



BRITISH UNIVERSITY TAEKWON-DO LEAGUE (BUTL)

UNIVERSITY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS WT 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. Detailed rules per World Taekwondo found at www.worldtaekwondo.org.

Updated as of Summer 2025.

BUTL ORGANISATION

MEMBERS (UNIVERSITIES)

A list of participating Universities across the World Championships 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
- Daniel Hubery – Head of WT
- Emma Tracy – Head of Marketing
- Amy Coupe – Head of Volunteering
- Alexandra Hume – Head of Events
- Rummanah Promi – WT Event Coordinator

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 World Championships 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 Championship 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 (3)

placed at the edge of the ring. Jury tables at top of each ring. World Championships features a minimum of 7 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

- Do Boks - must be worn by all competitors, no restrictions on style or colour
- WT Hand, Feet, Shin and Arm Guards (Colour Belts up to and including Red Tag)
- Electronic KPNP Socks (Black Belts)
- Mouth Guards/Groin Guards
- Head Guards and Body Protector (Colour Belts up to and including Red Tag)
- KPNP Equipment is supplied for Black Belts.

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

- Breast Guards (Sparring)

REFEREES

STANDARD OUTLINED REFEREE BACKGROUND

- 3 corner referees, 1 jury and 1 center referee for each sparring ring. Max of 5 referees and 1 jury for each poomsae ring.
- Centre Referees and senior Referees approved by UK NGB and only those will be allowed to officiate. Referees can also be provided by each institution but must be approved prior to day. Referees 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 entry sheets.
- Senior referees (Centers) are always UK NGB approved no matter of those competing in that ring. Other Referees are made up of qualified UK NGB Officials.

REFEREE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Referee rules apply to the Championships. WT rules are that used by the UK National Governing Body for Taekwondo, as part of World Taekwondo. All referees must be made fully aware of rules and will strictly stick to the regulations of the org as agreed by BUTL. Each event referee meeting will take place before each events start. Scoring etc found in the 'competitive rules & regulations' sections. Basic commands in Korean (ie begin/stop). All others in English.

SPARRING RULES

OUTLINED DECISIONS

1. Referees/System score's techniques, athlete with highest point count wins the round. Athlete that wins 2 of the 3 rounds, wins the match.
2. Athletes can also win rounds by scoring a total of 12 point difference. There are no draws, each round must have a decision in win or lose.
3. Winning individual progresses to the next round of their category.

COMPETITIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS

SPARRING RULES AND REGULATIONS OVERVIEW

The sparring 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. Sparring events use approved UK NGB KPNP Scoring Systems as a first option.

CATEGORIES

Within the Championships all competitors are matched up by grade as much as possible. Colour Belts are separated White to Yellow Belt, Green Tag to Blue Tag, Blue to Black Tag. Black Belts are 1st Dan +. Colour belt rounds are 1 minute 30, Black belt rounds are 2 minutes. A total of 3 rounds will take place, but not all 3 rounds may be needed.

If result is a draw at the end of the bout, then the round continues until a winner.

MATCHING UP INDIVIDUALS

WEIGHT/HEIGHT

- Each category will have matched up weight categories, these viewable below. 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 a 0.5kg leeway to avoid extra worry and stress to competitors.
- Weight is the main separation but as a secondary we also go by height in order to get the fairest draws possible.

Male Weights:

- -54kg
- -58kg
- -63kg
- -68kg
- -74kg
- -80kg
- -87kg and +87kg

Female Weights:

- -46kg
- -49kg
- -53kg
- -57kg
- -62kg
- -67kg
- -73kg and +73kg

ADDITIONAL MATCHING CRITERIA

Competitors are additionally matched into their individual categories by use of the following.

1. Belt (competitors may be up or down one belt level) - **MANDATORY**
2. Weight (of Individual) - **MANDATORY**
3. Height (of individual) - **FIRST ROUND FAIRNESS**
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 CATEGORIES

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

SCORING AND DEDUCTION/PENALTIES/WARNINGS

SCORING

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

- 1 point for punch to body protector
- 2 points for a kick to body protector (4 if a turning kick)
- 3 points for a kick to the head (5 if a turning kick)
- 1 point awarded for every one 'Gam-Jeom' given to opponent

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 derived from World Taekwondo as follows:

A participant will be disqualified after committing 5 Gam-Jeoms.

DISQUALIFICATION

- A. Misconduct against officials by continuously ignoring instructions
- B. Failing to turn up or compete on a match day
- C. Committing 5 Gam-Jeom
- D. Any competitor suspected of being under the influence of alcoholic beverages or drugs.

GAM JEOM

Gam Jeom given for the following offences:

- A. Crossing Boundary Line
- B. Falling Down
- C. Avoiding or delaying match
- D. Grabbing or pushing opponent
- E. Blocking with Leg, Kicking Leg
- F. Kicking below the waist
- G. Attacking opponent after Kal-Yeo
- H. Hitting opponents head with hand
- I. Use of the knee
- J. Attacking a fallen opponent
- K. Attacking the back of the head

MISCONDUCT FROM COACHES/COMPETITORS

Gam Jeoms will be assigned for the following offences.

- A. Not complying with referee command or decision
- B. Inappropriate protesting behavior
- C. Inappropriate attempts to disturb or influence match
- D. Provoking or insulting the opposing competitor or coach
- E. Any other unsporting behavior and severe misconduct

MATCH RULES

The Championships sparring will cover one variation of WT 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.
- Scoring system reveals winner at the end of match, referees if manual.

INJURY

- When a competitor is injured, the center referee must stop the match and the competitor must be assessed and receive valid treatment. Given 1 minute 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 host venues by BUTL, each team should also have their own qualified first aider accompanying them at all match days 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.
- 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.

POOMSAE

POOMSAE RULES AND REGULATIONS OVERVIEW

The poomsae rules and regulations regarding all competitions are strictly those that follow the World Taekwondo competition system of Taekwondo. All grades are eligible to enter, there are no restrictions regarding belt level.

CATEGORIES

Within the Nationals 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). All individual Poomsae rounds are one poomsae per bout and are designated.

List of Poomsae are as follows:

- 10th Kup (White) – 8th Kup (Yellow) – Taeguk il (1)
- 7th Kup (Green Tag) – Taeguk il, + ee (1-2)
- 6th Kup (Green) – Taeguk il, ee + sam (1-3)
- 5th Kup (Blue Tag) – Taeguk il, ee, sam + sa (1-4)
- 4th Kup (Blue Belt) – Taeguk il, ee, sam, sa +oh (1-5)
- 3rd Kup (Red Tag) – Taeguk ee, sam, sa, oh + yuk (2-6)
- 2nd Kup (Red Belt) – Taeguk sam, sa, oh, yuk, chill (3-7)
- 1st Kup (Black Tag) – Taeguk sa, oh, yuk, chill, pal (4-8)

- 1st Dan – Taeguk oh, yuk, chill, pal || Koryo (5-Koroyo)
- 2nd Dan – Taeguk yuk, chill, pal || Koryo, Keumgang
- 3rd Dan – Taeguk chill, pal || Koryo, Keumgang, Taebaek (7-Taebaek)
- 4th Dan – Koryo – Shipjin, (firsr 5 Dan Poomsae)
- 5th Dan & Above – Koryo to Ilyeo (All 9 Dan Poomsae)

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

MATCHING UP INDIVIDUALS

MATCHING CRITERIA

Each competitor will have one to multiple opponents on the day and matching will consist of achieving the closest in the following categories:

1. Belt (current grade)
2. Sex

POTENTIAL CHANGES TO CATEGORIES

If participant entries in any category are unable to be perfectly matched, at event officials and BUTL discretion. categories can be made 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

Referees will score patterns based on the World Taekwondo level scoring system.

Referees 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 poomsae with the least amount of technical errors. The competitor with the majority of referee 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 rules, 1 point deducted for the following offenses:

- A. Not calling, or calling the incorrect poomsae 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 rules, award results of 0 for:

- A. Stopping the poomsae completely and/or not finishing the pattern
- B. Pausing and/or stopping for a few seconds
- C. Starting the poomsae 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 on a match day
- 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.

MATCH RULES

The Championship poomsae will cover one variation of poomsae, this being choice in main rounds and designated in finals.

Depending on the grade and experience level these will be applied in the following way:

DESIGNATED/CHOICE

- Choice rules for all belts. Any known poomsae up to and including current grade through main rounds of competition.
- Designated poomsae will be held up by the Jury president and spoke by center umpire during finals.
- Poomsae designated will always be a previous graded poomsae (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 current poomsae.
- All recognized WT style poomsae are accepted.
- Referees 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 1 minute 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 host venues by BUTL, each team should also have their own qualified first aider accompanying them at all match days for extra protection.

POOMSAE MATCH PROCEDURE

- Each competitor will wait at the start of the matted area, until called onto the starting positions by the center referee. 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 referee the competitors bow to the front and then one another.
- The jury president will ask choice poomsae for main rounds or hold up the designated poomsae, center referee repeats the poomsae name, starts the bout with the command 'Si-Jak' and both competitors continue begin.
- On completion of the poomsae each competitor stays in their final stance and technique until asked to return 'Baro' by the center umpire.
- On center referees call, referees will show their winner (flag), jury will then confirm (flag)
- Bowing procedure will ensure led by center referee.

PAIR POOMSAE

PAIR POOMSAE will consist of a maximum of 2 members and can be inclusive of all genders. Pair poomsae will be consisting of one CHOICE pair poomsae per round. Pairs must announce once taking the mat the name of the poomsae chosen. Team poomsae will be scored on choreography, teamwork, power, speed and execution, balance and breathing by the poomsae scoring procedure.

ENTRY

OVERVIEW

Entry consists of participating competitors. A list of ALL competitors must be submitted before the start of the Championships. Deadline for entry will be set for each event.

CONTENT

Entry Includes:

1. Name of competitor
2. Date of Birth
3. Email Address
4. Belt (Grade)
5. Sex
6. Weight/Height (if sparring)
7. Event disciplines entering (Sparring/Patterns or both)

CODE OF CONDUCT

All entries are subjected to abiding by the BUTL Code of Conduct, by entering you are agreeing you accept and adhere to the BUTL Code of Conduct. Anyone found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct will have their registration cancelled.

TECHNICAL ISSUE BACKUP PLAN

The use of electronic scoring systems will be in place for WT Sparring events. If there are technical failures or reasons the systems cannot be used, then organizers have the right to refer and relate to the manual referee scoring system, of corner referee scoring via clickers, demonstrating winners by a show of flags. If this system is used, the 12 point round winning score rule will not be in place.

Changes from Electronic Scoring System

1. Technique scoring is conducted by corner referees, via manual scoring clickers, referees have a clicker for each competitor in each hand. Point scoring stays the same.
2. Referees show winner after each round, by revealing the winners color flag at the end of the match

OFFICIALS AND CORNER REFEREES

We ask to create a fair and enjoyable experience for all, offering those the chance to corner referee. We use UK NGB Approved 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 referees must be of Black Tag (1st Kup) or above. **We will provide a food buffet and drinks buffet for all referees on all days of the championship.**

REFEREE DISMISSAL CARD POLICY

To show our continued support towards referees, we have developed the BUTL Dismissal Card Policy. This provides referees 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 referees to show a dismissal card to anyone breaking the code of conduct and interfering with the rings, this can be coaches, spectators or anyone infringing on referee 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 referees 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 via the website (www.butl.org.uk/worldchampionships) or committee forms.**

REGISTRATION AND WEIGHT IN - IMPORTANT

Competitor registration and Weigh In opens on the Friday evening and then again on the morning of each event. Competitors will also be able to register and weigh in up until patterns/poomsae events have begun. We recommend doing this asap to ensure a safe and healthy competitor experience. With the ages of students 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 to help with this and there are no penalties or fines for not making weight, we simply move you up.

PAYMENT

Entry Fee is as follows:

WT Individual Kyorugi - £35 per competitor
WT Individual Poomsae - £35 per competitor
WT Team Events - £10 per competitor

WT Full Entry (Inc all WT Events Kyorugi & Poomsae) - £50 (Saving of up to £20)

Entries must be submitted via the official entry forms by **7th February 2026** including payment. 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 hosted 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.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 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. No organization, club, university or individual is then restricted.

For details on all Insurance and providers please contact the team at info@butl.org.uk for access to all documentation.

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 BUTL 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

BUTL would like to thank all Instructors, competitors, clubs, coaches, institutions, organizations, and spectators for supporting these events. All volunteers, officials and referees for giving their time and commitment to the BUTL. We thank you for your continued support.

CONTACT

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