



BRITISH UNIVERSITY TAEKWON-DO LEAGUE (BUTL)

UNIVERSITY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS ITF RULES AND REGULATIONS

Your participation and inclusion at any or all BUTL events are conditional upon you entering into this agreement and observing all BUTL rules and regulations.

This is a legally binding document. Therefore, you should read it carefully in order to understand the BUTL, its expectations, its conduct and its delivery of Taekwon-Do events and competition.

Updated as of Summer 2025.

BUTL ORGANISATION

MEMBERS (UNIVERSITIES)

A list of participating Universities across the Nationals will be released each year with results posted at www.butl.org.uk

KEY PERSONNEL

- Ross Sharman – Head of BUTL
- Niraj Wadher – Head of International
- Amy Coupe - Head of Volunteering
- Emma Tracy – Head of Marketing
- Nic Mooney – Officials Manager
- Alexandra Hume - Head of Events
- Daniel Tuley – Head of ITF

BUTL AIMS

The British University Taekwon-Do League (herein "BUTL") aims to:

1. Create an ethos where club size does not dictate success.
2. Offer a democratically run University club-based competition not limited by politics or affiliation.
3. Promote and develop the social integration of student clubs around the country.
4. Provide unique opportunities to University and College students
5. Advance the sport of Taekwon-Do at an Institutional level and offer the best sporting experience in the world.
6. To promote and continue the education of Taekwon-Do

MISSION STATEMENT

The World Championships are a competitive individual-based championship that caters to and officiates with individual Taekwon-Do rules. The Nationals are run to maintain a high standard in University based competition. Catering for University clubs and following rules as discussed and approved by the founding clubs during the creation of the BUTL. (AGM July 2015) and ensured up to date as of time of event. The World Championships follows an individual knock out tournament set up for sparring and pattern competition.

UNIVERSITY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

UNIVERSITY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS OVERVIEW

The University World Championships take place once every two academic years, alternating with the National Student Championships.

VENUE

Each Championship is hosted at alternative venues each year, opportunities to host are available to all institutions, applications can be processed via the BUTL website.

RING/COMPETITIVE AREA

The competitive ring size (competition area) will be no smaller than 7 meters x 7 meters with the addition of 8 x 8 if possible, at all venues and all match days. Corner seats (4)

placed at the edge of the ring. Jury tables at top of each ring. Nationals features a minimum of 6 competitive rings. Rings are fully matted with BUTL approved jigsaw mats.

TIME AND ARRIVAL DETAILS

Depending on the distance needed to travel by each club to the specific match day, the time frames of certain teams that day will be taken into consideration and adjusted so that no one is at a disadvantage due to exhaustion etc. Details are confirmed in advance but the event typically runs 9am-5pm, with registration taking place from 8am until mats start at 9:30am.

TROPHY AND MEDALS

All individuals who achieve 1st, 2nd and 3rd place are presented with individual medals in the form of Gold (1st), Silver (2nd), Bronze (3rd).

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

MANDATORY EQUIPMENT – All colour variants acceptable

- Do Boks - must be worn by all competitors, no restrictions on style or colour (Patterns and Sparring)
- Hand Pads - Closed and open hand versions are acceptable. Inspected by center referee (Sparring)
- Feet Pads - All fully covered style variations accepted (Sparring)
- Mouth Guards/Shin Guards/Groin Guards (Sparring)
- Head Guards (Sparring)

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

- Breast Guards (Sparring)

REFEREES AND UMPIRES

STANDARD OUTLINED REFEREE/UMPIRE BACKGROUND

- 4 corner umpires, 1 jury and 1 center referee for each sparring ring. Clickers mandatory and supplied by BUTL. 5 umpires and 1 jury for each pattern ring.
- Centre Referees and senior umpires approved by BUTL and only those will be allowed to officiate. Umpires can also be provided by each club but must be approved prior to day. Umpires that are provided by participating clubs will be assessed in order to find out if they have the relevant knowledge and experience.
- Each club lists their judges on the submitted team sheet. These can be people who are competing.
- Senior referees (Centers) are always BUTL approved no matter of those competing in that ring.

REFEREE RULES AND REGULATIONS

BUTL umpire and referee rules apply to the World Championships. All umpires and referees must be made fully aware of rules and will strictly stick to the regulations of the World Championships as agreed by BUTL. A referee and

umpires meeting will take place before events start each day. Scoring etc found in the 'competitive rules & regulations' sections. Basic commands in Korean (ie begin/stop). All others in English. Umpires will have the unique BUTL Red Card Policy as support.

SPARRING RULES

OUTLINED DECISIONS

1. When 3 to 4 umpires give a decision in favor of one competitor then that competitor is the winner and maximum points will be added to the team score.
2. When 2 umpires give a decision in favor of one competitor (2 for one competitor + 1 for the other + 1 give it as a draw or 2 giving it as a draw) then that competitor who got the decision of the 2 umpires is the winner and maximum points will be added to the team score.
3. When two umpires give a decision in favor of one competitor and the other 2 umpires give a decision in favor of the other competitor then the result will be a draw, so a further 30 seconds will determine the winner.

COMPETITIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS

SPARRING RULES AND REGULATIONS

OVERVIEW

The sparring rules and regulations regarding all competitions are strictly those that follow the BUTL ITF competition system of Taekwon-Do. All grades are eligible to enter, there are no restrictions regarding belt level.

CATEGORIES

At the Nationals all competitors are matched up by grade as much as possible. We aim to ensure a perfect match by having same grades compete, in rare occasions competitors may compete against one or two grades higher. Eg Yellow Belt (8th Kup) vs Green Belt (6th Kup). Colour belt rounds are 1 minute 30, Black belt rounds are 2 minutes.

If umpires give a draw at the end of the bout, then colour belt competitors will have a further 30 second round, black belt competitors a further 30 second round. If still a draw this will result in the first point scored for the winner.

MATCHING UP INDIVIDUALS

WEIGHT/HEIGHT

- Each category will have matched up weight categories. The individual's weight will be matched up as close as possible. E.g. A lower heavy weight won't be matched up against a larger heavy weight if avoidable.
- Each category will allow 0.5kg leeway to avoid extra worry and stress to competitors. **Once weighed in, if weight is not met, competitors have a 1 hour slot to return and make weight that same day, before events. No fines will be given, we just move up.**

- Weight is the main separation but as a secondary we also go by height in order to get the fairest draws possible.

Male Weights:

- FEATHER: -58kg
- LIGHT: -64kg
- MIDDLE: -71kg
- WELTER: -79kg
- CRUISER: -86kg
- HEAVY: +86kg

Female Weights:

- BANTAM: -53kg
- FEATHER: -58kg
- LIGHT: -63kg
- WELTER: -70kg
- MIDDLE: -79kg
- HEAVY: 79kg +

ADDITIONAL MATCHING CRITERIA

Each competitor will have opponents from different countries on the day and category matching will consist of achieving the closest in the following categories (all taken into account to gain the fairest bout first).

1. Belt (competitors may be up or down one belt level) – MANDATORY
2. Weight (of Individual) - MANDATORY
3. Height (of individual)
4. Sex - MANDATORY
5. Experience – Primarily: Actual amount of time spent competing and sparring.
Secondary: Events entered previous, experience in other martial arts.

POTENTIAL CHANGES TO MATCH UPS

If participant entries in any category are unable to be perfectly matched, at event officials and BUTL discretion categories can be merged as close and fair as possible for all affected participants. All coaches will be made aware and involved in discussions for full transparency.

SCORING AND DEDUCTION/PENALTIES/WARNINGS

SCORING

Scoring will follow the BUTL ITF scoring system and will consist of the following.

- 1 point for any hand scoring technique (anywhere on body scoring zone above belt)
- 2 points for any kicking technique to the body (scoring zones) area above belt
- 3 points for any kicking technique to the head (scoring zones).

SCORING PROCEDURE

In competition a technique is valid when:

- A. It is executed correctly
- B. It is dynamic, delivered with strength, purpose, rapidity and precision.
- C. It is controlled on the target.

DISQUALIFICATION/FOULS/WARNINGS

Points will be deducted in standard BUTL rules as follows:

Competitors will be giving three warnings and then 1 point will be deducted. Warnings can continue through the match and are deducted at the end. A participant can only be disqualified after committing 3 fouls.

DISQUALIFICATION

- A. Misconduct against officials by continuously ignoring instructions
- B. Failing to turn up or compete
- C. Committing 3 fouls
- D. Any competitor suspected of being under the influence of alcoholic beverages or drugs
- E. Breach of the BUTL Code of Conduct

FOULS

One point will be deducted for the following offences:

- A. Loss of temper
 - B. Insulting an opponent in any way
 - C. Biting/Scratching/Clawing
 - D. Attacking with the knee, elbow or forehead
 - E. Attacking a fallen opponent
 - F. Excessive Contact (and spinning hand techniques)
 - G. Continuously arguing with the referee
 - H. Excessive/Heavy Contact
- N.B The sum of 3 warnings automatically means deducting 1 point

WARNINGS

Warnings will be assigned for the following offences.

- A. Attacking an opponent illegally (below belt/to the back/spinning hand)
 - B. Stepping completely out of the ring (both feet)
 - C. Falling down, whether intentional or not (any part of the body, other than the feet, touching the ground)
 - D. Holding/Grabbing/Pushing
 - E. Sweeping
 - F. Faking a blow, pretending to be injured to gain an advantage
 - G. Intentionally avoiding sparring
 - H. Pretending to have scored a point by raising the arm/any celebration
- N.B If a competitor is pushed out of the ring with intent then he will not receive a warning.

MATCH RULES

The Nationals will cover one variation of sparring, this being continuous. Depending on the grade and experience level these will be applied in the following way:

CONTINUOUS

- Continuous rules for all belts - Colour belts kept at a lighter level
- Continuous is continuous. Time stopped when injury or decision.
- No limit on amount of hand techniques thrown in succession but must be executed correctly (technical). Judges may only score 1 or 2 hand techniques in a flurry due to loss of technique.
- Corner judges all reveal winner by holding up participants colour (flag) at the end of the match.

INJURY

- When a competitor is injured, the center referee must stop the match and the competitor must be assessed and receive valid treatment. Given 1minute 30 to return to the ring, longer if fit but needed.
- When a competitor cannot continue due to injury, they are declared the winner if the opponent is responsible (excessive contact etc) or the loser if the opponent is not responsible (accidental/walked into technique etc). Centre Referee holds the decision after discussion with corner umpires and jury. Head Injury assessed by Centre Ref, medics, their discretion.
- A competitor who refuses to accept the decision of the medic and center referee is disqualified.
- If two competitors injure themselves at the same time and are unable to continue, the competitor with the highest point score is declared the winner. If a draw at that time, discretion is with the corner judges.
- Injured participants must be treated immediately by first aid. On site First aiders and medical teams are supplied at all events by BUTL, each team should also have their own qualified first aider accompanying them for extra protection.

SPARRING MATCH PROCEDURE

- The bout will commence with the competitors on the start positions each with a red or blue marker to differentiate between them.
- At the command of the center referee the competitors bow to the center referee and then one another.
- The center referee starts the bout with the command 'Si-Jak' and the competitors continue to spar until the referee issues the command of 'Goman'.
- At this point the competitors cease to spar and remain where they are until restarted. For point sparring they return to the center positions.
- On completion of the time the timekeeper will signal the center referee, the bout will only end on the command of 'Goman' by the center referee.
- Bowing procedure will ensure.
- If a competitor leaves the ring they must re-start one meter inside the ring.

PATTERNS

PATTERNS RULES AND REGULATIONS OVERVIEW

The patterns rules and regulations regarding all competitions are strictly those that follow the BUTL competition system of Taekwon-Do. All grades are eligible to enter, there are no restrictions regarding belt level.

CATEGORIES

Within the World Championships all competitors are matched up by grade as close as possible. We aim to ensure a perfect match by having the same grades compete against each other. In rare occasions grades may compete against one or two grades higher. Eg Yellow Belt (8th Kup) vs Green Belt (6th Kup). Patterns round are one pattern per bout and are designated.

If umpires deliver a draw at the end of the bout, then grades will be asked to perform an additional pattern as selected by center umpire.

MATCHING UP INDIVIDUALS

MATCHING CRITERIA

Each competitor will have multiple opponents from different countries on the day and categories will consist of achieving the closest in the following categories:

1. Belt (current grade)
2. Sex

POTENTIAL CHANGES TO MATCH UPS

If participant entries in any category are unable to be perfectly matched, at event officials and BUTL discretion categories can be merged as close and fair as possible for all affected participants. All coaches will be made aware and involved in discussions for full transparency.

SCORING AND DEDUCTION PENALTIES/DISQUALIFICATION

SCORING PROCEDURE

Umpires will score patterns based on the BUTL ITF level scoring system.

Umpires will deduct points for each technical error noted or will give a result of 0 if a major penalty is observed. A winner will be chosen based on the individual who performs the pattern with the least amount of technical errors. The competitor with the majority of umpire votes will be declared the winner. In the case of a draw, another pattern will be selected until a winner is decided.

DEDUCTION PENALTIES

Minor technical penalties will be deducted in standard BUTL rules, 1 point deducted for the following offenses:

- A. Not calling, or calling the incorrect pattern name
- B. Performing a technique at the incorrect height

- C. Losing balance
- D. Hesitating and/or stopping for more than a split of a second
- E. Not returning to starting spot
- F. Lack of power on specific techniques
- G. Inaccurate or incorrect stepping
- H. Inaccurate or incorrect breathing
- I. Inaccurate or incorrect preparation or execution of a technique
- J. Inaccurate or incorrect stance
- K. Inaccurate or incorrect motion
- L. Attacking or defending with wrong technique
- M. Incorrect holding or retraction of a kick
- N. Incorrect rhythm

Major technical penalties will be deducted in standard BUTL rules, award results of 0 for:

- A: Stopping the pattern completely and/or not finishing the pattern
- B. Pausing and/or stopping for a few seconds
- C. Starting the pattern from the wrong direction
- D. Starting a different pattern than the designated one, or with any techniques other than those defined
- E. Failing to perform the total number of movements required

DISQUALIFICATION

- A. Misconduct against officials
- B. Failing to turn up or compete
- C. Lack of integrity and courtesy shown to opponents, coaches and officials
- D. Any competitor suspected of being under the influence of alcoholic beverages or drugs
- E. Breach of the BUTL Code of Conduct

MATCH RULES

The World Championship pattern categories will cover two variations of pattern in usual rounds (Designated followed by Choice). Each round a competitor will perform both a designated and choice pattern. Depending on the grade and experience level these will be applied in the following way:

DESIGNATED

- Designated rules for all belts – Colour (Kup grades) and Black (Dan grades)
- Designated pattern will be held up by the Jury president and spoke by center umpire
- Pattern designated will always be a previous graded pattern (not one selected from current grade held). This is to ensure those who may have just graded aren't put at a disadvantage if not having time to learn their current pattern.
- Includes all recognized ITF style patterns

- Umpires all reveal winner by holding up participants colour (flag) at the end of the match.

CHOICE

- Choice rules for all belts – Colour (Kup grades) and Black (Dan grades)
- Choice pattern can be any pattern chosen by the competitor, up to and including current grade
- Choice patterns will be scored equally and not penalized based on 'pattern level'
- All recognized ITF style patterns are accepted

INJURY

- When a competitor is injured, the center referee must stop the match and the competitor must be assessed and receive valid treatment. Given 1minute 30 to return to the ring, longer if fit but needed.
- When a competitor cannot continue due to injury, they are declared as forfeited. Head Injury assessed by Centre Ref, medics, their discretion.
- A competitor who refuses to accept the decision of the medic and center referee is disqualified. If two competitors injure themselves at the same time and are unable to continue, the competitor with the highest point score is declared the winner. If a draw at that time, discretion is with the corner judges.
- Injured participants must be treated immediately by first aid. On site First aiders and medical teams are supplied at all BUTL events, each team should also have their own qualified first aider accompanying them for extra protection.

PATTERNS MATCH PROCEDURE

- Each competitor will wait at the start of the matted area, until called onto the starting positions by the center umpire. Competitors will walk on and will wait within their red or blue marker with their hands neatly behind their back.
- The bout will commence with the two competitors on the start positions each with a red or blue marker to differentiate between them.
- At the command of the center umpire the competitors bow to the front and then one another.
- The jury president holds up the designated pattern and the center umpire repeats the pattern name, starts the bout with the command 'Si-Jak' and both competitors continue begin.
- On completion of the designated pattern each competitor stays in their final stance and technique until asked to return 'Baro' by the center umpire.
- This procedure is then repeated with the competitors performing their choice pattern. Returning once a final 'Baro' has been administered by the center umpire
- On center umpires call, umpires will show their winner (flag), jury will then confirm (flag)
- Bowing procedure will ensure led by center umpire.

TEAM PATTERNS

Team Patterns will consist of a maximum of 5 members, minimum of 3 members and can be inclusive of all genders. Team patterns will be consisting of one CHOICE team pattern per round. Teams must announce once taking the mat the name of the pattern chosen. Team patterns will be scored on choreography, teamwork, power, speed and execution, balance and breathing by the BUTL patterns scoring procedure above.

TEAM SPARRING

Team Sparring will consist of 5 members. Colour Belts grades between 9th to 1st Kup and Black Belts 1st-6th Dan, separated by gender. Scoring and rules applicable as per individual BUTL scoring procedure and rules. Team sparring consists of 5 bouts. Before the first bout a coin is tossed to determine which team puts a member in first, the loser of the coin toss has to put someone in first, the winning team then chooses their first participant. This then swaps between both teams until all bouts are complete. Each competitor may only compete in one bout per match. Corner Umpires continue scoring through all 5 bouts without resetting scoring clickers. Scores carry through and only once all 5 bouts are complete is a winning team declared. If a member of the team is disqualified during a bout, then 10 points are awarded to the opposing team. Disqualifications do not continue through to the next round.

OFFICIALS AND CORNER UMPIRES

We ask to create a fair and enjoyable experience for all, offering those the chance to corner umpire. We supply BUTL Approved Umpires and Referees but also welcome volunteers from clubs, if you have anyone who would like to help, then please do encourage them to assist at the event. Corner judges must be of Black Tag (1st Kup) or above. **We will provide a food buffet and drinks buffet for all umpires on both days of the championship.**

UMPIRE RED CARD POLICY

To show our continued support towards umpires, we have developed the BUTL Red Card Policy. This provides umpires with more support and power on rings to deal with abusive or interfering behavior, affecting their mental health and work on the day. This policy allows Umpires to show a red card to anyone breaking the code of conduct and interfering with the rings, this can be coaches, spectators or anyone infringing on umpire duties. Those show the card will have their passes immediately removed for the rest of the event and asked to leave the competition area. One verbal warning will be given, before umpires use the policy.

ENTRY SUBMISSION

Please try and submit all entries in by **7th February 2026**. That way we can contact you with official day running order and any potential amendments or changes to categories based on number of entrants etc. We prefer to disclose everything to you and sort whatever we can beforehand instead of having it come up on the day. In rare circumstances entries can be submitted a few days before, this risks less chance of prior information. **Entry can be made at www.butl.org.uk/worldchampionships**

REGISTRATION AND WEIGHT IN - IMPORTANT

Competitor registration and Weigh takes place at the event. We feel it is a duty of care to recommend competitors avoid any type of weight loss or extreme conditions that could then directly affect them during competition. Weigh in and registration will be available at the venue each day from open and until patterns events begin.

PAYMENT

Entry Fee is as follows:

ITF Individual Patterns - £35 per competitor
ITF Individual Sparring - £35 per competitor
ITF Team Events - £10 per competitor

All ITF Event Entry (Inc all ITF Events together) - £50 (up to a £20 saving)

Entries must be submitted via the official entry forms by **7th February 2026**. If problems, please send emergency entry sheets to **info@butl.org.uk**.

CANCELLATION PROCEDURE

BUTL has public liability insurance to cover cancellation of venues, match days and all BUTL events, in which participants will receive refunds in full for all of these situations. Individual personal competitor insurance is also taken out for all events to ensure safety cover is in place for all those attending, Schools are encouraged to make sure their members are also insured through their bodies or organizations. If teams or individuals pull out of events of their own accord, then a refund will not be applicable.

ITF NATIONALS INSURANCE COVER

Health and safety is of the uttermost importance and taken extremely seriously. In order to make the World Championships as safe as possible each competitor is individually insured by BUTL with person to person cover. This process ensures regardless of current individual policies held by the competitor, everyone taking part is covered to take part at BUTL events.

University World Championships and BUTL Insurance is provided by leading martial art insurance provider Elite Martial Art Professionals (EMAP). This insurance cover has been put in place since the BUTL was established in 2015. Further information can be viewed at www.emapworld.com.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Your participation and inclusion at any or all BUTL events are conditional upon you entering into the Code of Conduct agreement and observing all BUTL rules and regulations. By entering/registering/attending the ITF Nationals you agree to adhere to the Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct is a legally binding document. Therefore, you should read it carefully in order to understand the BUTL, its expectations, its conduct and its delivery of Taekwon-Do events and competition.

The Code of Conduct as well as documentation regarding Inclusion and Diversity can be found at www.butl.org.uk/governance

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The BUTL would like to thank all Grand Masters, Masters, Instructors, competitors, schools, coaches, institutions, organizations, spectators and countries for supporting this historic event. All volunteers, officials and referees for giving their time and commitment to the BUTL. We thank you for your continued support. BUTL are excited to welcome you to a safe and exciting University World Championships.

CONTACT

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Document Reviewed and Updated – Summer 2025

BRITISH UNIVERSITY



BUTL

TAEKWONDO LEAGUE