

**Chairman Communication 035/2024****To:** All ITKF Member Organizations**Subject:** ITKF 22<sup>nd</sup> World Championship - Rules

Dear ITKF Member Organizations,

Below are additional clarifications regarding the adjustments to the rules that will be in force for the World Championships to be held in Portugal next October and announced in the event's initial circular.

We inform you that the changes were prepared and proposed by the ITKF Technical Committee with the aim of preserving the physical integrity of the athletes and offering pedagogical progression that respects the age group, the psychomotor development process and the complexity of the competitive activities. These deliberations were presented, discussed and duly approved unanimously by the ITKF Directors at the Directors Meeting 22/2024 held on May 11.

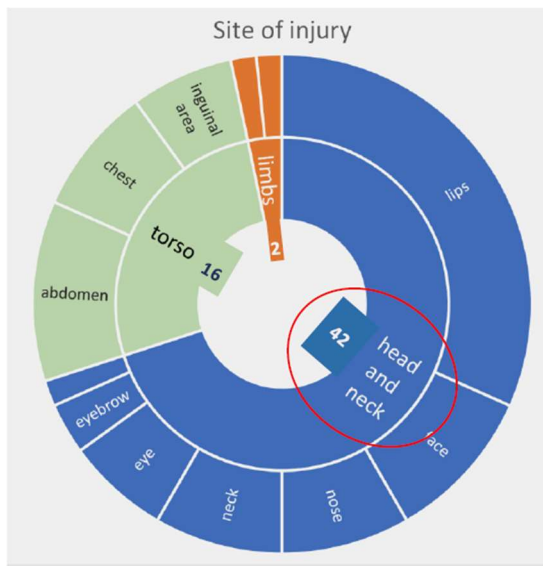
**A) Replacing Ko-Go Kumite with Jyu-Ippon-Kumite in the Cadets' Fuku-Go competition.**

This replacement was proposed to preserve the physical integrity of the athletes, since within this age group we have participants with very diverse heights and weights due to the growth spurt. Another relevant factor is that the body structure is still in the process of development and possible shocks of greater intensity can cause significant damage.

**B) Suspension of the use of Haito in this event.**

This proposal also followed the concern for the physical integrity of the athletes, since the use of the Haito technique is often done inappropriately and without control. The consequence can be seen in the medical report of the World Championship held in Slovenia in 2022, in which the highest rates of incidents was due to the inappropriate and uncontrolled use of the Haito technique, causing numerous injuries to the eyes, head and neck. Incidents with Haito were also reported at the Pan American and European Championships. In the European Championship, there was contact on the neck with a risk of fracture in the cervical vertebrae.

These facts could not be left without preventive action, the Technical Committee proposed the suspension of the use of the Haito technique in this event so that everyone is aware of the seriousness of the inappropriate use of this technique and its consequences. Also, so that coaches and senseis correct their athletes so that the Haito is used correctly in an efficient and controlled manner.



2022 World Cup Medical Report Chart

### C) Katas in the Cadets and Juniors Categories

As was the case in the Slovenian World Championships and regional championships, the use of katas was limited, but now we will use the same criteria that will also be followed in the graduation exams. For the **Cadets category**, Bassai-Dai, Jion and Kanku-Dai will be used (the same ones required in the Shodan exam) plus the Heian series (2 to 5) and Tekki Shodan. For the **Juniors category**, in addition to the above, Jitte and Enpi (used in the Nidan exam) will be added. Since Shodan, according to ITKF rules, can only be made official from the age of 14, it is educational and appropriate that athletes in these categories (14 to 17 years old) present kata compatible with their age group and their graduation.

We would like to make it clear that we respect and appreciate the opinions of coaches and technical directors, but our mission as ITKF directors is, above all, to preserve the physical integrity of athletes in our organization's competitions. We will include in the agenda of the World Championship in Portugal a meeting with all technical directors of the affiliated countries for a joint discussion with a view to the upcoming technical and competitive events.

I believe that it is up to all of us to reread what our great Master Nishiyama thought about competition, which goes far beyond simply winning or losing. His vision is didactic, pedagogical and ethical. Below are some excerpts from the rulebook and the technical manual for our joint reflection.

***“In order to maintain the essence of martial arts, competition rules must incorporate the technical principles and philosophy of the discipline.”***

***“Competition rules must also ensure the safety of athletes...”***

***“ As a competitive art, Traditional Karate uses competition to further training and to enhance development by improving emotional stability, mental discipline, and proper etiquette. Taken together, these goals form the underpinnings of the Traditional Karate competition rules”.***

*We conclude with article 14 of the general section of the competition rules, which states the following regarding the rules:*

***“ Any changes or amendments to the Traditional Karate Competition Rules shall be enacted only upon 2/3-majority vote of the Technical Committee and the approval of the ITKF Directors Meeting”.***

Best regards,



Gilberto Gaertner  
ITKF Chairman