



Ronin Samurai Challenge Tournament Rules

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A. GENERAL RULES

1. 4 Towers Martial Arts reserves the right of admission and/or participation.
2. It is the responsibility of each Sensei, Instructor, Coach, Person in Charge, and competitor to understand the tournament rules.
3. The presence of the public or any person not authorized in the competition area is completely prohibited.
4. Unsuitable or disrespectful conduct by the competitor, Sensei, Instructor, Coach, and/or Person in Charge, will cause the competitor to be disqualified automatically and/or the whole school or organization.
5. The category (i.e. Kata Ages 5-6 Boys and Kata ages 5-6 Girls) will be announced three (3) times. If the competitor is not present, not in the proper uniform, and/or not wearing the proper safety equipment at the time of last announcement, he/she will be disqualified.
6. All participants must be properly uniformed and identified according to style and/or organization. When competing the following are not permitted: excessive make up, jewelry, watches, cell phones, or any unsuitable clothing.
7. Due to COVID-19 and in accordance with CDC guidelines, all competitors will wear masks covering their nose and mouth at all times while inside the venue. The only exception is when the competitor is on the mats competing.
8. No refunds of registration fees for any reason to competitors that have already registered. The tournament director may offer a credit for a future event.
9. All Referees, Judges, and Arbitrators will be chosen by the Tournament Director. He will make sure that they are properly trained.
10. The competitor's age as of January 1st will be the corresponding age and category that they will compete in until December 31st.
11. The competitors will be divided according to age, rank, and gender. The ages are as follows: 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, and 15-17. The ranks are as follows: Novice, Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, and Black Belt.

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12. There will be a Grand Champion competition in Kata (forms), Extreme Kata (extreme forms), Kobudo (weapons), Extreme Kobudo (extreme weapons), and Kumite (sparring). The Judges scores will be recorded, given to the scorekeepers, and then the scores will read at the awards ceremony at the end of the tournament. *The score will not be announced during the Grand Champion competition!*
13. There must be at least two (2) competitors in each category in order to be eligible to compete for the Grand Champion award. (i.e. If there is only one competitor in Kata Ages 11-12 Girls the competitor automatically receives first place when they compete but they will not be eligible to compete in Grand Champion).
14. A Student who competes in Special Warrior Division can not compete in any other divisions.
15. Alterations to these Rules will not be permitted unless they are written by the Tournament Director.

B. KATA (FORMS):

1. All Kata (forms) will be judged based on traditional Kata (forms) guidelines. No exceptions.
2. The competitor will give the name of the Kata (form) that will be executed.
3. The scores will be in the following ranges based on the competitor's division: Novice/Beginner from 7.0 to 8.0, Intermediate/Advanced from 8.0 to 9.0, and Black Belts from 9.0 to 10. An average score of ending in .4, .5, or .6 will be given to the first competitor of each category. Any Judge who has a student competing in their ring shall either give their student .5 or have a replacement Judge take their spot. This is to keep the judging fair and consistent.
4. In the categories ages 12 and over, if the competitor forgets or makes a mistake in his/her Kata (form) he/she will be disqualified. In the categories from ages 11 and under, the competitor will have one chance to do complete the Kata (form) again. Any competitor that walks out of the ring will be disqualified no matter what age.
5. In the case of a tie, the winner will be decided by the Judge's flags or hands.
6. Kata (forms) competition is open to all styles and will be divided according to age, rank, and gender.

B. (a) EXTREME KATA (EXTREME FORMS):

1. Extreme Kata (Extreme Forms) is defined as an event involving an individual performing a pre-arranged series of empty handed movements that may or may not involve the use of music. Competitors may use any type of gymnastic, acrobatics, splits, or other freestyle type movements. Extreme Kata (Extreme Forms) must include at least one (1) inversion where the legs go over the head. Forward and/or backward rolls are **NOT** considered inversions. Competitors **MUST** bring their own appropriate music and their own device to play the music.

(Music with profanity, violence, or any type of inappropriate words or suggestions will constitute in immediate competitor disqualification).

C. KOBUDO (WEAPON FORMS):

1. All Kobudo (weapon forms) will be judged based on traditional Kobudo (weapon forms) guidelines. No exceptions. No music will be allowed during the performance of the Kobudo (weapon forms).

2. The competitor will give the name of the Kobudo (weapon form) that will be executed.

3. The scores will be in the following ranges based on the competitor's division: Novice/Beginner from 7.0 to 8.0, Intermediate/Advanced from 8.0 to 9.0, and Black Belts from 9.0 to 10. An average score of ending in .4, .5, or .6 will be given to the first competitor of each category. Any Judge who has a student competing in their ring shall either give their student .5 or have a replacement Judge take their spot. This is to keep the judging fair and consistent.

4. In the categories ages 12 and over, if the competitor forgets or makes a mistake in his/her Kobudo (weapon forms) he/she will be disqualified. In the categories from ages 11 and under, the competitor will have one chance to do complete the Kata (form) again. Any competitor that walks off the ring will be disqualified no matter what age.

5. In the case of a tie, the winner will be decided by the Judge's flags or hands.

6. Kobudo (Weapon Forms) competition is open to all styles and will be divided according to age, rank and gender.

7. All weapons must be inspected and approved by the center Judge before starting the competition.

C. (a) EXTREME KOBUDO (EXTREME WEAPONS FORM):

1. Extreme Kobudo (Extreme weapons form) division is an event involving an individual performing a pre-arranged series of movements that include the use of a clearly identified weapon. Although multiple weapon types may be used, a weapon must be in the athlete's hand or hands at all times, with the exception of at least one (1) full release of the weapon. Weapons may **NOT** be used to strike floor at any time. Extreme Kobudo (Extreme weapons form) must include at least one (1) full inversion, where both legs go over the head. A forward and/or a backward roll is **NOT** considered an inversion. All types of gymnastic movements are allowed. Judging will be based equally on creativity and manipulation of the weapon. Competitors **MUST** bring their own appropriate music and their own device to play the music.

(Music with profanity, violence, or any type of inappropriate words or suggestions will constitute in immediate competitor disqualification).

D. KUMITE (POINT SPARRING – LIGHT CONTACT)

1. The following safety equipment is mandatory and must be in good condition: punches, kicks, shin guards, helmets, and mouthpiece. In addition, groin protectors are mandatory for boys. The following safety equipment is allowable and must be in good condition: chest protectors and face shields. It is the responsibility of each competitor to have his/her own safety equipment. All safety equipment will be checked and approved by the Referee.

2. All Kumite (point sparring) matches does not have a time limit. The first competitor to score 5 points wins.

3. There will be two (2) corner Judges and one (1) Referee.

4. Each corner Judge will be supplied with a red and white flag. The corner Judges will indicate their opinions by means of their flags by raising the corresponding flag with the point awarded. The Referee will vote at the same time signal their vote by hand signal.

5. If a Judge does not see the point upon the Referees' command, they will lower both the white and red flag and cross them in front to indicate they did not witness the point.

6. All techniques are one (1) point.

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7. All closed fist-punching techniques are allowed. Light contact only to head gear (not to the face), torso area, chest, sides, and kidney areas. The face shield is considered part of the headgear and can be punched. No open hand, knife hand, fingers or palm techniques are allowed.
8. Kicking techniques, light contact only, are valid to any area of the headgear (not to the face), torso area, chest, sides, and kidney areas. The face shield is considered part of the headgear and can be kicked.
9. The Referee will determine whether the competitor has committed an action that causes a penalty. The following will be considered an action that will receive a penalty:
 - a. Stepping out or going out of the ring that was not caused by a punch or kick technique.
 - b. Grabbing or sweeping
 - c. Unsportsmanlike conduct
 - d. Pushing your competitor
 - e. Continuing to fight after the match has been stopped
 - f. Low strikes below the belt (bladder, groin, thighs, legs, etc.)
 - g. Strikes to Spinal column
 - h. Strikes to neck or clavicle areas
 - i. Strikes to the face
 - j. Excessive contact
 - k. Whatever situation the Referee might consider necessary
10. The first penalty the competitor shall receive is a warning. The second penalty the opponent will receive one (1) point. On the third penalty, the competitor will be disqualified.
11. The match will not be stopped unless the Referee orders it.
12. Excessive contact that causes bleeding, swelling, bruising, cuts, or a knockout, will cause the competitor to be disqualified. The Referee will take the cause and severity of the injury into consideration before making any final decision.
13. Any competitor that was seriously injured and lead to disqualification of his/her opponent will not be allowed to continue competing.
14. Any kind of footwear is not allowed in Kumite (point sparring).
15. In order to be awarded a point the competitor must be inside the ring area. It is considered being out of the ring when one foot is off the mat or outside the line.
16. The size of the competitor is not taken into consideration. The Kumite (point sparring) categories will be divided according to age, rank, and gender. The Referee may require proof of age.

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17. Kumite (point sparring) is open to all styles and will be divided according to age, rank and gender. The competitor will not be permitted to compete out of the designated age or rank groups. If a competitor participates in a category that he/she does not belong, he/she will be disqualified.
18. A competitor that has no opponent in their age and rank group may do an exhibition fight with a competitor from a different category as long as the Referee and the both competitor's Sensei, Instructor, Coach, or Person in Charge approve it.
19. If there is an odd number of competitors then one of the competitors will receive a "bye." This counts as an automatic win. The "bye" will be selected randomly.
20. Two (2) competitors from the same school will not be matched for Kumite (point sparring) for the first match unless there are no other competitors available.
21. Coaching is permitted by the Sensei, Instructor, Coach, or Person in Charge.
22. All Judges, Referees, Arbitrators, and officials must be in proper uniform, so that spectators, competitors, and staff are able to identify them.
23. If for any reason there are situations, which do not appear in these rules, the final decision will be made by the Referee and Corner Judges, the Arbitrator, or Tournament Director.