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**USA TAEKWONDO SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT**

At all USA Taekwondo sanctioned events, every spectator plays a vital role in creating a safe, respectful and empowering environment for athletes. By attending, you agree to uphold the values of Taekwondo: Courtesy, Integrity, Self-Control, Perseverance, and Indomitable Spirit.

USA Taekwondo is committed to three core principles: Respect, Safety, and Fair Play.  These are the foundations of every USATKD sanctioned competition and the standard we expect from all participants and spectators.

RESPECT: USA Taekwondo encourages a passionate, highly competitive environment where spectators cheer loudly, and athletes push their limits. But that passion must always be expressed respectfully. While most of our community consistently upholds this standard, we must all remain mindful that respect is non-negotiable. We are not looking to restrict the audience's right to express displeasure but will insist that it does not cross the line into becoming abusive towards any individual. When we cheer with respect, we elevate both the athletes and the sport.

SAFETY: Our commitment to athlete well-being extends far beyond the mat. **Safety is our top priority.**

USA Taekwondo has a Zero Tolerance Policy for abuse of any kind.  Any action that threatens the emotional or physical safety of participants has no place in our sport.  USA Taekwondo adheres to the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, which prohibits:

* Emotional Misconduct
* Physical Misconduct
* Bullying
* Hazing
* Harassment

The U.S. Center for SafeSport and USA Taekwondo provide education, training and resources for athletes, coaches and parents.

We encourage all members to take an active role in maintaining safe environments, both in person and online, so that every competitor, especially our youngest athletes, can focus on developing their skills in a supportive atmosphere. Together, we can ensure Taekwondo remains a place where every athlete feels protected, supported and inspired to grow.

FAIR PLAY: Taekwondo is more than competition – it is a discipline rooted in fairness, respect and integrity.  Referees and event staff dedicate themselves to applying rules fairly and consistently, ensuring every athlete competes on equal ground.

It is every participant’s responsibility to be familiar with and follow the rules so that competition proceeds smoothly and respectfully for all involved.

To support this, USA Taekwondo offers the following resources:

[**USA Taekwondo Sparring Rules**](https://www.usatkd.org/usatkd-competition-rules)

[**USA Taekwondo Poomsae Rules**](https://www.usatkd.org/usatkd-competition-rules)

[**U.S. Center for SafeSport Website**](https://uscenterforsafesport.org/)

[**U.S. Center for SafeSport Code**](https://uscenterforsafesport.org/response-and-resolution/safesport-code/)

[**Report a Concern to the U.S. Center for SafeSport**](https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/)

[**USA Taekwondo Social Media Comment Policy**](https://www.usatkd.org/v2-resources/code-of-ethics)

**CODE OF CONDUCT RULES**

SUPPORT THE SPIRIT OF TAEKWONDO

* Applaud effort & performance for all competitors.
* Respect all athletes, coaches, referees, staff & fans.
* Enjoy the event positively & respectfully.

RESPECT ALL COACHES, REFEREES & STAFF

* Respect that referees & officials work hard to apply complex rules fairly -occasional mistakes may happen, but respect must remain.
* Abusive, aggressive, threatening or disruptive behavior is prohibited.
* Disputes and concerns must be raised through official channels.

CHEER, DON’T JEER

* Encourage athletes - never taunt, boo, heckle or shout at competitors.
* Harassment, discrimination, and intimidation are prohibited.
* Aggressive and threatening behavior is prohibited.

HELP KEEP THE EVENT SAFE

* Do not enter restricted event areas.
* Report misconduct & inappropriate behavior to event staff.
* Fighting, violence, and unsafe conduct is prohibited.

**CONSEQUENCES OF MISCONDUCT**

Violations of this Spectator Code of Conduct may result in the following consequences:

* Verbal/written warnings
* Suspension or expulsion from USATKD events
* Report to U.S. Center for SafeSport
* Removal from the event (no refund)
* Referral to law enforcement
* Subject to further review under USA Taekwondo disciplinary policies

By following this Spectator Code of Conduct, every spectator helps create the respectful, safe and fair environment that allows our athletes to shine. Together, we can celebrate the true spirit of Taekwondo and ensure our events remail inspiring for everyone who attends.