

Interim Guidelines in GBR from 22nd April 2017

Duration of Contest

The contest duration for all main stream cadet, junior and senior categories will be 4 minutes (Men were previously 5 minutes).

Technical Score Values

The Yuko score is cancelled, there are now only Waza-ari and Ippon

Waza-ari scores no longer add up to make Ippon, therefore an athlete can accumulate an unlimited amount of Waza-ari scores in any match

The Waza-ari score now includes the previous criteria for Yuko and Waza-ari and when uke lands with **both elbows** touching the mat at the same point in time during a continuous action, but not necessarily simultaneously

Osae-komi Times

Waza-ari 10 seconds, Ippon 20 seconds

Penalty Profile

There is now a maximum of three Shido possibilities, as a result, the third one to the same athlete in the same contest whether it's a mixture of normal time or GS time or not becomes Hansokumake

Contest Result in normal time

A contest will generally be won by a technical score(s) or Hansokumake in the normal period

Shido penalties will not decide the winner in the normal period

Contest Result in Golden Score

In the case of equal scores and no Hansokumake, the contest will continue in Golden Score (GS).

Technical Scores and / or penalties from the normal time will remain on the score board.

The decision in Golden Score will be announced when:

- a) Either contestant gains a technical score
and / or
- b) A penalty is awarded making the receiving athlete have a higher value of penalties than the other one, otherwise the contest will continue

IJF Rule Adoptions 2017

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Golden score match ending examples:

Example 1

	
Technical Scores are equal and no Hansokumake, therefore GS	Blue shido in GS ends the contest, White wins

Example 2

	
Technical Scores are equal and no Hansokumake, therefore GS	White Waza-ari ends the contest, White wins

Example 3

		
Technical Scores are equal and no Hansokumake, therefore GS	Blue shido in GS – continue as penalties now also equal	Blue shido means last person penalised now has more Shido's and therefore White wins

Example 4

			
Technical Scores are equal and no Hansokumake, therefore GS	White shido in GS – continue as penalties in favour of White	White shido in GS – continue as penalties are now equal	White 3rd shido in GS means Hansokumake and therefore Blue wins

Kumi-kata

Consistent negative positions or serious lack of positive activity will continue to be penalized by Shido, because they are against the spirit of Judo

However, it is understood that preparing for a throwing action can be very difficult and time consuming, therefore the time between Kumi-kata and compulsory making an attack is extended to 45 seconds.

Gripping Strategies

In order to enable better throwing opportunities, athletes will be allowed to use the pocket grip and pistol grip during the kuzushi/Tsukuri setup phase for a short period. The period allowed will be while the technique is being setup and although there is no actual time limit the referees must use their judo knowledge of when positive action ceases. Consistent holding with these grips without demonstrating intent to throw or at least attempt to setup a throwing technique will be penalised with shido.

Intentional Impact below the belt with the hand or arm

In the case where one athlete is kneeling and using their arm to block the other one moving their leg in the nage-waza phase, this will be Hansokumake due to it stopping the other contestant performing nage-waza actions etc. Touching below the belt without any real intent or impact is not a case for penalising.

Invalid below the belt impact will now be penalized with **Shido on the first offence** in each match and **Hansokumake for the second offence** by the **same athlete in the same match**, irrespective if the two offences were split by the normal period and Golden Score.

Kaeshi-waza

In the case of counter-attack (Kaeshi-waza) in a similar direction the first competitor landing will be considered as thrown and if he lands in a scoring position this will be awarded

Any action after landing will be considered as a Ne-Waza action and cannot be counted as Kaeshi-waza

If an athlete attacks the other and the other completely blocks / halts the first attack, the Kaeshi-waza action shall be valid although that player may land first.

Against the spirit of Judo

Any action against the spirit of Judo will be more strictly penalized by Hansokumake

Safety

If Uke attempts to avoid landing on his back by any movement which is dangerous for the head, neck or spine, he shall be penalized with **Hansokumake** (Bridging or impacting the tatami with the head in a bridging type body position).

The wearing of Gum Shields was reiterated as inappropriate and not allowed during a contest unless medically fixed in position.

Judogi

To have a good grip it is necessary for the jacket to be well fitted and worn inside the belt, with the belt tied tightly. To reinforce that, the competitors shall arrange their Judogi and belt quickly between Mate and Hajime announced by the referee.

Bridge Action

The act of the bridging posture will now be penalized with **Hansokumake** to uke instead of rewarding Tori with Ippon. This fits better with the current rule set as this is a dangerous action and not a technical score issue. Contestants who receive Hansokumake for bridging will be allowed to continue in the competition as per any other athlete who loses on technical scores for example.

Existing rule clarifications':

Tachi-waza v Ne-waza

Tachi-waza is when at least one athlete is standing, the overall action should then be considered as tachi-waza and therefore athletes are able to score or be penalised for tachi-waza actions for continuous actions. The time limit for this situation was defined as "Judo Immediately", i.e. referees must use their judo knowledge to decide on a reasonable time for that action to take place, each scenario maybe slightly different. Referees need to make themselves aware of the latest coaching developments for techniques from these positions in order to be able to assess them correctly.

Bear Hug

Bear Hug exists when Tori doesn't have prior kumi-kata and then puts both hands around the opponents' sides of the body (inside or outside of the receivers' arms) and the hands go largely around the back, i.e. it is not necessary for hands to cross over. The arms must go around the sides to qualify as bear hug, not over the shoulder, going over the shoulder is an acceptable action. Current interpretations mean that it must be Tori who has a real kumi-kata themselves before applying a bear hug, situations where just there is just hand to hand grabbing or a tap/slap on the side of body do not qualify as kumi-kata.

Kansetsu-waza control

In cases of seriously uncontrolled kansetsu-waza where one athlete deliberately applies excessive pressure to the others elbow joint, hansokumake will be awarded, athletes will be disqualified from the contest they are in and the rest of that competition. The IJF really wish to eradicate this problem as the results are extremely damaging to receivers and in many cases has stopped them from competing for several months afterwards due to severe injury.

Edge Penalties

It is paramount that referees penalise athletes who deliberately push their opponent out of the contest area, this is vital to stop those athletes who don't want to do judo and just try to win on shido.

The criteria for edge penalties continues to be as follows:

Outside as a result of their own action:

- If one foot goes out and is not immediately brought back inside by the person who chose to go outside the contest area under their own unpressured action – shido
- If both feet go out by the person who chose to go outside the contest area under their own unpressured action, immediate shido unless the second foot was part of the throwing action

Outside as a result of the other athletes' action:

- Going out as result of the opponent's positive action and the action fails or stops is just mate
- Continuous action reaction sequences should be allowed to continue while the action is safe, but mate must be called when it stops or becomes unsafe with no penalty

Nage-waza valid for scoring

For any throwing action to be valid Tori must be in a standing position at the start of the movement. If the athletes rise from ne-waza together, the action should be allowed to continue unless the situation is considered dangerous or one athlete has a significant advantage over the other, in which case mate should be called. E.g. not facing each other when rising from ne-waza is mate.

Definition of immediately in the rules

Where the rule book says immediately it does not mean a scientific immediately, i.e. zero seconds. It means that actions must start within a normal expected period for that type of judo movement and could vary as similar actions are subjective and it also depends on the other contestant's action. Rules for gripping, attacking etcetera cannot be measured as an absolute against a clock as there are far too many variations of each action to document and judo is an action / reaction based physical sport. There are many cases where the rules are not applied exactly as they are written, again, this is due to the vast amount of variations that are possible, everyone must use their judo knowledge to understand this.

Scoreboards

Scoreboard's will need to be modified to manage the new rule set, examples: 3 shido's, no yuko, first below the belt shido, 4 minutes for men.

Implementation

It is hoped that the vast majority of referees and other competition officials undergo a rules training module before the implementation date of 22nd April 2017. All officials should contact their area refereeing/other official's representative or the BJA for clarification on this.

It is also vital that all organisers from 22nd April have adequate scoreboards to accommodate the new rules to enable them to be recorded correctly and for all to see at competitions.

Keith Merrick

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