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# WAKO

## GENERAL RULES CHAPTER 1





## WAKO General Rules

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### Chapter One – WAKO General Rules

#### Art. 1. Rule changes

Only WAKO Board of Directors have the power to officially decide rule changes either nominated by them or nominated by committees appointed by them. A change of rule must be communicated with the committee related to the subject. When changes of rules in the chapters (sport rules for each discipline), the changes becomes operative at minimum of 1 month after decisions taken. The date for an operative new rule must be communicated well to all committees and member countries In WAKO

Changes can be operative with immediate action if obvious mistakes are found in the text or if defined from the board of directors if it is seen as critical for health and security or in case of “force majeure”. If a change is valid immediately it must be well communicated to all member countries by mail and by publishing on the internet. The exception for such practice is that there can not be rule changes just in front of or during a World or Regional Championship.

The Board of Directors can change rules in chapter 1 - General Rules – at any time. However changes must be communicated well to all member countries by mail and on the internet. The date for an operative change must be well communicated.

The Revised V12 rules will remain in force for a minimum of two years. Effective Date 1<sup>st</sup> march 2011, Review Date March 2013

#### Art. 2. Health and Security

##### Art. 2.1 Health of Fighters

WAKO is an official member of WADA, having fully adopted the World Anti-Doping Code. Every fighter is obliged to respect the Code both in and out of competition.

WAKO allow a maximum of 2 matches per day, during Continental or World Championships, in all ring sports, while there is no limited number of matches in the Tatami sports.

WAKO refers to its Medical Procedures and Health Security Guidelines that takes care of:

- Introduction
- Anti-Doping
- Weight-Reduction and Nutrition Methods
- Medical Fitness Certificate - Examinations
- Medical Check-Up before competitions
- Medical Suspensions
- Medical Personnel
- Health Security at competitions
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#### Art. 3. General, Equipment, Fighting Areas

##### Art. 3.1 Basic

The basis of all kickboxing competitions is honour, fair play and honest competition.

Results of matches will determine placing and final achievement of fighter, club or national team at the competition.

Results and rank achieved by dishonourable acts will not be recognized by judges, referees and competition committees and officials will initiate penalty procedures.

All competitions - WAKO official competitions and official National competitions, professional and amateur matches, prestige or title matches, must be under these rules.

All competitions and matches are on a voluntary basis. Also, the basis of all our activity in kickboxing must be according to fair play, respect of all participants and officials and respect a fundamental of WAKO rules.



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All sportsmen, coaches, officials, representatives, promoters and members of WAKO organizations must respect WAKO rules and the honour, dignity and moral values of all members, clubs, national federations and WAKO.

All competitions on World, continental, national and all other levels must promote the development, popularization and rising quality of kickboxing as a sport and WAKO as an organization.

### Art. 3.2 Competitions

Official WAKO competitions directly under WAKO headquarters' authority are (in repetition):

- World championships for all age categories (cadets, juniors and seniors) and in all kickboxing disciplines (semi, light, Kick Light, full contact, low-kick, K1 Rules, musical forms) as follows:
  - Semi contact: younger cadets, older cadets, juniors, seniors, veterans - male and female division
  - Light contact: Older Cadets, juniors, seniors, veterans - male and female division
  - Full contact: Younger Juniors, Older juniors, seniors - male and female division
  - Low kick: Younger Juniors, Older juniors, juniors, seniors - male and female division
  - K1-Rules – Younger Juniors, Older Juniors, seniors - male and female division
  - Musical forms (styles - with weapon and without weapon) –Youngest cadets, younger cadets, older cadets, junior, senior - male and female division
  - Kick Light: Older Cadets, juniors, seniors, veterans - male and female division
- Continental championships for all age categories and in all kickboxing disciplines are the same as for world championships
- Regional Championships for all age categories and in all kickboxing disciplines, are the same as for world championships
- World cups for all age categories and in all kickboxing disciplines
- Continental cups for all age categories and in all kickboxing disciplines
- Open Championships , are the same as for world championships
- In World, Continental and regional championships only national teams May participate.
- Continental championships can not be open championships for national teams from other continents.
- In World and continental cups, clubs and members of National federations which are WAKO members can participate
- In senior championships only one member per national team can participate in each weight category in a fighting discipline
- In cadets and juniors championships two members of national teams in each weight category in a fighting discipline can participate
- For cups and other open tournaments there is no restriction on number of competitors in one weight or competition category from same nation or club
- For Continental/World Championships a fighter can only fight in a division a maximum of one weight above his/her actual weight class. Eg if you weigh 65.5 kg, you can only fight in -69kg or -74kg.
- World and continental champions will take place every other year - in one year will have world senior championships, the next year will have continental senior and world juniors and cadets championships
- World and Continental championships may be held in two parts in different disciplines and in two countries, according WAKO Board decision.
- Semi Contact – Kick Light – Full Contact – Musical Forms
- Light Contact – K1 – Low Kick
- This may vary dependent on the WAKO Executive Board.
- Continental championships can be held at just one venue - for all disciplines
- World and continental cadets and junior championships will be held at the same time and place for all kickboxing disciplines
- World and continental cadet's championships can be held separately from junior championships.
- A fighter in one of the ring sports can only compete in one discipline during the same World or Regional championship. A fighter can compete in both semi contact, Kick Light and light contact during the same World or Regional championship but can not enter the ring sports. If a fighter is called for a fight in both semi contact, kick



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light and light contact at the same time, the fighter must choose discipline with immediate response. In practice the fighter will be deleted in the category he/she do not choose.

### **Art. 3.3 Equipment for competitions**

Promoters of competition (championships or cups) must provide necessary equipment for normal proceeding of tournament:

- Electronic digital or mechanical scales (minimum two)
- Amplifier with sufficient number of microphones
- Flags and CD with national anthems of each competing national team
- Equipment for cleaning and drying floor
- Copying machine
- Timers for all official tables. Timers must be visible all times for the coaches
- Small pads for each Tatami (for giving sign that time of round has expired) or gongs for each ring
- Every fighting area must be marked by a number
- For each Tatami a pointer with two big black numbers (from 0 to 30) to display results and 4 small red numbers from 0 to 3 (2 at each side of big numbers) to display warnings or exits.
- An adequate display of current fight number
- An adequate time display
- The rules also refer to a Tournament Checklist which is produced.

### **Art. 3.4 Drawing**

Order of criteria:

- Competitors from same clubs or national team in same weight category must be split into separate parts (one in upper, the other in lower part of drawing list – the competitors can only meet in the final)
- Champions from last two championships (World and Continental) will be placed in separate parts of drawing list (one in upper, the other in lower part of drawing list - competitors can only meet in the final)
- If in a category there are an odd number of fighters, the defending champion (or favourite) will draw a bye (walkover) in the first match.
- Every drawing list must have data as follows: name of tournament, place and date, name of discipline, sex, age, weight division, competitor's name and surname, club or nation and number of fight.
- All drawing lists must be printed in 3 official copies - for chief referee, for official table and for notice or bulletin board - all three lists must be the same and any changes must be repeated on all three with the signature of the chief referee. Also, unofficial copies of drawing lists will be distributed to national team chiefs.
- Completed official copies with results, stamp and chief referee's signature are official WAKO documents and will be kept in archives for a minimum of 2 years.

### **Art. 3.5 WAKO Competition calendar**

At any time the WAKO calendar will be on the official web site.

The WAKO calendar will include:

- World and continental championships – a minimum of two years before the date of championships
- Regional championships and world and continental cups – a minimum of one year before date of tournaments
- International Open Tournaments of WAKO National federations, a minimum of one year before date of event (National federations are responsible for informing WAKO headquarters of dates and other details about Open tournaments) on the calendar there will also be other official activities such as seminars, meetings, etc.



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### Art. 4. Official Championships and Tournament

#### Art. 4.1 Promoters

The promoters of all International WAKO events must be the President of the host country or any other but under the responsibility of the President. The President of the host country may if he wishes have a partner, but this in no way relieves him of the over all responsibility of the Tournament. The Promoter shall communicate directly with the WAKO World President on all matters concerning the event. The Promoter shall send a written report to the Wako World President every sixty- (60) days concerning the promotion of the event. Promoters of International Events shall be responsible for the following:

#### Art. 4.2 Championships

The championships like World Championships and Continental Championships, or regional Championships (Asian, Arabian, Oceania, Pan Americans, African Championships) are promoted alternatively every second year. The championships can be organized as one championship including all disciplines or be divided in maximum two championships for the different disciplines and in agreement with promoter.

The venue for a championship:

- shall be a suitable auditorium seating of minimum 2000 spectators
- must have good space for all fighting areas and between all fighting areas
- must have a warming up section to take care off the numbers of participants attending
- must have areas for referees, organizers and WAKO officers
- must have relaxing rooms and dressing rooms for the numbers of participants attending
- headquarter and administration rooms, faxes and copy machines

WAKO sanctioning fees of Championships and Cups differ and they are dealt directly by WAKO President in accordance with the majority agreement of the Board of Directors.

#### Art. 4.3 World Cups

A WAKO World Cup is such when it is promoted with normal Championship routines as:

- Tournament for at Minimum 3 days
- Arrival and Weigh-in day before start of fights
- Semi contact, Kick Light and light contact: 2x2 minutes rounds
- Ring sports 3x2 minutes
- Musical Forms
- Only WAKO rules shall be used
- Official WAKO referees and judges only
- World Cups are only open to WAKO members and their clubs/teams.

A WAKO Open tournament should not be open to all clubs of different international organizations. When using WAKO name though, it shall be promoted under WAKO rules only.

#### Art. 4.4 Championship Trophies (World/Continental Championships)

A suitable and high-class reward must be furnished for the following categories:

- Medals: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and two (2) 3<sup>rd</sup> places for all Competition Divisions.
- Trophy for all gold winners. Trophy must be of an acceptable standard befitting the continental/World status of the event.
- Trophies for Team competition in Semi Contact.
- These awards shall be decided in the following manner;
- 1<sup>st</sup> place = 3pts. 2<sup>nd</sup> placed = 2pts. 3<sup>rd</sup> place = 1 pt.



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### **Art. 4.5 Championship Headquarters**

The promoter shall select a Hotel which will serve as the Tournament Headquarters.

### **Art. 4.6 Scales**

There shall be a minimum of two seats of Medical Balance Scales made available to the Fighters a minimum of two days before the Official Weigh-in.

### **Art. 4.7 Refreshments**

A refreshment area shall be provided for the use of the Referee's Judges and Table Officials. It should have a minimum of tea, coffee and soft drinks. The promoter will be responsible for sending the national WAKO Presidents all relevant information concerning the locations, dates, lists of Hotels and prices, airport transportation and a complete schedule of events. The Promoter shall have Transportation

Coordinators assigned at the Airport of the Tournament city to assist the Competitors upon their arrival. The National Presidents are responsible for providing their flight times to the Promoter. The Promoter shall be responsible for the providing of all personal and equipment necessary to conduct and administer the Tournament.

### **Art. 4.8 Tournament Check-List**

WAKO has made a tournament checklist to be distributed to the promoters of World and Regional Championships. If the promoter has to deviate from this checklist it is the promoters' responsibility to establish contact with WAKO and its Organizing Committee to find best possible solution.

A Tournament Checklist can be changed by the Organizing Committee or by the Board of Directors.

### **Art. 4.9 Weigh in Procedures**

“Chairman of the referee committee and/or the Technical Director outpoint the WAKO official’s to organize the weigh-in. During the weigh-in, two WAKO officials will be present, 1 Female official -1 Male official.

Also one representative of a national federation connecting to each national team may be present, but only when their own teams weigh-in. However they are not allowed to intervene on any occasion. The national representative can not be in physical contact with the fighter, and should stand away from the scales - at least 1 meter.

Each fighter must have his own WAKO sports pass with medical certificate included, valid for 1 year, to be shown at weigh-in. In addition he/she must have available his/hers official passport. After being weighed, each fighter must be declared fit for fighting by a qualified doctor.

The fighters of each weight category will be weighed the day before the start of competition or on the same day that they have been drawn to fight. For a single fight for a fighter, a normal procedure is to have weigh-in approx 24 hours before the fight.

If weigh-in the same day of the fights the fights will start at least 3 hours after the weighing time, or in a shorter lapse of time if the Board of Directors so decide, after consulting the Medical Committee, provided that the decision is not prejudicial to any fighter taking part in the first bouts of the tournament.

The weigh-in will be held according to the tournament schedule. The announced time in each competition is understood as official and must be respected. Weigh-in outside the official announced time will not be allowed, except if the weigh-in is not considered as finished of those teams present within the announced time. For the first official weigh-in (in the registration period) there may be given possibility to weigh-in after the official time, if any delays of travel for a team, properly announced and warned from the national federation if such may happen. However it is not allowed for any team to speculate in arrival after official weigh-in time announced in the invitation papers. All teams must have weighed-in before drawing.

Official weigh-in (registration period): If the fighter exceed his/hers weight, he/she can within the official time get a second chance to reach the limit. However the fighter must wait in line and the WAKO official decides when the second weigh-in will be made. The weight registered on that occasion is final. If the fighter does not make the weight at this second weigh-in, there are two options:





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- 1) Direct disqualification. Decision of WAKO official is final and can not be appealed.
- 2) To move up one weight category, but only if the national federation has got a vacancy in that category and if the weigh-in is not yet closed.

It is also allowed for all national federations to substitute one fighter with another, before the end of the official weigh-in and before the medical check-up, on condition that, within each competition where substitutes are allowed, the fighter in question has been registered as a reserve for that, or in any other weight category.

Daily weigh-ins: In tournaments, ring sports have daily weigh-ins or at least three weigh-ins during the tournament. The weigh-in is done in the morning at an announced time, considered as official. Weigh-in outside the official announced time will not be allowed, except if the weigh-in is not considered as finished of those teams present within the announced time. All fighters must bring their own national passport as identification. If the fighter exceed his/hers weight, he/she can within the official time get a second chance to reach the limit. However the fighter must wait in line and the WAKO official decides when the second weigh-in will be made. The weight registered on that occasion is final. If the fighter does not make the weight at this second weigh-in he/she will be disqualified.

The weight is what the scale shows when the fighter is undressed. The weight must be displayed in metric measures. Electronic scales can be used. A fighter is allowed to fight solely within the category defined by the weigh-in. The weight must be on hard floor and not on carpet.

The weigh-in must be done in a discrete manner, respecting both male and female's need for discretion. It is to prefer to use separate rooms for male and female."

Any speculation or deliberate actions that will question or break the above rules will be sanctioned, both for fighters involved and the national federation responsible."

### **Art. 4.10 Nationality of a fighter:**

In Continental or World Championships, competitors must represent nationality for the country he/she represent, showing the passport for the respective country. Under special circumstances a competitor can change representation one time but the requirements for that is:

- 1) Official national confirmation of permanent residence in his/hers new country.
- 2) The change of representation must be applied on to WAKO HQ, explaining the reason for the change.
- 3) There must be a written agreement with the country of origin.
- 4) Any speculation for such representation will not be allowed. Such can be punished for the competitor as well as for the new country.
- 5) He/she can not again switch back and participate for his/hers origin country.

A competitor having two passport form different countries can only make a switch one time. If changing representation, it must be done according to a written agreement between the countries and applied on to WAKO HQ. At weigh-in, official passports must be shown to the registration/weigh-in officials in charge. In Continental Championships competitors from other continents are not allowed to participate.

## **Art. 5. Protests**

### **Art. 5.1 Regular protests**

If a team wants to protest of a result, the Chief Referee must receive it in written form within 15 minutes after the fight. The written protest must describe clearly the problem. The Chief Referee must deliver the protest to the Appeal Board/Referee Committee who will also consider the problem. The protest will be handled immediately.

Note that in the Full Contact, Low-Kick, KI, Light Contact and Kick Light there will be no changing in decisions as described in Article 18 in the Ring Sports and in Article 17 in Light-Contact.

A protest cost of 100 EURO and must be paid up-front. If the protest is successful the money will be refunded.



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### **Art. 5.2 Irregular protests**

Irregular protests regarding disagreements of decisions, where fighters protests by delaying further program in the ring/Tatami, such as sitting down in the ring/Tatami, decided by himself or stimulated by his coach/team to do so, will be reacted on by the Referee Committee or by the Board of directors directly. The consequence can be that the total team of the discipline can be excluded. If security staff has to intervene and in case of conflict due to this action, it will lead to immediately disqualification of the whole national team.

A protest will only be accepted in a written letter and a protest will not be handled if actions mentioned above are in place.

### **Art. 6. Video evidence**

Video footage is not applicable to WAKO events. Video footage may not be used to resolve any queries, complaints or points of clarification Duties.

### **Art. 7. Officials in General**

All officials on championships and cups are WAKO officials. They are not officials of their own countries or federations. They must be completely neutral. At all times during championships they represent WAKO. They show an unbiased, positive and honest attitude and fair play to everyone.

Officials at WAKO World, Continental and Regional Champions and WAKO World Cups are:

- Representative of the WAKO Board of Directors
- Chief Referee Committees ( ring sports and Tatami sports)
- Chairman of the various Committees
- Administrator / computer man
- Chief referees for Tatamies or rings
- Referees
- Judges
- Kick counters
- Time keeper
- Score keeper
- Announcer
- Doctor with medical team

### **Art. 8. WAKO Representative**

A WAKO representative must be present in all WAKO World and continental championships and/or World, continental and regional cups. The representative at a tournament can be the WAKO President or a member of the WAKO Executive Board. He is responsible for seeing that all championships or cups are under WAKO rules and that all results will be WAKO official results. For each championship or cup the WAKO Board or WAKO President will nominate a WAKO Representative.

### **Art. 9. Referee Committees of Tatami sports / ring sports**

In WAKO we have created two Referee Committees: one for Tatami sports and one for Ring sports.

The Chairman of each Committee is responsible to name Organizer/Observer for Tatami or rings and with Organizer/Observer deploy referees and judges for Tatami and rings. With each Organizer/Observer he checks Tatami, rings, official table equipment, referee and judge uniforms and he will permit the start of competition. He will divide draw papers to the official tables and collect them after finished matches. He is the supervisor of the weigh-in. He is responsible for making draw lists (with the administrator) and only he can make changes to official draw lists. He will be the supreme referee in protests. His decision about protests will be binding.

Referee Committees are named by WAKO Board of Directors and stay in charge for 4 years unless decided by WAKO Board itself.



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### **Art. 9.1 Tournament Committee / Computer Man**

The Administrator is responsible for collecting all registration material and loads data into a computer to prepare draw lists. With the Tournament Committee he makes draw lists and distributes them to the official tables. He collects completed draw lists after matches are finished and transfers the results to the computer. He will make an official report of the Championship or Cup and distribute the official report to all representatives of national teams. If the promoter of a championship cannot appoint a responsible person for administration, the WAKO board or WAKO President will nominate an adequate person.

### **Art. 9.2 Organizer / Observer**

Organizer/Organizer (named by the Chairman of Tatami sports / ring sports) is responsible for normal procedures for matches held on Tatami or rings. They will deploy referees and judges for every match according to their quality and with respect for neutrality rules. They are responsible for the correct compilation of the draw list with results, and at the end he will sign the draw list and give it to the responsible. In case of protests, they must follow procedures and they make a first-level decision. If the protester is not satisfied with his decision, the organizer/observer will explain all details of the protest to the Technical Director. Organizer/Organizer supervises referees and judges and can change a referee's decision only in case of a "material mistake".

In musical forms the Chief Referee will give the signal to competitors to start performing and he coordinates the work of other judges.

The Chairman of Referee Committee of championships or cups will appoint organizer/observer from well-experienced referees who come with their national teams.

### **Art. 9.3 Referee / Judges / Kick counter / Time and Score Keeper**

The duties of Referees, Judges, Kick counter, Time and score keeper are described in the chapters General Rules of Tatami Sports or General Rules of Ring sports.

### **Art. 9.4 Announcer**

Before match he calls fighters for fight - first he call fighter in red corner, and after fighter in blue corner. In professional bouts in galas, in red corner is domestic fighter, then announcer will call first visit fighter in blue corner and then domestic fighter in red corner.

At championships and cups, announcer always call fighter for further match, and call for prepare fighter for next match. After three calling when fighter do not coming, he will give order to time keeper to start timer. If the fighter didn't come in time of 2 minutes, announcer will give sign to referee and announce winner of match by opponent's WO. In musical forms and competitions he will read loudly each mark of judges. Time keeper will be nominating by Chief referee or by promoter.

### **Art. 9.5 Doctor with Medical team**

Doctor must be ready for immediate intervention on referee call. Before referee call he can not enter on Tatami or in ring. Medical team must have enough equipment and enough number of doctors and technicians for safe and quick intervention at all fighting's areas. Doctor must have experience in treating kickboxing specific injuries. Promoter is responsible to provide adequate medical team, with ambulance car. WAKO Medical Procedures and Health Security Guidelines must be followed.

### **Art. 9.6 Tournament Committee**

The WAKO Board of Directors shall select the Tournament Committee. The Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members. The leader of the Committee shall be known as Tournament Director. It is of importance that the all members of the group speak English.

The Committee meets in front of World Cups and/or Continental/World Championships. If necessary, they initiate other meetings, but are requested to meet during events/tournaments. Otherwise they communicate by mail and by telephone.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**



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- They are responsible for the disciplines.
- They will be responsible for all the Chiefs referees and their staff in the arena throughout the event
- They will have the responsibility of being in complete charge of all paperwork regarding results and complaints.
- They will have a close cooperation to the Referee Committee and will facilitate all referee seminars.
- They will together with the promoter take care of the event/promotion/tournament and make sure everything are arranged according to the WAKO rules. Any deviation to the rules has to be cleared by the committee or through the Board of Directors.
- They will take care of all official Weigh-ins or point out referees/officials who will take care of it.
- They will report to the Board of Directors and the president of WAKO.
- They will take care of protests and give advice to the Board of Directors present. The Board of Director's decision will be final and based on a majority decision.

### **Art. 10. International Referee/Judge seminars and registration**

In preparation of World /Continental Championships and Cups the Committee organize seminars so to make sure that the judging and behaviour of referees are at their best.

When sending out letters of invitation to championships, WAKO will write an extra note concerning referees and judges including all demands for their preparations.

The organization of seminars will be as follows:

- All referees and judges must have a copy of the updated rules which will be used during the seminar.
- By tests, make sure that all judges and referees talk a minimum of English. By the English also rate the referees and judges into categories (both in language and experience)
- The seminars will deal with each kickboxing style and the rules to be used during the tournaments.
- Make sure that all referees and judges wear the same uniforms which are important for the WAKO image.
- The sequence in a seminar contains :
  - Verbal introduction and explanations
  - Verbal explanation of main issues that normal causes problem in order to harmonize the judges
  - Any video presentation to explain situations
  - Practice teaching using fighters in action.
  - Using Scorecards or/and explaining digital system
  - Written tests/exams
  - Registration
- All referees and judges are registered and are given points during a championship and approbated events.
- The best referees and judges will be invited as official referees to participate in the championships.
- The referees and judges will get their license based on their performance in the championships.

### **Art. 11. Medical, Health and Anti-Doping Committee**

The Committee have at least Three (3) members. The leaders take the initiative to organize the work inside the committee. It is of importance that the all members of the group speak English.

The committee meets in front of World Cups and/or Continental/World Championships. If necessary, they initiative other meetings, but are requested to meet during events/tournaments.

#### **RESPONSIBILITY:**

- Their responsibility is to make sure of all safety rules are followed in the tournaments/championships both according to doctors and medical staff.
- They will make sure that the anti-doping rules are informed and together with the Board of Directors and/or promoter in a championship aim a Anti doping control
- Make sure that WAKO work effectively to eradicate weight reduction problems
- The Committee work together and report to the Board of Directors
- The Committee has the power to postpone start of fights if weigh-in are too close to normal start of fights or if the weigh-in are delayed or in other way , fighters were not properly informed.



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### **Art. 12. Technical Committee**

The Committee have at least three (3) members. The leader takes the initiative to organize the work inside the committee. It is of importance that the members of the group speak English. The committee meets in front of World Cups and/or Continental/World Championships. If necessary, they initiative other meetings, but are requested to meet during events/tournaments.

#### **RESPONSIBILITY:**

- Improve the existing WAKO Syllabus
- Improve the present grading WAKO system
- Advise the Board about improvement of Rules/regulations in both ring and Tatami sports
- Assist technically WAKO regions in need of improving their skills.
- Be responsible for approving all fighting safety equipment supplied by Promoters. The Committee will also be responsible for inspecting all Fighting Areas during Championships to be in top quality.

#### **Art. 12.1 Important for all WAKO officials**

All referees, judges and officials represented in the tournament (both on and off-duty) are not allowed to take action for its team/nation as coach or in other way act/behave partial (screaming and move as a coach/fan). It is NOT allowed to change role from official to coach during the same championship.

Again WAKO stress the importance for referees and judges to talk a minimum of English to communicate during the championships.

### **Art. 13. Participation of WAKO members in other dissident international organizations**

WAKO members are not permitted or allowed to participate in any other national or international dissident Kickboxing organizations World, Continental or Professional Galas. (WKA, WKN, WKF, ISKA .....Etc...).

All WAKO events, World, Continental and national/international tournaments are reserved to WAKO members only. When it relates to North America and South America and in order to give our members the opportunity to organize themselves, they can allow non WAKO members to take part in their event and vice-versa until a final decision is made by WAKO board in the future.

According to previous agreed rules, a non-WAKO member cannot take part in any of the Activities where WAKO (IF) and its continental Division/Federation are in charge of the competition and or the competition is held under WAKO (IF) and or its Continental Divisions/Federations rules and regulations. If in any country, there exists the different Kickboxing organization and association, WAKO national federation/organization in that country is allowed to accept the membership of other athletes coming from other organization ONLY if they stop their activities and collaboration with other existing dissident international or continental Kickboxing organizations and their national organization if any, according to WAKO (IF) and WAKO Continental rules and regulations.

Once an athlete of another organization becomes a member of a WAKO National Federation, he is no longer allowed to go back to the organization of origin. And in case the athlete returns back or continues his/her activities and collaboration with a dissident kickboxing organization his/her membership in WAKO is subject to an immediate and automatic permanent expulsion. Without possibility of return.