



ATA International 2016-2017 Rule Changes

TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AND THEIR DUTIES

Tournament Secretary / ATA Records

The tournament secretary is appointed by the RTTL and approved by the International Chairman of Tournaments. This person(s) volunteers to staff the control table at all times until all results and all entry cards have been returned from all the rings. The secretary should have a check-out system to be certain that all results have been returned. If results are missing, tournament officials shall assume that the fault is that of the center judge rather than the secretary.

JUDGING LEVELS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Permission to test will be withheld for those whose judging chevrons are not current.

UNIFORMS, SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND WEAPONS

As of the 2017-2018 tournament year, only the ATA Champion and Dyna Rival face shields will be allowed for competition.

No additional stickers, decorations or adornments may be added to the required safety gear.

Adornment Restrictions

Using two weapons that are identical except for the color falls under the category of decorated weapons. Therefore, it is allowed in creative and xtreme weapon competition.

BLACK BELT DIVISIONS

For black belts, genders may not be combined for creative and ATA-Xtreme.

TOURNAMENT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Arrival and Competition Times

If it the opinion of the RTTL that the student has purposefully arrived late in order to receive an advantageous position, the RTTL may refuse entry into any competition.

Songahm Spirit Awards

- **Novice division competitors (all ages/ranks)** will receive ONE Songahm Spirit Award if they did not place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in any of the events.

- **All competitive division competitors (all belts/ranks/ages) will receive ONE Songahm Spirit Award if they did not place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in any of the events.**

White/Orange/Yellow Belt Sparring at all Tournaments

Beginning at World Championships 2016, all W/O/Y belts will be allowed to compete in traditional sparring and combat weapons sparring as well as traditional one-steps at all tournaments.

Your W/O/Y belt students may now choose to:

- 1 Compete in traditional one-steps
- 2 Compete in traditional sparring
- 3 Compete in both traditional sparring and one-steps.

For points will be awarded for placement, see [Champion program](#)

A competitor who chooses to do both one-steps and traditional sparring would have an additional competition fee unless this event is their 6th/7th/8th/or 9th event. In that case, the traditional sparring would be at no charge.

Genders will be separated only for traditional point sparring and combat weapons sparring.

Example: There are five boys and five girls combined to form a ring at a tournament. They will compete together for forms, weapons, and one-step sparring. However, the genders will be separated for traditional sparring and combat sparring.

TRADITIONAL FORM COMPETITION

Judges Area of Concentration

This entire section has been updated.

Scoring of traditional forms is divided into three judging aspects. Judge A, Judge B, and Center Judge. Each judge is scoring a different aspect of the competitor's presentation. An important aspect of judging forms is not letting personal preferences concerning techniques influence scoring. It is not feasible to expect every member of Songahm Taekwondo to do every technique the same.

Differences in body styles, age, and other criteria can make a difference in how an Instructor may teach a student certain techniques. Form judges must base their score on the overall look and effectiveness of the techniques. The best "rule of thumb" is to watch the competitor as a judge and not as an Instructor. When seated, Judge A will be on the left hand side of the Center Judge and Judge B will be on the Center Judge's right hand.

While judging your respected areas, scoring should be based on the following ten attributes. The competitor who can demonstrate the highest quality and the most consistent of these attributes should be given the highest score.

- 1 "Base"- Foundation of every technique (Base foot when kicking, starting point for hand techniques.)
- 2 "Trajectory"- The path a technique will take from point A to point B.
- 3 "Follow Through"-Going beyond the target. (full extension of technique).
- 4 "Joint Position"- Proper setup of all joints for a technique.
- 5 "Balance"-Body alignment, posture, proper base, and eye contact.
- 6 "Precision"-Hitting the exact target with the proper point of contact.
- 7 "Speed"-Time it takes for your technique to go from point A to Point B. Relaxing the muscles and exploding.
- 8 "Reaction Force"- The counter balance. to each movement.
- 9 "Power"-Body rotation and input of the body mass through acceleration.
- 10 "Automatic Reflex"-Proper repetition allows you to react effortlessly.

Corner Judge A

Will grade only stances and kicks.

For **stances**, the judge should look for:

- Proper Base to include correct
 - Length
 - Width
 - Weight distribution
 - Foot position

For **kicks**, the most important things to judge are proper:

- Trajectory
- Follow through
- Joint position
- Balance
- Power

The height of the kicks should match the competitor's body dimensions. (i.e. their solar plexus for mid-section kicks and head level for high section kicks)

Judge A will only judge the techniques that are shown and will not make point deductions for moves left out, the wrong type of kick or an incomplete form. Those areas are the responsibility of the center judge.

Corner Judge B

Will grade only hand techniques.

For **hand techniques**, the most important things to judge are proper:

- Trajectory
- Joint Position
- speed
- Reaction Force
- Power

Judge B will only judge the techniques that are shown and will not make point deductions for moves left out, the wrong type of block or strike, or an incomplete form. Those areas are the responsibility of the center judge.

TRADITIONAL WEAPONS COMPETITION

Dropping or Breaking a Weapon

Example: The Double Ssahng Jeol Bong form's active time does not extend beyond "Bah-roh". If Sally drops the left Ssahng Joel Bong during the triangle strike after the "Bah-roh", no points should be deducted.

TRADITIONAL POINT SPARRING/ONE-STEP COMPETITION

Bye System

Pan-Am Champions are considered a District title.

Traditional Point Sparring Competition

At all tournaments, all ranks will be eligible to free-spar including white/orange/yellow belts.

Traditional point sparring bracket will be set up using the [ATA Bye system](#). Once the bracket is completed, it is imperative that the center judge checks the bracket using the following procedure.

- 1 Have all the competitors line up in the center of the ring
- 2 Announce each match using the competitors first and last names. Have each competitor kneel as their name is called.
- 3 Upon completion, make sure everyone still standing is not competing in traditional sparring.

Excessive Contact

Excessive conduct warnings are in the sole discretion of the center judge and may result in a penalty point or disqualification. Remember that the purpose of this rule is to protect the competitors physically and mentally. It may result in disqualification if excessive contact was due to negligent lack of control. A competitor disqualified for excessive contact can advance and participate in the 3rd place match. Excessive contact due to malice will result in an unsportsmanlike disqualification, and the competitor is done for the day in that particular event.

Disqualification for Contact Warnings

If a competitor is disqualified for two contact warnings during sparring, he/she loses the current match. If a competitor is disqualified in the semi-final match, they can advance to the third place match. If a competitor is disqualified in the finals they will be awarded 2nd place. The only exception is disqualification due to [unsportsmanlike conduct](#).

COMBAT WEAPONS SPARRING COMPETITION

At all tournaments, all ranks are eligible for combat weapons sparring.

Contact Warnings

Body checking, pushing and shoving your opponent.

ATA-CREATIVE COMPETITION

Disqualifications

A competitor that is disqualified cannot place 1st, 2nd or 3rd. This does not apply to tie-breakers that guarantee a medal.

Dropped Weapon in Creative Competition

- **Dropping the weapon:** A dropped weapon will result in a **one (1) tenths of a point** deduction from all three judges.
- **Retrieving the Weapon:** A weapon that is retrieved must be picked up in the traditional manner. If a weapon is picked up incorrectly, an additional **one (1) tenths of a point** will be deducted from all three judges.

ATA Creative Divisions

Creative divisions at all tournaments will reflect these age groups. **Junior age groups and gender groups will not be combined, nor will black belts be combined with color belts.** Adult age groups may be combined but genders will not be combined, nor will black belts be combined with color belts.

ATA TEAM SPARRING COMPETITION

THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS CHANGES TO THE TEAM SPARRING RULES. Please thoroughly review this section of the rules on atarules.com to make sure you are up to date on the current rule set and team composition guidelines for this competition.

A 10 foot or more perimeter should be established around the competition ring for team sparring events. Only team coaches will be allowed inside the perimeter. Only team members and coaches are allowed in this area. Warnings, and penalty points will be awarded if spectators are entering the coach's area. Team members who are not a part of the current match may not step into the competition ring at any time. Warnings and penalty points will be awarded for each violation.

SPECIAL ABILITIES

Special Abilities Competitor Eligibility

Autism Spectrum

Traditional Point Sparring Competition

For Special Ability- Autism sparring, the standard point rules will apply.

Sparring competition for the **Special Ability-Cognitive and Special Ability-Physical divisions** will run the same as other divisions with one exception; **all scoring techniques will be awarded one point.**

CHAMPION PROGRAMS

Tournament Year

The 2016-2017 Tournament Season will end on Sunday, April 16th, 2017. The final day for ATA Licensees to host a sanctioned Class "C" event will be April 16th, 2017. (Class "C" events held after April 16th will count towards the following season's standings).

Point Structure and Maximum Points

The **maximum point** total is 102 for State and World Top Ten standings,

Best National event (You may count 2 out of 3 class "AA" events) - max 30 points

Top Ten Standings

STATE AND TOC POINT CORRECTIONS: Tournament points are normally updated twice a week during the tournament season. It is the responsibility of the competitor and/or the competitor's instructor to check his/her points on a regular basis. Any point corrections or inquiries must be made in writing to <mailto:tournaments@ataonline.com> within 30 days of the tournament being posted to ATAonline.com. Requests not made via email will no longer be accepted. This "paper trail" is essential in making sure all competitor concerns are fairly and timely addressed. After 30 days of a tournament being posted, no additional correction requests can be made. It may take longer than 30 days to resolve any requests. For tournaments held in April, the competitor will have until April 28th to contact in writing the tournament department to request point corrections. **This rule does apply to wrong age, rank, & gender errors.**

White/Orange/Yellow Belt Sparring at all Events

Leadership competitors (W/O/Y) who choose to do both traditional sparring and traditional one-steps **will receive the points from the highest placement they earn.**

Example: Competitor A, in a full division at worlds, wins 2nd place in one-steps, but 1st place in traditional sparring. He/she would receive the first place points instead of the 2nd place points. The competitor will not receive both sets of points.

Championship points awarded at tournaments

For this tournament year, participants at class B tournaments will be awarded FULL points regardless of how many competitors are in their ring. This system will also be used for Class AA (national) and Class AAA (World) events.

Class A events will use the same point system for rings that are not full as has been previously used.

We understand that by doing this some competitors are not going to want to have their rings "combined" with other rings. The RTTL should continue to combine rings as we have previously done, based on the guidelines set forth by the International Chairman of Tournaments. The RTTL's decision in how a ring is combined or split is final and should not be affected by competitors, spectators or instructors at the tournament. If, after all of the combining division steps have been completed, and there is still a division with less than 5 competitors then the full points will be awarded for Class B, national and world events. If you have any questions on how to combine divisions, please contact Sr. Master Stevens at ATA International Headquarters.