

MAJOR NEWS

RESTRUCTURING TOURNAMENT SANCTION PROCESS DIVISION RANK/AGE GROUPS REDEFINED BLACK BELT WEAPONS COMPETITION

These changes go into affect at (or after) the 2002 Songahm Taekwondo World Championships

RESTRUCTURING TOURNAMENT SANCTION PROCESS

To say the tournament scene has changed over the last 20 years would be an understatement. The one aspect that hasn't changed in all of that time is the tournament classification process. The current process doesn't reflect the growth of our tournaments nor the additional divisions now available. It also doesn't address or encourage the use of Class C (or "mini") tournaments. The reclassification of the process described here is an answer to these different points.

* Class C Tournaments:

As mentioned above, Class C Tournaments have not been encouraged as much as they could be. They offer many benefits at all levels. The student gains the opportunity to train and practice for regional and national events. The black belts gain the opportunity to practice judging in a more familiar environment and receive more feedback from their instructors. The owner gains the opportunity to provide practice and training, in addition to a "fun" event for their students. In an effort to better utilize this training forum, the Tournament Department is encouraging all school and club owners to consider using Class C Tournaments with the following guidelines:

Class C Tournament hosts **MUST** submit a sanction form for review a minimum of 30 days prior to the event to be eligible to offer points toward State and World Champ standings. The points awarded will be as follows:

# of Competitors	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place
5 or more	3	2	1
4	2	1	0
3	0	0	0
2	0	0	n/a
1	0	n/a	n/a

- No points will be awarded for rings with 3 or fewer competitors in them
- This point structure will be used for forms, sparring, and weapons
- Color belts and black belts are eligible for points.
- Black and color belt weapons competition will be allowed
- The owner can combine divisions however they see fit.

Class C Tournaments are to be "inner-school" tournaments. Each school or club that can meet the number of competitors per ring requirement can apply for sanction (see point table above – any rings with 3 or fewer competitors will not receive points). 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 Tournaments. As an example, the most points a competitor can earn from Class C Tournament 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 & Class A Tournaments:**

In the past, all regional tournaments have fallen into one category; Class B Tournaments. Regardless of the size of the event, or the amount of competition, every event was treated the same; the same fees and the same awards (points). There have been tremendous strides in the last several years by many tournament hosts and regions in regard to the success of these events and it is time to recognize this and adjust the system.

Regional tournaments will now be broken down into two categories; Class B and Class A. As mentioned in the chart above, Class B Regional Tournaments will be any regional event with a two event history (the two most recent events by the same host) of 749 or fewer competitors and Class A Regional Tournaments will be any regional event with a history of 750 or more competitors (the two most recent events by the same host). Points awarded for a Class B Regional Tournament will be the same as is currently awarded (for a full ring of 5 or more competitors; 5 points for first, 3 points for second, and 1 point for third and adjusted down for fewer than 5 competitors). Points awarded for a Class A Regional Tournament will be:

# of Competitors	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place
5 or more	8	5	2
4	6	3	2
3	3	2	1
2	3	2	n/a
1	3	n/a	n/a

- This point structure will be used for color belts and black belts and for forms, sparring, and weapons
- All regionals will include black and color belt weapons competition

***** Class AA & Class AAA Tournaments:**

The Spring and Fall National Tournaments will remain the same as always. No changes on this level. The Songahm Taekwondo World Championships will have one change that will be started at the 2002 event. This is the greatest event we host with the largest number of competitors and the highest level of competition from all over the world. To reflect the importance of the event and the significance of the competition, the point awards will be increased. The chart below reflects this increase:

# of Competitors	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place
5 or more	15	9	3
4	8	5	2
3	5	3	1
2	3	2	n/a
1	3	n/a	n/a

Late register black belts will receive the same point awards as on the current system (5 for first, 3 for second, and 1 for third) based on the number of competitors in the division.

DIVISION RANK/AGE GROUPS REDEFINED & BLACK BELT WEAPONS COMPETITION

We have used the current division breakdowns now for a few years. These years of implementation have shown a weakness, especially on the regional level. This weakness has been too few competitors in a ring at a regional tournament thus lessening the amount of competition offered and lowering the potential number of points available to earn. The expectation of our students that go to regional tournaments is to be involved in a ring with a reasonable number of other competitors. We have not been able to offer that in most regions. Divisions of 3 competitors or less is more common than not. We have even experienced low numbers with the adult black belt divisions at our national events. Divisions of less than 6 at a national or world event should not happen except in certain instances.

Beginning at the 2002 Songahm Taekwondo World Championships, the competition divisions will be defined as listed in the table below. The color belt divisions (for State Champion purposes) will follow the same age definitions as those listed below.

BOYS	MEN	WOMEN
7 & Under 1st Degrees	17 – 29 1st Degree	17 – 29 1st Degree
8 & 9 & 10 1st Degrees	30 – 39 1st Degree	30 – 39 1st Degree
11 & 12 & 13 1st Degrees	40 – 49 1st Degree	40 – 49 1st Degree
14 & 15 & 16 1st Degrees	50 – 59 1st Degree	50 – 59 1st Degree
	60 & Up 1st Degree	60 & Up 1st Degree
7 & Under 2nd & 3rd Degrees		
8 & 9 & 10 2nd & 3rd Degrees	17 – 29 2nd & 3rd Degree	17 – 29 2nd & 3rd Degree
11 & 12 & 13 2nd & 3rd Degrees	30 – 39 2nd & 3rd Degree	30 – 39 2nd & 3rd Degree
14 & 15 & 16 2nd & 3rd Degrees	40 – 49 2nd & 3rd Degree	40 – 49 2nd & 3rd Degree
	50 – 59 2nd & 3rd Degree	50 – 59 2nd & 3rd Degree
Special Ability 12 & Under / All Ranks	60 & Up 2nd & 3rd Degree	60 & Up 2nd & 3rd Degree
Special Ability 13 – 16 / All Ranks		
	21 – 29 4th & 5th Degree	21 – 29 4th & 5th Degree
GIRLS	30 – 39 4th & 5th Degree	30 – 39 4th & 5th Degree
7 & Under 1st Degrees	40 – 49 4th & 5th Degree	40 – 49 4th & 5th Degree
8 & 9 & 10 1st Degrees	50 – 59 4th & 5th Degree	50 – 59 4th & 5th Degree
11 & 12 & 13 1st Degrees	60 & Up 4th & 5th Degree	60 & Up 4th & 5th Degree
14 & 15 & 16 1st Degrees		
	Special Ability All Ages / All Ranks	Special Ability All Ages / All Ranks
7 & Under 2nd & 3rd Degrees		
8 & 9 & 10 2nd & 3rd Degrees		
11 & 12 & 13 2nd & 3rd Degrees		
14 & 15 & 16 2nd & 3rd Degrees		
Special Ability 12 & Under / All Ranks		
Special Ability 13 – 16 / All Ranks		

This revision does not promise that there still might not be some combining of divisions on the regional level (except for juniors – they must remain “clean”), but the occurrences should be greatly reduced.

We have also experienced significant growth in the black belt weapons competition arena. More and more black belts are competing in the weapons events both on a regional level as well as a national level. The divisions are currently made based on the weapon being used and fairly large age groups. Because of the growth, it’s now more appropriate to reduce the size of the age groups to match the traditional divisions and allow more than one weapon to be involved within the competition (in other words, a single Bahng Mahng Ee can compete against a single Ssahng Jeol Bong or a Jahng Bong).

For all regional tournaments following the 2002 Songahm Taekwondo World Championships, Black Belt Weapons Competition will take place within their traditional competition ring. The order of competition will follow the same as the color belts with traditional form first, weapons forms second, and free-sparring third. As mentioned in the previous paragraph, different weapons will be judged against each other. There will not be any separation by weapon. The awarding of points will be based on age and rank only. The current rules on what weapon a black belt may compete with are still in effect.

Thank you for your time and support!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Kohl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "K".

Master Jay Kohl
International Chairman of Tournaments