

Official MAF Basic Tournament Rules

Rev. January 2023

GENERAL RULES

In the interest of spectator courtesy and tournament operation, individuals NOT actively assigned to competition rings shall remain seated, kneeling, or squatting at a minimum distance of (10) feet from all competition rings.

PHOTOS & VIDEO

Unofficial persons taking photographs or video shall restrict themselves from the competition ring.

CHILDREN

Young children shall be always supervised. No running or playing on the tournament floor and throughout the tournament facility.

FOOD & DRINK

No outside food is permitted on the property. Help support our event by catering to our on-site food vendor. No food or drink is permitted in the facility without expressed permission. Please comply with the rules for food and drink as it applies.

CONDUCT

Un-sportsman-like conduct shall not be tolerated from competitors, instructors, and spectators. Such conduct shall result in penalty point, disqualification, or removal from the premises.

INTERFERENCE

No one shall interfere with the activities of Ring Officials, Scorekeepers/Timekeepers, or other tournament staff during the performance of their duties. Center judge decisions are deemed final unless otherwise overturned by an arbitrator.

JUDGES

All judges and instructors shall dress in official uniform. No hats, beepers, cell phones or other items or apparel shall be carried on or about a judge's person, which may be considered inappropriate during traditional martial arts training or competition. While judging forms division, please give each competitor your undivided attention. *We also ask that judges review all rules listed within this document.*

DIVISIONS

Competitors shall compete only in their qualifying divisions. **No exceptions!**

COMPETITION RULES

Competitors are solely responsible for reporting to their assigned ring in a timely manner and remaining at assigned locations when their division is announced. Late arrivals shall be considered for disqualification

(unless overturned by an arbitrator). If a late competitor is permitted to participate, they may be subjected to penalties at the head official's discretion.

TOURNAMENT AWARDS

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards are routinely given in all divisions unless otherwise authorized by the tournament Director. *Tournament directors, promoters and officials shall not be responsible for replacing awards that are lost, stolen or damaged after presentation.*

SELF-DEFENSE

Competitors shall perform a total of three (3) separate self-defense scenarios, which shall make up a complete set for scoring. Each scenario shall be judged on technique, focus, timing, control, and safety of participants and realism. *No skits please!!!*

WEAPONS COMPETITION

OFFICIALS MUST INSPECT ALL WEAPONS FOR SAFETY PRIOR TO COMPETITION. Weapons cannot be substituted after inspection without official approval. *Competitors practicing weapons before their division must do so safely in a designated area free of public traffic.*

KATA/FORMS

MAF may offer two categories of Kata/Form competition: **NOVICE*** and **REGULAR**. Both categories are to be judged based on universal criteria such as balance, focus, technique, and stance. There is however, a more **relaxed judging criteria** for Novice* divisions.

*NOVICE KATA/FORMS

MAF is the first organization to create a special tournament category for "first timers" known as "Novice". For purposes of this division, a "*Novice shall be defined as a white belt beginner (with no stripes) regardless of age having no more than (3) months approximately, of formal martial art training.*" This division is to give "first-time competitors" who have not learned or is unable to perform a complete kata/form but may be able to execute up to 6 movements of a beginner kata/form. This is a great way for new students to experience tournament competition for the first time. Ideally, the experience is to help foster motivation of the student to further their class training and prepare for the next competition as a regular beginner. The **Novice category caters only to newcomers of all ages that meet this qualification.** The competitor needs only to know and perform one half of a Kata/Form (between 4-8 basic movements). Students who can perform a

complete kata/form shall compete in “**Regular Kata/Form Divisions**”.

REGULAR KATA/FORMS

Regular divisions are for students who have trained beyond (3) months, which includes beginner, intermediate and advance students. Competitors are expected to perform a complete Kata/Form for this division.

KATA/FORM TIE

In the event of a “tie”, beginners (white, yellow, and orange belts) are permitted to perform the same form without penalty. However, for the purpose of demonstrating versatility “all intermediate and advance competitors shall perform a different kata/form each time a tie occurs. Only competitors in Weapon Divisions are permitted to repeat the same form.

Tip: If an error is made by a competitor during empty-hand performance, the competitor can ask the judges for permission to restart the form. However, if a competitor feels the error to be minor, it may be wise to continue the form without hesitation with a chance of receiving the best possible score. If the competitor requests a “do-over”, judges may deduct up to one (1) full point from their score for repeats.

KUMITE/SPARRING

Equipment: HAND AND FEET PADS ARE MANDATORY TO COMPETE. Chest Protector, Face & Headgear, Groin Cup and Mouthpiece are optional, but strongly recommended! Younger age boys and girls shall compete together during fighting competition. **Older boys and girls shall be divided.**

1. **All techniques** shall equal (1) point.
2. (3) total points to win the match, or most points at the end of time.
3. **Time Limit** is (2) minutes “running time”.
4. **No Face Contact** (i.e., nose, chin, eyes, mouth, cheek bone).
5. **Light Contact to legal targets:** (side, top and back of head; front torso).
6. **Sweeps (boot to boot) only for advanced ranks** (i.e., red, brown, Jr. Black & Adult Black Belts).
7. **No takedowns.**
8. **(1) second grabbing** followed by a technique only permitted.
9. **One Official Warning** shall be given for any rule violation. Penalty points or disqualification maybe imposed thereafter.

BYE SYSTEM

Score Keepers shall be familiar with the “Bye System” for Kumite (fighting) competition.

Bye Formula: 2=0, 3=1, 4=0, 5=3, 6=2, 7=1, 8=0, 9=7, 10=6, 11=5, 12=4, 13=3, 14=2, 15=1, 16=0

ATTENTION: All Competitors shall be physically present for lineup at ringside before officials commence to apply the Bye System without exception.

RINGSIDE REPRESENTATIVE

Competitors may have one (1) Ringside Representative (RR) near the competition ring only during a competitor’s live match. If an Official does not identify a designated area for the RR, then the RR shall restrict themselves to a minimum of (10) feet from the competition ring boundaries. A failure of the RR to comply with judge’s instructions may subject competitors to penalties or disqualification. ***Ringside Representatives (RR) are permitted for the sole purpose of allowing officials to engage the RR as needed regarding issues of equipment failure/safety, injuries, penalties, or disqualifications resulting from active competition. Representatives or associates ARE NOT permitted to coach competitors at any time during a live match.***

INJURIES

In the event of injuries, we ask that everyone remain from the scene so that the injured can be attended too. Only one representative (i.e., instructor, parent, or relevant individuals) may assist in the care and management of the injured.

GREVANCE

All complaints shall be addressed to the Arbitrator in a timely and civilized manner. Discussions shall be limited to include relevant individuals on the issue in question.

ATTENTION!

The purpose of MAF activities is to offer fun learning opportunities and fair competition under a controlled environment. All individuals attending MAF events are expected to keep this in mind by conducting themselves in a civilized manner and expect others to do the same. Anyone who believes they are not capable of adhering to the rules and standards of this and other MAF events should consider not appearing.

ADDITIONAL RULES MAY APPLY. ALL RULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR’S DISCRETION.