



US NATIONAL SPARRING RANKING RULES

1. Sparring Ranking Points Introduction

1.1. The USATKD ranking points will be applied to any recognized USATKD championship and USATKD sanctioned event.

- *Fight off tournaments for team spots will not earn ranking points.*

1.2. USATKD will maintain ranking points for the following divisions in Sparring:

- Dragon (6-7): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and Black belts
- Tiger (8-9): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and Black belts
- Youth (10-11): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and Black belts
- Cadet (12-14): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and World Class Blackbelts
- Junior (15-17): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and World Class Black belts
- Senior (17-32): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and World Class Black belts
- Ultra (33+): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and Black belts

2. Rankings and Points Standings

2.1. Points, rankings, and event results will be published on the USATKD website.

2.2. Updated points will be published the **first Wednesday of each month.**

- Once an event organizer has properly submitted all results, event referee documents, membership forms, payments, and other event documents to the USATKD office, then the points will be allocated. If an event takes place at the end of the month and results are not submitted in time to be posted by the first Wednesday of the immediately following month, those points will be included the month after.

2.3. Seeding

- Seeding for events will be based off the current posted rankings on the USATKD website. Event organizers must use the national points rankings that are published on the first Wednesday of the month that the event is held. If an event happens before the first Wednesday of the month, the event seeding will be based off the previous month's points. Since seeds will be based solely on the athletes' ranks, athletes from the same state/school may fight against each other in the first round of an event. This seeding process will not consider the club an athlete is from.
- For USATKD 10.0 International sanctioned events, if a division has an international athlete confirmed, then seeding for only that division will be random. Random seeding will be performed since the international athletes will not have a ranking in the USATKD Tusah National Ranking.
- There will not be any seeding for any World Taekwondo sanctioned event hosted by USATKD. Only the G-rated divisions will be seeded based on the World Taekwondo rankings.

- If there are multiple athletes with the same rank, a random draw will be held to determine the applicable seed. Random draws will only be used to determine the seeding at an event when competing athletes are tied in the rank. Random draws will not be used to determine overall point standings. Ties will occur in the overall points ranking.
 - *For example: If three athletes in one weight division have the same points-total and are ranked 4th in the rankings that are posted the first Wednesday of the month then these three athletes will be randomly seeded for the tournament. A random draw will be done for seeds 4, 5, and 6 for the tournament in which they are competing.*

Athlete Rankings as of Wednesday before event:

Athlete	Points	Rank
A	100	1
B	90	2
C	75	3
D	70	4
E	70	4
F	70	4
G	60	7
H	50	8
I	45	9
J	35	10

Event Seeding:

Seed #	Athlete
1	A
2	B
3	C
4	D/E/F
5	D/E/F
6	D/E/F
7	G
8	H
9	I
10	J

Seeds 4, 5, and 6 will be selected by a random draw between athletes D, E, and F. Since these three athletes are tied in the overall rankings. This will only be done for tournaments in which all three athletes are competing.

- If an athlete has earned points in multiple divisions, their seed for an event will be based off their rank in the weight division they are competing in during the tournament.

2.4. Weight Division

- An athlete must confirm their weight division by the final event registration deadline. Athletes must follow the event rules to determine if the weight division can be changed after the final registration deadline.
- An athlete can compete in multiple weight divisions throughout the year (but NOT at the same event) and will earn points towards a ranking in each weight division. In the event an athlete earns points in one weight division and then earns points in another weight division in different tournaments, the athlete will be ranked in the respective weight division, resulting in the same athlete being ranked in more than one weight division. An athlete’s points and rankings will only be considered from the points earned in the weight division in which they are competing at an event.

3. Allocation of Points

3.1. Domestic Events

- To receive points for fighting in a tournament it must be sanctioned by USATKD. If an athlete competes in an event held in the United States that is not sanctioned by USATKD, they will not receive ranking points for that tournament. A non-sanctioned event will not have any effect on an athlete’s ranking, and an athlete cannot earn points from competing in such an event. Please check with the tournament organizing committee if you are unsure whether an event is sanctioned or not.
- Each sanctioned event will be assigned a rating prior to registration opening based on the event organizer’s application.

Event Sanction Rankings

*Points only awarded if tournament hosted by USATKD

Event Rank	Type of Event	Event
2.0	Area events	Area clubs
4.0	Local Events	USATKD: 2 states/5 clubs
10.0	International Events	4 states, 10 clubs, & 5 countries (other than USA) <i>*Athletes must provide proof of residency and must be competing in sparring.</i> NCTA Collegiate Championships
12.0	State Championships	Hosted by a USATKD State Association
16.0	Regional Events	USATKD American Open
18.0	National Events	USATKD Nationals
20.0	Major Event	US Open and USATKD Final <i>*PATU Series, *PATU President’s Cup, *Grand Prix Challenge</i>

3.2. Event Sanction Minimum Standards

- Events must meet minimum standards to receive the sanction level requested. If an event does not meet the minimum standards, that event will be regulated down to the sanction level where the minimum standards are met. Sparring and Poomsae events will be evaluated separately based on the number of sparring athletes registered and the number of poomsae athletes registered. The sanctioning level could be different if the sparring registrations do not meet minimum standards.

3.3. State

- For a state to be considered in attendance at a sanctioned event, at least 10 unique sparring athletes need to be registered and confirmed for the event. The event will not be considered to have a state represented at the tournament unless there are 10 different athletes with confirmed registrations 10 days prior to the start of the event. One individual registering for multiple events only counts as one registered athlete. If there are fewer than 10 sparring athletes confirmed for the event, it will not count as a state being represented at the event.

3.4. Clubs

- For a club to be considered in attendance at a sanctioned event, at least 5 unique sparring athletes need to be registered and confirmed for the event. The event will not be considered to have a club represented at the tournament unless there are 5 different individuals with confirmed 10 days prior to the start of the event. One individual registering for multiple events only counts as one registered athlete. If there are fewer than 5 sparring athletes confirmed for the event, it will not count as a club being represented at the event.

3.5. International

- To receive credit as an international event there needs to be at least 1 sparring athlete from a country, other than the United States, registered and confirmed 10 days prior to the start of the event. The country will need to have only 1 sparring athlete registered and confirmed to have representation of a country. One individual registering for multiple events only counts as one registered athlete. The athlete must provide proof of residency for that country. It will be the responsibility of the event host to provide copies of each athlete's proof of residency by the deadline of their sanction level approval.

	Minimum Number of Sparring Athletes Needed Per
State	10 per state
Club	5 per club
International	1 per country

- Tournament hosts will submit a sanction application, which must be approved by USATKD. Organizers will be allowed to select their desired event rating. If an event fails to meet the required standards set forth by the sanction policies ten days prior to start of the event, the event will be changed to the appropriate sanction level. Athletes will receive points for the actual event sanction level of the tournament. An event cannot move up in rate if it meets the higher-rating requirements. Athletes will only receive points based off the event rating. If an event fails to meet the event standards, the event host will be fined.

3.6. Sanctioning Points

- Below are the maximum points that can be earned for a USATKD sanctioned event determined by the event rating, provided the division meets the minimum requirements.

3.7. Domestic Points

- Points for all sanctioned events will be based on the number of competitors competing in the division.
- If there is only one athlete in a division at the event the single athlete will receive 25% points for that sanctioned event.
- If there are three or less athletes in a division at an event the athletes will receive a maximum of 50% of the points for that sanctioned event.
- If there are four or more athletes in a division at an event the athletes will receive full points for that sanctioned event.
- To receive the base points, the athlete must participate at the event, the athlete must check-in, weigh-in, and step on the mat with the referee and be declared the winner.

	US 2.0	US 4.0	US 6.0	US 8.0	US 10.0	US 12.0	US 14.0	US 16.0	US 18.0	US 20.0
1st	20	40	60	80	100	120	140	160	180	200
2nd	15	30	45	60	75	90	105	120	135	150
3rd (SF)	11	23	34	45	56	68	79	90	101	113
5th (QF)	8	17	25	34	42	51	59	68	76	85
9th (R16)	6	13	19	25	32	38	44	51	57	64
17th (R32)	5	10	14	19	24	28	33	38	43	48
33rd (R64)	4	8	11	14	18	21	25	29	32	36
65th (R128)	3	6	8	11	13	16	19	22	24	27

3.8. Points from Sanctioned Events:

- An athlete will only be permitted to earn a maximum number of points for US 2.0, US 4.0, and US 10.0 sanctioned events each calendar year. A maximum of 120 points can be earned from US 2.0, maximum of 180 points earned from US 4.0, and a maximum of 220 points earned from 10.0 events can count toward an athlete’s overall rank.
- Athletes will be limited to the number of State Championships they can compete in annually (January 1 – December 31). Athletes can earn points for their overall ranking in a total of two State Championships. An athlete can compete in any two State Championships.
- If an athlete competes in more than two USATKD State Championships, they will receive the highest number of points they earned from the two state tournaments.
- There will not be a cap on the total number of points an athlete can earn by competing at US 16.0 and US 20.0 sanctioned events.

	Maximum Number of Points
Sanction	(per calendar year)
2.0	120
4.0	180 (USATKD Sanctioned Event)
10.0	220
12.0	2 State Championships
16.0	No limit to number of events
18.0	No limit to number of events
20.0	No limit to number of events

3.9. Competing at Events

- To receive points an athlete must weigh in, step on the mat, fight and complete the match. An athlete cannot “participate” to earn the points, meaning weighing in, stepping on the mat, and withdrawing without fighting. If an athlete withdraws (WDR) and does not fight or is disqualified (DSQ or DQB), they will not earn any points for that match. If a Referee stops the contest (RSC) due to injury or due medical, the athlete will receive points for that match. It is only when the athlete or the athlete’s coach withdraws the athlete or bows out from the match, the points will be nullified for that match.
- To receive a medical withdrawal, the medical staff must say that the athlete cannot safely continue.
- If an athlete competes and wins their first match but they bow out in any upcoming match in the tournament and do not fight, that athlete will only receive the points from the previous match that was won. Athletes will not receive points for making it to a round but then bowing out of that round. If an athlete begins a match but bows out with no injury and does not complete the match, that athlete will receive the points from the previous match. The athlete will not receive the available points for the match they bowed out in.
- If an athlete is disqualified during a match, the opponent of the disqualified athlete will receive the points from that match if they are declared the winner. The disqualified athlete will only earn the points gained from the previous matches won.
- Athletes will only earn points in the weight division they compete in, whether the athlete

loses or wins the match. If an athlete fights in their match, they will receive points for that round.

- Athletes can only compete in one sanctioned tournament within a five-day period or per weekend, Friday through Monday. An athlete cannot compete and earn points in multiple tournaments in the same weekend. If an athlete does compete in two sanctioned events over the same weekend, they will only receive points for the first tournament they compete at. Example: An athlete cannot compete in the Colorado State Championships on Saturday and then compete in the Nevada State Championships Sunday. If the athlete does compete in both tournaments the athlete will only receive points for the Colorado State Championships.
- USATKD does not recommend Juniors and Seniors compete more than once every two weeks.
- USATKD does not recommend Cadets and younger athletes to compete more than once every month.
- Below is an example of a 16-person US 8.0 Event. Everyone fights each match and there are no ranked athletes competing in the event. Each athlete will only earn the points available for that event.



- Points will not be combined if they compete in different weight divisions throughout the year. Athletes can earn points in multiple weight divisions.

3.10. International Events

- No points will be earned for international tournaments sanctioned by World Taekwondo. The only exception will be the US Open, PATU Series, and PATU President’s Cup tournaments hosted by USATKD. All athletes can earn points towards their overall ranking in divisions contested at these tournaments. These tournaments will be considered US 20.0 ranked events.
- Athletes will earn 250 bonus points toward their USATKD ranking for winning the U.S. Taekwondo Team Trials in January of each year. Points will be awarded in the weight division the athlete wins at the U.S. Taekwondo Team Trials tournament.
 - If height divisions are used, cadet points can only be entered into a corresponding weight division within the height division they competed in during the event.
 - Points will be added in February each year and will roll off in February the following year. *Any points earned in 2024 will roll off in February 2025.*

4. Validation of Points

4.1. The points earned by an athlete will remain for 12 months.

- Points will be updated as events are completed, and the organizer properly submits all requirements and payments. If an event takes place in January of one year, those points will roll off in January the following year, after the 12-month period from the last event. If an event moves dates from July of one year to January the following year, those points will be removed in January the following year at the conclusion of the new event. Points will be updated as events are finished, and the organizer properly submits all requirements and results. Points will be earned in the division an athlete competes in.

4.2. Changing Belt Color During the Year

- If an athlete changes belt colors during the year the points they have earned will decrease by 60%. The athlete will then keep 100% of the points earned at the new belt color. The points at the new belt color and updated current points from the old belt color will remain until the end of the year.

4.3. Example: Player A starts the year as a Blue Belt, but in April moves up to a Red Belt.

Blue Belt		Red		Blue Belt Final
Marc		July	October	
CO State 60	NV State 60	Nationals 100	US 8.0 80	120
New Points Now Competing as Red Belt:				
Marc		July	October	Final Red Belt
CO State 24	NV State 24	Nationals 100	US 8.0 80	228

- If athletes change to the World Class Black Belts at Cadet, Junior, or Senior level, they will keep 30% of the points earned from events at the lower belt color, since these divisions fight for the potential to attend world and continental tournaments. The points at the new belt color and updated current points from the old belt color will remain for 12 months.

4.4. Example: Player A starts the year as Red Belt. After Nationals moves to World Class Black Belt.

Red Belt			World Class Black Belt	Red Belt Final Ranking
Marc		July	October	220
CO State 60	NV State 60	Nationals 100	US 8.0 Event 80	

New Points Now Competing as World Class Black Belt:				
Marc		July	October	Final WC Black Belt Total
CO State 18	NV State 18	Nationals 30	US 8.0 Event 80	146

4.5 Aging up Divisions

- When an athlete ages up and moves up to the next age division, that athlete will carry 50% of the points earned from events at the younger age division. These points will remain for 12 months. These points are valid for their remaining life and will expire 12 months after the date of the event in which they were earned in the previous year.

Example: Player A is a Cadet Black Belt Athlete in one year and ages up to Junior Black Belt Athlete the following year.

Cadet Black Belt				Cadet Final Ranking
March		July	October	300
CO State 60	NV State 60	Nationals 100	US 8.0 Event 80	
New Points for now Competing as Junior Black Belt:				
March		July	October	Junior Black Belt Total
CO State 30	NV State 30	Nationals 50	US 8.0 Event 40	150

- Athletes who are 17 years old have the opportunity to compete in Junior and Senior events throughout the year. The following year, 50% of the points an athlete earns as a Junior will carry over when the athlete ages up to the Senior division, unless the athlete competes in both Junior and Senior events at the same event in the same year. An athlete who competes in both Junior and Senior divisions in the same year at the same event will only receive the points earned from the Senior division for their Senior ranking when the athlete ages up.

Example: A 17-year-old athlete competes in both the Junior and Senior divisions at the same tournament and two different tournaments in one year.

Junior Black						Junior Final Ranking
Mar		April		July	October	274
CO State 34	NV State 60	CA 60		Nationals 40	US 8.0 80	
Senior Black Belt						Senior Final Ranking
Mar			May	July	October	204
CO State 45	NV State 25		OH State 34	Nationals 40	US 8.0 60	
New Points for 2019 - Now Competing as Senior Black Belt:						
Mar		April	May	July	October	Senior Black Belt
CO State 45	NV State 25	CA 30	OH State 34	Nationals 40	US 8.0 60	234

Aging up junior athletes will have until 5 p.m. on January 1 of the year they age up to declare their new weight division in the next age division. If an athlete does not declare the new weight division by the deadline, then 50% of the points will automatically be transferred to a new weight division.

Points cannot go to multiple divisions when the athlete ages up, points from one junior weight division cannot be split between two different senior weight divisions. An aging up athlete can declare two different senior weight divisions if they have points in multiple weight divisions. If a junior athlete has points in two divisions that move up to the same senior division, the junior division with the highest point total will transfer to the Senior division.

Athletes that are 16 years old will have 50% of their junior points transferred to the appropriate Senior division the year they turn 17. If an athlete competes at the same event as both a Junior and Senior, they will keep the points earned in the Senior division and no Junior points will transfer. The 16-year-old athlete will keep 100% of the Junior points in the Junior division.

Aging Up Juniors			
Men		Women	
Junior Division	Senior Division	Junior Division	Senior Division
Fin -45 kg	Fin -54 kg	Fin -42 kg	Fin -46 kg
Fly 45.1-48 kg		Fly 42.1-44 kg	
Bantam 48.1-51 kg		Bantam 44.1-46 kg	
Feather 51.1-55 kg	Fly 54.1-58 kg	Feather 46.1-49 kg	Bantam 49.1-53 kg
Light 55.1-59 kg	Bantam 58.1-63 kg	Light 49.1-52 kg	Bantam 49.1-53 kg
Welter 59.1-63 kg	Feather 63.1-68 kg	Welter 52.1-55 kg	Feather 53.1-57 kg
Light Middle 63.1-68 kg	Light 68.1-74 kg	Light Middle 55.1-59 kg	Light 57.1-62 kg
Middle 68.1-73 kg	Light 68.1-74 kg	Middle 59.1-63 kg	Welter 62.1-67 kg
Light Heavy 73.1-78 kg	Welter 74.1-80 kg	Light Heavy 63.1-68 kg	Middle 67.1-73 kg
Heavy +78 kg	Middle 80.1-87 kg	Heavy +68 kg	Middle 67.1-73 kg

Aging up cadet athletes will have until 5 p.m. on January 1 of the year they age up to declare their new weight division in the next age division. Cadets can move 50% of their points to a junior division. If an athlete does not declare the new weight division by the deadline, then 50% of the points will automatically be transferred to a new weight division based on the chart.

Points cannot go to multiple divisions when the athlete ages up, points from one cadet weight division cannot be divided between two different junior weight divisions. An aging up athlete can declare two different junior weight divisions if they have points in multiple weight divisions. If a cadet athlete has points in two divisions that move up to the same junior division, the cadet division with the highest point total will transfer to the junior division.

Aging Up Cadets			
Male		Female	
Cadet Division	Junior Division	Cadet Division	Junior Division
Fin, -33kg	Fin, -45kg	Fin, -29kg	Fin, -42kg
Fly, 33.1-37kg		Fly, 29.1-33kg	
Bantam, 37.1-41kg		Bantam, 33.1-37kg	
Feather, 41.1-45kg	Fly, 45.1-48kg	Feather, 37.1-41kg	Fly, 42.1-44kg
Light, 45.1-49kg	Bantam, 48.1- 51kg	Light, 41.1-44kg	Bantam, 44.1-46kg
Welter, 49.1-53kg	Feather, 51.1- 55kg	Welter, 44.1-47kg	Feather, 46.1-49kg
Light Middle, 53.1-57kg	Light 55.1-59kg	Light Middle, 47.1- 51kg	Light, 49.1-52kg
Middle, 57.1-61kg	Welter, 59.1- 63kg	Middle, 51.1-55kg	Welter, 52.1-55kg
Light Heavy, 61.1-65kg	Light Middle, 63.1-68kg	Light Heavy, 55.1- 59kg	Light Middle, 55.1-59kg
Heavy, +65kg	Middle, 68.1- 73kg	Heavy, +59kg	Middle, 59.1-63kg

Aging up cadet athletes will have until 5 p.m. on January 1 of the year they age up to declare their new weight division in the next age division. Athletes can move 50% of their points to a higher division. If an athlete does not declare the new weight division by the deadline, then 50% of the points will automatically be transferred to a new weight division based on the chart.

Points cannot go to multiple divisions when the athlete ages up, points from the current weight division cannot be split between two different divisions when aging up. An aging up athlete can declare two different junior weight divisions, if they have points in multiple weight divisions. If an athlete has points in two divisions that move up to the same junior division, the cadet division with the highest point total will transfer to the junior division.

Aging up youth, dragon, and tiger athletes will have until 5 p.m. on January 1 of the year they age up to declare their new weight division in the next age division. Athletes can move 50% of their points to the next age division. If an athlete does not declare the new weight division by the deadline, then 50% of the points will automatically be transferred to a new weight division based on the chart below.

Points cannot go to multiple divisions when the athlete ages up, points from one weight division cannot be divided between two different weight divisions in the new age category. An aging up athlete can declare two different weight divisions if they have points in multiple weight divisions. If an athlete has points in two divisions that move up to the same division when aging up, the current weight division with the highest point total will transfer to the aging up division.

Aging Up Youth			
Male		Female	
Youth Division	Cadet Division	Youth Division	Cadet Division
Fin -30 kg	Fin -33 kg	Fin -30 kg	Fly 29.1-33 kg
Light 30.1-35 kg	Fly 33.1-37 kg	Light 30.1-35 kg	Bantam 33.1-37 kg
Middle 35.1-40 kg	Bantam 37.1-41 kg	Middle 35.1-40 kg	Feather 37.1-41 kg
Heavy +40 kg	Feather 41.1-45 kg	Heavy +40 kg	Light 41.1-44 kg

Aging Up Dragons			
Male		Female	
Dragon Division	Tiger Division	Dragon Division	Tiger Division
Fin -19 kg	Fin -21 kg	Fin -19 kg	Fin -21 kg
Light 19.1-23 kg	Light 21.1-25 kg	Light 19.1-23 kg	Light 21.1-25 kg
Middle 23.1-27 kg	Middle 25.1-30 kg	Middle 23.1-27 kg	Middle 25.1-30 kg
Heavy +27 kg	Heavy +30 kg	Heavy +27 kg	Heavy +30 kg

Aging Up Tiger			
Males		Female	
Tiger Division	Youth Division	Tiger Division	Youth Division
Fin -21 kg	Fin -30 kg	Fin -21 kg	Fin -30 kg
Light 21.1-25 kg		Light 21.1-25 kg	
Middle 25.1-30 kg	Light 30.1-35 kg	Middle 25.1-30 kg	Light 30.1-35 kg
Heavy +30 kg	Middle 35.1-40 kg	Heavy +30 kg	Middle 35.1-40 kg

Example 1: An athlete has points in middle and heavy in their current weight division. An athlete can move 50% of the current middle division to middle division they are aging into and 50% of the current heavy division points can move to the heavy division they are aging into. The points from the current division cannot be combined into one division they are aging into.

Example 2: An athlete has points in middle in their current division. An athlete can move all 50% of their points from the current middle division to middle OR heavy of the aging up division. The points from the current division cannot be split into two different divisions when aging up.