

## 2014 Rule Changes

1. The age determining date for Taekwondo competitions has been changed from August 31 to December 31. A competitor will compete all year at the age they will be any time during the calendar year.

2. A Special Needs Division category of competition has been added to AAU Taekwondo. Forms and Point Sparring may be offered at the local qualifiers and will be offered at the National Championship competition. The rules governing this new category of competition are outlined in the 2014 AAU Taekwondo Handbook. While all tournament directors holding district qualifiers are encouraged to offer Special Needs divisions at their events, qualifying at a local district qualifier is not mandatory for Special Needs competitors to participate at the National event.

3. AAU Taekwondo has procured a vendor for a Protector and Scoring System (PSS). The system is called KP&P. PSS will be used for all 10–32 year old Black Belt divisions at the AAU Taekwondo National Championships and for Team Trials competition. Using PSS at local AAU sanctioned events is optional, but if used, the equipment must be KP&P.

4. When using PSS, sensing socks and gloves are required. When using PSS, the sensing socks must be KP&P. Gloves must be WTF approved white only. Gloves and socks are optional for any division not using PSS also, but if used, must be WTF approved.

5. For all Olympic style sparring divisions, points will be awarded for permitted techniques delivered to legal scoring areas (the blue or red colored area only), regardless of the use of PSS.

- A. One (1) point will be awarded for a valid attack (hand or foot) on the legal scoring area of the trunk.
- B. Two (2) points will be awarded for a valid turning kick to the legal scoring area of the trunk done in continuous motion.
- C. Three (3) points will be awarded for a valid kick that is delivered accurately to the head.
- D. Four (4) points will be awarded for a valid turning kick to the head done in continuous motion.

6. There are no longer bonus points for a knockdown resulting in an eight-count.

7. **For Olympic style sparring only** the gap has been increased to a 12 point gap.

8. The rules governing point gap for Olympic style sparring are as follows:

All Olympic style sparring divisions using 2 rounds will be guaranteed the first round regardless of the gap. If there is a 12 point gap at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> round, the match is over. If there is not a 12 point gap at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> round, the 2<sup>nd</sup> round will begin. If a gap occurs at any time in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, the match is over.

All Olympic style sparring divisions using 3 rounds will be guaranteed the two rounds regardless of the gap. If there is a 12 point gap at the end of the 2nd round, the match is over. If there is not a 12 point gap at the end of the 2nd round, the 3rd round will begin. If a gap occurs at any time in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round, the match is over.

9. The rules governing point gap for Point style sparring are as follows:

All Point style sparring divisions using 2 rounds will be guaranteed the first round regardless of the gap. If there is a 7 point gap at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> round, the match is over. If there is not a 7 point gap at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> round, the 2<sup>nd</sup> round will begin. If a gap occurs at any time in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, the match is over.

10. Changes have been made that affect what age groups in which an athlete can compete.

**Junior Divisions:** Ages 5-17 must compete in their respective age groups. If there is no competition in a competitor's age group, tournament directors reserve the right to move that competitor up in age.

**Team Trial Age Groups' Considerations:** Black Belt competitors in the 10–11 year old age group will **not** be allowed to move to the 12–14 year old age group unless authorized by the tournament director to provide competition for an athlete. At the AAU TKD National Championship competition, Black Belt competitors in the 12–14 or 15–17 year old age groups will **not be required** to move up to the next age group.

11. Changes to Team Eligibility Requirements.

The AAU Taekwondo Program will conduct competition for the purpose of selecting National AAU Taekwondo Teams to represent it at non-AAU and International WTF/Olympic style competitions. The AAU Taekwondo program shall use December 31<sup>st</sup> as the age determining date for all competitions. Athletes shall compete all year as the age they are any time during that calendar year.

For the four team member age groups, 10–11, 12–14, 15–17, and 18–32, this means athletes shall compete in that age group throughout the year including qualifying events, National Championship and Team Trials. No athlete will be required to move up to the next age group under any circumstances.

Should a Cadet or Junior Team Member 'age' into the next age bracket prior to actual team travel for competition purposes, those athletes will simply move up the appropriate age bracket at that time. Second place finishers from Team Trials may be invited to travel with the team to fill the vacated spot at their own expense. Should this alternate athlete medal, a portion of their expenses will also be reimbursed by AAU Taekwondo.

12. Headgear Requirements for Olympic Sparring Competitors.

For Olympic sparring competitors, the red competitor must wear red headgear and the blue competitor must wear blue headgear. White headgear is no longer an option.