Page 49 Paragraph 1

However, due to potential size problems, 6 years old should be the maximum age in a “Tiny Tiger division. The Instructor needs to indicate on the tournament registration card the appropriate group the child will participate in.

New Version: Page 54 Paragraph 1

However, due to potential size problems, 6 years old is the recommended maximum age in a “Tiny Tiger division. The Instructor needs to indicate on the tournament registration card the appropriate group the child will participate in.

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Previous Version: Page 54 Paragraphs 4 and 5

This permanent physical limitation would put the competitor at an extreme disadvantage against non-physically challenged peers. Examples of a permanent physical limitation would be (but not limited to): a bone, muscle, or nerve disorder that severely limits the physical mobility of the competitor, no leg(s) or an artificial leg(s), forced to use a wheelchair or other device to maintain mobility, and blindness.

Examples of physical limitations not eligible would be (but not limited to): muscle pulls, strains, or tears, recovering from a surgery or procedure that temporarily limits the physical mobility, no arm(s) or an artificial arm(s), deafness, seizure disorder, and minor arthritic conditions.

New Version: Page 59 Paragraphs 4 and 5

This permanent physical limitation would put the competitor at an extreme disadvantage against non-physically challenged peers. Examples of a permanent physical limitation would be (but not limited to): a bone, muscle, or nerve disorder that severely limits the physical

mobility of the competitor, no arms, no leg(s) or an artificial leg(s), forced to use a wheelchair or other device to maintain mobility, and blindness.

Examples of physical limitations not eligible would be (but not limited to): muscle pulls, strains, or tears, recovering from a surgery or procedure that temporarily limits the physical mobility, absence of one arm or an artificial arm(s), deafness, seizure disorder, and minor arthritic conditions, or joint replacement.

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Previous Version: Page 56 Paragraph 4

In the case of the Ssahng Jeol Bong and Bahng Mahng Ee (single or double), the competitor must only use the approved blue Protech weapons. In regards to the Jahng Bong, Jee Pahng Ee, and the Sam Dan Bong, the weapon must be of such quality to be deemed safe and in good repair. There are two sizes of weapons available at this time; an adult size and a junior size. Competitors 11 years old or younger have the option to choose which size of weapon they will demonstrate with. Competitors 12 years old and over must use the adult size weapons.

New Version: Page 61 Paragraph 4

In the case of the Ssahng Jeol Bong and Bahng Mahng Ee (single or double), the competitor must only use the approved blue Protech weapons. There are two sizes of weapons available at this time; an adult size and a junior size. Competitors 11 years old or younger have the option to choose which size of weapon they will demonstrate with. Competitors 12 years old and over must use the adult size weapons. The weapons may not be altered from their original size, shape, or form by any means. In regards to the Jahng Bong, Jee Pahng Ee, and the Sam Dan Bong, the weapon must be of such quality to be deemed safe and in good repair. Decorations or adornments not included in the manufacturing of the weapon are not permitted. Adornments for the purpose of indicating knowledge of curriculum (i.e. knowledge stripes) are permitted. The uniform may not be altered in any fashion for weapons competition. This includes temporarily altering the length of sleeves, tucking the ends of the belt, etc.

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New Addition: Page 62

\*\*\* *Special Note 12.25:*

Beginning with the 2004 - 2005 tournament season, the Double Ssahng Nat will become a tournament legal weapon. This weapon can only be used by 2nd Degree Decided Black Belts and higher and they must use the form created for this weapon. The weapon used for competition must be the approved Protech version (red foam handle, gray plastic blade, and red protective tip).

Previous Version: Page 62 paragraph 2

The age breakdowns for junior color belts will be:

6 year olds & Under	7 - 8 year olds	9 - 10 year olds
11 - 12 year olds	13 - 14 year olds	15 - 16 year olds

The age breakdowns for adult color belts will be:

17 - 19 year olds	20 - 24 year olds	25 - 29 year olds
30 - 34 year olds	35 - 39 year olds	40 - 44 year olds
45 - 49 year olds	50 - 59 year olds	60 year olds & Over

New Version: Page 67 paragraph 2

The age breakdowns for junior and adult color belts will be the same as it is for the World Champion Program. Please refer to pages 46 and 47.

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New addition: Page 63 (added to the section on Resolving Ties)

In resolving ties for weapons form competition, the key element is still the performance of the original form. The free-style demonstration is not to be the first criteria for resolving ties in weapons competition. The free-style demonstration is included only to help the judges make a decision if the tied competitors perform comparable original forms and they are unable to decide between the competitors.

If a judge cannot decide between the tied competitors based on the original form being repeated and needs to depend on the free-style demonstration to make a choice, the judge should determine the winner based on the difficulty, originality, and fluidity of the presentation in regards to the use of the weapon. The key element of the free-style demonstration must be the use of the weapon. Advanced kicking techniques and the use of gymnastic moves should not receive higher consideration unless the weapon is actually used within the movements.

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***New Addition: Page 65***

***\*\*\* Special Note 12.5:***

Beginning with the 2004 - 2005 tournament season, the Double Ssahng Nat will become a tournament legal weapon for color belt freestyle competition. The weapon used for competition must be the approved Protech version (red foam handle, gray plastic blade, and red protective tip)

New Addition: Page 66

\*\*\* ***Special Note 13:***

The ability to start earning points towards the State Champion Program begins once the student has received their “welcome” letter from the ATA International Headquarters. It does not start once the student completes the paperwork within their school.

~~Previous Version: Page 62 paragraph 5~~

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The State Champion Program will use a tournament year running from January 1 to December 31.

New Version: Page 67 paragraph 5

The State Champion Program runs concurrent with the World Champion Program, starting at the Songahm Taekwondo World Championships and running through April 30 of the next year. There may be times when “Class C” events are sanctioned for the month of May. The points earned and awarded at these events will be included in the next tournament season.

Previous Version: Page 63 paragraph 2

**Special First Year Notice**

The State Champion Program will start at the 2001 Songahm Taekwondo World Championships. Because of this starting date, this first year will be a “short” year running from June 9, 2001 through December 31, 2001. Each State Champion will be declared from the highest point totals for that time period. For each subsequent year, the competition will run from January 1 through December 31.

New Version: Removed as it no longer applies.

## POINTS AWARDED PER EVENT

### Class C Tournament

# of Competitors	5	4	3	2	1
1st Place	3	2	0	0	0
2nd Place	2	1	0	0	
3rd Place	1	0	0		

### Class B Tournament

# of Competitors	5	4	3	2	1
1st Place	5	4	3	3	3
2nd Place	3	3	2	2	
3rd Place	1	1	1		

### Class A Tournament

# of Competitors	5	4	3	2	1
1st Place	8	6	3	3	3
2nd Place	5	3	2	2	
3rd Place	2	2	1		

### Class AA Tournament

# of Competitors	5	4	3	2	1
1st Place	10	8	6	6	6
2nd Place	6	6	4	4	
3rd Place	2	2	2		

### Class AAA Tournament

# of Competitors	5	4	3	2	1
1st Place	15	12	9	9	9
2nd Place	9	9	6	6	
3rd Place	3	3	3		