



Marital Arts Instructors Coalition of Florida (M.A.I.C.O.F)

Ronin Samurai Challenge Tournament Rules

Issued October 2025

A. GENERAL RULES

1. Ronin Samurai Challenge Tournament Committee 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 individual tournament and M.A.I.C.O.F. rules.
3. The presence of the public or any person not authorized in the competition area is completely prohibited. **(Only one (1) Coach is allowed in the area of competition)**
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. There will be no refunds.
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. **(No exceptions)**
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 and spectators will have the option to wear masks covering their nose and mouth while inside the venue. .
8. No refunds of registration fees will be allowed for any reason to competitors or spectators that have already registered and/or pre-paid. Based on the circumstances, 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/She will make sure that they are properly trained.
10. 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: Beginner,

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Intermediate, Advanced, and Black Belt. Black Belts will not be allowed to compete in Under Belt Divisions – No Exceptions.

11. There will be a Grand Champion competition in Kata (forms), and Kobudo (weapon forms). The Judges scores will be recorded, given to the scorekeepers, and then the scores will be read at the awards ceremony at the end of the tournament.

The score will not be announced during the Grand Champion competition!

12. There must be at least two (2) eligible competitors in order to compete for the Grand Champion award.

13. All Student who competes in Special Warrior Division **can not compete** in any other divisions. There is only Kata and Kobudo in the Special Warrior Division. There will be no Kumite for Special Warriors.

14. 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: 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 redo 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.

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: 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.

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 do not have a time limit. In under belt divisions the first competitor to score 3 points wins. In black belt divisions the first competitor to score 5 points wins.

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3. There will be two (2) corner Judges and one (1) Center Judge.
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 Center Judge will vote at the same time signal their vote by hand signal. The Center Judge's decision is final.
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.
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 face and cannot 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 face and cannot be kicked.**
9. The Center Judge 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 Center Judge 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. No exceptions.
11. The match will not be stopped unless the Center Judge orders it. Unless it is an emergency.

12. Excessive contact that causes bleeding, swelling, bruising, cuts, or a knockout, will cause the competitor to be disqualified. The Center Judge will take the cause and severity of the injury into consideration before making any final decision.
13. Any competitor that was seriously injured or bleeding and lead to disqualification of his/her opponent will not be allowed to continue competing.
14. Any kind of footwear (shoes) 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.
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 Center Judge and 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. (Only one (1) Coach per competitor) **Unprofessional Conduct on behalf of the Coach may be grounds for the competitor to be disqualified.**
22. All Judges, Center Judges, 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 Center Judge and Corner Judges, the Arbitrator, or Tournament Director.



Ronin Samurai Challenge Grand Champion Categories

Under Belts

Ages 5-8	Kata Kobudo
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Ages 9-10	Kata Kobudo
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Ages 11-14	Kata Kobudo
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Ages 15-17	Kata Kobudo
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Black Belts

All Ages	Kata Kobudo
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