

# **South Texas Karate League Rules**

## **GENERAL:**

A. Age: Competitors will compete the age they are as of March 1st. All Competitors are responsible for having birth certificates or other forms of identification should a protest arise.

B. Rank: All competitors are encouraged to compete at the rank they obtain on January 1st of the current competition year.

- **Grand-Champion: You must compete the belt you are. For example, if you compete in a division that includes beginners, intermediate, advance, and black belts. You may only compete in your own category (rank).**

C. Uniforms: All uniforms must be of regulation in that particular style or system. (In KATA competition uniforms may vary with tournament director's approval). Uniforms must be clean.

- **Traditional katas - solid traditional white or black uniforms must be worn**
- **Forms Divisions - must wear FULL uniforms & belt**
- **Sparring Divisions - may be allowed to wear a dojo t-shirt with sparring pants & belt (if not, full uniform must be worn).**

D. Sparring Gear/Equipment: Soft Type protective gear will be worn on hands & feet. (Foam, Vinyl). Shin pads will be of soft material, foam, vinyl or leather. Must wear a mouthpiece at all times (even with a face shield, mouthpiece must be worn). Headgear is mandatory. Face shields are encouraged for all junior competitors.

E. Judges may not judge their own family members.

F. Judges must be seated separately.

G. Any judge switches must happen BEFORE a division has begun.

- Instructors may ask for a judge replacement only BEFORE a division has begun.

H. A RULES MEETING must be given at every South Texas Karate League tournament.

I. If divisions have more than 12 competitors - divisions must be split

J. Rank Classification

- Beginners - 1 year or less of experience
- Intermediates - 2 years of experience

K. State Finals: Points will remain in the specific division competitor competed in (competitor can only compete in one division)

- For example, if a competitor competed in the 8-9 year old division half of the year and competed 10-11 the rest of the year, they must choose only one division to compete in for the finals.

## **POINT SPARRING**

### **MATCHES:**

A. Junior Sparring and Underbelts (Adults included) will have 2 judges per ring.

B. Junior Black Belts (12+) and Adult Black Belt Sparring will have 3 judges per ring.

- *Both judges must agree for points to be awarded.*
- *If both judges call a different score to one competitor, the lowest score will be awarded.*

C. Center judge must be a CERTIFIED South Texas League Adult Black Belt.

- Side officials do not need to be certified. Must be an 18 year old Black Belt.

- Center judge must call out points to scorekeeper
- D. Fighting area must be 20'x20' and no smaller than 16'x16'
- E. Fighting area will be outlined by visible tape or padded mats.
- F. Only one coach is allowed per competitor at the ring to coach their student. (must be sitting/standing in coaches box)
- G. No timeouts are allowed with the exception of an injury, which will be called by the head judge.
- H. Light face contact allowed for all divisions (face/body)(light)(controlled techniques).

#### **MATCH LENGTH:**

- A. All matches will be two minutes or a 7 point spread.
- B. Light face contact is allowed for all ranks.
- C. **NO SUDDEN DEATHS - If there is a tie at the end of the 2 minute match, fighters will continue for an additional 30 seconds**

#### **SPARRING GEAR:**

- Foot Gear (must cover toes, foam padding)
- Gloves
- Helmet
- Mouthpiece (mouthpiece is still required with faceshield)
- Groin Cup
  - **Optional Gear**
    - Elbow pads
    - Shin Guards
    - Chest guard
- Uniforms- may be allowed to wear a dojo t-shirt with sparring pants & belt (if not, full uniform must be worn).
- No glasses allowed - sport goggles must be worn or face shields

#### **SCORING:**

- A. Speed, focus, control & technique delivered to target areas will be awarded a point. No Groin is allowed.
- B. Win by 7 point spread or 2 minute match
- C. Fast calls- judges must call their point as soon as the point is executed
- D. Lowest point will be awarded if judges have different calls
- D. Fighter can score if 1 foot is out of bounds
- E. Target areas are: head, breast, rib cage, abdominal area.
  - (1) Punches = 1 point
  - (2) All Kicks to body = 1 point
  - (3) All Kicks to head = 2 points
  - (4) Spin Body Kicks = 2 points
  - (5) Spin Head Kicks = 3 points
  - (6) Cartwheel kicks (2 hands) = 3 points
  - (7) All Clashes = no point

F. No warnings - All fouls = 1 point awarded to the opponent.

- 5 fouls = Disqualification
- Fouls
  - Avoiding the fight
  - Kick to leg
  - Kick to back
  - Out of Bounds (1 leg in & 1 leg out)
  - Kick to groin
  - Grabbing/pulling

G. Two judge verification for foul calls.

H. Fouls will carry over to sudden death situations.

I. Hitting after the break is a foul, cause for point awarded.

J. **NO SUDDEN DEATHS - If there is a tie at the end of the 2 minute match, fighters will continue for an additional 30 seconds**

- If there is another tie at the end of the additional 30 seconds - SUDDEN DEATH (next point wins)

### **ILLEGAL TECHNIQUES:**

A. No joints, no elbow techniques, no back or blind techniques, or throat techniques.

B. No knee, or leg techniques, take downs (only in rings), head butts, arms, spine, neck, eyes techniques, or kicks to the legs.

C. No finger jabbing, ripping, gouging, or tearing techniques to the facial area.

D. No groin contact.

E. No ground fighting

- No fighting from the ground up
- No blind techniques - target must be seen

F. Both legs out of bounds

### **PROTESTS:**

A. Only the coach has the right to protest any call BEFORE the match is over (must be sitting).

B. Arbitrator will have the final ruling.

### **DISQUALIFICATION:**

A. Excessive contact in all divisions.

(1) If the opponent is knocked out.

(2) Blood drawn does NOT mean disqualification.

- Arbitrator/medic has final call
- Malice or intention of blood will be disqualification

B. Competitor talking back to an official.

C. *Unsportsmanlike conduct* or any other form of conduct unbecoming to a martial artist.

- Harassment from instructor, parent, or team members.
- Striking an official
  - Removed from the tournament site and subject to being banned from all South Texas League tournaments.

D. Being judged by your own student or instructor in fighting. (unless agreed by both sides)

E. Parents protesting inside a ring without a coach pass.

## **WEIGHT CLASSES**

**18+ BLACK BELTS MUST WEIGH-IN DAY OF EVENT (on a scale, not on carpet)**

- Men
  - Lightweight: 160 lbs & below
  - Middleweight: 161 - 185
  - Heavyweight: 186 & Up
- Women
  - Lightweight: 135 & Under
  - Middleweight :136 & Up

## **INJURIES**

- A. If there is an injury requiring a medic to be called, no coach/parent/judge is allowed to touch the injured competitor until the medic has arrived and accessed the injury.
- B. Injuries can NOT carry on to the next match.
- C. Arbitrator/Medics have final call on any competitor

## **FORMS/WEAPONS**

### **XII. KATA/FORMS RULES:**

- A. All competitors will perform their Katas with scores given when all the competitors are finished.
- B. Scoring Range will be from 9.0 - 9.9 in all Katas/Weapons Divisions
- C. Each judge must choose his or her top score from highest to lowest.
  - Example:
    - 1st Place = 9.9
    - 2nd Place = 9.8
    - 3rd Place = 9.7
    - 4th Place = 9.6
    - Median = 9.5
  - **NO restarts for Underbelts & Black Belt divisions.**
  - **Drops will be scored at an automatically 9.5 across the board**
  - **Competitor must specify if the weapon will be touching the floor.**
- D. Ties: Regular scoring system first time around. If tied – run-off of the same or different kata is acceptable. If tied again - judges point to the winner.
- E. Creative forms (Musical, Weapons, 2 man) no longer than 2 minutes
  - Tumbling = creative forms
- F. Weapons check before division begins
  - Traditional weapons must be traditional weapons
- G. Music boxes will be provided at each ring.
- H. Traditional Kata lasts no longer than 3 minutes.
- I. Divisions will be arranged by belt rank or age and sex.

- J. All competitors will perform their kata from top to the bottom of the list after the computer shuffles competitors, and scoring will only be given when the last competitor is done.
- K. The judging board will be composed of 2 sides and one center judge (***Must be South Texas League certified***).
- L. If 5 judges are being used, high and low scores will be omitted. Highest score will be the winner.
- M. Competitors WEAPON must be 3 feet away from all JUDGES.
- N. Grand Champion KATA must be the same KATA that won the division. When tie occurs another form will be allowed.
- O. In case of tie, black belts must run a different form in traditional forms divisions.