



CANADIAN TAEKWON-DO
FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL



CANADIAN TAEKWON-DO DELEGATION

Policies and Procedures Team Manual

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PURPOSE

ITF Taekwon-Do is a Martial Art, a Sport, a Way of Life and a Tool for Social Development. It is a Martial Art in the sense that it encourages development of the body, the mind and the spirit. The ITF encourages the sport aspect of our art by holding competitions and tournaments at various levels. This is a good way of developing character, developing skills and developing a sense of confidence in unfamiliar or uncertain situations.

The purpose of this manual is to act as a guide for selection of members of the Canadian National Delegation participating in ITF World Championships.

The World Championships are limited to participation by Black Belts from each National Association (NA) affiliated with the International Taekwon-Do Federation.

As of 2007, Senior and Junior World Championships have been merged into a single overall competition period. ITF World Championships occur every 2 years. There are Team events and Individual events divided into a large number of divisions or categories by age, weight and rank.

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL DELEGATION

The Canadian National Delegation selected to attend a World Championships will consist of the maximum contingent shown below. The delegation may be smaller depending on the number of athletes, coaches and other personnel selected to attend each specific World Championships.

OFFICIALS of the Delegation

- 1 Chief of Delegation
- 2 Officials (Team Manager + other)
- 1 to 2 Head Coach(es) to oversee individual patterns, sparring, power and special techniques as well as team sparring and power and special techniques breaking
- Up to 6 Assistant Coaches to assist Head Coaches with individual patterns, sparring, power and special techniques
- 1 Senior Female team pattern coach
- 1 Senior Male team pattern coach
- 1 Junior Female team pattern coach
- 1 Junior Male team pattern coach
- 1 Senior Female Prearranged Sparring team coach
- 1 Senior Male Prearranged Sparring team coach
- 1 Junior Female Prearranged Sparring team coach

- 1 Junior Male Prearranged Sparring team coach
- 1 Medical doctor

Senior Division Athletes (age 18+)

Team Competition Divisions

These athletes may be selected from athletes qualified for individual competition or may be others selected only for team events. According to the selection committee, an athlete that is part of the delegation may compete in more than one event.

- 10 Senior Male athletes for men's team patterns, team sparring and team breaking.
- 10 Senior Female athletes for women's team patterns, team sparring and team breaking.

Individual Competition Divisions

- 2 female and 2 male athletes for sparring micro weight division
- 2 female and 2 male athletes for sparring light weight division
- 2 female and 2 male athletes for sparring middle weight division
- 2 female and 2 male athletes for sparring light-heavy weight division
- 2 female and 2 male athletes for sparring heavy weight division
- 2 female and 2 male athletes for sparring hyper weight division
- 2 female and 2 male athletes for pattern 1st degree division
- 2 female and 2 male athletes for pattern 2nd degree division
- 2 female and 2 male athletes for pattern 3rd degree division
- 2 female and 2 male athletes for pattern 4th degree division
- 2 female and 2 male athletes for power breaking division
- 2 female and 2 male athletes for special technique division
- 1 team of 2 male athletes for Senior pre-arranged sparring
- 1 team of 2 female athletes for Senior pre-arranged sparring

Junior Division Athletes (age 14-17)

Team Competition Divisions

These athletes may be selected from athletes qualified for individual competition or may be others selected only for team events. According to the selection committee, an athlete that is part of the delegation may compete in more than one event.

- 10 Junior Male athletes for male team patterns, team sparring and team breaking.
- 10 Junior Female athletes for female team patterns, team sparring and team breaking.

Individual Competition Divisions

- 2 female and 2 male athletes for sparring micro weight division
- 2 female and 2 male athlete for sparring light weight division
- 2 female and 2 male athletes for sparring middle weight division
- 2 female and 2 male athletes for sparring light-heavy weight division
- 2 female and 2 male athletes for sparring heavy weight division
- 2 female and 2 male athletes for sparring hyper weight division
- 2 female and 2 male athletes for pattern 1st degree division
- 2 female and 2 male athletes for pattern 2nd degree division
- 2 female and 2 male athletes for pattern 3rd degree division
- 2 female and 2 male athletes for power breaking division
- 2 female and 2 male athletes for special technique division
- 1 team of 2 male athletes for Junior pre-arranged sparring
- 1 team of 2 female athletes for Junior pre-arranged sparring

TOTAL: maximum 160 delegation members

CTFI SELECTION COMMITTEE:

The CTFI Canadian Delegation Selection Committee consists of:

- The CTFI president
- The CTFI technical director
- The CTFI West vice president
- The CTFI East vice president
- The CTFI head coach(es)

If any of the above individuals are unavailable to participate in the Selection Committee, they may be replaced by someone appointed according to the following requirements:

- The candidate must be at least 4th degree black belt holder.
- The candidate, during the last two years, must have been present at the National Championships at least once, and at one Eastern or Western Championship.
- The candidate must apply for the position to the Canadian Federation.

DELEGATION MEMBER DETAILS

CHIEF OF DELEGATION:

Is chosen by the selection committee according to the following criteria:

- The candidate must be at least a 5th degree black belt holder.
- The candidate must have been present at a minimum of one ITF World Championship.
- The candidate must be recommended by his provincial federation.
- The candidate must apply as chief of delegation to the Canadian Federation.

Responsibilities of the “Chief of Delegation”:

- Has full authority to rule on consequences for athletes, coaches or officials of the Canadian Delegation with regards to any disrespect of the rules, in consultation with the coaches.
- Meet with the Canadian delegation as often as necessary to clarify any rulings.
- Assist coaches in communications with the Tournament Committee or Umpire Committee as required.
- Must be present at any meeting where their attendance is required: ITF Congress meeting, other ITF meetings, competition draws, problems with the delegation, etc.
- Call regular meetings with the coaches during pre-competition and competition periods to assess the current status and possible changes concerning the delegation.

HEAD COACHES:

Up to 2 Head Coaches are chosen by the technical director, and must have the approval of the selection committee and the Chief of delegation, according to the following criteria:

- The candidate must be at least 4th degree black belt holder.
- The candidate must be a former provincial team coach.

- The candidate must be a physical education university graduate or hold at least a 2nd level in the national trainer's certification program or show other qualifications or experience judged adequate by the CTFI selection committee.
- The candidate must be certified in First Aid and CPR.
- The candidate must have been present at a minimum of one ITF World Championship as an athlete or other member of the Canadian Delegation.
- The candidate must attend National Umpire Training or ITF International Umpire Course (IUC) within 12 months prior to the World Championships to ensure they are familiar with the current rules of competition.
- The candidate must be recommended by his provincial federation.
- The candidate must apply as Head Coach to the Canadian federation.

Responsibilities of the Head Coaches:

- Participate in the Selection committee to select the members of the Teams for Sparring, Power Breaking and Special Technique Breaking.
- Develop a high level training schedule for all athletes in the Canadian Delegation for presentation to prospective delegation members at the selection nationals.
- Give direction for training schedules to trainers and coaches responsible for training the individual athletes and for Prearranged Sparring and Team Patterns teams.
- Prior to competition, attend all meetings with the ITF Tournament Committee as required (e.g. rules, draws, etc.).
- Oversee all athletes, coaches and trainers to ensure that they attend training sessions as assigned.
- Manage all logistics to ensure competitors are present and on time for competition.
- During competition, ensure that a coach or trainer is assigned to each individual competitor (both patterns and sparring) or team prior to and during their competition.
- Oversee all athletes, coaches and trainers to ensure that established rules concerning Canada's image are applied before, during and after competition.
- Meet with Chief of Delegation during pre-competition and competition periods to assess the current status of the athletes, coaches and trainers and possible changes concerning the delegation
- Support Head Coach(es) and Team Management Committee for all logistics regarding travel, accommodation, registration, etc. prior to the competition.

ASSISTANT COACHES

Assistant Coaches may be selected to participate in the Canadian Delegation by the Selection Committee. They will be:

- Up to 4 Coaches for Team Patterns (Senior Male, Senior Female, Junior Male, Junior Female)
- Up to 6 Assistant Coaches for individual competitors.

Assistant Coaches will be selected according to the following criteria:

- Team Patterns coaches will automatically be selected as the coaches of the Patterns Teams that are selected for the Canadian Delegation according to the rules listed later in this document.
- The candidate must be certified in First Aid and CPR.
- The candidate must attend National Umpire Training or ITF International Umpire Course (IUC) within 12 months prior to the World Championships to ensure they are familiar with the current rules of competition.
- The candidate must apply as a Coach or Trainer to the Canadian federation.

Responsibilities of the Team Patterns Coaches

- direct training and development of their specific team (e.g. Junior Male, etc.)
- report to Head Coach(es) and Team Management Committee for all logistics regarding travel, accommodation, registration, etc.
- ensure team participates in pre-competition training and also social aspects with delegation.
- manage all logistics to ensure the team is present and on time for competition.
- represent the team as coach during competitions

Responsibilities of the Assistant Coaches

- Monitor training and development of individual competitors as directed by Head Coach(es)
- Support Head Coach(es) and Team Management Committee for all logistics regarding travel, accommodation, registration, etc.
- Ensure individual competitors participate in pre-competition training and also social aspects with delegation.
- Support Head Coach(es) to manage all logistics to ensure the individual competitors are present and on time for competition.
- Follow directions of Head Coach(es) to represent the individual competitors as coach during competitions (both patterns and sparring).
- Report to Head Coach(es) all results

TEAM MANAGER(s):

Team Managers report directly to the Chief of Delegation and indirectly to the Head Coach(es). They are chosen by the selection committee according to the following criteria:

- The candidate must have demonstrated experience and skills in logistics and travel management for groups.
- The candidate must have been present at a minimum of one ITF World Championship or ITF World Cup as an observer, an athlete or other member of the Canadian Delegation.

- The candidate must apply as Team Manager to the Canadian Federation

Responsibilities of the “Team Manager”:

- Develop a travel expense budget for presentation to prospective delegation members at the selection nationals.
- In concert with the Team Management Committee, is responsible for all transportation and accommodation logistics, including plane tickets, for the delegation to the Championships site.
- In concert with the Team Management Committee, is responsible, with the assistance of coaches, for the registration all delegation members for the Championships.
- In concert with the Team Management Committee, is responsible to order the adequate quantities and sizes for official team doboks and training suits with logos to represent Canada. Also responsible for timely delivery of all of these items to the end users (i.e. athlete, coach, supporter, etc).
- Arrange for pre-competition training areas near the competition venue.
- Arrange for socializing opportunities for delegation members to help develop team spirit prior to, during and after the competition.
- Participate in meetings with the coaches during pre-competition and competition periods to assess the current status and possible changes concerning the delegation.
- Report to Chief of Delegation before, during and after the event as required by the Chief of Delegation.

ATHLETES

Age Qualification

To qualify as athletes in the Canadian Delegation, all persons must meet the age requirements as specified in the International Taekwon-Do Federation rules of competition in effect for the immediate next World Championships.

The ITF introduced the following rules in 2014. Please note that these rules apply only to the World Championships, and do not apply to the World Cup:

1. To qualify for Junior categories (age 14-17) athletes must be age 14 years on or before the first day of the World Championships.
2. Athletes who are age 17 at any time during the year of the World Championships (e.g. January 1 to December 31) must compete in the Junior Black Belt categories.
3. Competitors who turn age 18+ before January 1st of the year of the World Championships qualify for Senior Black Belt categories.

For example, if the competition begins on October 16, 2017, then anyone born on or before October 16, 2003 qualifies as a Junior. If they were born on or after January 1, 1999 they must compete in the Junior categories. Anyone born on or before December 31, 1998 must compete in the Senior categories.

Competing Up

Because National Championships and Team selections take place several months prior to a World Championships, it is possible that an athlete may age qualify for Junior or Senior division at the upcoming World Championships, but not be old enough to compete in that category at CTFI events. In this situation, an athlete may apply to “compete up” one age division in Patterns only. Refer to page 17 for details on “competing up” for athletes who fall into this situation.

Team Event Athletes:

According to the ITF rules, each team (Jr. Male, Jr. Female, Sr. Male, Sr. Female) will consist of 10 persons, from which the coach can choose the members they want to compete in any given event. These team members CAN BE CHANGED at each stage of the event. For example in Team Sparring, the coach enters Competitors 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 (spare) in their first match against Brazil. The coach can then choose a different 5+1 competitors for their next match against Ireland. Team members do not have to be the same for the entire sparring division, only for each match. This holds true for patterns, sparring, and breaking.

Patterns Team:

- Any Patterns team wishing to qualify for the Canadian Delegation must attend the Eastern Championships or the Western Championships prior to the selection National Championships. Only the winning patterns team in each division from each region (East and West) will qualify to compete at the National Championships. (5 members plus one spare member).
- The top Patterns team in each division (Senior Male, Senior Female, Junior Male and Junior Female) will be selected at the Canadian National Championships prior to the World Championships as members of the Canadian Delegation to represent Canada at the World Championships.
- If there is no Patterns team from a particular division present at the qualifying Eastern or Western Championships, a new team may apply to participate in the selection National Championships. They must apply to the Eastern or Western Canadian CTFI Vice President, depending on the region they originate from. The vice president will present the application to the CTFI Executive Committee, who may or may not authorize the team to be present to compete at the selection National Championships.
- If a Patterns team is the only qualified team in their division present at a selection National Championships, they are not automatically confirmed for selection to the Canadian Delegation. The Patterns team must perform their patterns in front of judges and the CTFI Selection Committee as in a regular competition. The judges and Selection Committee will determine if the Patterns Team has performed to a standard acceptable to represent Canada at the World Championship and decide whether or not they qualify to be members of the Canadian Delegation. The decision of the CTFI Selection Committee is final and cannot be appealed.

- **Changes to Patterns Team personnel**
Over the time between a regional qualifying tournament and the selection National Championships, it is possible that the personnel of a Patterns team may change due to illness/injury or changes in life circumstances (e.g. new jobs, moving to new area, etc.) To be considered the same team as the group that won at the qualifying tournament, a Patterns team may change no more than one half of the performance members originally registered at the qualifying Eastern/Western Championships. The coach may also change, but will be included in the total for the team. So, for example, if 5 members are registered for the qualifying regional event, they may change up to 2 team members plus the coach. If they have 6 members registered for the team, they may change up to 3 members, but not the coach, or up to 2 members plus the coach.

Sparring Team:

- The Selection Committee will watch performances in both Individual and Team sparring events at the National Championships.
- The Selection Panel may invite individuals to participate in a Team selection event to take place following the Nationals.
- At that selection event, the Selection Committee will determine only a limited number of matches they want to see in order to test the candidates (e.g. to watch how a Middleweight candidate manages in a match with a Heavy or Hyperweight candidate, etc.)
- The Selection Committee will then select the athletes to form the Sparring Teams in each division

Power and Special Technique Breaking:

- Members of the power breaking teams and special technique teams will be selected from athletes already selected for the pattern and sparring teams.
- Winners of individual power breaking and special techniques breaking at the selection Nationals may also be selected to participate in this team.
- All athletes must be present at the first team training where the CTFI Selection Committee must select from the 10 members of the overall Team, athletes for power and special breaking team events. They will select 5 members in power and 5 members in special for Senior and Junior Male teams, and 3 members in power and 3 members in special for Senior and Junior Female teams.

Pre-arranged Sparring teams:

- Any Pre-arranged sparring team wishing to qualify for the Canadian Delegation must attend the Eastern Championships or the Western Championships prior to the selection National Championships. Only the winning team of 2 members in each division (Junior Male, Junior Female, Senior Male, Senior Female) from each region (East and West) will qualify to compete at the National Championships.

- The top Pre-arranged sparring team in each division (Senior Male, Senior Female, Junior Male and Junior Female) will be selected at the Canadian National Championships prior to the World Championships as members of the Canadian Delegation to represent Canada at the World Championships.
- If there is no Pre-arranged sparring team from a particular division present at the qualifying Eastern or Western Championships, a new team may apply to participate in the selection National Championships. They must apply to the Eastern or Western Canadian CTFI Vice President, depending on the region they originate from. The vice president will present the application to the CTFI Executive Committee, who may or may not authorize the team to be present to compete at the selection National Championships.
- If a Pre-arranged sparring team is the only qualified team in their division present at a selection National Championships, they are not automatically confirmed for selection to the Canadian Delegation. The Pre-arranged sparring team must perform their routine in front of judges and the CTFI Selection Committee as in a regular competition. The judges and Selection Committee will determine if the Pre-arranged sparring Team has performed to a standard acceptable to represent Canada at the World Championship and decide whether or not they qualify to be members of the Canadian Delegation. The decision of the CTFI Selection Committee is final and cannot be appealed.
- Changes to Pre-arranged Sparring Team personnel
Over the time between a regional qualifying tournament and the selection National Championships, it is possible that the personnel of a Pre-arranged sparring team may change due to illness/injury or changes in life circumstances (e.g. new jobs, moving to new area, etc.) To be considered the same team as the group that won at the qualifying tournament, a Pre-arranged sparring team may change no more than one member originally registered at the qualifying Eastern/Western Championships. The coach may also change.

Individual Event Athletes:

All individual event athletes will be selected as the top qualifying competitors at the National Championships according to the following criteria:

- All athletes who compete in CTFI Sanctioned events (Eastern & Western Championships, National Championships, Canada Cup and other events as specified by the CTFI Board from time to time) will earn seeding points according to the criteria set out in appendix A, below.
- At the National Championship, athletes will be seeded into the competition draws in each individual competition division as follows: The top 3 athletes in each division according to seeding point standings will be placed into the “A” group. All other athletes will be placed into the “B” group.

- The “B” group in each division will compete using the standard single knockout eliminations rules. The top finishing competitor in the “B” group will go forward into the “wildcard” position in the “A” group.
- The 4 members of the “A” group will compete in a round robin event where each athlete will compete against each of the other 3 competitors.
- Athletes awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the “A” groups will be the winners of the Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in each division. Because of this, competitors in the “B” category will not be able to qualify for a medal.
- In the event that one or more of the top 3 seeds do not compete in the selection Nationals for some reason, no other seeds will be selected for the “A” group. This may result in only 1 or 2 or no top seeds getting a bye into the “A” group.
- If only 1 top seed is present to compete, the top 2 finishers in the “B” group will move into the “A” group for a 3-person round robin competition.
- If only 2 of the top seeds are present to compete, then only the winner of the “B” group will advance to the “A” group for a 3-person round robin competition.
- If none of the top 3 seeds show up for the “A” group in a given division, then the last 4 finishers in the semi-finals of the “B” event will compete in a 4-person round robin to determine the 3 medalists in that division.
- Anyone who age qualifies for the Canadian National Championships in progress may advance into the “A” event with the possibility of winning a medal.
- Members of the Canadian Delegation to the World Championships for individual competition will be selected as the top 2 finishers in the “A” event. They must also age qualify for the coming World Championships and they must also make a commitment to attend the World Championships.
- Delegation members will not be selected outside of the top 4 in the “A” event. For example, if the top 3 finishers in a division at Nationals decide not to attend Worlds or if they do not age qualify for their current division at Worlds, then only the 4th place finisher will be selected to the delegation. Nobody else will be selected.

ATHLETE AND COACH COMMITMENTS

To qualify for participation in the Delegation, all athletes and coaches:

- Must follow the directives given by the CTFI through the current CTFI Taekwon-do Policies and Procedures Manual.
- Must commit to have the time and funding required to participate in all training sessions as well as to the World Championships. Information on the expected training schedule and budget will be provided at the selection nationals.
- Must meet all the requirements concerning their participation in competitions and training sessions prior to the Championship.

GENERAL RULES FOR THE DELEGATION

After selection to the Canadian Delegation, all members must obey the rules listed below. They must show an exemplary attitude during the period when events are held and during all the time the members of the Delegation are representing Canada. Any disrespect of the rules will be judged by the Head Coach(es) and the Chief of Delegation. Any serious case will be submitted to the CTFI selection committee.

- 1 The Canadian delegation official dobok shows the ITF crest on the left side, and the Canadian flag on the right side and the name “Canada” on the back under the taekwon-do tree, and above the belt. It must meet all requirements as an “Official” ITF approved dobok.
- 2 Any student who has not been selected as a member of the current Canadian Delegation is not allowed to wear the Canadian flag or the word “CANADA” on the dobok. Only officially selected members may wear the Canadian Delegation dobok at events or trainings outside of the World Championships. The Canadian Delegation dobok may be worn at outside events until the completion of selections for the next World Championships delegation.
- 3 Canadian Delegation doboks may not be worn by any competitor at the Canadian National Championship. An acceptable dobok should only show the ITF crest on the left side, the club logo on the right side and the ITF designation on the back. As an option, it may also have the name of the competitor’s province on the back under the Taekwon-Do tree and above the belt.
- 4 All athletes must show proof of their current certification and rank as Black Belts under the ITF. Each competitor is responsible to produce their ITF Black Belt certificate as required.
- 5 All athletes are responsible to have all the necessary personal equipment for competition (e.g. official delegation dobok, 2 sets of appropriate coloured sparring safety equipment, etc.)
- 6 Competition in the Canadian National Championships, and membership in the Canadian Delegation is only open to current members of a CTFI affiliated school, club, Dojang or association.
- 7 The proper wearing of every uniform (dobok, training suit, ceremonial suit, etc) must respect the coaches’ instructions. These uniforms must be clean at all times.

- 8 Punctuality is required at all training sessions, meetings and competitions.
- 9 At a World Championships, any individual leaving the designated areas (hotel, competition site, etc) must receive permission of a coach or trainer. This applies from arrival in the city until all World Championship events, including the closing ceremonies, have ended.
- 10 Any absence from a meeting or training session must be authorised in advance by a coach or trainer.
- 11 Any directive from coaches or trainers regarding curfews, bed times, getting up in the mornings and proper nutrition must be rigorously observed by all athletes.
- 12 Any expenses for members of the Canadian Delegation to be paid by the CTFI must be approved by the CTFI president, or the Chief of Delegation as his authorized representative, in advance. Any unapproved expense will not be refunded.
- 13 Instructions concerning any and all assignments for athletes (e.g. hotel rooms, competition area, etc) must be rigorously observed. Any change must be authorised in advance by the Head Coach.
- 14 All members of the Canadian Delegation must wear the required uniform as specified by the Chief of Delegation. Members of the Canadian Delegation must not exchange the Canadian training suit with competitors from other delegations at any time before, during or after the World Championship.
- 15 Drinking alcoholic beverages by any coach, trainer or athlete is forbidden until all World Championships events have ended.
- 16 All members of the Canadian Delegation must follow the correct etiquette in addressing seniors and officials.
- 17 Any athlete selected as an official member of the Canadian delegation pulling out before or during the Championship for no acceptable reason (other than accident, sickness, or family loss) will see their application for the next World Championship rejected.

CONSEQUENCES

Members of the Canadian Delegation not following the rules listed above, in letter and in spirit, may be subject to the following consequences according to the seriousness of the offence

- loss the privilege to wear any uniform for the Canadian Delegation (i.e. track suit, dobok) until the next selection event.
- rejected as a Canadian delegation member for the next World Championship
- instantaneous expulsion from the Championship events.

APPENDIX A - NATIONAL SEEDING SYSTEM

PURPOSE:

To serve as a national ranking system for all Black Belts by division in both individual Patterns and Sparring, which will determine the tops seeds for the National Championships in selection years for the World Championships.

STRUCTURE:

Seeding points can be earned at the following CTFI sanctioned championships:

- Canadian National Championships
- Canada Cup Championships
- Eastern Canadian Championships
- Western Canadian Championships
- Can-Am Championships
- Other qualifying events as determined by the CTFI Board of Directors from time to time.

Seeding points earned at the championships are awarded as follows:

National Championship / Canada Cup Championship

- Attendance = 200 points
- Rounds Wins = 500 points
- Gold Medal = 5000 points
- Silver Medal = 3000 points
- Bronze Medal = 1000 points

Eastern, Western, Can-Am and other Championships

- Attendance = 100 points
- Rounds Wins = 250 points
- Gold Medal = 2500 points
- Silver Medal = 1500 points
- Bronze Medal = 500 points

In all CTFI sanctioned events, seeding points will be used to seed competitors into the draw trees for the divisions in which they enter to compete. Details for how this is done are found in Appendix B.

Points are earned over the previous two year period. That means seeding points earned in events more than 2 years in the past are dropped from the current total. An athlete who fails to compete in events on an ongoing basis can therefore see their seeding points total drop to zero.

Seeding points will only count towards divisions in which they were actually won. In other words, seeding points will not move with the individual as he/she moves through different divisions as a consequence of aging, changing weight class or changing rank. If a competitor moves into a new division (e.g. achieves a new rank and begins competing in a higher patterns division) then they start with zero seeding points in that division.

COMPETING UP

Age qualification rules may cause an athlete to jump into a new age division just prior to World Championships. E.g. an athlete currently 13 at the time of a Canadian National Championships may turn 14 before the next World Championships and consequently move into a different age division. To provide elite athletes with the opportunity to be selected for the Canadian Delegation, it may be desirable for athletes to begin competing and earning seeding points in their anticipated age category in events leading up to a World Championships selection.

This is called “Competing Up”. In the example above, the athlete with age 13 may be allowed to compete as a Junior (age 14-17) at CTFI events leading up to the World Championships. Likewise, an athlete age 16 or 17 may be allowed to compete as a Senior.

For specific age qualification requirements, please see page 9.

“Competing up” in CTFI events will be allowed only for Patterns competition (both Team and Individual competition) and for Prearranged Sparring . It is based on anticipated age qualification only. An athlete may not “Compete Up” based on anticipated Rank.

“Competing Up” will not be allowed for any athletes in Free Sparring, as there would be too great a risk for potential physical and/or emotional injury.

Table 1, below, lists the criteria for being allowed to “Compete Up” at the upcoming series of CTFI events.

As the dates of future World Championships become known, Table 1 below will be updated to reflect that information.

Special Note:

Athletes wishing to compete up must discuss this option with their Instructor. Those registering to participate in a CTFI event and wishing to compete up must have their Instructor send an email message to the Tournament Director (tournamentdirector@ctfi.org) stating their intent for their athlete to compete up.

TABLE 1 - Age Requirement for “Competing Up” Divisions

EVENT	Pre-Junior to Junior		Junior to Senior	
	Patterns	Sparring	Patterns	Sparring
2017 Easterns November 2017	Birthdate on or before April 23, 2005	No	Birthdate on or before December 31, 2000	No
2017 Westerns December 2017	Birthdate on or before April 23, 2005	No	Birthdate on or before December 31, 2000	No
2018 Easterns April/May 2018	Birthdate on or before April 23, 2005	No	Birthdate on or before December 31, 2000	No
2018 Westerns April/May 2018	Birthdate on or before April 23, 2005	No	Birthdate on or before December 31, 2000	No
2018 Nationals November 2018	Birthdate on or before April 23, 2005	No	Birthdate on or before December 31, 2000	No
2019 World Championships April 23, 2019	Na	Na	Na	Na

APPENDIX B - CTFI Black Belt Competition Seeded Draw Tree System

This appendix describes how the seeding points are used to place competitors in competition draw trees at CTFI sanctioned competitions (i.e. Easterns/Westerns/CanAms/Nationals).

This system only applies to Black Belts who age qualify for the Senior (age 18+) and Junior (age 14-17) categories under the rules of the International Taekwon-Do Federation.

All Junior and Senior Black Belt division draws at the CTFI Sanctioned competitions are generated using the rules of the seeded draw system. These rules are quite straightforward and are very similar to the rules used in other major sporting events such as the NCAA basketball tournaments and professional tennis competition.

Why use this system?

The goal of the CTFI using this system is to select the most skilled competitors for eventual participation in the Canadian National Delegation going to the ITF World Championships.

Under random draw or other systems, it is possible for the top 2 competitors in division to meet in the first round of competition, resulting in one of them being knocked out of the draw. This means the final results can see weaker competitors finishing in the top 4 and stronger ones not placing at all. Using the seeded draw system ensures that the most skilled competitors do not meet in the early stages of the competition.

How Seeding Points are determined:

The CTFI seeding system uses an actual point structure. Seeding points are earned by competitors participating in CTFI competitions. Points are earned over the previous two year period and only applicable to the actual division being competed in.

Seeding Point are earned as follows:

Easterns/Westerns/CanAm/PanAm				
Participation in division	Each Win	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
100	250	2500	1500	500

Nationals				
Participation in division	Each Win	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
200	500	5000	3000	1000

If a competitor changes divisions (e.g. moves from 1st Dan to 2nd Dan patterns, or from Middle Weight to Light-Heavy Weight sparring) then their seeding points reset to zero for their new division. Points in previous divisions are kept on file in case a competitor reverts back to a previous weight category in a given competition.

The current seeding points earned by any individual black belt (by division) over the past two years can be found on the CTFI website (www.ctfi.org) under the heading of tournament standings.

How Seeding Points are used to populate the draw trees:

This applies only to Junior (age 14 – 17) and Senior (age 35+) Black Belts. For Colour Belts see below.

When athletes register to compete in an upcoming CTFI event, their current points standings are used to determine their placement in the draw trees for their division.

The order of competitive matching follows the rule of highest seed vs. lowest seed. For example, in a division containing 16 competitors the order of draw will be: #1 vs. #16, #2 vs. #15, and so on until #8 vs. #9.

Once competition begins, standard “single knockout” rules are followed. Match winners advance and losers drop out of the competition. In this situation, if a lower seed "upsets" a higher seed and wins the match, the higher seed drops out and the lower seed advances.

Higher seeding points are placed at opposite ends of the draw tree. If the draw continues exactly as would be expected, that is all higher seeds advance, then the pairings for the second round would be #1 vs. #8, #2 vs. #7, #3 vs. #6, #4 vs. #5 and so on until the semi-final pairings (#1 vs #4, #2 vs. #3) and ending with (#1 vs. #2) in the finals.

The draws for Junior and Senior Black Belts competing in CTFI events are programmed with these rules and the competitors are simply placed into the trees in their seeded order to produce the final draw.

By following the rules of seeding, all possibility of bias or favouritism in the creation of the draws is eliminated and unlike "random draws" where the results are completely unverifiable, seeded draws will always produce the same final tree no matter how many times they are done.

Coloured Belt, Pre-Junior and Super Senior Draw seeding

For seeding draw trees in Coloured Belt, Pre-Junior and Super Senior competition, CTFI normally follows the rules of “delayed confrontation”. This is because it is normal and desirable to have students from the same school not meeting in early rounds in the draw. Normally we consider these items in order: same family / same club. So in the first round of competition, we would not match 2 brothers together nor 2 people from the same club together if it can be avoided. No consideration is given for the relative skill level of the individuals.

You might be surprised by what you see

Following precisely the rules of seeding can and does produce pairings that some may find unusual, particularly those used to using other rules of draw creation like “delayed confrontation”. Seeded draws give no consideration to degree of affiliation among competitors. They only consider demonstrated skill levels.

For example, if two students from the same school, even siblings for that matter, were entered in the same black belt division with one seeded #1 and the other seeded #16, the programming would have them meeting in the first round. Although this is clearly not a pleasant outcome, its occurrence is fairly rare and allowing subjective interference in the completely objective process that is at play would open the entire structure to valid criticisms of tampering and bias.

How “Byes” are programmed

To work out properly, single knockout elimination trees must contain the exactly 2, 4, 8, 16 or 32 competitors (i.e. trees must be “powers of 2” or 2^n).

As we cannot control the number of entrants in a division, we often face an uneven draw where the number of competitors does not work out exactly to a “power of 2”. To manage this, some competitors must have a “bye” to create a tree where we end up with the required draw numbers.

A “bye” means that the competitor faces an imaginary opponent in the first flight of matches. The “imaginary” bye opponent (1 or more) is inserted to make the competitor number in the division equal to 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, etc. Of course the competitor wins the “match” and is moved up automatically to the next flight in the tree.

The allocation of byes, if left to random chance, would make the seeded trees unworkable, so byes are always awarded in order of seeded position. That is, byes are considered the lowest seeding positions (weakest competitors) in the division.

For example, if there is one bye position available to make up the even number required (competitor count = 3, 7, 15, 31) then only the top seed earns a bye. If two byes are required (competitor count = 6, 14, 30) then the top two seeds are given a bye, and so on until the draw is completed.

What is done in the case of a seeding point tie?

Competitors in a tied seeding point position (e.g. with 0 points) will have as their tiebreak formula those points won in the similar division they moved up from (e.g. moving from Middle Weight sparring to Heavy Weight).

For example, a competitor has 10,000 in 1st dan pattern points. They were promoted to 2nd dan and have 0 points in that division. In that case, he/she would fall below any competitor in 2nd dan patterns who had earned even 100 points in that division. However, they will be above any other competitor who currently has 0 points in that division, but less than 10,000 points from a previous patterns division.

If this does not result in a tiebreak decision then those competitors are still tied and based on their overall position will be placed into the draw using the rules of delayed confrontation as described above.

Conclusion

This appendix was written to help everyone understand how Black Belt and Colour Belt tournament draws trees are created. If you have any further questions, comments or suggestions the CTFI tournament committee would be pleased to hear from you.