

MSMAA RULES & REGULATIONS-KATA & WEAPONS

Judges will watch all competitors before giving out scores. Since the scoring system is based on comparative scoring it is imperative that we watch all competitors before deciding the individual scores.

During the championships three judges will be used. The "0.02 Point Maximum Deviation" rule is in effect. This rule is used to limit the impact of a judge's score that is significantly different from the other judges. Once a form is finished and before the scores are shown to the competitor and spectators, the centre referee will say "Ready," then "Check" at which point the three judges will show their scores to each other. The centre referee will look at the 3 scores to determine the middle score (e.g., a 9.92, 9.96 and 9.95 – the 9.95 is the middle score. The other two scores must be .02 from the middle score so the 9.92 must be changed to a 9.93).

Other than this obligatory adjustment, judges are not allowed to change their scores. If no score is 0.02 higher or lower than the middle score, no adjustment is made. After making any necessary changes, the centre referee will say "Score" and all three judges will subsequently show their scores to the competitor, scorekeepers and to the audience.

Overview:

- In all form divisions there is a two-minute time limit
- the competitor has the choice to introduce themselves or not in all forms divisions
- In all musical divisions (Manitoba) lyrics are allowed in the musical division so long as the lyrics do not contain any profanity
- If a competitor stops his or her form, they cannot start again. If a competitor drops his or her weapon they are disqualified
- Competitors must either wear a traditional uniform or a country team uniform. No metal jewellery is allowed to be worn. If a stud cannot come out then a band aid must cover the stud
- Judges will inspect all weapons prior to starting a division
- Judges will review division criteria prior to starting the event. Any protests of jewellery, uniforms, or weapons being used will be decided before the event starts in order to give competitors a chance to comply with the rules and avoid disqualification.

Traditional Weapons Forms:

In this division competitors must capture the essence of classic martial arts movements and traditional techniques with a weapon. Emphasis is placed on execution of technique, application of technique, balance, speed, power, solid stances and focus. All weapons used must be of a traditional nature. (No plastic weapons.) Modifications to forms are acceptable as long as they only include traditional techniques.

Commentary: Since the MSMAA is an open organization inclusive of all styles, we expect to see adaptations of traditional forms. However, there will be no releases, complicated spins or throws with the weapon. No plastic weapons (Manitoba) will be used. The centre judge will inspect all weapons before the division starts.

Creative Weapons Forms:

This division allow competitors the opportunity to include contemporary martial arts techniques that have evolved over the past 20 years. These moves include, for example, one handed spins or complicated passes of the weapon around the body for example, competitors may use the newer light weight weapons. Competitor can perform releases, throws, palm spins or gymnastic moves (Manitoba). Competitors are judged on execution of technique, balance, speed, power, solid stances and focus. **Commentary:** This division allows competitors a bridge between the traditional weapons divisions and musical open weapons division. Complicated spins and pass-offs are allowed however, competitors must still demonstrate good martial arts technique.

Open/Musical Weapons:

In this division judges are looking for manipulation of the weapon, speed of techniques, degree of difficulty, showmanship, balance, power and focus. Competitors have the option to use music and can use any throw, release or gymnastic move.

If a competitor's music or an alternative song selection or music player fails and the 2-minute time elapses, the competitor is disqualified. No competitor will be allowed to perform without music. Judges may take into account how well the form corresponds to the music. **Commentary:** Even though competitors may use any type of martial arts or gymnastic movement in their form, they must still demonstrate good martial arts skills.

Traditional Team Forms:

Adults/ Juniors This division is open to Teams of 2 to 5 competitors. Competitors on the Team may be of any age or gender.

Open Team Forms: This division is open to Teams of 2 to 5 competitors. Competitors on the Team may be of any age or gender. Judges are looking for synchronization, showmanship, speed of techniques, degree of difficulty, execution of techniques, overall team power, balance, speed and focus. Music and/or weapons may be used in this division. **Commentary:** No props may be used in this division. Competitors may at times do individual movements or techniques. However, the overall concept is still a "team" form and not a demonstration show.

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