

Isshin-Ryu Hall of Fame

2025 Tournament Rules Summary

GENERAL

1. A competitor will be allowed to compete in 1 Kata, 1 Kumite, and 1 Weapons division for a total of 3 divisions.
2. Divisions may be split / combined at the discretion of the Tournament Officials based on number of competitors.
3. All competitors must wear a full traditional type karate gi (including obi) that is clean and in good state of repair.
 - a. Solid white, black, blue, or red gis are preferred. Gis with stitched accents are allowed. Gi jackets and pants do not need to be the same color.
 - b. Patches representing Mizu-gami, dojo, association, rank/title, or other widely recognized Isshinryu/karate symbols are allowed, as long as they are not excessive or controversial. The gi's overall presentation, including patches, stitching, rank/title, and club affiliation, must remain appropriate and is subject to IHOF Board approval.
 - c. Jacket Back – Printings of dojo and/or association are allowed on back
 - d. Kumite team-style gi's will be allowed (clean in good repair w/out cut-off sleeves, etc.).
4. On any dispute not clearly covered, the designated Hall of Fame official shall render a final ruling.

KATA

Scoring 8.50 – 9.00, using two decimal places (all ranks). When five judges are used, the highest and the lowest score will not be considered. The three remaining "good" scores will be totaled. When using three judges, all scores will be considered.

Tie Lowest of the three "good" scores will be added to the totals. If the tie remains, the highest of the three "good" scores will be added to the totals. If the tie remains, the contestants will perform Kata of their choice.

Second Tie Judges point to the winner on command.

Weapons Only Isshin-Ryu weapon katas (Bo, Sai, Tonfa/Tuifa) are permitted. Weapon kata must be performed with a traditional weapon in good repair and kept under constant control. Judges may inspect competitor weapons prior to the start of the division making mental note of any discrepancies found such as weight, length, etc. If in the opinion of the judge the weapon does not meet the criteria (i.e.: "competition" bo too light or too short), a lower score may be awarded. A judge may not discuss his opinion with the other judges.

Grand Championships **Black Belt Age 12 & Under:** Kata and weapons 1st place winners will compete for the Junior Black Belt 12 & Under Kata Grand Championship.

Black Belt Age 13-17: Kata and weapons 1st place winners will compete for the Junior Black Belt 13-17 Kata Grand Championship.

Adult Black Belts: Kata and weapon division 1st place winners are required to compete in "run-offs" to qualify for the Grand Championship finals. Kata and Weapons divisions may be combined for "run-offs." **Black Belt Women:** Kata and weapons "run-off" winners will compete for Women's Black Belt Kata Grand Championship.

Black Belt Men: Kata and weapons "run-off" division winners will compete for Men Black Belt Kata Grand Championship.

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Each competitor will be required to perform their winning Kata plus a second Kata of his/her choice in the Grand Championship Finals. The Grand Champion will be determined by the total score of both Katas. Masters' division 1st place winners **are** eligible.

KUMITE

Length of Contest All Kyu Ranks & Youth Black Belts (Age 17 & under) - 3 Confirmed Points.

Contest Adult Black Belts – 5 Confirmed Points.

Confirmed Point - 3 of 5 judges must award a point to a competitor to be “confirmed” or disqualified. If only 3 judges, 2 of 3 judges must award a point to be “confirmed” or disqualified.

Safety Equipment Groin cup, mouthpiece, soft hands, feet, and headgear are required. **Soft Rubber kumite shoes are not permitted** (only traditional foam).

Target Areas ALL DIVISIONS Head, *face (only a “light touch”), side of neck (not throat), ribs, chest, abdomen, collarbone, kidneys, and groin. Note: Groin attacks from the *front only* are allowed.

NOTE – The “face light touch” rule (All Divisions): A “light touch” to the face is allowed for a point. *A “light touch” to the face is not necessary for a point.* A good technique with extension left that stops short should be considered a point (within a 2 inch to 3 inch “halo”). Contact that causes movement of the head is considered excessive and should be penalized by penalty point or disqualification. A second penalty point of any kind will result in disqualification (Judges vote).

A conference of ring officials may be held before the call for point if an issue of “safety” exists.

No more than one penalty point can be issued to a competitor. All ranks: No exceptions! A second penalty point = disqualification.

Contact Contact is not necessary to score a point. Excessive contact will be penalized by a penalty point or disqualification (Judges vote).

Sweeps Sweeps to back, lower front leg to unbalance only are allowed if combined with attempt to score a point.

General Running out of the ring, fighting after "STOP" command will result in penalty point or disqualification (Judges vote). *Fighting out of the ring* is not running out of the ring.

Behavior Any disrespectful behavior toward an opponent or an official will be grounds for disqualification (Judges vote). Instructor or other supporter behavior may cause disqualification of a competitor (Judges vote).

Grand Championship **Black Belt Women** Kumite Division 1st place winners will compete for the Women’s Black Belt Grand Championship. **Black Belt Men** Kumite Division 1st place winners will compete for the Men’s Black Belt Grand Championship. Each match shall be 5 POINTS. Masters’ division 1st place winners are eligible.