

GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING AN OFFICIAL PROTEST AT WKF EVENTS

These general guidelines for handling an official protest are to prepare Judges and Referees for resolving protest situations in the most correct and efficient way, taking into consideration that Fair Play in competition is essential to guarantee the correct outcome of a Kumite bout or Kata performance.

Terminology

Matters of Judgement (Decisions) are based upon the personal perception/observation of an actual situation by the Referee Panel and are not grounds for protest.

Matters of Procedure (Violations of the Rules) by the Referee Panel or any other administrative person involved in the bout, which means an incorrect application of the rules.

Correction of decisions

In the WKF Rules of competition, the possibility of retroactive correction of decisions is stipulated if the Referee Panel or any other administrative person involved in the bout violated the rules.

The WKF Competition Rules allow for two control mechanisms against the violation of the rules by the Referee Panel:

- The Match Supervisor (Kansa) or Tatami Manager (TM)
- The possibility of an Official Protest.

This ensures that during a competition, because of the control exercised by the Match Supervisor (KANSAs) and Tatami Manager the number of official protests is limited. It also establishes a very clear and transparent principle, which can be applied regularly in every WKF Official competition.

Note

An official protest can include several situations/decisions taken by the Ref. Panel during the same bout. The Appeals Jury will investigate and decide separately on each of the complaints included in the protest.

The following cases of Matter of Judgment are examples when a protest cannot be accepted by the Appeal Jury for discussion and decision because it is a matter of judgment.

- If the Referee gives a score but in the opinion of the Coach the technique has not fulfilled all six scoring criteria.
- If the Referee gives a score but in the opinion of the Coach the technique has missed the target area.
- If the Referee gives a score but in the opinion of the Coach the technique was blocked.
- If the Referee gives a contact, but in the opinion of the Coach, it was MUBOBI (or the other way around).
- If the Referee does not award a warning/penalty but, in the opinion of the Coach, a prohibited behavior occurred (i.e. pushing, grabbing, excessive contact, Jogai).
- If a score was awarded for a technique executed after Yame or after the time was up.

The following cases of Matter of Procedures are examples of when a protest can be accepted by the Appeal Jury for discussion and decision:

1. The Referee forgot to indicate SENSHU.
2. The Referee forgot to remove SENSHU.
3. The Referee gave a score to the wrong competitor.
4. The Referee gave a warning/penalty to the wrong competitor.
5. The Referee gave a score to a competitor and a warning for exaggeration to the opponent.
6. The Referee gave a score to a competitor and MUBOBI to the opponent.
7. The Referee gave contact to a competitor and MUBOBI to the opponent.
8. The Referee gave a score for a technique done after WAKARETE and before TSUZUKETE.
9. The Referee gave a score for a technique done at the same time as WAKARETE.
10. The Referee gave a score for a technique that caused an injury.

- 11.** The Referee gave a wrong level of score (i.e. YUKO instead of WAZA-ARI for CHUDAN GERI, or YUKO instead of IPPON when another part of the body than the opponent's feet was in contact with the mat).
- 12.** The Referee gave a warning or penalty for passivity during ATO SHIBARAKU.
- 13.** The Referee gave the wrong warning (i.e., passes from 0 directly to CHUI 2 or 3).
- 14.** The Referee gave the wrong warning during ATO SHIBARAKU.
- 15.** The Referee didn't stop the bout, if two or more judges signal a score for the same competitor.
- 16.** The Referee didn't stop the bout in case of a Video Review request by a Coach.
- 17.** A score is awarded in Video Review, but the opponent scored before.
- 18.** The Referee didn't follow the majority of scores signaled by the judges.
- 19.** The Referee didn't follow the majority of Judges when deciding HANTEI.
- 20.** The Referee gave the lower score when the level of score is different between the Judges.
- 21.** The Referee allowed the bout to continue when a competitor is declared unfit to fight by the Tournament Doctor.
- 22.** The Referee did HANTEI/HIKIWAKE, but SENSU has been obtained.
- 23.** The Referee did HANTEI, but the competition format (regular team match/round robin) requires HIKIWAKE.
- 24.** The Referee did HANTEI/HIKIWAKE when the score is equal without any Competitor having SENSU and one of Competitors has the higher number of IPPON and/or WAZA-ARI.
- 25.** The score board was not showing the correct information.
- 26.** The team's composition or fighting order was changed before or during the match.

PROCEDURE WHEN AN OFFICIAL PROTEST IS PRESENTED

As soon as the Tatami Manager gives the protest form to the protester:

- a. Inform the Appeals Jury Supervisor.
- b. Collect Appeals Jury nr.1.
- c. To avoid conflicts of interest, the TM informs Appeals Jury nr.1 of the people involved.
- d. Appeals Jury nr.1 collect the rest of the AJ members needed.

When the protest has been paid by the protester and completed by the Tatami Manager, the Appeals Jury will first note the time and then begin checking the evidence by using the following alternatives:

- a. Interviewing the Coach/protester.
- b. Watching/analyzing a video, photo, or any other significant evidence.
- c. If necessary, watching/analyzing the Video Review recordings.
- d. Talking with the Referee Panel, Tatami Manager, or any other relevant witness.

When the protest has been evaluated:

- a. The Appeals Jury decides to accept or decline the protest.
- b. All three members must vote, and the majority will apply.

If the protest is declined:

- a. After written "Decline", all three Appeals Jury Members sign the rejected protest form.
- b. The Appeals Jury appoints a Member to verbally notify the protester, the Tatami Manager, the Chief Referee and the Local Organizer Commission (LOC).
- c. After that, the Appeals Jury meets again and writes the incident report.
- d. The protest form together with the incident report and the protest fee is given by the AJ Supervisor to the LOC or in the case of a Karate 1 Event to the WKF Supervisor of the Event.
- e. An extra copy of the protest and incident report is given to the Chief Referee of the event.

If the protest is accepted:

- a. After written “Accepted”, all three Appeals Jury Members sign the accepted protest form.
- b. The Appeals Jury appoints a Member to verbally notify the protester and then liaise with the TM, the Chief Referee and LOC to take the measures needed for remedy the situation.
- c. The protest fee is returned to the Protester by the AJ Supervisor.
- d. After that, the Appeals Jury meets again and writes the incident report.
- e. The protest form together with the incident report are given by the AJ Supervisor to the LOC or in the case of a Karate 1 Event to the WKF Supervisor of the Event.
- f. An extra copy of the protest and the incident report is given to the Chief Referee of the event.

An accepted protest does not mean that a bout or match will automatically be redone.

In order to correct the situation, the Appeals Jury has the following possibilities:

1. Reversing previous judgments that contravene the rules.
2. Voiding results of the affected rounds from the score before the incident.
3. Redoing such bouts that have been affected by the incident.
4. Issuing a recommendation to the WKF President and RC Chairperson for any involved Referees/Judges evaluated for sanction.