



---

## **US National Poomsae Ranking Rules**

**June 22, 2020**

---

Published by USA Taekwondo  
June 22, 2020  
© 2020 USA Taekwondo  
All rights reserved

# US National Poomsae Ranking Rules

## Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	3
Poomsae Ranking Points Introduction .....	4
Rankings and Points Standings .....	4
Allocation of Points.....	7
Validation of Points.....	14
Home State.....	16

## 1. Poomsae Ranking Points Introduction

1.1. The USA Taekwondo (USATKD) Ranking Points will be applied to:

- All USATKD Championships, USATKD Grand Slams and USATKD Sanctioned Events
- World Taekwondo Sanctioned events in point earning divisions (U30 and U40)
- US Open, World Poomsae Championships and Pan Am Poomsae Championships for all divisions

1.2. USATKD will maintain ranking points for the following divisions in Poomsae:

- Individual Recognized Poomsae:
  - Dragon (6-7): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and Black belts
  - Tiger (8-9): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and Black belts
  - Youth (10-11): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and Black belts
  - Cadet (12-14): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and Black belts
  - Junior (15-17): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and Black belts
  - Under 30 (18-30): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and Black belts
  - Under 40 (31-40): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and Black belts
  - Under 50 (41-50): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and Black belts
  - Under 60 (51-60): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and Black belts
  - Under 65 (61-65): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and Black belts
  - Over 66 (66+): Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, and Black belts
- Individual Freestyle Poomsae:
  - Cadet/Junior (12-17): Black Belts
  - Senior (Over 18): Black Belts

## 2. Rankings and Points Standings

2.1. Points, rankings, and event results will be posted on the [USATKD website](#).

2.2. Points will be updated and posted the **first Wednesday of each month**.

- Once an event organizer has properly submitted all results, event referee documents, membership forms and payments, and other event documents to the USATKD office, then the points will be posted. If an event takes place at the end of the month and results are not submitted in time to be posted by the first Wednesday of the immediately following month, those points will be included the month after.

2.3. Seeding

- Seeding for events will be based on the current posted rankings on the USATKD website. Event organizers must use the national points rankings that are posted the first Wednesday of the month that the event is held. If an event happens before the first Wednesday of the month, the event seeding will be based off the previous month's points. Since seeds will be based solely on an athlete's rank, athletes from the same state/school may compete against each other in the first round of an event. This seeding process will not take into account the club an athlete is from.
- If there are multiple athletes with the same points rankings, a random draw will be held to determine the seeding for the athletes with the same points ranking. A

random draw will be used to determine the seeding at an event where the competing athletes are tied in the points rankings.

- *Example: If three athletes in one division have the same amount of points and are ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the rankings that are posted the first Wednesday of the month, then they will be randomly seeded for the tournament. A random draw will be done for seeds 4, 5, and 6.*

Athlete Rankings as of first Wednesday of the month:

Athlete	Points	Rank
A	100	1
B	90	2
C	75	3
D	70	4
E	70	4
F	70	4
G	60	7
H	50	8
I	45	9
J	35	10

Event Seeding:

Seed #	Athlete or Pair/Team
1	A
2	B
3	C
4	D/E/F
5	D/E/F
6	D/E/F
7	G
8	H
9	I
10	J

If athletes D, E and F compete in the same event, seeds 4, 5 and 6 will be selected by random draw.

2.4. If a cut off system is used and flights are utilized, the top seeds will be separated into different flights. The order athletes compete in during the first round will be based on their seeding for the tournament. Athletes will compete in order from lowest seed to highest seed.

○ *Example:*

Athlete	Rank
A	1
B	2
C	3
D	4
E	5
F	6
G	7
H	8
I	9
J	10

Flights	
Flight 1	Flight 2
I	J
H	G
E	F
D	C
A	B

2.5. If a Single Elimination Bracket is used, each athlete will be placed in the bracket based on their points ranking.



2.6. Event Seeding:

- **Individual Poomsae Seeding:**

- Athletes will be seeded for the event based on their individual ranking points from the first Wednesday of the month.

- **Pairs and Teams Poomsae Seeding**

- Pairs and Teams will be seeded for the event based on the combined points of each athlete's total individual ranking points.

Male Athletes		Female Athletes	
A	100	D	70
B	90	E	70
C	75	F	70

Pairs	Total Points	Seeding for Event
A & F	170	1
B & D	160	2
C & E	145	3

*\*If a team has named an alternate, the alternate's points will NOT be used in the total rankings points for seeding purposes. Only 5 athletes will be used to determine the total rankings for team points for seeding purposes for an event.*

### 3. Allocation of Points

#### 3.1. Group I Points (Domestic Events)

- To receive points for competing in a tournament it must be sanctioned by USATKD Events Office. Athletes who compete in a U.S. event not sanctioned by USATKD will not receive any points for that event.
- All USATKD domestic events will be Group I points in the ranking system.
- Each sanctioned event will be assigned a rating prior to registration opening based on the event organizer's application.

#### Event Sanction Rankings

Event Ranking	Type of Event	Event Information
2.0	Area events	Area clubs
4.0	Local Events	*AAU Regional/District Championship
4.0	Local Events	USATKD: 2 states/5 clubs
6.0	State Championships	Hosted by a USATKD State Association
8.0	AAU Event	AAU National Championships
10.0	Regional/International Events	4 states, 10 clubs, & 5 countries (other than USA), *Athletes must provide proof of residency NCTA Collegiate Championships
12.0	National Events	USATKD Nationals, US Open (Dragon, Tiger, Youth, Cadet, Junior, Ultra)
16.0	Major Events	Grand Slam

#### 3.2. Event Sanction Minimum Standards

- Events must meet minimum standards to receive the sanction level requested. If an event does not meet the minimum standards, that event will be regulated down to the sanction level where the minimum standards are met.

#### 3.3. State

- To receive credit for a state in attendance at a sanctioned event there needs to be 10 different poomsae athletes registered and confirmed for the event from that state. The event will not be considered to have a state represented at the

tournament unless there are 10 different individual poomsae athletes with confirmed registrations 7 days prior to the start of the event. One individual registering for multiple events only counts as one registered athlete. If there are less than 10 poomsae athletes confirmed for the event, it will not count as a state being represented at the event.

### 3.4. Clubs

- To receive credit for a club in attendance at a sanctioned event there needs to be 5 different poomsae athletes registered and confirmed for the event from that club. The event will not be considered to have a club represented at the tournament unless there are 5 different individual poomsae athletes with confirmed registrations 7 days prior to the start of the event. One individual registering for multiple events only counts as one registered athlete. If there are less than 5 poomsae athletes confirmed for the event, it will not count as a club being represented at the event.

### 3.5. International

- To receive credit as an international event there needs to be at least 1 poomsae athlete from 5 countries other than the United States, registered and confirmed 7 days prior to the start of the event. Each country must have at least 1 poomsae athlete registered and confirmed to have representation. One individual registering for multiple events only counts as one registered athlete. The athlete must provide proof of residency for that country. It will be the responsibility of the event host to provide copies of each athlete’s proof of residency 7 days prior to the start of the event.

	<b>Minimum Number of Poomsae Athletes Needed Per Category</b>
State	10 per state
Club	5 per club
International	1 per country

- Event organizers will submit a sanction application, which must be approved by USATKD. Organizers will be allowed to select the desired event ranking. If an event fails to meet the required standards set forth by the sanction policies seven days prior to start of the event, the event will be changed to the appropriate sanction level. Athletes will receive points for the actual event sanction level of the tournament. But an event cannot move up in a ranking if it meets the higher-ranking requirements. Athletes will then only receive points based off the event ranking. If an event fails to meet the event standards, they will be fined.

### 3.6. Sanctioning Points

- Below are the maximum points that can be earned for a USATKD sanctioned event determined by the event rating.



### 3.7. Group I Points

- Points for all Group I events will be based on the number of competitors competing in the division.
  - If there is only one athlete in a division the single athlete will receive 25% of the first place points for that tournament.
  - If there are three or less athletes in a division at an event the athletes will receive a maximum of 50% of the points for that tournament.
  - If there are four or more athletes in a division at an event the athletes will receive full points for that tournament.
  - In order to receive the base points, the athlete must participate at the event, the athlete must check-in and step on the mat with the referee and be declared the winner.

#### Points for Cut-Off Tournament Format:

	US 2.0	US 4.0	US 6.0	US 8.0	US 10.0	US 12.0	US 16.0
1st	20	40	60	80	100	120	160
2nd	15	30	45	60	75	90	120
3rd	11	23	34	45	56	68	90
4th	11	23	34	45	56	68	90
5th	10	21	32	43	52	63	84
6th	9	19	30	40	48	58	78
7th	8	18	28	37	44	54	72
8th	8	17	26	34	42	51	68
Semi-Finals	6	13	20	26	32	38	51
Preliminaries	4	10	15	20	24	29	38

#### Points for a Single Elimination Tournament Format:

	US 2.0	US 4.0	US 6.0	US 8.0	US 10.0	US 12.0	US 16.0
1st	20	40	60	80	100	120	160
2nd	15	30	45	60	75	90	120
3rd (SF)	11	23	34	45	56	68	90
5th (QF)	8	17	26	34	42	51	68
9th (R16)	6	13	20	26	32	38	51
17th (R32)	5	10	15	20	24	29	38
33rd (R64)	4	8	11	15	18	22	29
65th (R128)	3	6	8	11	14	17	22

### Points for Combination System Format (Cut-off + Single Elimination):

	US 2.0	US 4.0	US 6.0	US 8.0	US 10.0	US 12.0	US 16.0
1st	20	40	60	80	100	120	160
2nd	15	30	45	60	75	90	120
3rd (SF)	11	23	34	45	56	68	90
5th (QF)	11	23	34	45	56	68	90
Semi-Finals	6	13	20	26	32	38	51
Preliminaries	4	10	15	20	24	29	38

#### 3.8. Points from Sanctioned Events

- An athlete will only be permitted to earn a maximum amount of points for US 2.0, US 4.0 (USATKD Sanctioned Events), and US 10.0 sanctioned events in the last 12 months. A maximum of 120 points can be earned from US 2.0, maximum of 180 points earned from US 4.0, and a maximum of 220 points earned from US 10.0 events can count toward an athlete's overall ranking. When points from a 12-month-old event roll off, the points earned from a remaining event will go towards the overall point total to max out the points for that event ranking type.
- Athletes will be limited to the number of State Championships (US 6.0) and AAU Regional/District Championships (US 4.0) they can compete in from January 1 – December 31. Athletes may earn points for their overall ranking in a total of two State Championships. An athlete can compete in their home state and one additional State Championship. If an athlete's home state does not host a State Championship, the athlete can go to a total of two other State Championships annually from January 1 – December 31.
  - Athletes who compete in more than two USATKD State Championships, including their home state, will receive the highest amount of points they earned from the two state tournaments. You must compete in at least one USATKD State Championship to qualify for USATKD Nationals, it does not have to be your home state.
  - Athletes who do not compete in their USATKD home state, will receive the highest amount of points they earned from one USATKD State Championship, regardless of how many USATKD State Championships they compete in. Athletes must compete in at least one State Championship to qualify for USATKD Nationals, it does not have to be your home state.
- Or an athlete may compete in their home state (USATKD State Championship), one AAU state level event, and one additional USATKD State Championship. If an athlete competes in more than one USATKD State Championships and more than one AAU state level event, they will receive the highest amount of points they earned from the one USATKD State Championships and one AAU Regional District Championship.

- The home state rule will be waived if you provide proof that you are attending a G-2 event or above during the dates of your USATKD home state championship. Proof will be shown as a completed bracket. In this case, you will receive the highest amount of points earned from the two highest scoring USATKD state championships.
- If you do not fight in a USATKD State Championship you will not be eligible to compete at the USATKD National Championships.
- Athletes may compete in any number of US 12.0 events from January 1 – December 31.
- There will not be a cap on the total number of points an athlete can earn by competing at US 12.0 sanctioned events.

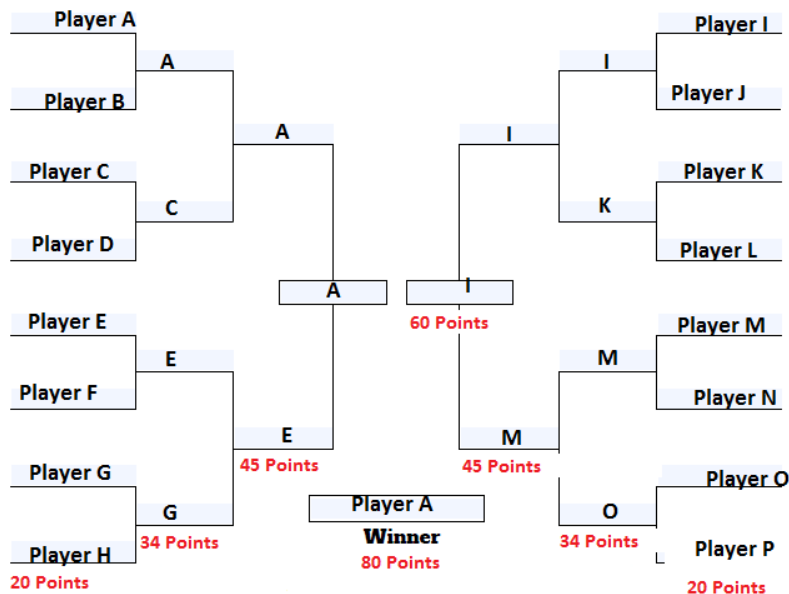
<b>Sanction Level</b>	<b>Maximum Number of Points (per calendar year)</b>
2.0	120
4.0	180 (USATKD Sanctioned Event)
4.0	1 AAU Regional/District Championship
6.0	2 State Championships (Highest amount points earned)**
8.0	1 AAU National Championship
10.0	220
12.0	No limit to number of events
16.0	No limit to number of events

### 3.9. Competing at Events

- To receive points an athlete must check-in at registration, step on the mat, and complete the Poomsae form. An athlete cannot “participate” to earn the points, meaning checking-in, stepping on the mat, and bowing out without completing the first form. If an athlete does bow out and does not compete, they will not earn any points for that event.
  - To receive a medical withdrawal, the medical staff must say that the athlete cannot continue due to safety.
- If an athlete competes and moves on to the next round and then bows out in any upcoming rounds in the tournament and does not complete any other forms, that athlete will only receive the points for the place they finish based off their previous round. Athletes will not receive points for making it to a round and bowing out of that round.
- If an athlete is disqualified during a match, the opponent of the disqualified athlete will receive the points from that match if they are declared the winner. It will be

considered that the disqualified athlete lost that round and will earn the points gained from the previous match won.

- Athletes will only earn points in the division they compete in, whether the athlete loses or wins. As long as an athlete completes the form, they will receive points for the last round they lost in.
- Athletes can only compete in one State Championship tournament within a five-day period or per weekend, Friday through Monday. An athlete cannot compete and earn points in multiple tournaments in the same weekend. If an athlete does compete in two sanctioned events over the same weekend, they will only receive points for the first tournament they compete at.
- *Example: an athlete cannot compete in the Colorado State Championship on Saturday and then compete in the Nevada State Championship on Sunday. If an athlete does compete in both tournaments the athlete will only receive points for the Colorado State Championship, since that was the first tournament the athlete competed in.*
- USATKD does not recommend athletes 12 and under competing more than once every month.
- USATKD does not recommend athletes 15 and older competing more than once every two weeks.
- Below is an example of a 16-person US 8.0 Single Elimination Event. Everyone performs a each match and there are no ranked athletes competing in the event. Each athlete will only earn the points available for that event.



### 3.10. Group II Points (International Events)

- Senior Under 30 and Under 40 athletes will be able to earn Group II points towards their national ranking. Athletes can earn points toward their USATKD point ranking by competing in World Taekwondo sanctioned events. The points earned from World Taekwondo events will be added to their Group I points to generate a final total for their national ranking.
- All World Taekwondo international events will be Group II points in the ranking system.
- Dragons, Tigers, Youth, Cadet, Junior, Under 50, Under 60, Under 65 and 65+ will not be eligible for Group II points, because WT does not award points in these categories, with the exception of the U.S. Open. Dragon, Tiger, Youth, Cadet, Junior, and Masters athletes can earn points at this event; and the exception of the World Poomsae Championships and PanAm Poomsae Championships: Cadet, Junior, and Masters athlete can earn points at these events. The U.S. Open will be considered a U.S. 12.0 rated event that will give these athletes an opportunity to earn points towards their national ranking. The World Championships and PanAm Championships will be awarded equivalent WT points from these two events.

### 3.11. Strength Factor for Group II Points

- The Strength Factor (SF) is a multiplier used to gauge the strength of an event and to determine the number of USAT points earned at an event. World Taekwondo sanctioned events will automatically receive a strength factor of 15. The points that an athlete earns at a WT G rated event will be multiplied by 15. The final number will be included in an athlete's national point ranking.

### 3.12. Formula for Earned National Ranking Points

- $WT \text{ Event Points} \times 15 = \text{USATKD National Ranking Points earned}$

### 3.13. Reporting Events

- If an athlete competes in a World Taekwondo (WT) sanctioned event, it will be up to that athlete to report the final results to the USATKD Events Department. Athletes will have 14 days once the event concludes to report their WT event results. A copy of the final results will need to be sent to [rankings@usa-taekwondo.us](mailto:rankings@usa-taekwondo.us) so that you can be given points towards your national ranking. If final results are not received within 14 days of the final day of the event, the athlete will not receive points for that tournament.
- If an athlete is found to have falsified brackets or other tournament information that has been submitted to USATKD for their rankings, the athlete will be placed on a two-year suspension with USATKD.

#### 4. Validation of Points

4.1. The points earned by an athlete will remain for 12 months

- Points will be updated as events are completed, and the organizer properly submits all requirements and payments. If an event takes place in January of one year, those points will be replaced in January the following year, after the 12-month period from the last event. If an event moves dates, from January of one year to July the following year, those points will still only be good for 12 months and removed in January the following year. Points will be updated as events are finished, and the organizer properly submits all requirements and results. Points will be earned in the division an athlete competes in.

4.2. Changing Belt Color During the Year

- If an athlete changes belt colors after all state championships have ended but before Nationals, the points they have earned up to that point will decrease by 60%. This decrease is to prevent athletes from competing at a lower belt color, then moving up a belt color and having a higher ranking at Nationals than someone who has been competing at the higher level since the beginning of the year. The points at the new belt color and updated current points from the old belt color will remain for 12 months. **\*Starting in 2021 athlete's points will decrease by 70%.**

4.3. Example: Player A starts the year as a Blue Belt, but in April moves up to a Red Belt before Nationals.

Blue Belt		Red Belt	
<b>March</b>		<b>July</b>	<b>October</b>
CO State	NV State	Nationals	US 8.0 Event
60	60	100	80

Blue Belt Final Ranking
120

New Points Now Competing as Red Belt:				
March		July	October	Final Red Belt Total
CO State	NV State	Nationals	US 8.0 Event	
24	24	100	80	<b>228</b>

- If that athlete moves up in belt color after Nationals, the points they have earned will decrease by 50%. The athlete will then keep 100% of the points earned at the new belt color. The points at the new belt color and updated current points from the old belt color will remain for 12 months. **\*Starting in 2021 athlete's points will decrease by 60%.**

4.4. Example: Player A starts the year as a Blue Belt, after Nationals moved to a Red Belt.

Blue Belt			Red Belt
<b>March</b>		<b>July</b>	<b>October</b>
CO State 60	NV State 60	Nationals 100	US 8.0 Event 80

<b>Blue Belt Final Ranking</b>
<b>220</b>

New Points Now Competing as Red Belt:				
March		July	October	Final Red Belt Total
CO State 30	NV State 30	Nationals 50	US 8.0 Event 80	<b>190</b>

- If athletes change to World Class Black Belts at Cadet, Junior, or Senior level, they will keep 30% of the points earned from events at the lower belt color, since these divisions compete for the potential to attend World and Pan Am Championship events. The points at the new belt color and updated current points from the old belt color will remain for 12 months.

4.5. Example: Player A starts year as Red Belt. After Nationals moves to World Class Black Belt.

Red Belt			World Class Black Belt
<b>March</b>		<b>July</b>	<b>October</b>
CO State 60	NV State 60	Nationals 100	US 8.0 Event 80

<b>Red Belt Final Ranking</b>
<b>220</b>

New Points Now Competing as World Class Black Belt:				
March		July	October	Final WC Black Belt Total
CO State 18	NV State 18	Nationals 30	US 8.0 Event 80	<b>146</b>

4.6. Aging up Divisions

- When an athlete ages up and moves up to the next age division that athlete will carry 50% of the points earned from events at the younger age division. These points will remain for 12 months.-These points are valid for their remaining life and will expire 12 months after the date of the event in which they were earned in the previous year.

4.7. Example: Player A is a Cadet Black Belt Athlete in one year and ages up to Junior Black Belt Athlete the following year.

Cadet Black Belt				Cadet Final Ranking
<b>March</b>		<b>July</b>	<b>October</b>	
CO State 60	NV State 60	Nationals 100	US 8.0 Event 80	300
<b>New Points for now Competing as Junior Black Belt:</b>				
<b>March</b>		<b>July</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>Junior Black Belt Total</b>
CO State 30	NV State 30	Nationals 50	US 8.0 Event 40	<b>150</b>

4.8. Final Rankings

- Final rankings will be determined by events that are completed by December 31. These rankings will be determined annually by the points earned from events taking place January 1 through December 31 in each year. The Group I points will be added to the Group II points to get a final total in that division.
  - Group I + Group II = Final Ranking

4.9. Home State

- The state an athlete has listed in their USATKD profile on January 24 will be the state that will be considered their home state for the duration of the state championship season for that year. If an athlete moves before the conclusion of the state championships, they will need to provide proof of address change through the U.S. Post Office in order to make a change in their profile. If there is no proof of address change the athlete's USATKD profile can only be updated after May 1.