BATTLE OF THE DRAGONS

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

COMPLETE OFFICIAL COMPETITION GUIDELINES — 2027

Public Competition Guide: Division expectations, judging emphasis, safety, and conduct. Tournament officials retain authority over ring procedure, safety decisions, and final rule interpretations.

TRADITIONAL KATA / FORMS

Competitors perform a recognized traditional kata or form consistent with their style or system. Traditional technique, stances, rhythm, focus, balance, power, control, and martial application should be preserved. Music and excessive creative alterations are not part of this division.

Emphasis: Traditional technique • Stances • Balance • Power • Focus • Control • Rhythm • Execution

TRADITIONAL WEAPONS

Competitors perform a traditional weapons form using a recognized martial arts weapon appropriate to their system. The weapon must remain under control throughout the performance. Safety is mandatory.

Emphasis: Weapon control • Traditional technique • Stances • Balance • Power • Fluidity • Safety • Execution

CHINESE FORMS

For Chinese martial arts forms and appropriate traditional empty-hand routines. Performance should demonstrate the characteristics of the competitor's Chinese martial arts system.

Emphasis: Technique • Posture • Coordination • Balance • Power • Rhythm • Control • Presentation

KENPO FORMS

Competitors perform a Kenpo/Kempo form or kata reflecting their system's technical principles, with clean combinations, transitions, strong fundamentals, and control.

Emphasis: Technique • Combinations • Stances • Speed • Power • Focus • Balance • Control

TAEKWONDO — KOREAN & AMERICAN STYLES

Open to Korean Traditional Taekwondo and American Taekwondo systems, including recognized schools, organizations, and lineages. Competitors may perform a recognized Form, Poomsae, or Hyung appropriate to their system, rank, and level. Competitors are not penalized simply because terminology or technical interpretation differs among recognized Taekwondo systems.

Emphasis: Accuracy & technique • Stances • Kicking • Balance • Power • Speed • Control • Focus • Rhythm • Transitions • Presentation

OPEN FORMS

Competitors may perform a martial arts form or kata incorporating techniques from different martial arts styles. Music is not required. Strong martial arts fundamentals remain essential.

Emphasis: Technique • Balance • Power • Control • Difficulty • Execution • Presentation

CREATIVE FORMS

Competitors have greater freedom to create an original routine using traditional and non-traditional martial arts techniques, dynamic combinations, and appropriate acrobatics while maintaining recognizable martial arts content.

Emphasis: Technique • Difficulty • Creativity • Control • Execution • Presentation

MUSICAL FORMS

Martial arts routines performed to music. Competitors should coordinate techniques and movement with the music while maintaining strong martial arts fundamentals.

Emphasis: Technique • Synchronization • Timing • Difficulty • Control • Creativity • Presentation

POINT SPARRING

A controlled stop-and-score competition using legal, controlled techniques to designated scoring areas. The referee stops action for recognized scoring exchanges and restarts the match. Excessive contact, uncontrolled techniques, dangerous behavior, and attacks to prohibited areas are not permitted.

Emphasis: Clean legal technique • Control • Timing • Distance • Accuracy • Sportsmanship • Ring awareness

CONTINUOUS SPARRING

Controlled combinations and ongoing action rather than stopping after each scoring technique. Competitors demonstrate legal techniques, combinations, movement, defense, ring control, conditioning, and control. Excessive or uncontrolled contact is not permitted.

Emphasis: Legal techniques • Combinations • Control • Defense • Movement • Ring control • Sportsmanship

SPORTSMANSHIP & RESPECT — POINT / CONTINUOUS

Respect and good sportsmanship are required at all times. Verbal insults, offensive language, threats, intimidation, taunting, or disrespect toward competitors are prohibited. Competitors must also respect referees, judges, coaches, staff, and spectators. Misconduct may result in a warning, penalty, or disqualification.

Emphasis: Respect • Discipline • Control • Sportsmanship

SELF DEFENSE

Competitors demonstrate practical defenses against simulated grabs, holds, strikes, kicks, or other attacks. All attacks and responses must be controlled and rehearsed. Techniques should demonstrate awareness, proper application, effectiveness, timing, and a clear defensive response. Excessive or uncontrolled contact is prohibited.

Emphasis: Effectiveness • Practicality • Technique • Execution • Speed • Control • Timing • Reaction • Variety • Realism • Presentation

CREATIVE BREAKING

Competitors are responsible for bringing their own breaking materials and any necessary equipment. Materials, holders, setups, and procedures must meet event safety requirements and may be inspected by officials. Competitors must set up and remove materials promptly and leave the area clean and safe. Unsafe materials or procedures that put anyone at unnecessary risk are prohibited.

Emphasis: Technique • Control • Difficulty • Accuracy • Creativity • Organization • Successful Execution • Safety

GENERAL SAFETY & CONDUCT

Competitors must follow referee and ring-official instructions. Appropriate control, respectful conduct, and sportsmanship are required. Officials may stop or modify a performance or match when necessary for safety. Protective equipment must meet the requirements announced for the applicable division.

Emphasis: Safety • Respect • Control • Sportsmanship