

# NEW WAKO RULES

- New concept
- Significant changes

WAKO IF Board meeting,  
Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Prepared by **Romeo Desa**, WAKO Technical Director



# WAKO Rules Committee

Committee	First Name	Second Name	Nation
Chairman/President	Roy	Baker	Ireland
WAKO IF Athletes Committee	Kian	Golpira	Germany
WAKO IF Athletes Committee	Zsolt	Moradi	Hungary
WAKO Ring Committee	Yury	Lakhtikov	Estonia
WAKO Ring Committee	Sami	Savo	Finland
Organising Committee	Romeo	Desa	Croatia
Organising Committee	Srdjan	Bugarcic	Serbia
Technical Committee	Istvan	Kiraly	Hungary
Coaching Committee	Daimi	Aikin	Norway
Coaching Committee	Dave	Heffernan	Ireland
Medical Committee	Gianlorenzo	Daniele	Italy
WAKO Tatami	Eleftheria	Panagopoulou	Greece
WAKO Tatami	Kim	Kristofferson	Norway
Technical Director Ring	Vadim	Ukraintsev	Russia





## The Founding principles are:

- ▶ Clarity
- ▶ Simplicity
- ▶ Consistency
- ▶ Alignment
- ▶ Understanding
- ▶ Safety



After more than a year of discussion within involved WAKO IF Committees, coordinators **Srdjan Bugarcic** and **Romeo Desa** have collected more than 1000 pages of various comments, opinions and proposals for changes and corrections.

Subsequently, the coordinators began drafting a new proposal of WAKO Rules. On this occasion, the basic principles that were applied were:

- **new concept of rules** (put all common things in general rules, do not repeat provisions, introduce chapters of definition and chapter of procedures, separate chapters for disciplines)
- **uniform vocabulary** in all parts of the rules, so kickboxer is used everywhere, not athlete, participant, competitor, he / she, ect.
- **avoid to use names and terms from other sports** when defining equipment, techniques and other details
- as much as possible **uniformity of rules across disciplines**
- as much as possible **correct the rules to be understandable** for everyone - even viewers who are unfamiliar with kickboxing, rules should be simple and understandable as much as possible
- proposals for **new medical rules are included** in this revision of the rules



- ▶ After the last proposal was drafted, the committee chairmen were informed twice about the proposal, and a written proposal was sent to them.
- ▶ After that, we again received a whole series of changes and requests for amendments.
- ▶ The Coordinators met again and included in the draft rules everything that was agreed between the committees.
- ▶ Still, several issues remained, which were ultimately determined by a vote from the committee chairman.
- ▶ At the WAKO IF Board meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>, the proposal of **NEW WAKO RULES** were discussed and a decision was postponed. After that, the members of the WAKO IF Board sent their remarks, which were finally agreed and included in the new rules.





## What finally is accepted :

- as much as possible, we combined and merged the provisions and put everything in common into the **GENERAL RULES** or into the general rules tatami and ring. We maximally tried not to repeat the s and regulations.
- that's why we reorganized the rules and introduced **DEFINITIONS** in the general rules - for equipment and officials and lot of others and special part – **PROCEDURES** with several standard procedures.
- it is accepted that age categories are determined by **year of birth** and **NOT** by date of birth.
- accepted that the discipline K1 Rules is called **K1 STYLE**. It is very clumsy and incomprehensible to say and write that the fight is in K1 Rules Rules.
- in the text, we distinguish between Referee as a person and **CENTRAL REFEREE** as a duty
- as much as possible harmonization the referee and judge practice in the ring and on the tatami, and therefore it is accepted that competitors in the ring and on tatami be equally cautioned and punished,
- the **CENTRAL REFEREE ON TATAMI** has the opportunity to make his own decision, and not as it is now that the central referee on the tatami must consult with every decision with to all the judges. Central referee is responsible for safety and for respecting rules, judges are responsible for scoring.
- in the procedures it is accepted changing the **REGISTRATION PROCEDURE** - in short registrations are open up to 7 days before the competition and are visible and anyone can change whatever they want before time expired, after that there are no changes except cancellation
- all necessary **FORMS AND DOCUMENTS** are defined and an examples are given in the appendix



- **RANKING CRITERIA for SEEDING** - the basis will be the points earned at the World and Continental Championships and World Cups in the last two years. Kickboxer with the highest score is number 1, next number 2, etc
- it is accepted two types of disqualifications - **TECHNICAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DISQUALIFICATION** - after technical disqualification the kickboxer retains what he has achieved until this moment (result, medal), but after behavioural disqualification kickboxer lost result and has no right to medal
- warnings and disqualification are provided for coaches if they interfere with the work of the central referee, stop the fight and enter the fighting area
- It is not allowed to fight without a coach. If they are removed by the referee, they must be replaced in two minutes.
- in the **CHILDREN** category, it is accepted to add two the smallest weight categories
- the category of **BEGINNERS** is clearly defined and can be included in world cups and competitions other than world, continental and national championships
- after consultation with a doctor, the referee may give a warning and penalize a fighter who **ABUSES MEDICAL TIME**
- better definitions made a **more significant differences between Musical forms and Creative forms**
- the **CENTRAL REFEREE ON THE TATAMI** (LC and KL) makes the decision by himself and he will consult other judges only when he has not seen or when he has doubts. Just like the central referee in the ring. Among other things, it is very important to shorten unnecessary extensions and discussions to agree on decisions, and when we introduce that tatami fights take place on the podium, it will not be possible for judges to confirm the exits.



- to ensure gender equality, we separated categories of **TEAM FIGHTS** (3 male kickboxers and 3 female kickboxers) were introduced in point fighting in team fights
- **HAND AND FOOT WRAPS** of 2.5 to 5 m are allowed, bandages can be used on hands and feet. **ANKLE SUPPORT** is mandatory when foot wraps are used
- In K1 Style **THROWING TECHNIQUES** are not allowed except foot sweep technique (ankle level only, from outside to inside and vice versa)
- it is accepted the proposal of the Ring Referee Committee introducing **ONE CAUTION, ONE VERBAL WARNING and 4 OFFICIAL WARNINGS** to reduce the impact of referees' decisions on the final result of the fight – penalties are equal on the tatami and in the ring
- **MAXIMUM TIME FOR MEDICAL STOP** in one fight is 2 minutes for each kickboxer in all disciplines
- **KD AND KO AND COUNTING IN TATAMI DISCIPLINES** has been introduced to protect a fighter who has suffered a severe strike. Those who dealt too much and uncontrolled strike that led to knock down will be penalized with - point, but knocked out kickboxer can't participate in next fights
- in ring disciplines, it is **NOT** accepted proposal that **PARTIALLY DEVIATED PUNCHES** be scored, and it is **NOT** accepted that **KICK IN HEAD** be scored as 2 points
- the **CENTRAL REFEREE MUST NOT ASSIST** any unconscious or semi-conscious fighter after knock down. All he has to do is keep him on the floor until the doctor arrives. Removing the mouth guard or turning kickboxer to a lateral position is dangerous. Request from Chairman of medical committee
- the rules for each discipline are reduced to the maximum so that the s and provisions are not repeated.
- everything is put in one book, there are tables of contents for the whole book and tables of contents for each chapter for better transparency and easier retrieval





# NEW CONCEPT

## Chapter 1. - General rules

- Definition of kickboxing sport

## Definitions

- Participants in kickboxing sports
- Competitions
- Equipment and clothes

## Procedures

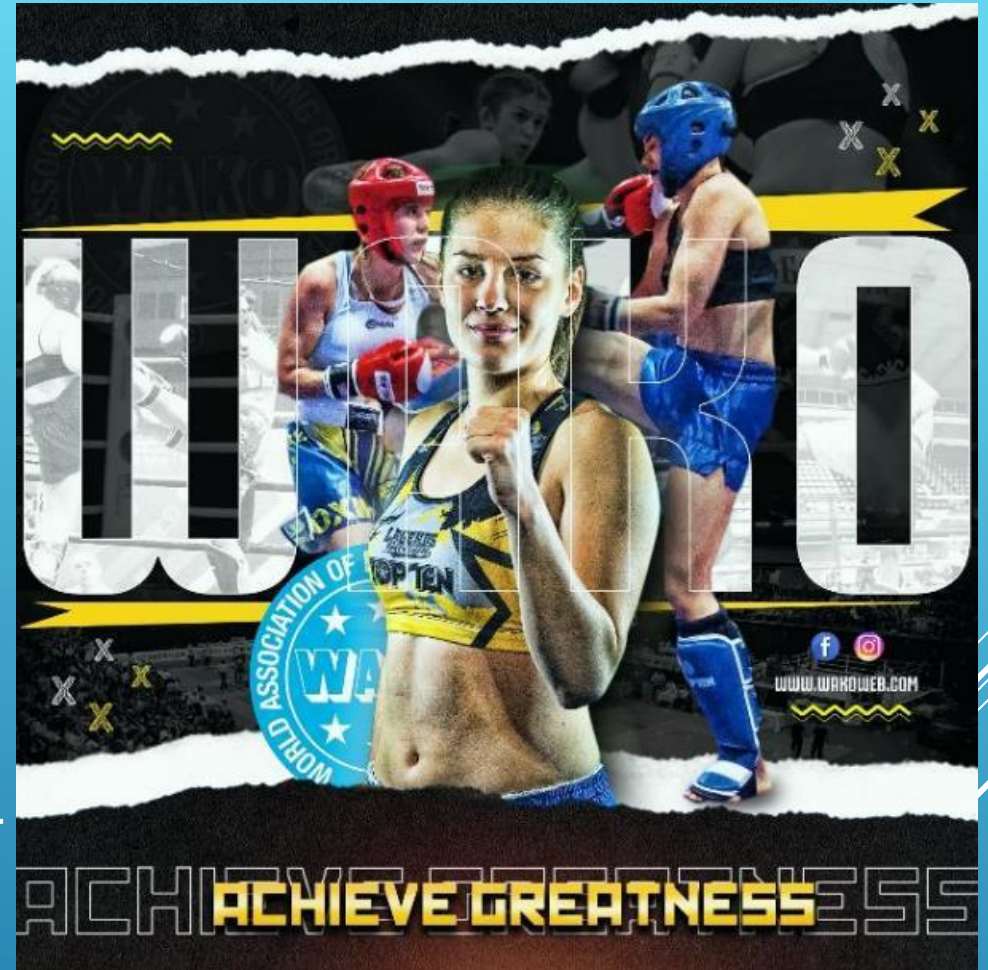
- Registration procedure
- Accommodation booking procedure
- Accreditation procedure
- Weigh-in procedure
- Medical check procedure
- Drawing procedure
- Disqualification procedure
- Procedure of prompting the protest
- Change of referee's decision procedure
- Opening ceremony procedure
- Awarding ceremony procedure
- Official report procedure
- Rules changes procedure

## Committees

- Tournament Committee
- Coaches Committee
- Medical, health and anti-doping committee
- Technical Committee

## General provisions

- Unsportsmanlike behaviour
- Participation of WAKO members in other dissident organizations
- Rule changes
- Special notes



## Chapter 2. - Tatami rules - general

- Disciplines
- Fighting area
- Weight categories
- Rounds
- Equipment and clothes
- Officials
- Decisions
- Awarding of points
- Hand Signals
- Knock down (KD) and knock out (KO)
- Open scoring electronic system

## Chapter 3. - Point fighting rules

- Definition
- Equipment and clothes in point fighting
- Legal target areas
- Legal techniques
- Illegal techniques (prohibited techniques and behaviour)
- Awarding of points
- Referees and Judges
- Grand Champ
- Team competition





## Chapter 4. - Light contact rules

- Definition
- Safety equipment and clothes
- Legal target areas
- Legal techniques
- Illegal techniques  
(prohibited techniques and behaviour)

## Chapter 5. - Kick light rules

- Definition
- Safety equipment and uniforms
- Legal target areas
- Legal techniques
- Illegal target areas  
(prohibited techniques and behaviour)
- Awarding points  
(Using Electronic Scoring System)

## Chapter 6. - Form rules

- Form rules - general
- Musical form rules
- Creative form rules



## Chapter 7. - Ring rules - general

- Disciplines
- Competitors in ring disciplines
- Fighting area
- Ring
- Accessories of the ringside
- Weight categories
- Younger juniors (YJ)
- Older juniors (OJ)
- Seniors (S)
- Rounds
- Medical time
- Equipment and clothes
- Kickboxers in full contact
- Kickboxers in low kick
- Kickboxers in K Style
- Officials
- Chief referee of the Ring
- Central referee
- Judges
- Number of officials per ring
- Decisions
- Victory by points (P)
- Victory by abandonment (AB)
- Victory by stoppage (RSC, RSC-H)
- Victory by knock out (KO)
- Victory by technical knockout (TKO)
- Victory by disqualification (DISQ)
- Victory by walk over (WO)
- Special situations
- Changing a decision
- Awarding of points
- Concerning strikes
- Concerning offences
- Awarding points
- Penalty
- Knock down (KD) and knock out (KO) (On the floor)
- Procedure after KO, RSC, RSC-H, Injury
- Procedure after injuries in general
- Open Scoring Electronic System





## Chapter 8. - Full contact rules

- Definition
- Safety equipment and clothes
- Legal target areas
- Legal techniques
- Illegal techniques
- Number of kicks per round

## Chapter 9. - Low kick rules

- Definition
- Safety equipment and clothes
- Legal target areas
- Legal techniques
- Illegal techniques

## Chapter 10. - K1 Style rules

- Definition
- Safety equipment and clothes
- Legal target areas
- Legal techniques
- Illegal techniques





## Appendix

- Point fighting clothes
- Light contact clothes
- Kick light clothes
- Full contact clothes
- Low kick / K1 Style clothes.
- Muslim female kickboxer clothes
- Point fighting gloves
- Kickboxing gloves
- Breast protector
- Shin guard PF, LC, KL, FC
- Shin guard LK, K1
- Foot protection
- Ring design
- Tatami floor layout
- Each round result form
- Protest form
- Accreditation cards - examples
- Medical certificate
- Medical questionnaire
- Dentist-orthodontist approval
- Non-pregnancy declaration
- Liability waiver
- Parental & Legal Guardian Consent
- Referee's Code of Conduct
- Referee and official's uniforms
- Central referee's hand signals





Proposal of new **WAKO Rules** are **accepted** by the WAKO IF Board, the Rules will enter into force on **January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021** and be in force for at least 2 years.

Those two years should be the period of application of the rules and of collecting proposals for amendments based on experience in applying these rules in this period.

Coordinators **Romeo Desa** and **Srdjan Bugarcic** would be in charge of collecting and agreeing additional new proposals.



**If you have any questions or clarifications, do not hesitate to contact the coordinators. Send your questions and suggestions to the e-mail address:**

**[technical.director@wako.sport](mailto:technical.director@wako.sport)**



Thank  
you

