



ISKA Amateur Members Association

GENERAL

Rules & Regulations

January 2024

This Rulebook is specifically for National Directors, Promoters, Officials and Coaches it supersedes all previously issued versions. As a competitor please refer to the specific rulebook for your discipline Tatami Sports or Ring Sports.

Introduction -

The rulebook reflects the official ISKA Amateur Members Association General Rules & Regulations.

These current rules are valid for all member states and must be adhered to although consideration can and will be given to local legal requirements and obligations if required.

The official language of the ARC (Amateur Rules Committee) is English. This Rulebook can be translated in to other languages by the ARC. In case of any discrepancies, the official English version shall prevail.

Without the specific written consent of either ISKA or the ARC, this Rulebook shall not be copied, published or distributed. This includes electronic, digital, physical or any other duplication.

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1. ISKA Amateur Members Association / ARC (Amateur Rules Committee)

ISKA is the (International Sport Kickboxing Association) is recognised Worldwide as both a regulating body for competitive martial arts, and the governing body for amateur and professional kickboxing.

The ISKA Amateur Members Association includes affiliated National Federations and organises an annual amateur World Championship Kickboxing tournament.

ARC – Amateur Rules Committee

The ARC is the Amateur Rules Committee consists of the ISKA European Director of Amateur Rules and Regulations plus four elected Referees.

The ARC makes alterations or omissions to the existing rules, as well as implementing new ones. The ARC can also be used as an arbitrary body in certain cases.

The ARC Members are voted on to the Committee every two years at the World Congress. It must not be a secret ballot. Presidents from each Country present must vote for one Candidate to be elected. Each President must vote for a foreign Candidate. Proxy voting cannot be counted, and the votes can only be considered valid from Presidents attending the World Congress. In the event of a tie, a show of hands from each President towards each of the tied Candidates will be final.

2. Amateur Status (Definition)

The term “Amateur” shall be used in this Rulebook to describe all Fighters that are not Professionals.

Fighters shall be considered Amateurs providing they do not meet one or more of the following conditions -

1. The fighter is under a professional contract
2. The fighter has never participated in a match of 5 rounds of 3 minutes under A Class rules.
3. The fighter has never participated in a match of more than 7 rounds of 2 minutes.
4. The fighter is listed on a Pro-Ranking list of one any major Kickboxing or other combat sport organisation

If a fighter thinks, that he/she is listed on a Pro-Ranking list, and shouldn't be, he/she **MUST** report it to the National Federation, and to the Organisation responsible for the list, to apply for a confirmation of his/her Amateur Status. The ARC will decide upon the application to remain classified as an Amateur. The Amateur status will be granted while the application is pending.

Non-Amateurs cannot participate on Amateur events. If the ARC is informed about a contradiction to this rule, one or more of the following actions can be taken -

1. Disqualification of the Non-Amateur
2. A ban/suspension. The ARC will decide upon the length of time.
3. A fine of minimum 100 Euros
4. Revocation of a title achieved. A revocation of a World Title requires the approval of the

ISKA Executive Board.

3. Doping (Definition and Controls)

It is not permitted to apply any substances to boost the performance, if such substance is banned by one of the appropriate organisations as a doping substance. (IOC, Anti-Doping Agency, National Olympic Committee, WADA etc.).

ISKA, the ARC, the tournament Promoter and the Official Doctor can and may perform controls. With the authorisation of the ISKA, other qualified organisations and persons, may perform such controls where the law requires it.

Fighters that intentionally avoid, obstruct or evade such controls, or manipulate them in any way, can be disqualified and banned, for a time period to be determined by the ARC,

The privacy, especially of Junior and Female Competitors, must be respected. Doping controls have to be made by a qualified person of the same gender. Where this is not possible, a member of the ARC of the same gender supervises the collection of the test sample.

4. Registration (Sport Pass, Licence and Identification)

Fighters which want to be admitted to any tournament, need to fulfil the following conditions -

1. To possess a ISKA issued or accepted Sport Book (Sport Pass)
2. To have a valid license stamp for the current year applied in the Sport Book
3. Proof of an appropriate entry in the Sport Book to show they are "Fit to Fight". A Medical assessment must not be older than 12 months. (Forms competitors need not to comply with this rule)
4. Not to be excluded for medical or any other reason from participating in the event.
5. To be able to produce a normal results MRI/MRA brain scan, in case of experiencing 3 head knockouts within a period of less than 12 months. The MRI/MRA brain scan must be made after the Medical Suspension period.
6. In case of female participants, not to be pregnant.

Entries into the ISKA Sport Book

The Promoters of a tournament are responsible to make the following entries to the ISKA sport book -

1. Place, date and name of the event
2. Discipline and score of the fighter
3. Any Knockout, Stoppage or Surrender

Instead of the Promoter, the Head Referee, ISKA Area/Ring Supervisor, or in case of a Knockout, Stoppage or Surrender a doctor can make the entries.

Identification of the competitors

On International events, the Competitors have to prove their identity and nationality by showing

Photo ID (Passport, Driving License or National Government ID card)

Competitors that show an ID card issued by the ISKA, displaying the 5-digit MAP number, need not to produce further identification. The 5-digit MAP number means that they have already had their

Passport or ID scanned.

Chosen Country Nationalities

A Competitor who can prove his/her special relations to a country other than the one of his/her nationality must submit one of the following documents to the ISKA -

1. Birth certificate of the country of choice
2. Marriage certificate with a citizen of the country of choice
3. A permanent residence permit of the country of choice

The application has to be submitted in writing through the ISKA in the chosen country. The ISKA of the chosen country must apply then to the ISKA Executive Committee. A competitor who has chosen a country via this method, can only change again after obtaining a new citizenship, or after moving to another country for permanent residence there. The ISKA Executive Committee decides upon such applications, which have to be submitted at least 1 month prior to the competition the fighter intends to participate.

5. Medical Suspension (After Knockout, Stoppage or Surrender)

The following Medical Suspension will be given to fighters after a Knockout, Stoppage or Surrender.

1. 1 month after incident
2. 4 months after the second incident
3. 12 months after the third incident within 12 months (MRI/MRA Brain Scan required)

After a 12 months ban due to three stoppages/Knockouts or Surrenders within 12 months, the fighter **MUST** submit a medical assessment with a negative MRI/MRA brain scan examination result before being allowed to compete again.

6. Age Categories

Juniors = A Junior is less than Sixteen years on the **FINAL DAY** of Competition

Cadets = A Cadet should have reached 16 years but be less than 18 years on the **FINAL DAY** of Competition

Adult = An Adult Man or Lady should have reached 18 years but be less than 36 years on the **FINAL DAY** of Competition.

Veteran = A Veteran Man or Lady should have reached 36 years but be less than 40 years of age on the **FINAL DAY** of Competition.

Master = A Master or a Lady Master should have reached the age of 40 years on the **FINAL DAY** of Competition

7. Weigh-In

The weigh-in has to be completed at least two hours prior to the first fight. There will be a 0.5kg allowance for all disciplines.

Competitors will be allowed two opportunities to make their chosen dedicated weight category. If they do not make the weight on the second attempt the following options will apply -

1. If there is an available space for the above division for the competitors Nation they will be offered this place.
2. They will be disqualified from the Championships and no refund to will be given.

The onus is always on the competitor to ensure they make weight. Coaches should always ensure their fighters are on weight. The ISKA will **NOT** allow any fighter to compete if they have not made the correct weight.

8. Medical Examination

All competitors from each fighting discipline **MUST** show proof that a physical medical has been carried out within 1 month prior to the date of the competition. This can be in a form of a "Fit To Fight" medical form carried out by a train professional i.e. Doctor and Paramedic. A stamp and signage by a trained medical professional in the athletes Sport Book will also suffice.

At International Competitions the promoter **MUST** arrange a Doctor to be present at the Weigh-In to conduct Medicals on athletes who do not have proof of a medical within 1 month timeframe. Any athletes that fail the medical will **NOT** be allowed to compete. The decision by the Doctor is final.

Wherever possible medical examinations on Male and Female participants should be held in separate rooms, if held in the same these medicals should be carried out at different times. The examinations have to be done by medical staff of the same gender if possible.

9. Tournament Organisation (Tatami Areas and Boxing Rings)

Tatami Areas -

For Semi-Contact, Light Contact, K1 Light, Grappling, Kata/Forms disciplines.

1. The competition areas **MUST** be square. Each side **MUST** be a minimum of 6 metre by 6 metre. Areas can be larger but cannot be any smaller than this dimension.
2. There should be a indication of the starting position for each competitor either side of the Tatami. This can be by a different coloured mat or a taped line, both one or two metres from the centre.
3. Surrounding the Tatami Areas there **MUST** be a safety strip of 1 metre kept clear at all times. Spectators are **NOT** permitted to enter this safety area at any time during the tournament.
4. The Timekeeper/Scorekeeper will be located at the Officials Table located at the front of each Tatami in the centre facing into the Centre Referee. Each table should be clearly

marked with their table number I.E. Area 1, Area 2 etc...

5. There **MUST** be sufficient space and clearance around the Tatami for the medics to attend any emergency if required and there **MUST** be clear exit from the venue available for the medic team at all times.

6. The officials table at each Tatami should be equipped with the following –

* Draw Sheets / Pool Lists

* Score Displays. This can be in a form of an Electronic Scoreboard, Computer Monitor or a basic manual scoreboard

* Stopwatch. This can be incorporated in the Score Displays, also there **MUST** be a hand held manual Stop Watch in reserve.

* Acoustic Signal. This can be incorporated in the Score Displays. However a bell, whistle or horn should be provided in reserve. A bean-bag will also be permitted.

* Spare plain paper, pens/pencils.

* PC / Laptop if the tournament is running via an event based system i.e. Uventex or Kihapp. The promoter should provide access to the internet via a Wi-Fi or Ethernet Signal.

7. Chairs should be provided for all referees and table staff officials.

8. To avoid collisions or possible injuries Camera / Video Operators are **NOT** permitted within in the 1 metre safety clearance during fights.

Boxing Rings -

For Full-Contact Kickboxing, K1 and Muay Thai disciplines.

1. The Boxing Rings **MUST** correspond to the standard set by the AIBA (Association International De Box Amateur).

2. The Boxing Rings **MUST** meet the AIBA dimensions of 25.6ft / 7.8metre square outside of the ropes, inside the ropes the dimension of 20ft / 6.10 metre square. The platform from the crowd should be a minimum height of 1metre / 100cm and no higher than 1.2metre / 120cm. The platform **MUST** be covered with a form or similar material below the Boxing Ring floor layer.

3. There **MUST** be a 1 metre safety strip kept clear at all times outside of the Boxing Ring. Spectators are **NOT** permitted to enter this safety area at any time during the tournament.

4. The Boxing Rings **MUST** be surrounded by 4 ropes (5 ropes if MMA is to partake in the Boxing Ring).

5. The four corners **MUST** be made of metal. The diagonal distance between them shall not exceed 10.6 metres (outside measurement)

6. The height of the corners shall not be more than 1.32 metres / 52ft above the platform of the Boxing Ring.

7. All corners **MUST** be covered with commonly used cushions in order to avoid injuries.

8. The ropes **MUST** have a minimum diameter of 2.5cm / 1inch.

9. All ropes **MUST** be covered with soft tightly fitted material.

10. Corner stairs **MUST** be placed in the Red and Blue corners.

11. The officials table at each Boxing Ring should be equipped with the same materials and tools as the Tatami Areas, please see above for reference.

12. Chairs should be provided for all referees and table staff officials.

13. To avoid collisions or possible injuries Camera / Video Operators are **NOT** permitted on the platform during fights.

10. Referees (Licences, Mission and Dress-Code)

Referee / Judge Ranking -

Judge -

F – National Judge for local events.

E – National Judge for national events.

D – National Judge for national and international events.

C – International Judge for national and international events including local, national and international titles.

B – International Judge for all events including European and Intercontinental Titles.

A – International Judge for all events including World Titles.

Referee -

E – National Referee for local events

D – National Referee for national events

C – International Referee for national and international events incl. local / national title and international titles

B – International Referee for all events incl. European and Intercontinental titles

A – International Referee for all events including World Titles

A1 – International Referee Supervisor for all events. Head Referee of any Tournament or event.

Referee / Judge Licences -

All National Licences F, E and D can be awarded by the local Head Referee of each country after the Annual Referee Seminar. These licences are valid for 12 months and have to be renewed yearly.

The International Licences C and B will be giving directly from the ISKA Europe Director of Amateur Rules and Refereeing after the International Referee Seminar. These licences have to be confirmed by the ARC and are valid for two years, unless otherwise shortened.

All International Referees are responsible to extend their own licences at least every two years.

The A Licence and A1 Supervisor Licence can be awarded only by majority decision from the ARC. These licences are valid for two years. All International A Class Referees and supervisors are responsible to extend their own licences every two years.

International Referee and Judge Minimum Requirements -

1. The minimum age is 18 years old and **MUST** be a member of a National ISKA Federation. They **MUST** have attended International Referee Seminars.
2. A basic knowledge and understanding of the English language is highly recommended, but not compulsory. All International Referee seminars will be taught in English.
3. Referees **MUST** hold a minimum of a 1st Degree Black Belt or the equivalent to in their chosen style of Martial Art.

Identification And Nominations -

Members of the ISKA Executive Committee are identified by a Red ID-Card with "OFFICIAL".

Members of the Amateur Rules Committee (ARC) and Referees of the categories A, B and C are identified by a green ID-Card with "REFEREE".

To be nominated as A Class or A1 Supervisor the majority of the ARC members **MUST** support the nomination.

To be nominated as B Class referee the ARC Chairman **MUST** support the nomination.

To be nominated as a C Class referee the appropriate country Head Referee or Country representative **MUST** support the nomination. A National Referee cannot gain International status without the permission of their country's Head Referee.

The ARC can make the attendance of seminars, successful passing of a test, and sufficient command of the English language as a condition for an A or B Class referee nomination. The nominations are to be confirmed periodically every two years.

Licensed Referees will be registered in a central database. Their names, category, nationality, and MAP-Number will be published on the official ISKA website.

Nationality -

The following two groups are suitable combinations as a Referee Team at Continental and World Championships.

1. There can be one judge of the nationality of the Red competitor. There **MUST** also be one judge from the nationality of the Blue competitor. The other judge **MUST** be from a neutral country (from neither nationality of the competitors).
2. All judges of a different nationality than either Red or Blue competitors. This is always the ISKA preferred choice. A Centre Referee cannot be of the same nationality as either competitor.

If a Referee / Judge has several nationalities they **MUST** choose a primary nationality. They **MUST** step down whenever a competitor is from any of the nationalities of the Referee / Judge.

Conflict Of Interest -

A person cannot Referee or Judge while being a Coach or a Country representative at the same time.

The Referees have an obligation to report themselves if there is a possible conflict of interest. In case of an omission, the present ARC Members, after consulting with the Head Referee may impose one or more following measures -

1. Warning
2. Exclusion from any further participation from the Referee at the event
3. A Reduction of the Referee's compensation.
4. Withdrawal of the Referee's licence for a time determined by the ARC.

Chief Referee -

At every tournament a Chief Referee **MUST** be assigned. They are responsible for the whole Referee organisation at the tournament. They will supervise the work on all the fighting areas including but not limited to Tatami Mats and Boxing Rings.

The Chief Referee can exchange Referees who are obviously not neutral or violate the official ISKA competition rules and can overrule their decisions after careful review of their actions.

Area Supervisor -

At a tournament with several fighting areas, the Chief Referee can designate Area Supervisors. These Supervisors will oversee proceedings at specific fighting areas. The Area Supervisor roles includes but limited to placing the Referees on the fighting area according to their nationality or affiliation to a club/school or particular fighter. They will report the results according to the instruction of the Chief Referee.

Referee Clothing -

All Referees **MUST** wear grey/black trousers with the official polo T-Shirt or Shirt with the print "ISKA REFEREE" or "ISKA OFFICIAL". Suitable footwear **MUST** be worn i.e. Martial Shoes, Trainers or flat bottom Shoes are acceptable, heels are **NOT** allowed.

To eradicate injuries, it is forbidden for a Centre Referee to wear any jewellery, watches etc... They **MUST** not have any pens/pencils or sharp objects on their person. Judges that have no contact with competitors are not included in this rule. The use of medical gloves is highly recommended and to be changed per fight.

Registration Of Referees Per Country At World Championships -

For every 25 competitors per discipline, per country, Two Referees **MUST** be present.

- 1 – 25 Competitors 2 Referees
- 25 – 50 Competitors 4 Referees
- 51 – 75 Competitors 6 Referees
- 76 – 100 Competitors 8 Referees
- 101 – 125 Competitors 10 Referees
- 126+ Competitors 12 Referees

Please note the above ratio is per discipline i.e. If one country has 1-25 competitors in Semi-Contact they **MUST** supply 2 Referees for that discipline, if they have a further 1-25 competitors in Light-Contact they **MUST** also supply a further 2 Referees for that discipline,

also, they cannot be the same Referees for multiple disciplines.

Any country that does NOT fulfil the above requirements and their obligation to supply referees they will be fined a minimum of €150 per missing Referee.

Each country is responsible for training and licencing their own Referees in time for the World Championships. The training of F, E and D Class Referee is a matter for each country. However the ARC do offer seminars. All countries **MUST** pre-register their Referees and Judges for the World Championships and receive confirmation from the ARC.

The Referees payment is equal to the starting fee for a single competitor each day. It will be paid in arrears each morning before the tournament commences.

The promoter is responsible for taken care of the Referees. This includes providing a separate room with food and beverages throughout the day. It is also necessary at all Officials table there will be Mineral Water provided. The promoter will ensure there is enough Referees to rotate and provide adequate breaks for each Referee / Judge.

11. Protests

Individual judgements of the Referees/Judges are **NOT** subject to protests.

The decision by the official Doctor is **NOT** subject to protests.

Protests **MUST** be made immediately after the match to the Area Supervisor and are **ONLY** possible in the following cases -

1. Proven collusion between the Referees / Judges and the Fighter / Coach.
2. An obvious mix up between the Blue or Red corner occurs.
3. The mathematical addition of the scores is incorrect.
4. The official ISKA Amateur Rules were violated.

Video Recordings or Photographic media is permitted to be used to justify a protest, if such recording shows clear view of the subject matter. The Video or Photographic evidence cannot be tampered with, edited or taken out of context.

A protest **MUST** not hinder the on-going competition. The division that the protest is attached too will be **STOPPED** until the protest has been resolved. Another division will start until the protest has been resolved and the division can continue.

Any dispute **MUST** be made without aggression and only by the Team Manager or Coach of the competitor. Any of other presence will **ONLY** be at invitation from the Chief Referee.

After hearing of the protest from all parties involved the Chief Referee will make their final decision based upon the ISKA Amateur Rules. No further discussion shall continue on the subject at the tournament. Any further disputes may be submitted in writing within seven days of the incident with a fee of €100. A final decision will be reached by the ARC.

In case of the protest being put in after the tournament, The ARC will make their decision after hearing the protest from all parties involved including the Referee. The National Federation has a limit of 30 days to make a statement in a matter of a protest. If the decision leads to a loss of a World Titles, the final decision can only be given by the ARC. All monies will be returned to the National Federation in a successful protest.

12. Competitors Conduct -

All competitors **MUST** at all times show respect to their fellow competitors, coaches and all ISKA officials including but not limited to Referees, Judges, Table Staff, Registration Staff and Medics and Doctors.

Competitors **MUST** never forget that they are representing their nation. They **MUST** wear their National Teams Fighting Uniform / T-Shirt when competing.

Any unsportsmanlike conduct including but not limited to verbal abuse, spitting, excess power, inappropriate gestures or words that cause offences may result in minus of point, disqualification, removal from the venue and a ban from all ISKA events for a period of time set out by the ARC.

Competitors have the responsibility to be ready to compete. They **MUST** be wearing the correct clothing and safety equipment if they arrive at the competition area without such items this will result in an official warning.

Competitors must show respect to the officials and their opponent at the beginning and the end of fights by the gesture of bowing or shaking of hands.

13. Coaches Conduct -

All National Coaches **MUST** at all times show respect to all competitors, fellow coaches and all ISKA officials including but not limited to Referees, Judges, Table Staff, Registration Staff and Medics and Doctors.

Coaches **MUST** never forget that they are representing their nation. They **MUST** wear their National Teams Tracksuit / Uniform / T-Shirt when coaching.

Any unsportsmanlike conduct including but not limited to verbal abuse, spitting, excess power, inappropriate gestures or words that cause offences may result in minus point for their competitor, disqualification of their competitor, removal from the venue and a ban from all ISKA events for a period of time set out by the ARC.

It is the Coaches responsibility to ensure their competitors are ready to compete. Each country **MUST** provide adequate coaches per their competitors. ISKA recommended ratio as follows –

- 1 – 25 Competitors – 5 Coaches
- 25 – 50 Competitors – 10 Coaches
- 50 – 80 Competitors – 15 Coaches
- 80 – 110 Competitors – 20 Coaches
- 110+ Competitors – A minimum of 30 Coaches

Coaches **MUST** show respect to the officials and their competitors opponent at the beginning and the end of fights by the gesture of bowing or shaking of hands.

14. Opening Ceremony and Medal Ceremony

Opening Ceremony -

The promoter will host the Opening Ceremony either the evening before the tournament begins or the morning of the first day of the tournament.

Each country **MUST** designate two competitors from their National Team to be their flag / sign bearer. The names of these competitors **MUST** be handed in to the promoter prior to the Opening Ceremony.

During the Opening Ceremony all National Directors and National Teams including competitors and coaches **MUST** show respect at all times. There **MUST** not be any team discussions or meetings during the Opening Ceremony.

Team photos will be allowed to be taken on the Podium Stage after the Opening Ceremony. These photos will be done in Alphabetical order.

Medal Ceremony -

Competitors will be called to the podium to receive their medal. Competitors **MUST** show respect to their fellow competitors at all times.

Each country should supply a MP3 file to the promoter of their national anthem, no longer in duration than 30 seconds.

Each competitor will be allowed one national flag on the podium. Competitors are advised to wear their National Teams Tracksuit / Uniform / T-shirt when receiving their medals.

No offence or inappropriate hand gestures should be made when standing on the podium.