

EVENT COMPETITION PROTOCOL

One of the goals of USA Taekwondo is to provide its membership with positive and memorable experiences from its events and programs to encourage participants to raise their level of interest in the sport and inspire its athletes to strive for excellence and continue their development in Taekwondo. The events have been planned to deliver the highest level of service and consistency to ensure that this goal can be met. Despite all the efforts that are made to assist members at an event, it can still be a daunting task for coaches and athletes to get organized, especially for members who are participating in a USAT event for the first time. Therefore, the objective of this module is to enlighten coaches on the logistical aspects of USAT events so that they can focus upon the needs of their athlete or team when they arrive at the competition site.

This module consists of general guidelines for the *Event Check-in Process* (Day of Arrival), the *Day of Event* (Competition), and concludes with *Equipment Standards*.

Before proceeding to the section describing the Event Check-in Process, it is important for all coaches to read the Coach Registration Packets beforehand so that they are aware of any rules or procedures that are specifically related to the event to which they are participating.

Prior to arriving at the competition site, coaches can also check their registration status online. If their status is pending or missing paperwork, the Checklist will inform them of the items that they need to provide to USA Taekwondo.

EVENT CHECK-IN PROCESS

Coaches:

1. Coaches will need to report to the Coaches' Registration booth, which will be located at Event Registration (check-in/registration site).
2. Coaches should have a form of I.D. and all pending registration items (if applicable) with them.
3. If a coach has already fulfilled his or her CIDP requirements (AC certification, Coaches' Edge Seminar, and Level 1, if applicable), then they will be provided with their coach's badge at the booth. If coaches have not fulfilled all of the CIDP requirements (for example, are registered for the Coaches' Edge Seminar, but have not taken it yet), then they will be provided with the coach's badge at the end of the Coaches' Edge Seminar.
4. Only the coach participating will be allowed to pick up his/her credential. No one will be allowed to pick up another athlete's or coach's credential. ALL CREDENTIALS ARE NONTRANSFERABLE AND WILL BE REVOKED IF MISUSED. ***Please note: There is a \$5.00 charge to replace any lost credentials.***

It is also important for coaches to be familiar with the registration procedures for their athletes, as they may need your assistance with event check-in. The following information consists of this information.

Athletes:

1. Upon arriving at the event site, all athletes will need to check-in at Event Registration (check-in/registration site) prior to the start of competition.
2. In order to check-in onsite, athletes must be pre-registered for the tournament. There will be no onsite registration. **All athletes may check-in any day, but can ONLY weigh-in the day prior to their event.**
3. Weigh-in schedules are provided in the Athlete Packets and at the event to provide a reference for the correct check-in & weigh-in days. Please make proper arrangements so the athlete can be there at those times.
4. During the check-in process, all participants will be required to provide a photo ID, take a photo (if not already uploaded), weigh-in, and receive their credentials as proper identification for the event. Proper photo ID includes a driver's license, state ID, school ID, and/or valid passport. A birth certificate may be substituted for a photo ID if a photo ID is not available. Only the individual participating will be allowed to pick up their credential. No one will be allowed to pick up another athlete's or coach's credential. **ALL CREDENTIALS ARE NONTRANSFERABLE AND WILL BE REVOKED IF MISUSED. *Please note: There will be a \$5.00 charge to replace any lost credentials.***

There will be two booths set up at Event Registration (the check-in/registration site) for athletes, which are based on how much of their paperwork has been completed:

- Athlete Express Booth: Athletes whose paperwork is complete – All documents have been received (including an uploaded photo).
 - Athletes whose name appears on the Athlete Express list will go directly to the Athlete Express Line. Athletes must check in with a photo ID. Once the athlete has received his/her credential, he/she can proceed to the appropriate weigh-in line.
- Athlete Troubleshooting Booth: Athletes who have not fully completed their registration.
 - Athletes whose name appears on the troubleshooting list will have to go directly to the "Troubleshooting Line" and bring a Photo ID along with all missing documents or necessary information to complete their application. The USAT staff member will verify the application and all supporting documents (entry form, entry fee, USAT Consent for Medical Treatment, USAT Code of Conduct, hotel form, citizenship/residency information, black belt certification information if applicable, and proof of 2008 USA Taekwondo membership, picture). Once all documents are complete, the athlete can proceed to the appropriate weigh-in line.

Upon checking in, all participants will be provided with a participant package (goodie bag) that will include an events schedule along with the report times for the holding area. The schedule will provide information about whether there will be a separate warm-up area and holding area at the competition venue or if there will only be one area to serve both functions. The report times to the holding area will also be posted online the night before the event.

Competition Brackets

Competition brackets will be posted online, at the venue, and at the host hotel after the weigh-ins have closed.

DAY OF COMPETITION

Forms (Poomsae) competition will be conducted before the Sparring competition at all USA Taekwondo organized events.

The following figure depicts the protocol that will be used by USAT on competition day:

HOLDING AREA  **INSPECTION STATION**  **COMPETITION AREA**

Holding Area

USA Taekwondo utilizes a Holding Area at its events. It is an area inside the venue designated for athletes and coaches to wait before their matches are about to be called onto the competition area. Announcements will be made throughout the day at the venue to inform competitors to report to the Holding Area at the appropriate time. **Forms** (Poomsae) competition will be announced by **division**. For **Sparring**, it will depend on the age group. Contestants competing in divisions that are in the 10-11 year old age group and younger will be announced by **division**, whereas those in the 12 – 13 year old age group and older will be announced by **match number**. It is important to know whether your athlete will be called by division or by match number.

The Holding Area is managed by the Events staff who will call the divisions/matches to the Inspection Station. The Events staff is there to make sure that all the athletes in the Holding Area are brought to the Inspection Station at the appropriate time.

Inspection Station

From the Holding Area, athletes will be ushered to the Inspection Station by the Events staff. Only one coach may accompany the athlete to the Inspection Station. There will be referees at the Inspection Station to ensure that the athletes have the proper equipment. Therefore, it is important to make sure that your athletes are wearing or have the approved competition equipment when reporting to the **Holding Area**. Coaches and athletes would not want to be scrambling around at the last minute trying to procure a bottle of water, find a hogu that fits properly, or a mouthpiece. It is helpful to maintain a checklist of items to ensure that you and your athletes are prepared for competition. Please note that if an athlete enters the competition area without the required equipment, he/she will risk having the referee declare a penalty. For the proper competition equipment, please refer to the *Equipment Standards* located at the end of this module.

Competition Area

General Information

- One coach per athlete will be permitted in the competition area.
- All coaches must leave the ring immediately after their competitor finishes his/her match.
- USAT reserves the right to suspend any coach who does not comply with the rules.
- Protest Rights will be given to a Level I coach or higher. It is the responsibility of the Level I Coach to fill out and submit the protest form to the proper officials within the allotted time.

Appropriate Etiquette in the Coach's Chair (for Sparring competitions)

This information pertains to the behavior of the coach when he/she is in the competition area and/or sitting in the coach's chair on the competition floor. Coaches should practice the following principles throughout all days of the competition within the competition area:

- Demonstrate courtesy and respect to their own athletes.
- Demonstrate courtesy and respect to the opposing athlete and coach.
- Demonstrate courtesy and respect to the referee at all times during the contest.
- Demonstrate composure and not let their emotions get the best of them. Referees can suspend a match and issue a "Kyung-go" or "Gam-jeom" to an athlete, if his/her coach leaves the coach's chair for any reason (including standing up, trying to talk back to the referee or the judges, making any comment about the referees, or is guilty of a serious violation of any kind). The referee can declare a contestant the loser without the principles of minus 4 penalty points when the contestant or coach ignores or violates the basic principles of conduct in Taekwondo competition or the fundamental principles of the Competition Rules or referee's directives.
- The characteristics and qualities of a coach as described in the module regarding the *Role of the Coach* apply to the behavior of the coach when he or she is in the chair.
- If a coach would like to obtain clarification on a call, he or she may raise his/her hand from the chair, however, it is the referee's discretion as to whether or not to acknowledge the coach.
- Any behavior that exhibits unsportsmanlike or inappropriate conduct can lead to the suspension of the coach from future USAT events.

Protest Procedures

Protests may only be made by a Level I or Level II Coach. The Coach must meet all parts of Article 23, Section 3 of the USAT Referee Manual, as follows:

1. In case there is an objection to a referee judgment, within 10 minutes after pertinent contest, the coach representing the athlete must submit an application for re-evaluation of decision (protest application) together with the prescribed, nonrefundable fee of one-hundred dollars (\$100.00) to the Tournament Director.
2. Deliberation of re-evaluation shall be carried out excluding those members of the same state of either contestant concerned, and resolution on deliberation shall be made by majority.
3. The members of the Board of Arbitration may summon the refereeing officials for confirmation of events. Video tapes will NOT be admitted as evidence to confirm or disconfirm the protest.
4. The resolution made by the Board of Arbitration will be final and no further means of appeal will be applied.

Protest forms can be obtained from the Tournament Director ONLY.

EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

Dobok – All contestants must wear a white Taekwondo V-neck uniform or dobok. Black belts must wear black collared uniforms. Color belts must wear white collared uniform (color belts cannot wear black collared uniforms). Patches, embroidery, logos, Team Names, Country Names, Athlete names, and stripes are permitted on uniform; they can be up to 12” x 4” on each extremity (leg or arm) for a total of four. Logos or names on the back of the uniform and patches on the chest area of the uniform are also allowed.

NO TAPE WILL BE ALLOWED ON ANY PART OF THE UNIFORM.

Belt Colors – Only WTF/USAT belt colors will be allowed (black, red, blue, green, and yellow). Belts with stripes will be allowed.

Gloves - 14-17 year old and Senior Black belts are required to wear taekwondo gloves. Gloves may be red, blue, or white. If the competitor chooses to wear red or blue gloves, they must correspond with the chest protector. For all other divisions, gloves are optional and must comply with the above rule.



Kneepads and Elbow pads -- The use of kneepads and/or elbow pads is OPTIONAL as long as they are the same material (foam, cloth, or vinyl) as the shin or instep protectors. Any color will be allowed.

Mouth Guard – All athletes are REQUIRED to use a mouth guard. A mouth cover may be used for those with braces if an orthodontist’s note is provided prior to the beginning of competition. Mouth guards may be any color.



Properly fitting Headgear – All participants must provide their own red, blue or white headgear with no markings other than corporate logos. Cracks or defects in the headgear will not be allowed.

Properly fitting Chest Protector – All athletes must provide their own red and blue **full body WTF chest protector**. Trunk protector (hogu) must cover valid scoring area, armpit to hip bone. All chest protectors must wrap around and cover the back of the athlete in the valid scoring area. All chest covers must be the same style as in the picture to the right.



Protective Cup – All male athletes are REQUIRED to wear a protective cup inside the pants during competition. This is optional for female athletes.

Shin & Instep protection – Shin and instep protectors are REQUIRED and they must be made of foam, cloth or vinyl products. The shin and instep protector may be red, blue, or white, but must correspond with your chest protector.

If you choose to wear an instep pad, it must be taped on and it must cover the area from the base of the toes, over the top of the instep with no more than two layers of tape. Additional shin or instep protection must be stamped by the Sports Medicine Department for the purpose of protecting an injury.

Important note: *USA Taekwondo will no longer allow foot gloves to be used at any USAT Event. This is not WTF approved equipment, and therefore will no longer be allowed for use at USA Taekwondo events.*

Forearm guard – Forearm guards are REQUIRED and it is mandatory that athletes get foam, cloth, or vinyl products. Any color forearm guard will be allowed.

Please Note: USA Taekwondo reserves the right to disallow any uniform or equipment if it is found to be offensive or degrading in any fashion.