



International Taekwon-Do Federation (ITF)

By Laws

ITF Umpire Rules - Rules and Regulations

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Acrobatic Sequence

An acrobatic sequence is defined as one (1) continuous series of techniques of an acrobatic, gymnastic, tumbling, or other like nature, performed by one competitor, which terminates upon the performance of an interceding TaeKwon-Do technique.

Acrobatic sequence/techniques include, though are not limited to; splits, flips, tumbles, rolls, dives, and other such....

Approved Safety Equipment

Approved model of personal protective equipment (gloves, feet, headgear) from an official manufacturer as approved by the I.T.F. Umpire Committee in accordance with their bylaws. Equipment must be in good repair with no damage compromising the coverage or effectiveness of the protective features. No hard fasteners, plastic, laces, studs, zippers or metal are permitted. No repairs using tape or glue are permitted. Refer to Official I.T.F. releases for the official specifications pertaining to approved safety equipment

Belt

The symbol of rank, worn as part of the official uniform of I.T.F. TaeKwon-Do practitioners, worn wrapped once (1 time) about the waist and knotted in the front, as produced by one of the official I.T.F. Suppliers. The Belt must be a true indication of the wearer's earned rank, by way of colour and/or stripe, or by Roman numeral pertaining to their earned degree. Refer to official I.T.F. Bylaws and Releases for the official specifications pertaining to approved belts.

Bent Board

Any board that has a noticeable concave deviation from its normal joined position, and which remains in a position where it is no longer flat, with a noticeable line of separation at the joint; is bent.

Broken Board

1. In Power Breaking, a broken board is defined as the successful and complete separation of the two halves of a target board so that there is no portion remaining connected.

2. In special Technique Breaking, a broken board is defined as the successful movement of the target surface from its plane of rest, to or past one of the pre set scoring planes.



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Center Referee	The Official assigned to a specific Ring Council and tasked with the fair and professional operation of the competitions held in a specific ring. As such they are in command of, and conduct the behaviour and actions of the competitors during a match, as well as the administration of penalties for infractions of the rules. . Referees are responsible to, and take directions from, the Jury President of their assigned Ring Council.
Certified Official	Jury President, Jury Member, Center Referee, or Corner Umpire who has successfully taken the official I.T.F. Umpire Training Course and has been accredited by the I.T.F. Umpire Committee to grade the performance of any given event within the competition. Certified Officials must possess qualification of Class “A” ITF Umpire.
Chong	The “Blue” competitor, that is the competitor whose name is listed in the second (lower) position on a match key, who takes their position on the left (L) side of the ring when ready to compete (to the left of the center when looking towards the front of Jury Table).
Coach	The official representative of an athlete, who has registered and received coach’s accreditation by the Tournament Committee. Only a registered coach may be on the competition floor, represent an athlete or present a protest. Coaches must wear the appropriate Coach’s Dress and carry a towel.
Competition Floor	The area within the competition venue upon which the Rings, Head Table and Jury Tables are located. Only Officials, Competitors, Coaches and Qualified Medical Personnel are permitted to be on the competition floor. The competition floor should have a substantial barrier between it and the spectators/supporters.
Competitor	A registered member of an I.T.F. affiliated organization, in good standing, having earned, and been issued an Official I.T.F. Certificate of Grade, as verified by means of an ITF Black Belt Identification Card and Degree Certificate Number.



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Concussion	A serious cerebral or traumatic brain injury (TBI) resulting from the sudden jarring of the brain or spinal cord, usually caused by a blow or fall, that may result in a bad headache, altered levels of alertness, or unconsciousness. It temporarily interferes with the way your brain works, and it can affect memory, judgment, reflexes, speech, balance, coordination, and sleep patterns.
Contact	<p>Any interpersonal contact during sparring competition, whether intentional or not, that is deemed by the Referee or Jury President to be more than just a light touch.</p> <p>Hard Contact is defined as contact that is administered with emotion, aggression, mal-intent or a loss of control. Any technique that is executed without an attempt to control or retract the attacking tool, or that causes the opponents body (head or torso) to be displaced excessively. This violation of the rules results in a foul being assessed against the offender.</p>
Corner Umpire	The Officials who grade the performance of the competitors while engaged in a match. Corner Officials are responsible to, and take directions from, the Referee, who in turn is responsible to, and takes direction from, the Jury President of their assigned Ring Council.
Delegate	A person assigned administrative or special authority on behalf of a member school or organization, who is empowered to make decisions and take actions on behalf of the school's/organization's members.
Displaced Obstacle	In Special Technique Breaking a Displaced Obstacle is when any part of the competitors body, uniform or allied equipment comes into contact with either the barrier or any of its components, and subsequently caused the barrier to be moved from its normal position of rest and either activated or dislodged, resulting in an incomplete and therefore ineligible attempt to break.



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Disqualification

The disbaring of a competitor from continuing in a match due to prohibited or unsportsmanlike actions, words or behaviour. A competitor who has been disqualified from a match cannot win that match, however they are still able to compete in any other match for which they are eligible to compete. A Competitor may be disqualified for a match, an event or even an entire competition, depending on the infraction and severity of infraction. Disqualified competitors are still able to receive any award that they earned or qualified for up to and including the time of disqualification.

Dobok

The official uniform of I.T.F. TaeKwon-Do practitioners, consisting of both a jersey and pants; complete with the appropriate I.T.F. crest and all appropriate logo marks as produced by one of the Official I.T.F. Suppliers. Refer to official I.T.F. Bylaws and Releases for the official specifications pertaining to approved Doboks.

Doctor

A person licensed to practice medicine, as a physician or surgeon, appointed or hired to be in charge of all first aid, emergency medical care and medical decisions at a tournament.

The official Tournament Doctor(s) as appointed by the ITF Tournament Committee is the final authority in any medical decision pertaining to the tournament and as such their decision is final and binding

Falling Down

When any part of the competitor's body, other than the feet, comes into contact, whether momentary or continued, with the playing surface of the ring.

Final Blow

In pre-arranged sparring, the final blow is the last strike and is the only unblocked attack executed throughout the performance. It is the terminal attack designed to end/stop the opponent. The effects of this final attack may be made evident and may result in the opponent, falling, twisting, flipping, or tumbling in representation of the impact. The effect of this final blow is not considered to be an acrobatic sequence so long as it is a single reaction that is a logical representation of the final blow.

Final blows may include, though are not limited to: flips that are a result of the final impact, throws that are not avoided or released, sweeps that are not avoided or moved through, and other such....



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First Aid

A person accredited to provide emergency care of injuries of a non-life threatening nature, appointed or hired to provide all minor treatment of wounds or injuries at a tournament. In the event there is no official Tournament Doctor(s) in authority at a tournament, then First Aid reserves the final authority in any medical decision pertaining to the tournament and as such their decision is final and binding.

Approved First Aid is any person certified to a minimum of an Advanced Level of First Aid or higher, including though not limited to: Doctors, Physiotherapists, Paramedics, First Responders, Professional First Aid Personnel.

Foul

Penalty issued to a competitor for medium to severe infractions of the rules, which results in the immediate penalty of one (1) point from that competitor's total score. The accumulation of three (3) fouls automatically results in disqualification.

Heavy Contact

Any interpersonal contact during sparring competition, whether intentional or not, committed in gross violation of the rules; that is intended to or likely to cause injury to the opponent; that is executed in an unsafe, disrespectful or unsportsmanlike manner; or which results in the opponent being injured. This is a major violation of the rules that results in the offender being disqualified.

Holding

Gripping, grasping or retaining any part of the opponent's body for any period of time is a violation of the rules resulting in a foul.

Hong

The "Red" competitor, that is the competitor whose name is listed in the first (upper) position on a match key, who takes their position on the right (R) side of the ring when ready to compete (to the right of the center when looking towards the front of Jury Table).



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Injury Time

The three (3) minute maximum accumulated time period during a match in which the official match timer is stopped, allowing the tournament medical personnel (doctor, or appropriate first aid attendant) to diagnose and treat an injury sustained during the course of the match.

The three-minute injury time will begin at the moment the doctor is in front of the injured competitor, and will end when the doctor departs. This amount of time will be recorded, and if the doctor is called again to the same match, the injury clock will resume counting down from the last point. At the end of the three (3) minute Injury time, the medical personnel must make a final declaration of the competitor's ability and permission to return to competition. Any competitor requiring more than three (3) minutes total medical attention during a match will not be allowed to continue and will forfeit the match.

Interfere (Interference)

Any actions, articulations, words, sounds, or behaviours, which cause a disruption or distraction, or otherwise influences or manipulates a competition, a competitor's performance, the duties of an Official, or the potential outcome of a match.

Jump

To propel oneself rapidly upward such that momentum causes the body to become airborne and lose contact with the ground. The jump is executed at the moment when both feet are no longer in contact with the surface of the playing area.

Jury Member

One of two officials the assists the Jury President in the administration of a Ring Council. Aides in the management of the Competition Draw; records data (fouls, warnings, round number, winners) ensures that the correct competitors are present when called, and any other necessary business of the Ring Council. Jury Members are responsible to, and take directions from, the Jury President of their assigned Ring Council.

Jury President

The Head Official in charge of and responsible for the overall administration of the rules of competition and the fair and professional operation of one (1) Ring Council at a tournament. The Jury President is the designated representative of the Tournament Committee for all matters pertaining to that individual ring and its operation, and is responsible for the supervision of all other Officials assigned to that Ring Council.



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Loss of Consciousness	An altered mental state characterized by the inability of a person to respond to verbal and physical stimuli, often resulting from impact or trauma to the head or spine.
Measure	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. For Power Breaking - a measure (or measurement) is defined as the extension of any attacking tool towards the target board(s).2. For Special Technique Breaking – A measure is defined as taking a minimum of one (1) or more steps towards the target.
Medical Decision	The final decision or declaration by the tournament's Qualified Medical Personnel regarding the treatment of injuries and/or the subsequent ability of a competitor to continue in the competition, either immediately or in the near future. The decision of the tournament's Qualified Medical Personnel is final and irrefutable; as such it must be respected and adhered to by all persons (competitor, coach, officials, family). Any person insisting on contravening the Medical Decision will be immediately disqualified from the tournament and subject to future Administrative Action.
Negatively Responsible	A competitor that is deemed to be the cause of an injury or loss of consciousness due to having performed an action that was illegal, unsafe, unsportsmanlike, executed with a lack of control, or executed with the intent to cause harm to the opponent.
Official Protest	A formal complaint presented to the Tournament Committee by an accredited coach as to an action or decision in contravention of the rules of competition, ethics, protocols and procedures or concepts of equitable and fair play. An official protest may only be presented by an accredited coach, and must be presented within five (5) minutes of the end of the match, in writing (In English), on the official protest form, and must accompanied by the appropriate tax. Protest are presented to the Tournament Committee who will then meet, investigate and decide on the validity of the protest along with the final resolution. The Tournament Committee's decision is final and binding.



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Outside of the ring	The moment that a competitor comes into contact with any area of the floor, outside of the boundaries of the playing surface, and has no portion of either of his feet in contact with the playing area of ring. i.e. Two feet being completely out of the ring and in contact with the ground, or one foot out of the ring, making contact with the ground while the other foot is off the ground.
Playing Surface	The floor or horizontal portion of the official competition area, which is considered “in play” and, upon which a competitor is eligible to receive a score for their performance. The playing surface of the ring must be covered in non-slip safety matting.
Point Deduction	The result of a competitor receiving any three (3) warnings for minor infractions of the rules. Point Deductions are not the same as fouls and as such, the accumulation of three(3) Point Deductions does not result in a disqualification.
Pre Action	In Breaking, a Pre Action is defined as one (1) single and continuous backwards motion performed prior to the attempt to break.
Pushing	The intentional use of any part of the body to exert force on the opponent with the intention of unbalancing or relocating the opponent, without the execution of a legal technique intended to score a point.
Ring	One of the official competition areas within a tournament, within which the competitions are conducted. A ring consists of the competition playing area, safety matting, Jury Table and chairs, Umpire Chairs, Coaches’ Chairs, and all associated equipment and supplies.
Ring Council	The eight (8) officials assigned to a given ring in order to administer, manage, conduct and score the performance of the competitors. A ring council is comprised of one (1) Jury President, one (1) Jury Member, one (1) Computer Assistant, one (1) Center Referee and four (4) Corner Umpires.



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Safety Matting

An approved flooring system comprised of a Sponge Foam or equivalent, specifically designed to provide a measure of impact absorption and slip/fall resistance for martial arts competition. Safety Matting must have a tactile or textured surface free from any lacquer or slippery treatment, which might contribute to loss of footing, falls or injury. Safety matting must cover the entire playing surface of the ring floor in one singular colour, and must also include a one-meter wide warning perimeter of a contrasting colour, which delineates the boundaries of the playing surface.

Square

The actual competition playing area, surfaced with appropriate foam safety mats of one (1) solid colour, surrounded upon the perimeter by a one (1) meter border of mats of an opposing colour.

Step

The complete removal and subsequent replacement of one or more feet on the floor, regardless as to whether there is any advancement, withdrawal or lateral motion.

Tax

A monetary fee assessed to a coach in order to initiate or present an Official Protest. This fee is charged to discourage frivolous Protests. If the Protest is accepted as valid and is supported by the decision of the Tournament Committee, then the tax is refunded. If the protest is found to be invalid or without merit, and is ruled against by the decision of the Tournament Committee, then the tax is forfeit.

Touch

When any portion of the competitor's body comes into contact, whether momentary or continued, with any portion of the target or allied equipment.

Touched Obstacle

In Special Technique Breaking a Touched Obstacle is when any part of the competitors body, uniform or allied equipment comes into contact with either the barrier or any of its components, but has not been displaced and as such remained in its normal resting position. A Touched Obstacle may move without penalty so long as it is not activated or displaced from its normal position of rest.



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TUC Committee

The committee of members that oversees and administers the actual operation of the tournament, and is responsible for the scheduling of rings and competitions, management and supervision of the officials, investigation and decision of protests and all other business of the tournament. The TUC Committee is the highest level of authority at a tournament, with jurisdiction over any and all matters, and as such their decisions are final and binding.

Warning

Penalty issued to a competitor for minor infractions of the rules or performing prohibited actions. The accumulation of any three (3) warnings results in the automatic deduction of one (1) point from that competitor's score, however these point deductions are not fouls, and as such, they do not result in a disqualification.

Warning Perimeter

A one-meter wide safety zone extending around the entire perimeter of the playing surface of a ring, comprised of safety matting of a colour, which contrasts the colour of the playing area, upon which sparring competitions are not eligible to be graded. This perimeter delineates the boundaries of the playing area. In the event that a given ring is raised on a platform above the ground, then a minimum of a two-meter wide Warning Perimeter must be installed.