

Title I: Introduction

Article 1: Mission Statement

- 1.1 To preserve traditional and authentic karate-do in the area of karate competition.
- 1.2 To represent a professional Karate image and demeanor to other Karate Ka and to the general public.
- 1.3 To promote quality competition and foster a standard of excellence within the Karate Competition arena.
- 1.4 To standardize the tournament rules and procedures for the United States Karate-do Kai.
- 1.5 To insure the safety of all competitors, officials and spectators.

Article 2: Purpose of the Official Tournament Competition Rules Handbook

- 2.1 The tournament rules handbook will establish the competition rules and procedures for tournaments sanctioned by the United States Karate-Do Kai.
- 2.2 The rules will serve as a reference guide to provide standards and enhance uniformity of the methods of judging.
- 2.3 The rules establish clear standards to promote fair and impartial treatment of competitors by officials.
- 2.4 The rules establish requirements, procedures, and define the authority for all referees, judges, arbitrators, competitors and all other officials associated with a United States Karate-do Kai sanctioned tournament.

Title II: National Kata / Weapons Competition Rules

Article 1: Competition Area

- 1.1 The competition area must be a square and devoid of any potential hazard to the competitors or officials.
- 1.2 The competition area must be a square with the sides of eight (8) meters (measured from the outside). Said competition area may be modified to an area no less than sixteen (16) feet and not more than twenty-six (26) feet on each side.
- 1.3 The only authorized personnel within the competition area shall be the referee, the judges, the time keeper and/or score keeper, the arbitrator, the competitors and the tournament coordinator.
EVERYONE ELSE MUST STAY OFF THE COMPETITION FLOOR.
- 1.4 The competition area may be elevated no more than three (3) feet above the floor and must have sufficient space to prevent competitors from falling.
- 1.5 If available, a separate warm-up area shall be provided for competitors.

Article 2: Official Uniform

- 2.1 Competitors, referees, judges and all other officials must wear the official uniform as defined in Article 2 of

the Kumite Competition Rules handbook. *HAKAMA* (buggie skirt) is not permitted since it obstructs the judgment of the refereeing panel.

2.2 Hair clips and metallic hair pins, head bands or any other types of head cover are forbidden; exceptions will be made for medical or religious reasons. However, non-distracting hair clips are acceptable.

2.3 Any person who does not comply with this uniform policy may be disqualified. Chairman of the Referee Council or his designee may authorize exceptions to this policy.

Article 3: Organization of Kata Competition

3.1 The kata competition consists of individual performance in separate male and female division further described in Title IV, Article 5.

3.2 A Tournament Coordinator will be appointed to ensure divisions are announced and assigned to competition areas. It is the competitor's responsibility to arrive at the assigned competition area on time.

3.3 Only traditional Karate or Kobudo Kata may be performed.

Article 4: The Judging Panel

4.1 A panel of five (5) judges for each competition area will be designated by the Chairman of the Referee Council or his designee before the competition. The Center Judge, regardless of rank, is responsible for the conduct of the competition. **Note: Center Judges should be current UNITED STATES KARATE-DO KAI members and referee certified. In weapons divisions, the Center Judge should be Kobudo certified.**

4.2 Score keepers and callers/announcers will be appointed for each competition area.

4.3 Once kata competition has commenced all judges shall remain on that board until the division has been completed.

4.4 There may not be more than two (2) black belts from any one instructor nor more than one (1) black belt from a single school on any kata panel if there are other qualified kata judges available.

4.5 Kata judges shall remain seated during the competition. Judges shall not engage in inappropriate conversation during periods when competitors are performing their kata.

4.6 A ten (10) point scoring system with decimal points shall be utilized for kata competition. The Tournament Director shall make scoring cards available to the kata panel which is large enough to be readily visible to the score keeper, announcer and the competitor being judged.

4.7 All members of the kata panel must be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

4.8 Adult Brown belts may be used on a kata panel in the event an insufficient number of black belts are available; however, in no event may brown belts judge black belts.

4.9 The kata panel must be unbiased and impartial at all times. Qualified black and brown belts shall not participate in a panel where a family member is competing if other judges are available. **Every effort will be made that lower rank will not judge higher rank.**

Article 5: Scoring

5.1 Each kata judge visually displays his/her score by means of points as described in Title II, Article 5.3.

5.2 When the score keeper totals the scores for each competitor, the maximum and minimum scores awarded are deleted. In the event of a tie, the minimum score from the remaining scores will be added in and then incorporated into the total. If a tie persists, then the maximum score from the remaining scores is added in for the total tally. In the event of a continuing tie, the competitors must perform again. Advanced competitors as defined in Title IV, Article 5 must perform a different kata than that originally performed. Novice competitors may perform the same kata again. In this instance the judges shall declare the winner by raising their right or left arm in the direction of the winner.

5.3 Scoring in all kata divisions shall be by the nine (9) point decimal system. The lowest possible score for all kyu competitors shall be 7.0 while the highest possible score shall be 9.0. The lowest possible score for yudansha competitors shall be 8.0 while the highest score shall be 10.0. Kata judges are encouraged not to score strictly in whole numbers, but to combine whole numbers with decimals.

5.4 If there are three (3) or fewer competitors in any one division, each competitor shall be scored after performing his/her respective kata. If there are more than three (3) competitors in any one division, the kata panel shall observe the first three (3) competitors prior to any competitor in the division receiving a score. Once the first three (3) competitors have performed their kata, the first competitor shall be called forward to receive his/her score, then the second competitor will be scored, and then the third competitor will be scored; thereafter, each competitor will receive his/her score after his/her kata has been performed.

5.5 The competitor's deportment is to be considered by all judges in determining the score beginning at such time a division has bowed into formal competition and ending at such time when said division is formally bowed out upon conclusion. Competitors who display disruptive or disrespectful behavior or who otherwise distract other competitors may be disqualified from the competition.

5.6 The Center Judge is responsible for ensuring all score sheets are correct prior to presenting awards to competitors.

Article 6: Criteria for Decision

6.1 In assessing the performance of a competitor, the following criteria must be adopted:

___ Kata must be performed with competence and must demonstrate a clear understanding of the principles that it contains.

___ The kata performance must have demonstrated correct focus of attention, use of power, good balance, and proper breathing.

___ Correct breathing, good demonstration of power, speed, timing, balance and concentration or focus.

___ Consistency and correctness of stance

___ Correct weight distribution according to the stance being demonstrated

___ Smooth and even transition remaining weighted downs between stances

___ Correct tension in stance

___ Feet edges firmly on floor

Techniques demonstrate:

___ Accuracy

- ___ Correct and consistent with the style being demonstrated
 - ___ Correct tension, focus
- Kata must uniformly demonstrate:
- ___ Unwavering concentration
 - ___ Contrast in tension, breathing and movement
 - ___ An understanding of those techniques being demonstrated
 - ___ A realistic, rather than, theatrical demonstration of the kata meaning

6.2 If a competitor in any Novice division (10th through 6th kyu) forgets his/her kata while performing, he/she may restart one time. Advanced competitors may not restart their kata if they forget and will be given the minimum score for their division.

6.3. If a competitor is late for his/her division and his/her ring has already started, he/she will not be allowed to compete.

6.4. Other than a medical reason, if a competitor leaves his/her competition area, he/she will be disqualified.

Article 7: Operation of Kata Competition

7.1 Each competitor will respond to the calling of his/her name by going directly to the competition area. He/she will stand on a designated line and bow to the panel. He/she will clearly announce the kata which he/she will perform. Upon completion of the kata, the competitor will do one of the following: If the competitor is among the first three to perform, he/she will return to the designated line and bow out of the competition area and wait to be called back up for his/her score. If the competitor is not among the first three to perform, he/she will remain in the competition area and await an immediate score from the panel.

7.2 The Center Judge will call for scores. **Example: “Judges ready, Scores”** The judges will simultaneously raise their score cards so that they are clearly visible to the scorekeeper and caller/announcer and the competitor being judged.

7.3 The caller/announcer will announce the scores awarded and when these have been registered, the referee will say “**down**” whereupon the cards will be lowered simultaneously.

7.4 In the event of a persistent tie, competitors will be required to perform again. See Title II, Article 5.2

7.5 The above kata competition rules also apply to kobudo kata competition.

7.6 Bo for Bo kata must be made of **hard wood** (over 900 grams in weight) with a length of six feet or more for Adult divisions and 5 feet for children divisions. Different specifications are not allowed.

Please Note: 900 grams is equivalent to two (2) pounds. This is for the Adult divisions

7.7 Sai for Sai kata must be constructed of metal. During the competition, throwing the Sai or sticking the Sai into the floor is forbidden.

7.8 Only the five (5) traditional weapons may be used during Kobudo Competition; the Sai, the Bo, the Nunchakun, the Tonfa and the Kama.

7.9 The Kama may only be used if the blade is made of wood. No sharpened or unsharpened metal blades will be allowed.

7.10 A competitor who drops his/her weapon during the performance of his/her kata will not be permitted to restart his/her kata. If a competitor forgets his/her weapon form and stops during his/her performance, he/she will not be permitted to begin again. He/she will receive a score of 7.0 or 8.0 depending on the rank of the competitor. Judges will not give the competitor a score of 0.

7.11 All weapons utilized in kobudo kata competition shall be real weapons, such as were used in ancient times and were designed for fighting or as farm implements.

7.12 The Jo may be used in substitution for a bo in the Junior Weapons Division. The length shall be 41 inches or more and 50 inches or less by authentic definition. There is no weight specification for bo's or jo's in the Junior Weapons Division.

7.13 The weapons kata panel may inspect a competitor's weapon to ensure it is of proper design, sufficient strength, and meets all other requirements.

Article 8: Modifications

8.1 For any stipulation not stated within these articles, alterations and modifications are subject to the approval of the Director and the Referee Council of the United States Karate-do Kai.

Article 9: Protests

9.1 A protest may be either written or verbal. All protests must be presented or submitted in a manner that is described in Title III Kumite Competition Rules, Article 11.

Title III: National Kumite Competition Rules

Article 1: Competition Area

1.1 The competition area must be a square and devoid of any potential hazard to the competitors or officials.

1.2 The competition area may be a matted square.

1.3 The area will be a square with sides of eight (8) meters (measured from the outside). Said competition area may be modified to an area no less than sixteen (16) feet and not more than twenty-six (26) feet on each side.

1.4 A line three (3) feet long must be drawn from the center of the competition area for positioning the referee.

1.5 Two parallel lines each three (3) feet long and perpendicular to the referee's line, must be drawn at a distance of two-and-a-half (2.5) feet from the center of the competition area (five feet apart) for positioning the competitors.

1.6 The arbitrator may be seated between the score keeper and time keeper.

1.7 The only authorized personnel within the competition area shall be the referee, the judges, the time keeper and score keeper, the arbitrator, competitors and the tournament coordinator. **EVERYONE ELSE MUST STAY OFF THE COMPETITION FLOOR.**

1.8 The competition area may be elevated no more than three (3) feet above the floor and must have sufficient space to prevent competitors from falling.

1.9 If available, there shall be a separate warm-up area provided for competitors.

1.10 The competition area shall be clearly marked in a manner which is consistent with the official regulations and design.

Article 2: Official Uniform

2.1 All referees, judges, competitors, coaches and other tournament officials shall wear the official uniform as herein defined.

__Referees and judges may wear the official uniform designated by the Chairman of the Referee Council or a White Karate Gi.

__ **All competitors must wear a clean white karate uniform.**

__The official uniform may be modified by the Tournament Promoter.

__ Each competitor must keep his/her hair clean and cut to a length that does not obstruct smooth bout conduct. Head-bands will not be allowed. An **exception will be made for medical or religious purposes provided that the headband does not interfere with the wear of head gear.** In kumite matches, hair slides and metal hair clips are prohibited.

__ Competitors must have short fingernails and must not wear other objects which might injure their opponent. No jewelry is permitted with the exceptions of a **medical bracelet**, wedding band and eye glasses. Eye glasses which are not safety glasses will not be permitted.

__ **In all Kumite divisions: hand pads, feet pads, mouth guard and head gear are mandatory. (Foam Gear only, not cloth for hand pads) A groin protector is mandatory for all male competitors.**

__ The protective equipment must meet standard specifications.

__ Commercial form safety equipment is required for all categories during Kumite competition.

__ The use of bandages or braces because of injuries may be approved by the referee council with the advice of the official doctor.

2.2 The Chairman of the referee council or his/her designee may disqualify any official or competitor who does not comply with his regulation. Exceptions to the uniform policy must be approved by the Chairman of the Referee Council or his designee.

Article 3: Organization of Kumite Competition

3.1 The kumite competition is divided into individual categories based on rank, weight, age and sex.

3.2 If a competitor is late for his/her division and his/her ring has already started, he/she will not be allowed to compete.

3.3 In the event a child's age is challenged, the parent(s) or guardian of that child shall produce a birth certificate to establish the child's age.

3.4 At all UNITED STATES KARATE-DO KAI Sanctioned Tournaments, Red and White Flags will be used for all Kumite Divisions.

Article 4: Referee Panel

4.1 The referee panel for each match shall consist of one (1) referee (*SHUSHIN*), either two (2) or four (4) judges. If only two (2) judges are used, an arbitrator will be appointed by the Chairman of the Referee Council or his/her designee.

4.2 In addition, several time keepers, callers or announcers and record keepers shall be appointed by the chairman or his/her designee for the purpose of facilitating the operation of the matches.

Article 5: Duration of Bout

5.1 The duration of a kumite bout is defined as two (2) minutes running time and three (3) minute running time for 1st and 2nd place matches.

5.2 The timing of the bout starts when the referee gives the signal to start and stops only when the referee designates an official time out. The center referee is the only official who may instruct the time keeper to start and stop time during the bout.

5.3 The time keeper shall indicate that thirty (30) seconds remain in the match by giving a clearly audible visible signal.

Article 6: Scoring

6.1 The result of a bout is determined by a competitor scoring Five (5) ippons or by obtaining a decision (competitor with the most points when regulation time expires is declared the victor).

6.2 An ippon is awarded on the basis of good form, correct attitude, vigorous application, perfect finish, proper timing and correct distance.

6.3 A victory over an opponent who has been given a Foul; or Disqualification will be worth five (5) full points or IPPON. If a competitor is absent, withdraws, or is withdrawn, the opponent will be credited with five (5) full points.

6.4 Attacks are limited to the following areas:

TARGET AREAS FOR KYU RANK

CHEST, SIDES, ABDOMINAL AREA, KIDNEY, SIDE OF HEAD, BACK OF HEAD, GROIN AREA and FACE MASK AREA - (NO TOUCH TO FACE MASK AREA)

TARGET AREAS FOR ADULT BLACK BELTS

FACE MASK AREA - (**LIGHT TOUCH ONLY**), CHEST, SIDES, ABDOMINAL AREA, KIDNEY, SIDE OF HEAD, BACK OF HEAD, BACK - (EXCLUDING THE SPINE), and GROIN

6.5 An effective technique that is delivered at the same time that the end of the bout is signaled is considered valid. An attack even if effective, delivered after an order to suspend or stop the bout shall not be scored and may result in a penalty being imposed on the offender.

6.6 No technique, even if technically correct, will be scored if it is delivered when either or both competitors are outside the competition area.

6.7 When an effective technique has been observed by either the center referee or a corner judge, the referee will stop the bout. A corner judge who observes a scoring technique will inform the referee by clearly stating "POINT" or "IPPON".

6.8 Points shall be awarded by the center referee, who has determined the majority vote. **There will be an arbitrator in each ring where only two (2) corner judges are present. It is the responsibility of the Referee to ask for the arbitrator's confirmation of a decision if he/she does not have enough confirmation for a point.**

6.9 All points (*IPPON*) are determined by a majority vote of the referee and judges, but **The Referee may award a penalty point, automatically forfeit (FOUL), or disqualify a competitor for contact without confirmation from his/her or her corner judges**

6.10 If simultaneously effective scoring techniques are delivered by both competitors, neither competitor shall be scored.

6.11 **Face touch is NOT allowed in all Kyu Divisions.**

6.12 Face contact occurs when a competitor is **touched** in the face area which would normally be covered by a baseball player's catcher mask. Face contact **does not include** the top, sides or back of the head. Touching any portion of a competitor's headgear which covers any or all of the face mask area is not allowed and will result in a penalty point.

6.13 Points will not be scored for techniques delivered to the top of the head. The sides and back of the head are legal targets and may be touched with control. Any technique which results in movement of the head will be considered excessive touch and will result in a penalty point or automatic forfeiture of the match (FOUL) based upon the referee's assessment of the severity of the infraction.

6.14 Face contact is not allowed in all Kyu and junior black belt divisions. Only focused points short of contact will be allowed. If there is light touch to the face, **a penalty point will be awarded to the offender's opponent upon the first occurrence. Upon a second occurrence of light touch to the face, the offender will lose due to automatic forfeiture (FOUL). Second time face contact is to be called even if competitors are out of bounds, the regulation time has expired, or after a referee commands a competitor to break or stop the match.**

6.15 **A competitor who steps out of bounds or steps on the out of bounds line with one or both feet and is not forced or propelled out of bounds while fighting will be penalized by a point awarded to the opponent for each infraction.**

6.16 **DEFINITIONS OF LIGHT TOUCH: Light touch means no penetration or visible movement of the opponent as a result of the technique. Light touch to the face mask area in all youth and adult Kyu**

divisions will result in a penalty point awarded to the offender's opponent. Light touch to the face is allowed in adult black belt divisions only.

MODERATE TOUCH: Moderate touch means slight penetration or slight movement of the target. Moderate touch to the head in all divisions will result in automatic forfeiture of the match (FOUL). Moderate touch to the body is allowed in all divisions.

EXCESSIVE TOUCH: Uncontrolled technique; any technique to the head or body that causes movement of the target in any direction, deep penetration, injury, unconsciousness, redness, swelling, or bleeding. Penalty for excessive touch is automatic forfeiture of the match (FOUL). Excessive touch foul overrides any and all other calls regardless of the sequence of the infractions.

Article 7: Criteria for Decision

7.1 In the absence of a *five (5) point score*, the competitor who has accumulated the highest score obtained by *IPPONS*, *WARNING WITH IPPON PENALTY* or *OUTSIDE MATCH AREA WITH IPPON PENALTY* shall be declared the winner.

7.2 A defeat may also be caused by *FOUL* or *DISQUALIFICATION*. Loss due to *FOUL* occurs when a competitor commits excessive touch or moderate touch to the face (kyu and junior black belt divisions only). *DISQUALIFICATION* occurs when a competitor displays malicious intent, poor sportsmanship, or intentionally commits any prohibited behavior.

7.3 In the event of a tie or the absence of any score at the end of a bout, the referee shall reopen the match in extension until an *IPPON* is determined by the majority.

7.4 If a competitor who is fighting for first through fourth place loses due to automatic forfeiture (*FOUL*), he/she still receives the award and points for the lower placing, e.g. if red and white are fighting for first and second place and red loses due to unintentional light touch (second offense), he/she still receives the trophy and points for second place).

7.5 If a competitor who is fighting for first through fourth place loses due to Disqualification, he/she receives no award or points and the place is left vacant.

Article 8: Prohibited Behavior

8.1 The following is forbidden and will result in a penalty point, automatic forfeiture (*FOUL*), or disqualification depending upon the referee's assessment of the severity of the infraction:

___ Techniques which target the neck or throat.

___ Techniques which make excessive touch. All techniques must be controlled.

___ Attacks to joints or instep.

___ Attacks to the face with open hand techniques (*SHOTEI* or *NUKITE*).

___ Throws or takedowns

___ Foot sweeps, may be utilized but must be effective and controlled and followed up with an effective

technique within three seconds after utilizing the initial set-up technique. If the initial set-up techniques are not controlled, the competitor attempting the technique may be subject to penalties or disqualification. All such techniques may be utilized in adult brown and black belt divisions only.

Note: Sweeps are allowed only to the back of the front leg to break an opponent's balance. (No higher than the ankle) The competitor executing the foot sweep must hold onto his/her opponent as he/she takes him/her down to the ground. Striking to joint areas is prohibited and will result in a penalty point being awarded to the offender.

- ___ Techniques which by their nature cannot be controlled and compromise the safety of the opponent.
- ___ Direct attacks to arms.
- ___ Wrestling, pushing, or seizing without an immediate follow up technique.
- ___ Any display of lack of regard for one's own safety.
- ___ Feigning of injury in order to gain advantage.
- ___ Any discourteous behavior from a competitor or of an official delegation can earn the disqualification of the individual from the tournament.
- ___ Blind techniques. Spinning techniques are allowed but the competitor must acquire visual contact with the target prior to the completion of the technique.
- ___ Any Elbow or Knee Strikes.
- ___ Any deliberate attempt to hit an opponent with excessive touch.
- ___ Any uncontrolled techniques which move through or over the intended target area. All techniques must have a safe stopping point with pullback ability.
- ___ Any grabbing when the competitor does not immediately execute a single effective scoring technique. Grabbing and executing multiple techniques is not allowed.
- ___ Any butting or ramming with the head to the opponent's head or body; no choking, biting or hair pulling.
- ___ Any discourteous behavior or remarks directed to any referee, judge, or other tournament official by a competitor, competitor's instructor, or anyone associated with the competitor may result in the competitor being disqualified from the event and/or the tournament. **Persistent or severe displays of disrespect will result in the competitor or school from all UNITED STATES KARATE-DO KAI sanctioned events.**
- ___ **Coaching is not allowed. If this happens, the referee will issue a warning to the individual committing the offense. A repeat offense will result in the competitor being disqualified.**

8.2 Penalty Warning, Point Violations or Foul shall be divided into two (2) independent categories: Technical and Personal.

___ Personal Penalties and/or foul violations are those actions of a competitor committed on or directed to another competitor. A personal violation shall be described as but not necessarily limited to failure to promptly respond to commands rendered by the referee, techniques which are unsafe and/or lack control, or any other physical act or omission that may result in any injury to either competitor.

__ Technical Penalties and/or foul violations are those other than personal that shall be described as but not necessarily limited to uniform and/or equipment as required for competition, personal cleanliness, any act or omission which demonstrates a lack of respect to any official or competitor, failing to observe the time and place of competition, failing to adhere to the instructions and/or commands of any tournament official, feigning of any injury, or failing to compete (excessive waste of time or running during a match).

8.3 The authority of the referee with regard to personal and technical violations is hereinafter defined:

__ The referee **shall** have the authority to award warnings or point violations for all technical violations without a majority consensus.

__ The referee **shall** have the authority to impose a warning (except for touch violations) or penalty point for personal violations without a majority consensus. A conference with the judges may be necessary in this instance prior to judgment

8.4 The referee shall have the authority to resolve administrative infractions or errors in an expedient manner consistent with the intent and purpose of the official tournament rules and procedures handbook (i.e., scorekeeping or timekeeping errors).

Article 9: Penalties

9.1 The following scale of penalties shall apply:

__ A warning may be imposed for the first instance of a minor infraction not involving touch violations or out of bounds (JOGAI) calls.

__ A Foul is imposed following a serious infraction. It results in the violator's automatic forfeiture and a victory for his/her opponent.

__ Disqualification from the actual tournament, competition, or match. In order to define the limit of disqualification, the referee council must be consulted. Disqualification may be invoked when a competitor commits an act which harms the prestige or honor of karate-do and when other actions are considered to violate the rules of the tournament.

9.2 If a competitor while executing a technique should make contact to the opponent which inflicts any injury, damage, bruise, abrasion, swelling, laceration, fracture, dislocation, bleeding (either internal or external) and/or unconsciousness the competitor executing the technique will be disqualified. This penalty shall be called even if the injury is not immediately apparent and surfaces later in the match.

9.3 If a competitor is out of bounds, a penalty point shall not be assessed to said competitor if a point has been awarded to the other competitor for a technique delivered at the same time as the out of bounds violation.

Article 10: Injuries and Accidents in Competition

10.1 Forfeiture will result when a competitor is unable to continue, abandons the bout, or is withdrawn on the order of the referee. The grounds for abandonment may include injury not ascribable to the opponent's actions.

10.2 If two competitors injure each other at the same time or are suffering from the effects of previously incurred injuries and are declared by the tournament doctor or medical personnel to be unable to continue, the

bout is awarded to the competitor who has amassed the most points at that time. If the point score is equal, then both competitors automatically forfeit the match, no trophies or national points are awarded, and the places are left vacant.

10.3 An injured competitor who has been declared unfit to fight by the tournament doctor or medical personnel cannot fight again in that competition.

10.4 An injured competitor who wins a bout through disqualification due to injuries is not allowed to fight again in the competition without permission from the doctor or medical personnel. If he/she is injured, he/she may win a second bout by disqualification but then is immediately withdrawn from further Kumite competition in that tournament.

10.5 When a competitor is injured, the referee shall at once halt the bout and call the doctor or medical personnel. Only the doctor or medical personnel is authorized to diagnose and treat injuries.

10.6 Medical personnel are herein defined as a licensed nurse or a licensed emergency medical technician.

10.7 The authority of the tournament doctor and/or medical personnel shall be defined and limited to the assessment and treatment of the medical condition and/or injury of a competitor and to thereafter make recommendations to the center referee as he/she may deem appropriate.

Article 11: Protests

11.1 No competitor may protest a judgment to the members of the refereeing panel. If a competitor wishes to request a protest of a rules violation, he/or she must respectfully notify the referee. The competitor will be afforded a reasonable amount of time to summons his sensei or the senior representative of his school to wage the protest.

11.2 PROTEST: Are only allowed when rules have been violated. A JUDGEMENT call may not be protested. No video replays will be allowed. No parents or spectators may protest any calls made by the Referee or Judges. Only the sensei or senior representative of the student's school may protest. To do this, the senior representative of the school must notify the timekeeper or scorekeeper of his/her protest and he/she will, in turn, inform the Referee. This must be done immediately upon an infraction of a rule call during a match, not at the end of a match. The person waging the protest must cite the official UNITED STATES KARATE-DO KAI rules violated.

11.3 The protest will take the form of a written or oral report submitted immediately after the bout in which the protest was generated. The sole exception to this is when the protest concerns an administrative malfunction. A member of the referee council shall be notified immediately when the administrative malfunction is detected.

11.4 The protest must be submitted initially to the timekeeper or scorekeeper who will notify the referee; subsequently, a member of the referee council or arbitrator shall be notified. In due course the council member or arbitrator will review the circumstances leading to the protested decision. Having considered all the facts available, he will produce a decision and shall be empowered to take such action as may be called for in remedy.

11.5 A written protest must be submitted to the Referee Council in care of the United States Karate-do Kai International Headquarters, P.O. Box 3771, Peoria, Illinois 61612-3771. All facts, pertinent information, and opinions must be included in the protest. The written protest must be postmarked no later than ten (10) days

following an incident.

11.6 If an infraction of the rules is observed by a competitor, the competitor's instructor, or a tournament official, the infraction should be brought to the attention of the Arbitrator or Referee Council in a timely manner, or the infraction will not be considered as valid at a later time.

11.7 If, during competition an inconsistency is observed in the rules, the individual noticing such inconsistency should submit written notification to the Referee Council as soon as practical, stating all pertinent facts.

Article 12: Powers and Duties of the Chairman of the Referee Council, Referees, Judges, and Arbitrators

12.1 The powers and duties of the Chairman of the Referee Council are as follows:

__ To ensure the correct preparation for each given tournament in consultation with the Organizing Committee, with regard to competition area arrangement, the provision and deployment of all equipment and necessary facilities, match operation and supervision, safety precautions, uniform inspections, etc.

__ To appoint, deploy, supervise and coordinate with the referees and Referee Council members to act upon and take such action as may be required to ensure consistent enforcement of the rules.

__ To pass the final judgment on matters of a technical nature which may arise during a given match and for which there are no stipulations in the rules.

__ To act as Chief Referee at all sanctioned tournament events.

__ To chair the Referee Certification Committee.

__ To conduct referee certification clinics at dates and locations specified by the Director.

__ To receive a written or oral report of protest(s) made at the end of a bout.

__ To call the referee panel for reconsideration of the judgment upon the protest.

__ To inform of the panel's decision concerning the protest.

__ To oversee the performance of the referee and judges in their areas and to call upon the referee if there is a malfunction over rules or criteria before a decision is carried out.

__ To call upon the refereeing panel through the referee for any malfunctions noted in the match.

__ To supervise the time keeper and score keeper. Records kept of the match shall become official records subject to the approval of the arbitrator.

__ To inform the spectators before the tournament starts of the following expectations: They are not allowed to coach, discuss anything with the referees or judges, or make protests. Upon the first occurrence, the referee will give a warning. In the event of a second occurrence, the competitor may be disqualified. If a spectator becomes unruly, he/she will be expelled from the tournament site and may be

barred from USKK sanctioned tournaments up to one year.

__ To delegate duties and responsibilities as required to Referee Council Members.

12.3 The referee's powers and duties are:

__ To conduct matches (including announcing the start, the suspension and the end of the match) and:

— To award *POINTS*.

— To explain to referee council, if necessary, the basis for giving a judgment.

— To impose penalties and to issue warnings (before, during or after the bout).

— To obtain the opinion(s) of the judges (by flag gestures).

— To announce extension.

__ The authority of the referee is not confined solely to the competition area but also to all its immediate perimeter.

__ The referee shall give all commands and make all announcements.

__ Ensure judges understand their roles and responsibilities and know the referee's expectations.

__ When the judges signal, the referee must consider their opinions and render judgment. The referee, however, will only stop the match if he agrees with the opinions rendered.

__ To supervise the time-keepers, score keepers, to inspect and sign the record kept of the match to make it official.

12.4 The judge's powers and duties are:

__ To assist the referee by flag gestures.

__ To exercise the right to vote on a decision to be taken.

__ The judge(s) shall carefully observe the actions of the competitors and signal to the referee an opinion in the following cases:

__ When a *POINT* is observed.

__ When a competitor appears about to commit, or has committed a prohibited act and/or technique.

__ When a competitor leaves the competition area.

Article 13: Starting, Suspending and Ending of Matches

13.1 The referee and judges shall take up their prescribed positions and following the exchange of bows between the competitors, the referee will announce *HAJIME* or *BEGIN* and the bout will commence.

13.2 The referee will stop the bout by announcing *YAME* or *STOP* when a scoring technique is seen. The referee will order the competitors to return to their original positions.

13.3 The referee returns to his/her position and the judges indicate their opinion by means of a signal. The referee confirms the relevant score and awards a *POINT* and supplements the announcements with the prescribed gestures. The referee then restarts the bout by saying *HAJIME* or *BEGIN*!

13.4 When a competitor has scored five (5) points during a bout, the referee shall call YAME or STOP or STOP! and order the competitors to return to the starting lines as he returns to his/hers. The winner is then declared and indicated by the referee raising a hand on the side of the winner and declaring White or Red the winner. The bout ends at this point.

13.5 When time is up and the score is tied, the referee shall call YAME or STOP! and return to his/her position. The referee shall then call HAJIME or BEGIN (start the extension bout).

13.6 The referee will award the decision and announce the winner.

13.7 In the event of a tied bout, the referee will start the extension with the command HAJIME or BEGIN!

13.8 When faced with the following situations, the referee shall announce YAME or STOP! and halt the bout temporarily. The bout will subsequently be restarted.

__ When either or both of the competitors are out of the match area or when a judge signals out of bounds.

__ When the referee orders a competitor to adjust his/her gi or safety equipment.

__ When the referee notices that a competitor appears about to violate the rules.

__ When the referee notices that a competitor has violated the rules, or when he notices the judge(s) signaling that a competitor has violated the rules.

__ When the referee considers that one or both of the competitors cannot continue with the bout due to injuries, illness, or other causes. Heeding the tournament doctor's opinion, the referee will determine whether the bout should be continued.

__ When a competitor seizes his/her opponent and does not perform an immediate effective technique, the referee will separate them.

__ When one or both competitors fall and no effective techniques are immediately forthcoming.

Article 14: Modifications

14.1 For any stipulation not stated within these articles, modifications are subject to approval of the Referee Council and the Director of the United States Karate-do Kai.

Title IV: Tournament Procedures

Article 1: Tournament Sanction

1.1 Tournament promoters who are active members in good standing with the United States Karate-do Kai may apply for a sanction for their tournament. One benefit for receiving a sanction for a tournament is that the United States Karate-do Kai International Headquarters will notify its membership of said tournament and shall apply points for various victories toward the United States Karate-do Kai International point standings. At the annual United States Karate-do Kai International Championships, awards will be presented to National Point Champions for those competitors who have accumulated the most points in their respective divisions.

1.2 A tournament promoter must submit the tournament sanction request form to the United States Karate-do

Kai International Headquarters at Sanctioning Meeting held during the United States Karate-do Kai International Championships. **A sanction fee in the amount of \$150.00** must accompany the form; however, in the event that the tournament sanction is denied for any reason, the sanction fee will be promptly refunded in the full amount.

1.3 The Board of Directors of the United States Karate-do Kai reserves the right to deny a tournament sanction.

1.4 All sanctioned tournaments for the United States Karate-do Kai shall be held on either Saturday or Sunday. The sole exception to this rule is the United States Karate-do Kai International Championships which may include additional days to facilitate said event.

1.5 Failure to pay the sanction fee in a timely manner as prescribed herein will result in a \$25.00 late fee assessment; additionally, future tournament sanctions may be denied.

1.6 Upon approval by International Headquarters, the State Director, the Referee Council and general membership of the United States Karate-do Kai will be notified.

1.7 All advertisements of sanctioned tournaments shall state that the tournament is sanctioned by the United States Karate-do Kai and the official rules of said organization will be utilized and enforced.

1.8 Other United States Karate-do Kai sanctioned tournaments may not be held on the same date within a region. Other sanctioned tournaments may not be held within the country on the same date as the annual International Championships.

1.9 The current United States Karate-do Kai Official Competition Rules will be used and enforced at all Maximum Point and Standard Point sanctioned tournaments. Exceptions to the rules are only allowed if prohibited or are contrary to any Federal or State Law, Local Ordinance, or Insurance Regulation. All such exceptions must be authorized in advance of said tournament by the Director of the United States Karate-do Kai. Failure to abide by the rules will result in disciplinary action against the Tournament Promoter, which may include but is not necessarily limited to, refusal of the United States Karate-do Kai to sanction future tournaments with the promoter and/or denial of points to the competitors of said tournament event.

Article 2: Types of Tournaments

2.1 The United States Karate-do Kai will sanction three (3) types of tournaments which allow the membership to earn points toward the national points championships:

___ A Maximum Point Tournament is reserved for the United States Karate-do Kai International Championships. At said tournament competitors will receive maximum points for victories at this annual event. Points for first through fourth place in all Maximum Points tournaments will be awarded as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1 st place | 41 points |
| 2 nd place | 35 points |
| 3 rd place | 29 points |
| 4 th place | 23 points |

___ A Regulations Point Tournament is reserved for all United States Karate-do Kai sanctioned tournaments that adhere completely to United States Karate-do Kai Official Rules and Divisions. At a Standard point tournament the competitors will receive the normal and customary points for victories at those events. Points for first through fourth place in all Standard Points tournaments will be awarded as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1 st place | 25 points |
| 2 nd place | 20 points |
| 3 rd place | 15 points |
| 4 th place | 10 points |

— A Standard Point Tournament is reserved for all United States Karate-do Kai sanctioned tournaments that deviate even minimally from United States Karate-do Kai Official Rules and Divisions. At a Minimum point tournament the competitors will receive a reduced point total for victories at those events.

Points for first through fourth place in all Minimum Points tournaments will be awarded as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1 st place | 18 points |
| 2 nd place | 15 points |
| 3 rd place | 12 points |
| 4 th place | 9 points |

Article 3: Tournament Results

3.1 The tournament promoter shall submit the written tournament results to the United States Karate-do Kai International Headquarters on the Official Form within ten (10) business days following the sanctioned tournament event.

3.2 Any competitor, or any other person acting in his/her behalf, who represents that he/she has earned points for a tournament in which he/she did not participate and place as represented will be disqualified automatically from the annual point's competition.

3.3 Any and all discrepancies that may occur in the point standings for any reason must be protested before the next point standings are published; otherwise, such point standings shall be considered accurate.

Article 4: Tournament Events

4.1 The events in any United States Karate-do Kai sanctioned tournament will consist of form (*KATA*), sparring (*KUMITE*), and weapons (*KOBUDO*). Competitors may enter as many events as they desire provided that they meet the requirements for that particular event. Team competition in form (*KATA*) and sparring (*KUMITE*) is also permitted during sanctioned events.

4.2 Sparring (*KUMITE*) competition shall be divided into the prescribed adult and youth categories; it is further divided by gender, age, rank and weight.

4.3 Form (*KATA*) competition shall be divided into the prescribed adult and youth categories. It is further divided by gender, age and rank.

4.4 Weapons (*KOBUDO*) competition shall be divided into the prescribed divisions of Adult Black Belt, Adult under Black Belt and Junior Age 17 and under.

4.5 Special events are strictly prohibited unless authorized by the Director of the United States Karate-Do Kai. Any/all events other than form (*KATA*), sparring (*KUMITE*) and weapons (*KOBUDO*) are hereinafter considered a special event.

Article 5: Tournament Divisions

5.1 All United States Karate-do Kai sanctioned tournaments shall utilize the official divisions as prescribed herein for competition. The Official Divisions are as follows:

Forms (KATA)

Black Belt Masters (6th Dan & above)
Black Belt Men Seniors (1st-5th Dan 40+)
Black Belt Men (1st-5th Dan under 40)
Black Belt Women 40+
Black Belt Women under 40
Brown Belt Men (1-3 kyu)
Advanced Men (4-5 kyu)
Novice Men (6-10 kyu)
Advanced Women (1-5 kyu)
Novice Women (6-10 kyu)
Young Men Advanced (Age 16-17; 5 kyu and above)
Young Men Novice (Ages 16-17; 6-10 kyu)
Young Women Advanced (Ages 16-17; 5 kyu and above)
Young Women Novice (Ages 16-17; 6-10 kyu)
Advanced Boys (Ages 13-15; 5 kyu and above)
Novice Boys (Ages 13-15; 6-10 kyu)
Advanced Girls (Ages 13-15; 5 kyu and above)
Novice Girls (Ages 13-15; 6-10 kyu)
Pee Wee Advanced Boys (Ages 10-12; 5 kyu and above)
Pee Wee Novice Boys (Ages 10-12; 6-10 kyu)
Pee Wee Adv. Girls (Ages 10-12; 1-5 kyu and above)
Pee Wee Novice Girls (Ages 10-12; 6-10 kyu)
Mini Pee Wee Advanced Coed (Ages 7-9; 1-5 kyu)
Mini Pee Wee Novice Coed (Ages 7-9; 6-10 kyu)
Mighty Mites (Age 6 & under)

Weapons (KOBUDO)

Black Belt Men
Black Belt Women
Kyu Adult
Junior (Age 13-17)
Junior (Age 12 & under)

Sparring (KUMITE)

Black Belt Masters (6th Dan & above)
Black Belt Men Seniors (1st-5th Dan 40+)
Black Belt Men Heavy (179 lb. & over)
Black Belt Men Middle (156-178 lb.)
Black Belt Men Light (155 lb. & under)
Black Belt Women 40+
Black Belt Women under 40
Brown Belt Men Heavy (165 lb. & over)
Brown Belt Men Light (164 lb. & under)
Advanced Men Heavy (165 lb. & over)
Advanced Men Light (164 lb. & under)
Novice Men Heavy (165 lb. & over)
Novice Men Light (164 lb. & under)
Advanced Women (1-5 kyu)
Novice Women (6-10 kyu)
Young Men Advanced (Age 16-17; 5 kyu and above)
Young Men Novice (Ages 16-17; 6-10 kyu)
Young Women Advanced (Ages 16-17; 5 kyu and above)
Young Women Novice (Ages 16-17; 6-10 kyu)
Advanced Boys (Ages 13-15; 5 kyu and above)
Novice Boys (Ages 13-15; 6-10 kyu)
Advanced Girls (Ages 13-15; 5 kyu and above)
Novice Girls (Ages 13-15; 6-10 kyu)
Pee Wee Advanced Boys (Ages 10-12; 5 kyu and above)
Pee Wee Novice Boys (Ages 10-12; 6-10 kyu)
Pee Wee Advanced Girls (Ages 10-12; 5 kyu and above)
Pee Wee Novice Girls (Ages 10-12; 6-10 kyu)
Mini Pee Wee Advanced Coed (Ages 7-9; 1-5 kyu)
Mini Pee Wee Novice Coed (Ages 7-9; 6-10 kyu)
Mighty Mites (Age 6 & under)

All Advanced Divisions shall hereinafter be defined as fifth kyu through first kyu in all divisions except Young Men Advanced and Young Women Advanced which shall be fifth kyu and above.

All Novice Divisions shall hereinafter be defined as sixth kyu through tenth kyu.

Black Belt Masters division is reserved for yudansha possessing the rank of ROKU DAN or higher.

5.2 Additional divisions other than those official prescribed divisions may be authorized by the Director. Any such request shall be submitted in writing at the same time that the application for sanction is therein submitted.

Article 6: Proposed Amendments to the Rules

6.1 It shall be the authority of the United States Karate-do Kai's Official Referee Council to review all proposed amendments to the Official National and International Competition Rules. The Referee Council will submit their recommendations on rule changes to the United States Karate-do Kai Executive Board for consideration and approval. The following procedures are hereby established to facilitate this/her process in an orderly and efficient manner for all concerned.

__ All proposed amendments to the United States Karate-do Kai Official International Rules shall be submitted to the Referee Council at least sixty (60) days prior to the United States Karate-Do Kai International Championships. Recommendations must be submitted in written form.

__ The United States Karate-do Kai's Official Referee Council shall review all proposed amendments submitted to said council and forward those amendments that are deemed beneficial for the organization to the members of the United States Karate-do Kai Executive Board at least thirty (30) days prior to the United States Karate-do Kai International Championships.

__ The United States Karate-do Kai Executive Board will review the recommendations of the Referee Council at the annual meeting at the International Championships and thereafter will approve those recommendations that are deemed beneficial to the organization.

__ The United States Karate-do Kai Executive Board will notify the Referee Council of the approved amendments at the annual International Championships. The Referee Council will notify the general membership of the amendments that have been approved in a manner consistent with the appropriate chain of command. The new amendments will become effective immediately.

These are the Rules and at no time are they up for any discussion

**Kaicho / Director of UNITED STATES KARATE-DO KAI International:
Phillip W. Koeppe**

Chairman of Rules and Referees: James G. Price