

## Participation of WAKO members in other dissident organizations

### Article 5.2. Authorization of competitions and eligibility rules for athletes

#### 5.2.1. Governing Authority

WAKO is the sole governing body for kickboxing worldwide and is responsible for maintaining the integrity, fairness, and safety of the sport. Protecting athletes' integrity, health, and well-being is a fundamental priority, while maintaining fair, transparent and non-discriminatory access to competitions sanctioned by WAKO. WAKO adheres to the IOC Code of Ethics and upholds the World Anti-Doping Code to ensure fair play and the fight against doping.

##### 5.2.1.1. Sanctioning Authority for WAKO events

- National or international Kickboxing matches, competitions or tournaments which are not organized by WAKO, including any combination or alliance relating directly or indirectly to the organization of Kickboxing matches, competitions or tournaments between WAKO members and/or third parties shall require the prior approval of WAKO to become an official WAKO-sanctioned event.
- WAKO members and affiliated athletes are prohibited from participating in any match, competition, or tournament that has not been approved or sanctioned by WAKO.

#### 5.2.2. Participation in WAKO-sanctioned events

- Participation in WAKO-sanctioned events, including World, Continental, national, and international tournaments, is reserved exclusively for WAKO-affiliated athletes, save as provided in section b) below.
- Non-WAKO affiliated athletes may be permitted to participate in WAKO-sanctioned events only upon receiving prior written approval from WAKO, in accordance with the applicable eligibility criteria.

#### 5.2.3. Approval process

The process for obtaining WAKO's approval, including authorization requirements for third-party organizers and eligibility rules for athletes, shall be governed by the WAKO Authorization Rules, as adopted and periodically updated by the WAKO Board of Directors.

These Authorization Rules establish the objective criteria and conditions that must be met for an event or athlete to receive WAKO's approval

## APENDIX

### Authorization rules for third-party competitions

WAKO Authorization Rules shall include (i) authorization rules for third-party competitions and (ii) eligibility rules for athletes based on transparent, precise, objective, non-discriminatory, and proportionate criteria<sup>1</sup>.

#### A. Administrative and Financial Criteria:

1. **Organizer Information:** Details about the competition organizer.
2. **Competition Title:** Title reflecting the competition's nature.
3. **Payments and Prize Monies:** Information on payments to participating clubs.
4. **Solidarity Payments:** Social, educational, and sporting fund for grassroots and developmental projects.
5. **Financial Standing:** Evidence of financial stability and access to sufficient funds for payments.
6. **Insurance:** Professional risk liability insurance from a reputable insurer.
7. **Intellectual Property:** Assurance that the competition's title and logos do not infringe on any intellectual property rights.
8. **Dispute Resolution:** Confirmation that disputes with the third-party organizer will be resolved by arbitration at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

#### B. Sporting and Technical Criteria:

1. **Dates and Conflicts:** Proposed competition dates and any conflicts with your official calendars.
2. **Participating athletes:** List or criteria for identifying participating athletes.
3. **Referees:**
  - o Organizations providing referees.
  - o Appointment process and qualifications.
  - o Availability and consistency of referees.
4. **Schedule and Venues:**
  - o Details of match schedules and venues.
  - o Health and safety measures.
5. **Competition Regulations:** Copy of governing regulations.
6. **Youth Athletes Safeguarding:** Relevant protocols for youth athletes.
7. **Compliance with Laws:** Confirmation that the competition will adhere with all relevant rules and regulations.

#### C. Ethical Criteria:

1. **Betting and Influence:** Prohibition on betting and unlawful influence on competition outcomes.

<sup>1</sup> The WAKO Authorization Rules are expressly designed to reflect and implement the principles articulated by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in two landmark cases: the International Skating Union (ISU) case (C-124/21 P) and the European Super League case (C-333/21). Both judgments were delivered on 21 December 2023.

2. **Reporting Unlawful Activities:** Commitment to report any unlawful or undue influence on competitions.
3. **Anti-Doping Programme:** Compliance with the WADA Code and other Anti-Doping Regulations.
4. **Sanctions for non-authorized behaviours:** Measures to sanction any non-authorized behaviours.
5. **Disciplinary Mechanism:** Disciplinary process for regulation violations, with right of appeal to CAS.
6. **Medical files:** procedure to control athlete capacity to compete (medical records, etc.)

**D. Sporting Merit Criteria:**

1. **Equal Treatment:** Commitment to treating all participants equally based on sporting merit and fair play.
2. **Openness and Non-discrimination:** Admission based on non-discriminatory conditions and sporting merit.
3. **Sports Model Compatibility:** Ensuring the competition aligns with your sports model and does not disrupt national or international competitions.
4. **Your Competitions Protection:**
  - Participation of qualified athletes to your competitions.
  - Commitment to fielding strongest athletes.

**1. Eligibility rules for non-WAKO affiliated athletes seeking to attend WAKO-sanctioned events**

To ensure the integrity, fairness, and transparency of WAKO-sanctioned competitions, athletes must meet the following eligibility criteria:

**A. General Eligibility Requirements:**

1. **Affiliation:** Athletes must request their affiliation with a recognized national federation under WAKO.
2. **Compliance with Regulations:** Athletes must adhere to WAKO's rules.
3. **Registration and Licensing:** Athletes must hold a valid competition license issued by their national federation.
4. **Minimum Training Standards:** Athletes must meet the minimum required training hours and competitive experience as determined by WAKO and their respective national federation.
5. **Specific Regimes in Defined Territories:** please refer to specific rules for the territories of North America and South America.

**B. Health and Safety Requirements:**

1. **Medical Certification:** Athletes must provide a valid medical certificate confirming fitness to compete, issued by a licensed sports physician.

2. **Anti-Doping Compliance:** Athletes must comply with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code and WAKO's Anti-Doping Regulations.
3. **Injury and Recovery Clearance:** Athletes recovering from injuries must obtain medical clearance before resuming competition.

**C. Sporting Integrity Requirements:**

1. **Fair Play Commitment:** Athletes must demonstrate sportsmanship and adhere to principles of fair play and respect for opponents, referees, and officials.
2. **Betting Prohibition:** Athletes must not engage in betting on any WAKO-sanctioned events.
3. **Match-Fixing and Corruption:** Athletes must not participate in, or facilitate, any form of match-fixing or corruption.
4. **Disciplinary Record:** Athletes with pending disciplinary actions may be ineligible to compete until the resolution of the matter.

**D. Participation in Third-Party Competitions:**

1. **Authorization Requirement:** Athletes wishing to participate in third-party competitions must obtain prior approval from WAKO and their national federation.
2. **Scheduling Conflicts:** Participation in third-party events must not interfere with WAKO-sanctioned competitions or training programs.
3. **Compliance with Standards:** Third-party competitions must adhere to WAKO's integrity, safety, and sporting criteria.
4. **Notification Obligation:** Athletes must inform their national federation about their participation in any third-party competitions.

**E. Sanctions for Non-Compliance:**

1. **Ineligibility for WAKO Competitions:** Athletes who fail to comply with these eligibility rules may be declared ineligible for WAKO-sanctioned events.
2. **Disciplinary Actions:** Violations may result in disciplinary measures, including fines, suspensions, or permanent bans.
3. **Appeal Rights:** Athletes have the right to appeal any ineligibility decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) as per WAKO's dispute resolution mechanisms.