

1 Rules and Regulations Group Form Competition

Participants in the competition can participate in one or more forms (hand and weapon forms). Participation can be individual, with a partner (duo) or take place in a group. The jury will evaluate the performances according to a number of criteria applicable to the particular style.

There is a maximum of 5 entries per person (including Group Participation).

The maximum of 5 entries per person also applies in case of a combination of enrolments in form, group participation and push hands.

In case the number of application exceeds availability, selection will be based on time of registration and optimization of the competition schedule.

A duo exist out of 2 persons

A group exist out of 3 and max. 10 persons

Taiji related music is allowed. Singing voice music is not allowed.

Please take notice!

The organization will not be liable for any damages or injury suffered by a participant during participation in the competitions.

One should take care of a personal sports insurance and declaration of health by a doctor.

The following paragraphs focus on the key aspects of the forms competition.

1.1 Jury and evaluation criteria

1.1.1 Composition of the jury

The jury of the form matches preferably consists of:

1. a main referee + 3 assistant referees
2. a timekeeper and a scorekeeper

1.1.2 Assessment of the hand, weapon and Qigong group form

Performances are being judged based upon a number of criteria. These may differ depending on both the specific form as well as the number of performers.

Evaluations criteria of the form:

The duo and group hand, weapon

1. General posture
2. Postures and footwork
3. Balance and movement; level of control (of the weapon if applicable)
4. Energy and relaxation; (unity with the weapon if applicable)
5. General view and appearance, harmony and equality

The group Qigong form

1. General posture
2. Movement and flow in relation to fluidity
3. Breath technic
4. Focus and attention
5. Qigong focus meridians and safety of movement.

1.1.3 Scoring the results

Points are awarded as follows:

- Up to 2 points given for criteria 1, 2 and 3 (General posture, Postures and Balance and movement). A minimum of at least 1.4 points will be awarded to those criteria.
- For criteria 4 and 5 (Energy and relaxation and General view) a minimum of 0.9 point and a maximum of 1.5 points will be awarded.

The maximum final score could be 9 points and the minimum final score 6 points. Points are calculated to two decimal places after the decimal point.

After each round, the jury shares the scores with the public by raising the scoreboards.

The main referee of each pool assesses the accuracy of the results and may, if there is a reason to do so, adjust the scores in consultation with the competition referees. The main referee will announce the final results. The winners will be announced after the competitions by means of an awards ceremony.

1.2 Implementation hand and weapon competition

The rules relating to the performance of hand and weapon forms are described in the paragraphs below.

1.2.1 Available time general

The available time for group hand forms is **at least 2 and no more than 6 minutes.**

The available time for group weapon forms is **at least 2 and no more than 6 minutes.**

The available time for group Qigong forms is **at least 2 and no more than 6 minutes.**

Styles

The available time for the modern 42 Combined Competition Form **at least 5 and no more than 6 minutes.**

The available time for the modern 42 Combined Sword Form **at least 3 and no more than 4 minutes.**

The available time for the modern 24 Yang hand form **at least 4 and no more than 5 minutes.**

The available time for the modern 32 Sword Form **at least 3 and no more than 4 minutes.**

1.2.2 Grace period

A grace period of up to **15 seconds** will be granted in all performances.

The bell will ring **once** at the beginning of the form.

The bell will ring **once** at the end of the maximum period referred to in paragraph 1.2.1.

The bell will ring **twice** after the maximum grace time of 15 seconds, regardless of the form.

When exceeding the maximum grace period, points will be deducted of the final score.
In case of exceeding the maximum grace **1** period, points will be deducted as follows:

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- 1-5 sec. exceeding the grace period will result in an 0.1 point deduction
- 6-15 sec. exceeding the grace period will result in an 0.3 point deduction
- More than 15 sec. exceeding the grace time will result in a 1 point deduction.

In case of failure to meet the minimum playing (race) time, points will be deducted as follows:

- 1-5 seconds (or less) short of the minimum available time, 0.1 point will be deducted
- 6-10 seconds or less, but more than 5 seconds, short of the minimum available time, 0.3 points will be deducted
- for more than 15 sec. short of the minimum available time 1 point will be deducted

1.2.3 Rules of Conduct :

- The Participant has to be present 10 minutes before the scheduled time at the right location to avoid the necessity to look for a participant.
- If a Participant(s) is (are) not present at the scheduled time he/she/they will be disqualified. In consultation with the main referee or the competition referees, exceptions to this rule are possible.
- The Participant(s) must be properly dressed. Clothing is preferably a so-called taiji suit. Alternatively, an appropriate attire for practicing the sport can be worn. Uniforms of the school or style (either traditional or non-traditional) are permitted.
- Hats, caps, jewelry and other 'disruptive' clothing are not allowed. Performing a form barefooted is allowed.
- Hindering any other Participant on the field is not allowed. In case of hindering each other unintentionally the participant who is first aware needs to make sure that no confrontation will take place. An intentional or unintentional confrontation between participants which impacts the performance will result in an 0.5 point deduction.
- Encouraging team...mates / coaches / trainers is not allowed.
- the instructions of the referees should always be obeyed.

1.2.4 The Protocol relating to the implementation form

The order in which the actions have to take place are as follows:

1. The head referee checks whether the Participant(s), the referees and the timekeeper are ready to go start.
2. The Participant(s) greet(s) the head referee. (Section 1.4.4)
3. In return, the head referee greets the Participant(s).
4. The timekeeper rings the bell.
5. The Participant(s) begin(s) with their form.
6. The timekeeper starts the timekeeping when the participant starts to move.
7. When several people perform on a field, timekeeping starts after the sound of the bell and the Participants should begin.
8. The timekeeper rings the bell once at the end of the available time.
9. The timekeeper rings the bell twice at the end of the grace period of 15 seconds.
10. The Participant(s) greet(s) the head referee.
11. In return, the head referee greets the Participant(s).
12. The Participant(s) wait(s) in the field until the scores of all Participants have been shown.
13. The Participant(s) leave(s) the field to make room for the next Participant(s).

1.3 Classification of Styles Taijiquan

Hand and weapon forms are classified into the following groups.

- Chen style
- Yang style
- Wu style
- Wu (Hao)
- Sun style
- Modern competition hand form, 24-42
- Modern competition sword form, 32-42
- Xinyiquan
- Baguaquan
- Other Styles ore freestyles
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If a style does not belong to the one of regular groups above, it will be assigned to 'Other Styles and other'. Assessments will take place according to § 1.1.2 (Assessment of the hand and weapon form).

1.3.1 Weapon Form

If the participant has registered for a weapon form that falls within the category of 'Taiji weapon other' the participant has to report before the start of the match to the head referee which weapon form and style will be performed. The weapon forms can be performed with different types of weapons that we classify according to the weapon categories below.

- Taiji sabre
- Taiji spear
- Taiji stick
- Taiji fan
- Taiji sword
- Xinyiquan weapon
- Baguaquan weapon
- Taiji weapon other

If a weapon does not belong to the regular categories above, it will be classified as 'Taiji weapon other'. Assessments will take place according to § 1.1.2 (Assessment of the hand and weapon form).

1.3.2 Qigong form

- Wu Qin Xin (5 animal Qigong)
- Yi Jin Jing (Muscle Qigong)
- Liu Zi Jue (6 Sounds Qigong)
- Ba Duan Jin (8 Brocade Qigong)
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If a Qigong form does not belong to the regular categories above, it will be classified as Qigong other'. Assessments will take place according to § 1.1.2 Will be judged as demonstration not on technical performance.

1.3.3 . Hand and weapon form for duos

The duo version can consists both of standard partner exercises as well as partner exercises according to a self-developed sequence. See also § 1.4.2 . Choreography. It is also possible for each individual to perform a separate form. When the bell rings they will start simultaneously. Both hand and weapon forms and exercises are allowed. The performance must be of value to the spectators, meaning being well performed and be interesting or impressive. Music harmonious with Taijiquan is allowed, but voice is not allowed. Assessments will take place according to § 1.1.2 (Assessment of the hand and weapon form).

1.3.4. Hand and weapon form for groups

A group consists of three or more persons.

The group version can consist both of standard group exercises as well as partner exercises according to a self-developed sequence. See also § 1.4.2 . Choreography. It is also possible for each individual to perform a separate form. Both hand and weapon forms and exercises are allowed. The performance must be of value to the spectators, meaning being well performed and be interesting or impressive. Music harmonious with Taijiquan is allowed, but voice is not allowed.

Assessments will take place according to § 1.1.2 (Assessment of the hand and weapon form).

1.4 Additions :

1.4.1. Open pool

If there are enough entries for a category a so-called Open pool will be formed. An Open pool is a group of athletes who fall in a certain age category.

- Open pool for seniors (55 +)
- Open pool for seniors aged 18 to 55
- Open pool for juniors 12 to 18 years
- Open pool for children under 12 years
- Open pools will be scheduled in case of a minimum participation of three groups or three persons, hand and weapon forms

In case of insufficient registrations to the Open pools the Participants will be scheduled according to the relevant styles (see section 1.3).

Juniors / Children under 18 can only participate with the permission of their teacher and written parental consent.

1.4.2 Greeting protocol

Before the start of the match and before the announcement of the final score the participant will greet the head referee with a 'fist - palm' greeting.

1.4.2 - a: Fist Palm greeting

In a standing position, with feet together, place the right fist against the upright left palm, with the knuckles of the right hand at the base of the fingers, chest height and 20 - 30cm away from the chest.

1.4.2 - b : Greetings with Broadsword (Sabre)

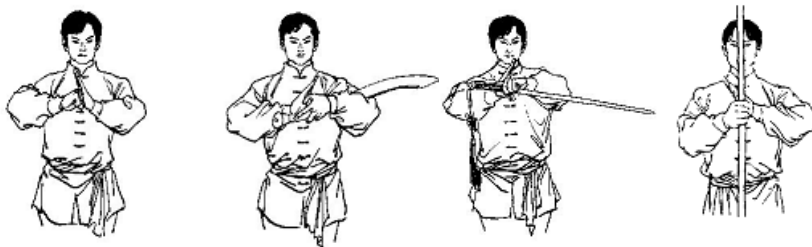
In a standing position with feet together and the broad sword in the left hand, bend the elbow, the broadsword slanted in front of the chest with the sharp edge facing up, the first left thumb joint in contact with the center of the right palm and the two hands 20 -30 cm from the chest.

1.4.2 - c : Greetings with Sword

In a standing position with feet together and the sword in the left hand, bend the elbow with the blade to the outside of the forearm and in front of the chest, with the little finger side of the right palm at the base of the left index finger and the two hands 20-30 cm from the chest.

1.4.2 - d : Greetings with Spear or Bat / Fan

In a standing position with feet together and both arms bent at the elbow on the front of the chest, hold the spear or stick upright, on one third of the length from the end, in the right hand while the left palm is positioned against the second joint of the right thumb, 20-30 cm from the chest.



1.4.2 - e : Comments:

1. For matches with double weapons: hold these in one hand for the greeting. In case this is not practical: hold one weapon in each hand and look to the head referee and greet with the eyes.
2. When a head referee wants to see the weapon, the participant will offer the weapon upright with the point pointing downwards in the case of a short weapon and the point upwards in the case of a long weapon.

1.5. Complaints procedure

The outcome of a match cannot be discussed with the referees or contest organizers. Complaints about the outcome or incidents that occurred during the match can be submitted to the Complaints Committee. This must be done within the hour after an alleged incident occurred by means of handing over a completed complaints form to a member of the Complaints Committee. This is the task of the coach in case the Participant is a minor. An amount of € 50 , - will have to be paid when submitting a complaints form. This amount will only be refunded when the complaint has been declared justified by the committee, which consists of the general head referee, the jury coordinator and head referee of the pool in question. A regular judge shall not participate in the discussion or decision of the Complaints Committee. The committee will elucidate its reasoning and decision to the complainant. The decision of the Complaints Committee is final. The objective is to deal with the complaint on the day of the competition itself.

1.5 Use of stimulants

Use of generally recognized narcotics or stimulants like alcohol, pills, mushrooms, etc. is not allowed before or during the competitions. A Participant will be excluded from participation when the organization becomes aware of use of stimulants by the Participant.

1.6 Adjustments own rules

Adjustments to the regulations and any amendments to these Regulations will be published on the website of the STN up to 10 days before the Competition.