

Kata Scoring IJF and USA

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Objectives of this seminar

- Why go to IJF standard?
- Gain better understanding of IJF standard vs US standard
- Familiarization with IJF scoring criteria: small, medium, large, forgotten
- Correlate US criteria to IJF criteria
- IJF Scoring
- Learn together
- Other topics of interest?

Why go to IJF Standard?

- IJF standard exists since 2009 1st World Kata Championship
- Align with USA philosophy for shiai – use and enforce IJF rules
- Keep USA competitive in international competition
- Develop Continental and IJF judges

- We need everyone to transition to keep USA competitive.

Kata Standards

- USA Standards = US-translated Kodokan standards + US additions
- IJF Standards = 2015 and future: Kodokan Kata Handbooks
- Old IJF Standards = before 2015: Kodokan videos

- Kodokan Kata Handbook - officially translated into English in 2014
 - Available free on Kodokan website

Kata Judging / Grading

- USA: USA Standard + US grading scale + judo knowledge
- IJF: Kodokan Kata Handbooks + IJF Evaluation Criteria + judo knowledge
- IJF Evaluation Criteria:
 - Includes both technical and process mistakes
 - Provides judges a written, common basis to score (or a range of scores) mistakes

IJF Evaluation Criteria: Point System

- Total for each technique = 10 points
- **Forgotten technique** = - 10 points and 1/2 of total score
- **Big mistake** = - 5 points (max of 1)
- **Medium mistake** = - 3 points (max of 1)
- **Small mistake** = - 1 point (max of 2)

Score Sheet

NAGE-NO-KATA

8 minutes:

| | | Small mistakes | | Medium mistake | Big / wrong technique | Forgotten Technique (score /2) | SCORE |
|---|---------|------------------|----|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | | -1 | -1 | -3 | -5 | -10 | /10 |
| 1 | | OPENING CEREMONY | | | | | |
| 2 | TE-WAZA | UKI OTOSHI | | | | | |
| 3 | | SEOI NAGE | | | | | |
| 4 | | KATA GURUMA | | | | | |
| 5 | | UKI GOSHI | | | | | |

IJF Scoring Criteria: Point System

Definition of mistakes

- **Forgotten technique:** An omitted technique will score zero
- **Big mistake:** When the execution of the principle is incorrect
- **Medium Mistake:** When one or more elements of the principle are not applied in the correct way
- **Small mistake:** Imperfection in the application of the technique

USA

vs.

IJF

- 10: perfect
- 8 – 9: “very good” (minor mistakes)
- 7: “good” with good spirit
- 6: “average” – no major mistakes
- 5: “average”
- 3 – 4: “below average” (major mistakes)
- 1 – 2: “poor”
- 0: “omitted”

(Nage example)

- 10: perfect
- 8 – 9: imperfections: 1 – 2 small mistakes
- 7
- 6 – no Big mistakes
- 5
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1
- 0: forgotten / omitted

“Forgotten” technique

- Only **3** “Forgotten” scores
 - Omitted technique
 - Tori changes the sequence of the techniques
 - Reverse position in opening ceremony
- IJF competition rules
 - A forgotten technique will score zero and in addition the total final score of the Kata couple will be halved.
 - If more than one technique are forgotten the score for that technique will also be zero but the total final score for the couple will not be halved again.

“Big” Mistakes: several katas

- IJF COMPETITION RULES: “Big mistake: When the execution of the principle is incorrect (5 points are deducted and the maximum number of crosses is 1)”
- **Only 6 possible Big mistakes!**
 - Wrong technique (in Nage no kata, O goshi instead of Uki goshi) – max score is 5; can be lower
 - Reverse starting position (for an individual technique) - mainly Go-shin
 - Loss of control (e.g., Tori loses grip in a throw; Uke really wins)
 - Loss of weapons (i.e., Kime and Go-shin)
 - Loss of belt
 - Poor execution

“Medium” Mistake Examples: several katas

- IJF Competition Rules: “Medium Mistake: When one or more elements of the principle are not applied in the correct way (3 points are deducted and the maximum number of crosses is 1).”
- Common Examples:
 - Effectiveness and realism, each technique
 - Fluidity, course and rhythm, each technique (changed in 2015)
 - Engagement distance uke
 - Starting location of uke and tori
 - Loss of bondages during the execution, in closing ceremony
- Multiple mediums do not always combine for a Big! (more discussion later)
- Loss of several elements of the principle / effectiveness may combine for a Big = poor execution

“Small” Mistake Examples: several katas

- IJF Competition Rules: Small Mistake = Imperfection in the application of the technique (1 point deducted and the maximum number of crosses is 2).”

“Small/Medium” Mistake

Examples: several katas

- Can be marked either Small or Medium depending on extent or egregiousness of error
- Common Examples:
 - Technique performance direction and fall
 - Tsugi-ashi steps

Break for questions

But before we do...one more slide

What do we know now?

- USA and IJF standards come from the same root: Kodokan
- USA and IJF on same grading scale: 1 – 10
- Both rely on judo knowledge of the judge
 - therefore, both are somewhat subjective
- There are not many Forgotten or Big mistakes to remember
- Small mistakes are imperfections
- Therefore, most mistakes are medium or small/medium

Scoring

Score Sheet

NAGE-NO-KATA

8 minutes:

| | | Small mistakes | | Medium mistake | Big / wrong technique | Forgotten Technique (score /2) | SCORE | |
|---|---------|------------------|----|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-------|--|
| | | -1 | -1 | -3 | -5 | -10 | /10 | |
| 1 | | OPENING CEREMONY | | | | | | |
| 2 | TE-WAZA | UKI OTOSHI | | | | | | |
| 3 | | SEOI NAGE | | | | | | |
| 4 | | KATA GURUMA | | | | | | |
| 5 | | UKI GOSHI | | | | | | |

When would you give 8 – 10?

- 10: perfect!
- USA: 8 – 9: Minor errors (certainly, No major mistakes)
- IJF: 8- 9: 1 - 2 Small mistakes (No Big or medium mistakes allowed)

When would you give a 7?

- USA: No major mistakes
 - Good quality judo, timing, and flow
 - Good spirit
- IJF: 1 Medium mistake - there are lots of Medium mistakes
 - When one or more elements of the principle are not applied in the correct way
 - Realism and effectiveness; Fluidity, rhythm and course

When would you give a 6?

- USA: No major mistakes
 - Good quality judo, timing, and flow
 - Maybe shows some spirit
- IJF: 1 Medium mistake + 1 Small mistake (No Big mistakes)
 - Good execution (or lack of “poor execution”)

When would you give 5?

- USA – Major mistake or several medium mistakes?
- IJF – 1 Big (i.e., poor execution, wrong technique, loss of control, reverse starting position, loss of weapons, loss of belt)

OR

- IJF – 1 Medium + 2 Small (No Big mistakes)

Can several Medium mistakes = Big mistake?

- Only sometimes... here is the logic...
- **NO:** Like an infinite number of Yukos cannot add up to a Waza ari, several Medium “process” mistakes cannot add up to Big mistake
 - Example: Judo gi is not correct + Uke sets starting position + Uke and Tori do not correctly start in the middle (even is distance between is proper) + loss of bandage **WILL NOT EQUAL** a BIG mistake (but they can be a Medium and two Smalls)
- **YES:** Several “principle not in correct way” and/or realism (Medium mistakes) could add up to poor execution of the technique (Big mistake)
 - Uke jumps + tori off balance at the end of the throw = poor execution
 - In Go shin, tori slaps face instead of upper cut + applies hara gatame instead of wake gatame = poor execution

Are the two IJF scores of 5 equal? A big concept!

- **No! Two ways to get to a score and 5 and it may make a difference.**
- A judge cannot just say, “I think it is a 5, and therefore I will mark a -5 (Big mistake)”
- 5 = Big mistake (i.e., **poor execution**, wrong technique, loss of control, reverse starting position, loss of weapons, loss of belt)
- 5 = 1 Medium + 2 Smalls
- When does it matter? In the event of a tie:
 - Least number of Big mistakes, wins. If still tied, least number of Medium mistakes wins

When would you give a 4 - 1?

USA

- Major mistake(s) plus medium and/or small mistakes
 - Poor quality
 - No spirit
 - Mechanical movements
 - Not fluid; not realistic

IJF

- To get below a 5, there must be a Big Mistake
 - $4 = 1 \text{ Big} + 1 \text{ Small}$
 - $3 = 1 \text{ Big} + 2 \text{ Small}$
 - $2 = 1 \text{ Big} + 1 \text{ Medium}$
 - $1 = 1 \text{ Big} + 1 \text{ Medium} + 1 \text{ Small}$

USA

- 10: perfect

- 8 – 9: very good (minor mistakes)
- 7: good (spirit)
- 6: average
- 5: average
- 3 – 4: poor / major mistakes
- 1 – 2: very poor
- 0: omitted
- (nage example)

IJF

- 10: perfect

- 8 – 9: imperfections: 1 – 2 small mistakes
- 7: 1 medium mistake
- 6: 1 medium + 1 small
- 5: 1 medium + 2 smalls
- 5: 1 big mistake (e.g., poor execution)
- 3 – 4: 1 big + 1 - 2 small mistakes
- 2: 1 big + 1 medium mistake
- 0 - 1: 1 big + 1 medium + 1 - 2 small
- 0: forgotten / omitted

When does one score / technique end and score next begins?

- When tori releases the uke, the scoring for that technique ends.
- All follow-on movements after the release of uke and tori are scored to the next technique, including:
 - Retreat from technique (e.g., Katame)
 - Getting up from a technique
 - Movement to next position
 - Returning and getting weapons
- IJF evaluation criteria: “Movement to the start” (small / medium)

Big mistake – What is scored as the “wrong technique”?

- In Nage: throw = technique (e.g., o goshi instead of uki goshi; de-ashi harai instead of okuri ashi harai)
- In many katas (Kime, Ju , Go shin), the scored “technique” is the whole sequence.
 - The whole scored technique includes the action and reaction movements, direction, etc., of uke and tori.
 - Final “submission technique” is only one portion or principle of the whole technique
 - Parts: kuzushi, tsukuri, kake / beginning, medium, end / action-reaction-action-reaction-submission

Medium vs Big Mistake Example: Goshin Jitsu

- Medium: Goshin jutsu: Ryote-dori; ending in wake-gatame instead of kote-hineri is a medium mistake (principle in an incorrect way, not wrong technique)
- Big: Goshin Jutsu: Choku-zuki: Tori hits Uke's eye and does hara-gatame ((Tori strikes Uke's eye and applies Hara-gatame). (two medium/incorrect principle mistakes, and that creates the situation that is a poor execution (Big)

Kodokan emphasis

(2013-2015 post-Worlds seminars)

-
- Riai – Action and reaction in the most efficient and fluid means possible
 - “Principle theory, the underlying principle or theory of an art. In judo this includes avoiding attempting to control an opponent by using power in favor of throwing him or her through skillful balance-braking, body shifting, and other techniques that use energy and movement in the most efficient, elegant way possible.” (Kodokan New Japanese-English, Dictionary of Judo)

Kodokan emphasis (2013-2015 post-Worlds seminars)

- Zanshin– A state of awareness in the moment after submission to verify surrounding of threats before release.
 - “Remaining Mind. A state of awareness that continues even after throwing your opponent, maintained to allow further action and response should the opponent continue with a counter attack .” (Kodokan New Japanese-English, Dictionary of Judo)

Kodokan emphasis

(2013-2015 post-Worlds seminars)

- Show all parts of the technique so everyone can see clearly
- Spirit / Strength
- Continuous flow / movement (by either tori or uke)
- Move “Sufficiently”
- Move Naturally
- All movements are Deliberate (and therefore repeatable)

Nage no kata

Specific examples for scoring or differences in style to IJF

- Uke starts to grip, tori takes over immediately
- Kodokan: Second step larger; use of hands and body (not arms) to create kuzushi
- Kodokan and IJF: Seo nage loaded on top of tori's shoulder
- Kodokan and IJF: Okuri ashi harai – Uke should take low spiral, not a large motion by Uke of swept up and fall down; that is “without lifting Uke's body”
- Medium mistake = Off-target with strike; Uke decides starting position (tori should); improper starting position or distance of either Uke and Tori
- Small/medium mistake: jumping; direction of technique; movement to next technique; release of uke and start of next kumikata

Katame no kata

- Kodokan says ANY 3 logical techniques are okay.
 - At World Kata Championships, almost all teams perform Kodokan escapes (or very slight variations)
- Set 1 – large, deliberate, repeatable actions and reactions
- Kodokan: Sets 2 and 3 – Tori is so effective, only slight demonstration of escape is often possible
- Style difference - Torso/Head tilt in readiness for Sets 2 and 3 (e.g., Worlds and Japanese style)

Ju no kata

- Kodokan: Continuous motion is important
- IJF: Kata oshi – uke's right and tori's left feet align behind each other
 - Kodokan Handbook:
- Kodokan and IJF: Katate age – tori must step backward/pivot on left foot, tori does not 'catch' uke's striking arm and force down, instead tori traps/pushes uke's arm in direction of uke's action

Kodokan Goshin Jitsu and Kime No Kata

- Tori should “stare at the far away mountains” – point of view is the periphery
- Moment of zanshin after submission to ensure opponent is not going to make another move
- Kiai absent, added kiai
- Style: dynamic uke response, large steps/motions
- (most mixed teams)

IJF Score Sheets

- Score for:
 - Opening ceremony
 - Each technique (Of note, for Nage – only one score per technique)
 - Closing ceremony
- Fluidity, course and rhythm
 - As of 2015 – not a separate score
 - Included in each technique

Next Steps

- Now /Soon suggestions
 - switch to scoring 1 Nage score per technique
 - when judging, think about -5, -3, -1 points
 - Think as a Judge: if a score of 5 or less: was there poor execution or another Big mistake? Plus other small or medium mistakes
- 2016 Nationals: USA standard with USA scoring scale and USA scoring sheets *ADDING...* IJF evaluation criteria
- 2017 Nationals: IJF criteria *ADDING...* IJF score sheets
- Summer 2017: Kodokan and IJF at the USJF Kata Conference

References / Resources

- <http://shufujudo.org/> - Shufu Yudanshakai kata page
 - Combination of US Standard and IJF Evaluation criteria (tables) for each kata
 - Judge's guides for IJF evaluation criteria for each kata (e.g., start and ending positions + evaluation criteria) - unofficial
 - 2015 Official IJF Evaluation Criteria
 - 2015 IJF Competition Rules (e.g., competition area, definition of mistakes, tie breakers)
- <http://kodokanjudoinstitute.org/en/waza/forms/>
 - Kodokan Kata Handbooks - translated in English

Back up

IJF Competition Rules

Copied verbatim from

2015 IJF Kata World Championship

(and yes, they use the Queen's English)

IJF Competition Rules: IJF Kata Judge Candidate

- The candidature is opened for new IJF Kata Judges or to extend the number of Kata licenses for the Judges that have not license for all Kata.
- Each National Federation can enter up maximum 3 candidates having Continental License for the Kata they ask to do the examination.
- Minimum Age = 30 years old. Minimum grade = 4th dan
- Each Candidate can be examined by the IJF Kata Commission for the Kata recognized in the IJF competitions for a maximum of 5 Kata. The examination will be written and oral and it will be based on the knowledge of the principles of kata and IJF competition rules.

IJF Competition Rules: COMPETITION AREA

- The Competition area has dimensions Minimum 8 x 8 or Maximum 10 x 10 metres and shall be covered by Tatami or similar acceptable material.
- The Competition area must be fixed to a resilient floor. When more adjoining competition areas are used, a common safety area of minimum 2 meters is necessary
- A strip of visible colour adhesive tape, approximately 10 cm. wide and 50 cm. long, shall be fixed on the centre of the competition area 6 m. apart, to indicate the starting position of Tori and Uke.
- The centre of the Competition area shall be indicated with a strip adhesive tape of the same colour.

IJF Competition Rules: POINT SYSTEM

- The Judges are five and will award points on the official IJF scoring sheet.
- For each technique the total score of three Judges will be totalled to produce the final score.
- The evaluation of every technique of Kata has to consider the principle and the opportunity of execution: the evaluation (included the open and close ceremony) has to be comprehensive.

IJF Competition Rules: POINT SYSTEM

- For every technique without a big mistake, the minimum score has to be 5.
- In the Nage no Kata, right and left techniques will be evaluated comprehensively (only one score).
- The couple enters and leaves the competition area at the opposite side of shomen: the Start and end of Kata (opening and closing ceremony) is at 8 m or 10 m distance depending on the dimensions of the mat (bow to the mat).
- Any behaviour of Tori or Uke inside the Competition area that is contrary to the spirit of Kata will reduce the score of the ceremony.

IJF Competition Rules: POINT SYSTEM

Equal scores (tie breakers)

- Total value of big mistakes - wins who makes less mistakes;
- If still equal, total value of medium mistakes will be considered. - wins the pair who makes less mistakes;
- If still equal, total value of small mistakes will be considered – wins the pair who makes less mistakes;
- If still equal, the average score (evaluated until the second decimal place) of the whole Kata will decide. Wins the pair who has a better score.
- If two pairs, both placing 3rd in the eliminatory (or 6th place in case of only 1 group) are still equal after all the above mentioned criteria, both pairs will qualify for the final.
- If two pairs placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd during the final are still equal after the above mentioned criteria, the Kata will be repeated so that the medal can be assigned.

IJF Competition Rules: SYSTEM OF JUDGING

- Each Kata shall be evaluated by five judges under the supervision of the IJF Kata Commission. The five judges will be positioned on the Shomen side and they will seat at about 1 m distance apart from.
- The rule of neutrality will be applied: cannot be judged a pair of the same Nation.
- The position of the five judges will be the same for all the competition. If one judge is temporary replaced, he will take place in the same original position when he re-enters the competition. A Judge cannot be a competitor. The judges shall always be in their position before the arrival of the couple in the competition area.
- The couple enters and leaves the competition area at the opposite side of shomen
- The judge in the centre at shomen side gets up and, with tense arms and palms of the hands turned upward, invites the couple to enter the competition area.
- The start and the end of Kata (opening and closing ceremony) is at 8 m or 10 m distance (bow to the mat).
Any behaviour of Tori or Uke inside the competition area that is contrary to the spirit of Kata will reduce the score of the ceremony.