

Article 1. Junior Kyorugi (Sparring) Safety Rules

1. General Rules

A. Ages 11 & Under Elite Open (All Belts) and Ages 11 & Under World Class Color Belt Divisions

1. In National Qualifier and National Junior Olympic Championships sparring competition, the rules concerning a kick to the face shall be as follows:
 - a. Any technique contacted to the head area which does not make any injury, will be given a warning by the referee (“Kyong-go”).
 - b. Any technique, which makes injury to the head area will result in a one-point deduction by the referee (“Gam-jeom”).
 - c. If the competitor cannot continue because of the injury to the head area, the attacker will be disqualified.

NOTE: Inability to continue because of fright, crying or loss of will following a kick to the head which did not cause injury does not constitute grounds for disqualification of the attacker.

B. World Class Divisions Ages 13 and Under (Black Belts), Elite Open 12-17 Year Old Divisions (All Belts)

1. In National Qualifier and National Junior Olympic Championships sparring competition, the rules concerning a kick to the face shall be as follows:
 - a. The competitor is allowed to kick to the facial area; however, the kick must be light contact with absolute control without causing any injury or excessive contact, or the appropriate penalty shall be invoked.
 - b. The competitor who executes a successful technique (light contact without causing any injury) shall be awarded one point.
 - c. The competitor who executes a kick to the face which results in a minor injury shall receive a one-point (“Gam-jeom”) deduction. A minor injury is defined as abrasion or bleeding caused by non-excessive contact. The referee, with or without consultation with the tournament physician, shall determine if the abrasion or bleeding is a minor injury, and if the attack is a non-excessive one.
 - d. The competitor who executes a kick to the face which results in the inability of the opponent to continue sparring because of injury shall be disqualified. The referee, with or without consultation with the tournament physician, shall determine if the attack is an excessive contact, and if the injury is a major one.

NOTE: Inability to continue because of fright, crying or loss of will following a legal kick to the head which did not cause injury does not constitute grounds for disqualification of the attacker.

C. World Class 14–17 Year Old Black Belts and Senior Division (All Belts)

1. In National Qualifier, Junior Olympic Championships, and Senior National Championship sparring competition, the Senior Black Belt adult rules shall apply for these divisions.

Excessive contact to the facial or head area:

Even in the absence of visible injury, such as slight bleeding or abrasion, the referee may deem the contact to be excessive, and declare the appropriate penalty.

Where Junior Competition Rules are in effect per Article 1.B above, the competitor who executes a successful technique to the face (light contact without causing any injury) shall be awarded one point.

Two point scores for head contact shall not be awarded under Junior Competition Rules, nor are extra points awarded in the event the referee begins an 8-count for a legal technique to the trunk area. The Bonus Point ONLY applies to the senior competition rules.

Under Junior Competition Rules, the referee should NOT give an 8-count for ANY technique, even a legal one, to the head area; if a kick is powerful enough to warrant an 8-count, it should be considered excessive, and the appropriate penalty should be declared. However, the referee can and should begin an 8-count for a legal kick to the trunk area that results in a knock-down condition; however, in this case, no Bonus Point is awarded.