Explanation of the IJF Judo Refereeing Rules
2018-2020

Developed by USA Judo Referee Commission
Approved by USA Judo Board of Directors 4/23/18
USA JUDO BOD APPROVED MODIFICATIONS TO THE IJF RULES

• These modifications apply ONLY to all USA Judo sanctioned DOMESTIC events.

• 1. The judogi and obi must meet the the sizing and fit specifications as defined by the IJF. The judogi and obi do not need to be an IJF red label approved judogi from an approved IJF judogi supplier/manufacturer.

• 2. A coach sitting in the coaching chair may coach their athlete throughout the duration of the match. All other rules regarding coach behavior and conduct must be adhered to.

• All IJF and/or PJC events (foreign or domestic) will utilize the full IJF rules and the modifications above WILL NOT APPLY.
2018 RULE CHANGES

“Spectators can find more enjoyment in Judo during the 2017-2020 Olympic Quadrennial”
IMPORTANT CHANGES

- Safety is fundamental: all kansetsuwaza and shimewaza cannot be attempted when standing in tachiwaza;
- Any attempt when standing in tachiwaza will be immediately called mate then awarded shido for the tori (person attempting);
- Transition of kansetsuwaza or shimewaza (mat work) to tachiwaza (standing) is allowed.
In case of kaeshiwaza, the tori (person attempting) applying the counter-attack CANNOT use the impact of the landing on the tatami to leverage the throw.
DURATION OF CONTEST

• Men and women four (4) minutes

• Respect for parity and contest time unity as wished for by the IOC and fight time unity for the Olympic mixed team event.

• Mixed team competition will be a demonstration event at the Tokyo 2020 Games for Judo.
EVALUATION OF THE POINTS

• There will now only be Ippon and Waza-ari. Ippon evaluation will allow for more flexibility as long as the scoring criteria are met (speed, force, control, emphasis on the back exposure, and impact).

• The value of waza-ari includes those given for Yuko in the past.

• Two Waza-ari are equivalent of one Ippon and so Waza-ari awasete Ippon will be called.
IPPON

Impact on the back with a roll with speed, force, control

Impact directly on the back with speed, force, control
Difference of the rolling makes the evaluation of the points it is Ippon when Uke rolls on his back.
WAZAARI

Wazaari given for Yuko scores in the past

Wazaari given when Ippon criteria not achieved
Difference of the rolling makes the evaluation of the points it is Waza-ari when Uke rolls on his side or hips.
Waza-ari Landing Position

Waza-ari
NO Waza-ari
Landing on the Buttocks with Continuation

Waza-ari Score
Landing on the Buttocks with a Pause

NO Score
Waza-ari

- Landing on both elbows or two arms is considered valid and should be evaluated with Waza-ari.

- Landing on one elbow, on the bottom or the knee with immediately continuation on the back will be Waza-ari.

- Landing on one elbow and one hand is considered valid and should be evaluated with Waza-ari.
OSAEKOMI TIME

- Waza-ari 10 seconds, and Ippon 20 seconds

- Reminder, Waza-ari Awasete Ippon will be called.
Immobilisations (Osae-komi-waza)

- This kind of Osae-komi is not valid.
• In regular time and Golden Score, a contest can only be won by a technical score or scores (wazaari or ippon). The main goal is to have contests won by a technique and NOT by penalty;

• A penalty or penalties will not decide the winner, except for hansokumake (direct or accumulative). This is referring to regulation time and Golden Score in a match.
GOLDEN SCORE

• In the case where there is no score(s), or scores are equal, the contest will continue in Golden Score.

• Any score and/or penalties from regular time will remain on the score board and will be extended into the Golden Score overtime period.

• During regulation and Golden Score time, Shidos may essentially be ignored unless they accumulate up to Hansoku-make.

• The decision in the Golden Score is made by the difference of scores or hansoku-make (accumulated or direct).
GOLDEN SCORE SCENARIO 1

- Winner by a technical score
**GOLDEN SCORE SCENARIO 2**

- When both players have no technical score or the technical score is tied at the end of the regular contest time, the contest goes into Golden Score, regardless of the number of Shidos given;
- All scores and Shidos from the regular time period are carried over into Golden Score;
- Golden Score can only be won by technical score (waazari or ippon or hansoku-make (direct or by cumulative Shido)).
PENALTIES

• There are now three Shido, instead of previously four.

• The third Shido becomes hansoku-make.

• To simplify the refereeing and its understanding, some of the actions on how to grab the judogi, which were punished in the past, will no longer be penalized: (pistol grip, pocket grip...) As long as the attitude is positive and the competitor is trying to attack. The athlete has some time (≈3 seconds) to setup/prepare for attack, the penalty is no longer immediate/simultaneous.

Please remember that most of the Judo penalties have NOT changed: non-combativity, defensive attitude/posture, false attack, grip breaking/cutting with two (2) hands, bear hug, abnormal gripping with no intent to attack, and etc..
• **Fingers inside the sleeve will still be penalized.** No change - penalization is immediate.

• **Unconventional Kumikata such as cross gripping, one side gripping (2 hands on the same side) and belt gripping** will not be penalized as long as Tori is preparing an attack. If any of these five grips (cross, one-side/same side, belt, pocket/cat's paw, & pistol) are used to be defensive, then Shido is given immediately. The athlete has some time to setup/prepare for attack, the penalty is no longer immediate/simultaneous.

• **Negative positions will be penalized by Shido because they are against the Spirit of Judo** (not searching for an attack, defensive attitude, etc.) – No Change
Recognizing the difficulty of preparing a throwing action, the time between kumikata and making an attack is extended to 45 seconds (as long as the attitude is positive and the competitor is preparing to execute a technique). This is after the athletes have obtained normal/standard Kumikata. The athletes should be given more time and opportunity to prepare/setup for an attack. This may be as much as 45 seconds.
• Anti judo will be immediately penalized as an act against the spirit of Judo.
• Any action to avoid competing or purposefully attempting to avoid competing to utilize time on the clock will be considered acting against the spirit of judo and will be penalized with hansoku-make.
DOUBEL HANSOKU-MAKE

- In rare cases, simultaneous hansoku-make by accumulation of three (3) shidōs is permitted.
- In this case, both will be considered “losers” for bracketing purposes.
- This may even result in two (2) second places and no gold medal.
- Players will not lose their earned points or awards, as would be the case for direct hansoku-make for actions against the spirit of Judo.
PENALTIES - LEG GRAB

• Leg grabbing or grabbing the trousers, shall be penalized by shido

• Uke blocking with his/her hands below the belt to prevent a throw/score shall be penalized by shido

• Uke blocking with his/her arm while on their knees to prevent a throw/score shall be penalized by shido
PENALTIES - BEAR HUG

- Tori must have established kumikata (gripping uke) to throw with “Bear Hug” type technique... no change.

- Score and penalty can be awarded if bear hug is applied (by Blue) and is successfully countered (by White). White could be awarded a score and Blue is awarded with a shido.
SAFETY AND MODELING

• The committee examined the rules with regard to safety to ensure that judo has as little trauma as possible.

• In order not to give a bad example for young judokas, the landing on both elbows is considered valid and evaluated as Waza-ari.

• Our Olympic, World, Continental, and National Champions are important role models for our children and youth. Modeling is the most powerful and effective means of teaching. Thus, it is important for our rules to promote safe, respectful, honorable, and correct Judo behaviors with a positive attitude. This provides good role models and examples for young people to emulate and model their own behavior, conduct, and Judo after. This thinking and emphasis is evidenced by some of the rule changes for the new quadrennial
SAFETY/PENALTIES - BRIDGING

• If Uke attempts to avoid landing on their back by any movement which is dangerous for the head, neck or spine, the Tori shall be awarded ippon.

• Bridging is when the chin is extended away from the chest. Reaching with the head, stretching the neck out, not protecting the head and/or neck can/should is considered as bridging.
HEAD DEFENSE

• Use of the head for defense to avoid landing or while attempting to escape from a score will be given hansoku-make

• Involuntary head defense, no penalty for tori or uke: nagewaza such as drop seoi nage, sode-tsuri-komi-goshi, koshi-guruma
PENALTIES - DANGEROUS ACTIONS

- Application of Wakigatame is now immediately awarded a shido if applied in a standing position. Uke cannot be taken to the tatami.

- Unintentional joint lock with no intention to throw. Just call mate immediately.

- Applying Wakigatame while standing and then falling directly to the tatami while applying is a Hansoku Make violation. This action is extremely dangerous.

- Wakigatame can only be legally applied in Newaza situations.

- Reminder: all Kansetsuwaza applications must give the Uke a fair opportunity to the Uke to indicate/show Maitta to protect themselves and prevent injury. This idea/concept is exemplary of the philosophy and goals of Judo.
SHIMEWAZA ILLEGAL ACTIONS

shimewaza or kansetsuwaza while overstretching the leg is illegal.

No overstretch is allowed

Immediate mate and shido is awarded
In a case of attack and counter-attack the first competitor landing cannot use the impact of the landing to leverage counter-attack. If a score can be given, it will be assigned. This assumes that the Initial attack results in throwing the opponent first as you are NOT able to successfully counter-attack and score if you are already being thrown.

- In case if the two athletes land together, no score will be given. Assuming that there is no clear control by either athlete.

- Any action after landing will be considered as a Ne-Waza action. Again, you cannot throw and score after you've been thrown first.
NEWAZA AND TACHIWAZA TRANSITION
When is it Ne-waza?

Both athletes must have two knees on the floor, for it to be considered Ne-waza.

No contact between the opponents must be Mate!

Lying on the stomach on the ground, the blue athlete is in Ne-waza.

Grip control from standing athlete (white): we still consider athlete on the knees (blue) in Tachi-waza and consequently Tachi-waza regulation would be applied. However, if white does not attack immediately, then the referee must call Mate! Athlete on the knees (blue) cannot grab the legs to defend the throw with his arms, if this happens, Shido will be given.
• For a better efficiency and to have a good grip it is necessary for the jacket to be well fitted in the belt, with the belt tied tightly.

• To reinforce that, the competitor shall arrange their Judo gi and belt quickly between Mate and Hajime announced by the referee.

• If an athlete intentionally loses time arranging their Judo go or belt, they should be penalized with Shido.
SCOREBOARD AND TIMING SYSTEM MODIFICATIONS

• The wazaari awasete ippon functionality must be enabled to score an Ippon by Awasewaza.

• The osaekomi timer function must be changed to 10 seconds = wazaari and 20 seconds = ippon.

• The osaekomi timer's wazaari awasete ippon function must be enabled to score an ippon by awasewaza.

• The osaekomi timing must be aware that all osaekomi can run to wazaari or Ippon because wazaari awasete ippon combination can conclude the match.
IJF RULE GUIDE – DOWNLOAD

WWW.IJF.ORG

2018 WORLD FLASHES VIDEOS – DOWNLOAD

REFEREESUSB.JUDOBASE.ORG
QUESTIONS?