



US NATIONAL SPARRING RANKING RULES

April 2022

1. Sparring Ranking Points Introduction

1.1. The USATKD ranking points will be applied to any recognized USATKD championships and USATKD sanctioned events

- World Taekwondo Junior and Cadet competitions:
 - Youth Olympic Games, World Taekwondo Junior World Championships, Junior Pan Am Championships and Cadet World Championships will earn athletes bonus points.
 - *Fight Off events for team slots will not earn ranking points*

1.2. USATKD will maintain ranking points for the following divisions in Sparring:

- Dragon (6-7): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and Black belts
- Tiger (8-9): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and Black belts
- Youth (10-11): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and Black belts
- Cadet (12-14): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, Grassroots Black, and World Class Black belts
- Junior (15-17): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and World Class Black belts
- Senior (17-32): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and World Class Black belts
- Ultra (33+): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and Black belts

2. Rankings and Points Standings

2.1. Points, rankings, and event results will be posted on the USATKD website.

2.2. Updated points will be posted the **first Wednesday of each month.**

- Once an event organizer has properly submitted all results, event referee documents, membership forms, payments, and other event documents to the USATKD office, then the points will be allocated. If an event takes place at the end of the month and results are not submitted in time to be posted by the first Wednesday of the immediately following month, those points will be included the month after.

2.3. Seeding

- Seeding for events will be based off the current posted rankings on the USATKD website. Event organizers must use the national points rankings that are posted the first Wednesday of the month that the event is held. If an event happens before the first Wednesday of the month, the event seeding will be based off the previous month's points. Since seeds will be based solely on the athletes' ranks, athletes from the same state/school may fight against each other in the first round of an event. This seeding process will not take into account the club an athlete is from.
- For USATKD 10.0 International sanctioned events, if a division has an international athlete confirmed, then seeding for only that division will be done randomly. Random seeding will be performed since the international athletes will not have a ranking in the USATKD Tusah National Ranking.
- There will not be any seeding for any World Taekwondo sanctioned event hosted by USATKD. Only the G2 divisions will be seeded based on the World Taekwondo rankings.

- If there are multiple athletes with the same rank, a random draw will be held to determine the applicable seed. Random draws will only be used to determine the seeding at an event when competing athletes are tied in the rank. Random draws will not be used to determine overall point standings. Ties will occur in the overall points ranking.
- *For example: If three athletes in one weight division have the same points-total and are ranked 4th in the rankings that are posted the first Wednesday of the month then these three athletes will be randomly seeded for the tournament. A random draw will be done for seeds 4, 5, and 6 for the tournament in which they are competing.*

Athlete Rankings as of Wednesday before event:

Athlete	Points	Rank
A	100	1
B	90	2
C	75	3
D	70	4
E	70	4
F	70	4
G	60	7
H	50	8
I	45	9
J	35	10

Event Seeding:

Seed #	Athlete
1	A
2	B
3	C
4	D/E/F
5	D/E/F
6	D/E/F
7	G
8	H
9	I
10	J

Seeds 4, 5, and 6 will be selected by a random draw between athletes D, E, and F. Since these three athletes are tied in the overall rankings. This will only be done for tournaments in which all three athletes are competing.

- If an athlete has earned points in multiple divisions, their seed for an event will be based off their rank in the weight division they are competing in during the tournament.

2.4. Weight Division

- An athlete must confirm their weight division by the final event registration deadline. Athletes must follow the event rules to determine if the weight division can be changed after the final registration deadline.
- An athlete can compete in multiple weight divisions throughout the year (but NOT at the same event) and will earn points towards a ranking in each weight division. In the event an athlete earns points in one weight division and then earns points in another weight division in different tournaments, the athlete will be ranked in the respective weight division, resulting in the same athlete being ranked in more than one weight division. An athlete’s points and rankings will only be considered from the points earned in the weight division in which they are competing at an event.

3. Allocation of Points

3.1. Domestic Events

- To receive points for fighting in a tournament it must be sanctioned by USATKD. If an athlete competes in an event held in the United States that is not sanctioned by USATKD, they will not receive ranking points for that tournament. A non-sanctioned event will not have any effect on an athlete’s ranking, and an athlete cannot earn points from competing in such an event. Please check with the tournament organizing committee if you are unsure whether an event is sanctioned or not.
- Each sanctioned event will be assigned a rating prior to registration opening based on the event organizer’s application.

Event Sanction Rankings

*points only awarded if tournament hosted by USATKD

Event Rankin	Type of Event	Event
2.0	Area events	Area clubs
4.0	Local Events	USATKD: 2 states/5 clubs
10.0	International Events	4 states, 10 clubs, & 5 countries (other than USA) <i>*Athletes must provide proof of residency and must be competing in sparring.</i> NCTA Collegiate Championships
12.0	State Championships	Hosted by a USATKD State Association
14.0	Regional Events	USATKD Regional Grand Prix Championships
16.0	National Events	USATKD Nationals
20.0	Major Event	US Open, USATKD Grand Slam, USATKD Grand Prix Final, *PATU Series, *PATU President’s Cup

3.2. Event Sanction Minimum Standards

- Events must meet minimum standards to receive the sanction level requested. If an event does not meet the minimum standards, that event will be regulated down to the sanction level where the minimum standards are met.

3.3. State

- For a state to be considered in attendance at a sanctioned event, at least 10 unique sparring athletes need to be registered and confirmed for the event. The event will not be considered to have a state represented at the tournament unless there are 10 different athletes with confirmed registrations 10 days prior to the start of the event. One individual registering for multiple events only counts as one registered athlete. If there are fewer than 10 sparring athletes confirmed for the event, it will not count as a state being represented at the event.

3.4. Clubs

- For a club to be considered in attendance at a sanctioned event, at least 5 unique sparring athletes need to be registered and confirmed for the event. The event will not be considered to have a club represented at the tournament unless there are 5 different individuals with confirmed 10 days prior to the start of the event. One individual registering for multiple events only counts as one registered athlete. If there are fewer than 5 sparring athletes confirmed for the event, it will not count as a club being represented at the event.

3.5. International

- To receive credit as an international event there needs to be at least 1 sparring athlete from a country, other than the United States, registered and confirmed 10 days prior to the start of the event. The country will need to have only 1 sparring athlete registered and confirmed to have representation of a country. One individual registering for multiple events only counts as one registered athlete. The athlete must provide proof of residency for that country. It will be the responsibility of the event host to provide copies of each athlete's proof of residency by the deadline of their sanction level approval.

	Minimum Number of Sparring Athletes Needed Per
State	10 per state
Club	5 per club
International	1 per country

- Tournament hosts will submit a sanction application, which must be approved by USATKD. Organizers will be allowed to select their desired event rating. If an event fails to meet the required standards set forth by the sanction policies ten days prior to start of the event, the event will be changed to the appropriate sanction level. Athletes will receive points for the actual event sanction level of the tournament. An event cannot move up in rate if it meets the higher-rating requirements. Athletes will only receive points based off the event rating. If an event fails to meet the event standards, the event host will be fined.

3.6. Sanctioning Points

- Below are the maximum points that can be earned for a USATKD sanctioned event determined by the event rating, provided the division meets the minimum requirements.

3.7. Domestic Points

- Points for all sanctioned events will be based on the number of competitors competing in the division.
- If there is only one athlete in a division at the event the single athlete will receive 25% points for that sanctioned event.
- If there are three or less athletes in a division at an event the athletes will receive a maximum of 50% of the points for that sanctioned event.
- If there are four or more athletes in a division at an event the athletes will receive full points for that sanctioned event.
- To receive the base points, the athlete must participate at the event, the athlete must check-in, weigh-in, and step on the mat with the referee and be declared the winner.
- Athletes will receive full points by competing at their home state even if the division does not have at least four or more athletes. Athletes not from that state will receive the points described above. *Example: If an athlete from Colorado competes in the Colorado State Championships and only two athletes are in the division, the athlete from Colorado will receive 120 points for winning first place. If the second athlete is from Utah, they will only receive 50% of the second place points.*

	US 2.0	US 4.0	US 6.0	US 8.0	US 10.0	US 12.0	US 14.0	US 16.0	US 18.0	US 20.0
1st	20	40	60	80	100	120	140	160	180	200
2nd	15	30	45	60	75	90	105	120	135	150
3rd (SF)	11	23	34	45	56	68	79	90	101	113
5th (QF)	8	17	25	34	42	51	59	68	76	85
9 th (R16)	6	13	19	25	32	38	44	51	57	64
17th (R32)	5	10	14	19	24	28	33	38	43	48
33rd (R64)	4	8	11	14	18	21	25	29	32	36
65th (R128)	3	6	8	11	13	16	19	22	24	27

3.8. Points from Sanctioned Events:

- An athlete will only be permitted to earn a maximum amount of points for US 2.0, US 4.0, and US 10.0 sanctioned events each calendar year. A maximum of 120 points can be earned from US 2.0, maximum of 180 points earned from US 4.0, and a maximum of 220 points earned from 10.0 events can count toward an athlete’s overall rank.
- Athletes will be limited to the number of State Championships they can compete in annually (January 1 – December 31). Athletes can earn points for their overall ranking in a total of three State Championships. An athlete can compete in their home state and any two State Championships.
- If an athlete competes in more than two USATKD State Championships outside their home state, they will receive the highest amount of points they earned from the two state tournaments.
- If a state does not host a State Championship, an athlete in that state can attend a third state. If state hosts a State Championship and an athlete does not attend their home state, they cannot attend a third State Championship during the year.
- There will not be a cap on the total number of points an athlete can earn by competing at US 16.0 and US 20.0 sanctioned events.

Sanction	Maximum Number of Points (per calendar year)
2.0	120
4.0	180 (USATKD Sanctioned Event)
10.0	220
12.0	3 State Championships (home state & two other states)
14.0	1 Regional Event
16.0	No limit to number of events
20.0	No limit to number of events

3.9. Competing at Events

- To receive points an athlete must weigh-in, step on the mat, fight and complete the match. An athlete cannot “participate” to earn the points, meaning weighing in, stepping on the mat, and withdrawing without fighting. If an athlete withdraws (WDR) and does not fight or is disqualified (DSQ or DQB), they will not earn any points for that match. If a Referee stops the contest (RSC) due to injury or due medical, the athlete will receive points for that match. It is only when the athlete or the athlete’s coach withdraws the athlete or bow outs from the match the points will be nullified for that match.
- To receive a medical withdrawal, the medical staff must say that the athlete cannot safely continue.

- If an athlete competes and wins their first match but they bow out in any upcoming match in the tournament and does not fight, that athlete will only receive the points from the previous match that was won. Athletes will not receive points for making it to a round but then bowing out of that round. If an athlete begins a match but bows out with no injury and does not complete the match, that athlete will receive the points from the previous match. The athlete will not receive the available points for the match they bowed out in.
- If an athlete is disqualified during a match, the opponent of the disqualified athlete will receive the points from that match if they are declared the winner. The disqualified athlete will only earn the points gained from the previous matches won.
- Athletes will only earn points in the weight division they compete in, whether the athlete loses or wins the match. As long as an athlete fights in their match, they will receive points for that round.
- Athletes can only compete in one sanctioned tournament within a five-day period or per weekend, Friday through Monday. An athlete cannot compete and earn points in multiple tournaments in the same weekend. If an athlete does compete in two sanctioned events over the same weekend, they will only receive points for the first tournament they compete at. Example: An athlete cannot compete in the Colorado State Championships on Saturday and then compete in the Nevada State Championships Sunday. If the athlete does compete in both tournaments the athlete will only receive points for the Colorado State Championships.
- USATKD does not recommend Juniors and Seniors compete more than once every two weeks.
- USATKD does not recommend Cadets and younger compete more than once every month.
- Below is an example of a 16-person US 8.0 Event. Everyone fights each match and there are no ranked athletes competing in the event. Each athlete will only earn the points available for that event.



- Points will not be combined if they compete in different weight divisions throughout the year. Athletes can earn points in multiple weight divisions.

3.10. International Events

- No points will be earned for international tournaments sanctioned by World Taekwondo. The only exception will be the US Open and PATU Series and PATU President's Cup tournaments hosted by USATKD. All athletes can earn points towards their overall ranking in divisions contested at these two tournaments. These tournaments will be considered US 20.0 ranked events.
- Athletes competing internationally can qualify for the National Team/Team Trials via their World Taekwondo ranking (world divisions). Athletes in the Top 20 of any division will be eligible for the Team Trial. Athletes ranked in the Top 4 of the World Taekwondo Ranking will be considered Dominant Athlete and automatically be named to the U.S. National Team, except in the case where there are two or more U.S. athletes in the Top 4, in which case those athletes will fight off for the U.S, National Team spot.
- Cadet and Juniors will earn 250 bonus points toward their USATKD ranking for the World Taekwondo Junior World Championships, Junior Pan Am Championships, and Youth Olympic Games, and World Taekwondo Cadet World Championships.

4. Validation of Points

- 4.1. Points will be updated as events are finished, and the organizer properly submits all requirements and results. Points will be earned in the weight division an athlete competes in. Athletes can earn points in multiple divisions and these points will NEVER be combined.

4.2. Changing Belt Color During the Year

- If an athlete changes belt colors after all state championships have ended but before Nationals, the points they have earned up to that point will decrease by 70%. This decrease is to prevent athletes from fighting at a lower belt color, then moving up a belt color and having a higher ranking at Nationals than someone who has been fighting at the higher level since the beginning of the year. The points at the new belt color and updated current points from the old belt color will remain for 12 months.

4.3. Example: Player A starts the year as a Blue Belt, but in April moves up to a Red Belt before Nationals.

Blue Belt		Red		Blue Belt Final	
Marc		July	October	120	
CO State	NV State	Nationals	US 8.0		
60	60	100	80		
New Points Now Competing as Red Belt:					
Marc		July	October	Final Red Belt	
CO State	NV State	Nationals	US 8.0		
24	24	100	80	228	

- If that athlete moves up in belt color after Nationals, the points they have earned will decrease by 60%. The athlete will then keep 100% of the points earned at the new belt color. The points at the new belt color and updated current points from the old belt color will remain until the end of the year.

4.4. Example: Player A starts the year as a Blue Belt, after Nationals moved to a Red Belt,

Blue			Red Belt		Blue Belt Final	
Marc			July	October	220	
CO State	NV State	Nationals	US 8.0			
60	60	100	80			
New Points Now Competing as Red Belt:						
Marc			July	October	Final Red Belt Total	
CO State	NV State	Nationals	US 8.0			
30	30	50	80	190		

- If athletes change to World Class Black Belts at Cadet, Junior, or Senior level, they will keep 30% of the points earned from events at the lower belt color, since these divisions fight for the potential to attend World and Pan Am Championship events. The points at the new belt color and updated current points from the old belt color will remain until the end of the year.

4.5. Example: Player A starts year as Red Belt. After Nationals moves to World Class Black Belt.

Red Belt			World Class Black Belt
Marc		July	October
CO State 60	NV State 60	Nationals 100	US 8.0 Event 80

Red Belt Final Ranking
220

New Points Now Competing as World Class Black Belt:				
Marc		July	October	Final WC Black Belt Total
CO State 18	NV State 18	Nationals 30	US 8.0 Event 80	146

- Grassroots points do NOT carry over to World Class points.