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# WAKO

# Musical Forms

# Rules





## WAKO Rules of Tatami Sports – Musical Forms

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### Chapter Five – Musical Forms

#### Art. 1. Definition

A musical form is a sort of imaginary fight against one or more opponents in which the performer uses techniques coming from Oriental Martial Arts to specifically chosen music.

The choice of music is personal.

#### Art. 2. Rhythm

All Forms divisions must be performed to music. Martial Arts techniques must go according to the rhythm; Even Soft Styles will have to follow our basic rules that Martial Arts Techniques must be performed according to the rhythm of the music.

#### Art. 3. Length

Hard forms cannot be longer than 1 minute and 30 seconds, presentation excluded, with the presentation not exceeding 30 seconds. In soft styles the performance cannot exceed 2 minutes presentation excluded, with the presentation again not exceeding 30 seconds. In the event of a violation of the present rule, the chief referee will ask for a deduction of up to point 0.5

If a form is less than 1 minute in length after the presentation the chief referee will ask for a deduction of 1.0 point from each judge.

The time keeper will start the clock for the presentation when the competitor starts his / her continuous walk towards the judges

The Time keeper will start the clock when the competitor starts his / her form after their presentation.

The Time keeper will time both presentation and form.

#### Art. 4. Age

For musical forms competition the allowed age groups are:

- Boys and girls - 7, 8 and 9 years old
- Younger cadets - 10,11 and 12 years old
- Older cadets - 13,14 and 15 years old
- Juniors - 16,17 and 18 years old
- Seniors - 19 to 45 years old

Age categories are the same for male and female competitors

Boys and girls and cadets categories must be kept separate

Younger competitors can participate only in the next older category.

Age divisions will be determined in the following manner: a competitor will be placed in an age division according to his year of birth, not his actual birthday, and he / she will be required to compete all year in this age category.

Positive proof of age will be required at ALL events.

(The age divisions for the children should be according to their year of birth not their actual birthday)

#### Art. 5. Divisions

In Musical Forms competitions there are four divisions both for men and women:

**Hard styles** Coming from Karate or Taekwondo

**Soft Styles** Coming from Kung Fu and Wu-Shu

**Hard styles weapons** Using weapons: kama, sai, tonfa, nunchaku, bo, katana

**Soft Styles weapons** Using weapons: naginata, nunchaku, tai chi chuan sword, chain,  
Wu shu long stick, two swords, hook sword and two hook swords, etc.

- Competitors in Musical Forms can enter only 2 divisions in each Championship.
- Competitors must choose from Hard **or** Soft Forms, ( i.e. Hard – Open Hand + Hard Weapons
- **Or** Soft – Open Hand + Soft Weapons. Competitors cannot enter 1 Soft and 1 Hard Category



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### Art. 6. Uniforms

There is no specific uniform for musical forms competitors. They can wear any kind of legally recognized kickboxing or karate uniform, which must be clean and decent. In Hard styles, competitors must be bare footed, while in Soft Styles they can wear martial arts shoes.

They can also be shirtless for their performance (apart from women, of course). Competitors are allowed to wear sweat bands on arms/wrist. Competitors are not allowed to wear any jewellery or piercings of any kind.

### Art. 7. State off Weapons

Each competitor is responsible for the perfect state of his or her weapon/s. Competitors cannot change their weapon/s during the competition.

The chief referee can ask to inspect the competitor's weapon/s if he wishes to do so.

No live blades (sharp weapons) can be used in any competitor's performance.

### Art. 8. Gymnastic Movements

Both in Hard or Soft styles, no more than **three gymnastics movements** are allowed in WAKO musical forms.

Violation of this rule will lead to a 0.5 point deduction from **each** judge for **each** extra gymnastic technique performed.

A gymnastic movement is a movement with no martial art purpose (no striking). Some gymnastic movements can be modified by adding a kick or a punch to the movement. In that case, it is not considered a gymnastic movement.

### Art. 9. Criteria of Judging in Order

Each judge must take into consideration, before awarding any decision:

- **Basics**  
Stances, punches, kicks and blocks according to the basic technique of the original styles
- **Balance**  
Strength, focus (perfect balance and movements done with energy)
- **Degree of difficulty**  
Kicks, jumping kicks, spinning kicks, tricks, combinations, gymnastic movements
- **Synchronization**  
In hard styles, perfect timing, the relationship between movement and music; in soft styles, the relationship between movement and music
- **Manipulation**  
With regard to weapons, of course. The competitor must show perfect control with blocks, strikes and mastery of the weapon being used by doing outstanding work with their weapon, this should be the first criteria to consider in the weapons division.
- **Showmanship**  
Competitor's presence and role playing, and the presentation of choreography
- The competitor may touch the floor with their weapon when performing gymnastics / tricks / rolls etc.
- Competitors can spin/roll the weapon around their body (neck / arms and hands)
- Only **2 complete releases allowed**... i.e. throwing the weapon/s in the air is allowed (More than two releases, the competitor will be disqualified)

### Art. 10. Scoring

After a musical forms performance 4 judges and 1 chief referee will score the performance as follows:

- Boys and girls, younger and older cadets: 5.0 to 7.0
- Juniors: 6.0 to 8.0
- Seniors: 7.0 to 9.0 in European Championships
- Juniors/Seniors 8.0 to 10.0 in World Championships
- **Please Note: In World / European Championships there will be 6 judges and 1 chief referee.**



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At the end of each performance, the judges make up their decisions according to the established criteria.

The Chief referee will advise the judges how many points to deduct if there were any illegal techniques or violation of the rules after the competitor has finished his/her performance.

At the command of the chief referee, they will raise their score boards, visible to the competitors and the audience, and keep them in the air until the announcer in office has counted all marks.

Highest and lowest marks will be deducted, The three remaining will make the final score.

In case of a draw for first, second or third place both the highest and lowest scores will be brought back in, all 5 scores will then be added together, the competitor with the highest score will be the winner. If there is still a draw, the scores are compared and the highest scores are highlighted. The competitor with the most highlighted scores wins.

### Art. 11. Minus points

- **1.0 point**  
If the competitor drops or leaves his/her weapons/s on the floor, they will be deducted 1.0 from each judge
- **Up to 0.5 points**  
If the competitor loses synchronization with his music
- **Up to 0.5 points**  
If the competitor loses his balance
- **0.5 will be deducted :**  
If the competitor performs any disallowed movements
- **0.5 will be deducted for every gymnastics technique performed over the allowed number of gymnastic techniques,**
- **0.3 to 0.5 points**  
If the competitor is wearing jewellery or piercings of any kind ( ie earrings, rings, belly piercings,)
- **Minimum Marks ( Lowest score )**  
If the competitor breaks off his performance before the end, the judges will give the minimum mark
- During all weapons divisions the weapons/s can only be released twice (2) from the competitor's hand.
- If the competitor releases his/her weapons more than twice (2) they will be disqualified, (minimum marks.)
- If swear words are heard in the music the performer will be disqualified. (minimum marks)

### Art. 12. Seeding

- Competitors will be seeded. i.e. 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3rd place only from the previous world or European Championships. However, Europeans cannot be seeded in the World Championships. If any of the top three are not present at the above championships they lose their ranking.
- The placings for competitors who are not seeded will have their names/order selected by the following method: Names of all un-seeded competitors will be written down. Numbered balls will be picked out of a bag and the first number selected will be written at the side of the first name on the list, and so on until all competitors have a number. This will then be the order for the competition.

### Art. 13. Dance Movements

Dance movements will not be allowed, accepted or tolerated during musical forms performances. Competitors who choose to incorporate dance moves such as "break or jazz dancing" or even "classical" will receive the lowest mark from each judge.

### Art. 14 Costumes and Make-ups

Theatrical costumes, including make-up, masks or any type of uniform that is not recognized as a legal Martial Arts uniform will not be accepted

Infractions to the above-mentioned rule will lead to the immediate disqualification of the competitor.

### Art. 15. Special Effects

Any special effect, such as lasers, smoke, fire, explosions, etc. will not be tolerated. Infractions to the above-mentioned rule will lead to the immediate disqualification of the competitor.