

The Parents and Supporters Guide to Poomsae Judging and Scoring

During competitions, parents and supporters (regardless of whether they partake in the sport or not), sometimes do not understand the method and rules of the Judging and scoring of individual Poomsae.

There have been several occasions where Judges have been approached after an event by parents or supporters, with questions as to why it appeared that one athlete should have clearly won, but another athlete did.

So I have created this "Parents and Supporters Guide" to aid those who are wanting a better understanding of how the Poomsae is judged and how the scoring system works. I have made the content as user friendly as possible and left all of the Poomsae Officials jargon to a minimum so everyone can understand it.

Please note that this guide is for the Poomsae Rules from March 19th 2014. There has been several amendments and changes to the rules that occurred June 2017. These will not come into effect until the World Poomsae Championships 2020, due to new Poomsae being introduced and divisions being eliminated. These new Poomsae will take some time to learn and are extremely difficult, hence the timeframe we have been given to learn them in. These patterns are for Black Belts only, competing in World Taekwondo events.

Finally, the following rules apply to all athletes, regardless of age, division, gender or belt level – however, consideration is given to all divisions and physical abilities are taken into account in regards to these divisions (meaning for example that the marks are not as strict for a yellow belt as they would be for a red belt, nor are they for a 7 or 56 year old as they would be for an able 17 year old). It is not fair to judge a 7 year old yellow belt the same way an 18 year old Black Belt is scored, so please know that those considerations are set.

I hope this guide helps you all in one way or another and if you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask me or any member of the Poomsae Squads in NZ. This document is available to all athletes regardless of any Member Organisation affiliations or National affiliations and we do not discriminate against any organisation or individual athlete that wants to learn about Poomsae. Our door is always open in the Poomsae Squad Management Team! Please do not forge or alter the contents in this document.

Warm regards

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Scoring shall be made in accordance with the rules of the WTF.

1. Recognized Poomsae (10.0)

Allocated Scoring Chart for Recognized Poomsae

Scoring Criteria	Details of Scoring Criteria	Point
Accuracy (4.0)	Accuracy of details of each Poomsae	4.0
	Other accuracy including basic movements & balance	
Presentation (6.0)	Speed and power	2.0
	Strength/speed/rhythm	2.0
	Expression of energy	2.0

Total score is 10.0.

The table above contains the categories the athlete is scored from.

The following key points are all you need to know about this table:

- In Poomsae you start with 10.0 points, these points are then deducted as soon as you walk onto the mat until you have finished your Poomsae and walk off the mat.
- Unlike Sparring where you start with no points and earn them, Poomsae, points are always decreased from 10.0, never earned (with the exception of the Presentation category).
- The two Poomsae performed are marked separately.
- The final mark comes from the average of the two Poomsae Performed. So if one Poomsae is performed well and the other is not, an average is taken of both Poomsae for the final score.
- Accuracy means the precision of the movement, if it has been executed correctly or not. This category starts at 4.0 points and is deducted from there.
- When points are deducted in the Accuracy category, they can be done so with two different methods; a minor error/mistake which results in a deduction of 0.1, or a major error/mistake which results in a deduction of 0.3 points. (Examples are provided below).
- Presentation means the appearance and overall performance of the Poomsae, not taking any mistakes or errors into account as they have already been marked.
- The Presentation points are calculated at the completion of the Poomsae as the Judge needs to see if the whole performance was executed to the standard of the sub-categories.
- Presentation has 3 sub-categories that are worth 2.0 points each, totalling to 6.0. Each sub-category is deducted from the highest mark of 2.0.

- How Presentation deductions are calculated is by 0.1 marks starting from 2.0 being the highest mark (World Champion marks) to the lowest being 0.5 (very poorly executed in that general area).
- The Judges generally have an average that they go from when marking Presentation, taking into consideration the division, age and belt colour – generally the division average is set before the first competitor walks onto the mat, and sits at either 1.1 or 1.2 and can go up or down from there depending if someone is better than average in one area or worse.
- This is a better practise especially for colour belt divisions, rather than harshly marking them down from 2.0
- In summary, Accuracy points are deducted as the Poomsae is being performed and depending on the seriousness of the mistake, can result in 0.1 or 0.3 deductions. Presentation points are decided once the athlete's performance is over after each Poomsae and has 3 sub-categories to mark from in 0.1 deductions between the range of 2.0 and 0.5. The result of the Poomsae Score is an average of both Poomsae marks and this is how the ranks are then decided.
- Most Poomsae competitions are done electronically, so the computer will automatically give the average of the Poomsae and the rank of the athletes.

The following text in red, are the actual World Taekwondo Rules and Interpretations of how the Poomsae are marked and what classifies as a 0.1 deduction or a 0.3 deduction. The text that follows in black is a "Parent and Supporter friendly interpretation" that has been summed up in examples of main deductions that can occur:

Accuracy (4.0)

Accuracy of details in each Poomsae:

0.1 Point shall be deducted each time a contestant does not perform the basic movements or the pertinent Poomsae accurately.

(Explanation #1): Deduction of 0.1 point per small mistake in accurate performance: 0.1 points shall be deducted whenever any of the foot postures (Apkubi, Dwit-kubi,. Beom-seogi and all the other standing movements) or hand movements (Makki, Jireugi, Chigi and all the other hand movements) is not performed as explained in Poomsae Competition Scoring Guidelines.

Accuracy in basic actions and the pertinent Poomsae:

0.3 points shall be deducted each time a contestant makes a serious mistake.

(Explanation #2) Serious mistake in accuracy: 0.3 points shall be deducted when actions not performed in accordance with included in the attached Poomsae Competition Scoring Guidelines or a wrong action is performed.

Examples of 0.1 Deductions (Minor Errors):

1. Feet are not pointing in the correct direction for stances (angle of the front and back foot)
2. Body is not facing in the correct direction or angle when sitting in a stance
3. Slightly poor balance (a small wobble)
4. Incorrect thumb placement in punches, blocks, strikes.
5. Poor Chamber or Recoil of Kicks
6. Blocking past the midline of the body when the midline is the target

7. Executing blocks from the inside not the outside of the reaction arm
8. Executing Strikes from the outside not the inside of the reaction arm and/or body
9. Kicking with the wrong part of the foot but still executing the desired kick
10. When making an elbow strike, the hand wraps around the other arm or fist
(depending on the type of elbow strike)
11. Stance and technique do not finish at the same time

Examples of 0.3 Deductions (Major Errors):

1. Olgul Makki is performed instead of Arae Makki (High block instead of low block)
2. Dwit-kubi is performed instead of Juchum-Seogi (Back stance instead of Horse riding)
3. Kihap (yelling) is not made or kihap at wrong moment.
4. Temporary stop during movements (forgetting the next movement for three seconds or longer)
5. Eyesight does not follow the side to which actions are made. (Head looking in the wrong direction)
6. When the raised foot touches the ground in performing Hakdari-Seogi. (Crane Stance balancing on one leg – Black Belt only)
7. Starting and ending position varies by more than one foot allowance. – not landing on the same spot (kumgang, jitae are exceptions – Black Belt only)
8. Jittzikgi movement without enough power and sound. (Movements that should have a stomp or noise needs to be made).
9. When the contestant makes loud breathing noises.
10. When the contestant restarts his or her performance.

Presentation (6.0)

(Explanation #3) Presentation Deduction of point in presentation shall not be made for every small or serious mistake during the performance. Deduction of point in presentation shall be made for the overall performance of Poomsae

- 2.0 points for speed and power
- 2.0 points for control of power, speed and rhythm
- 2.0 points for expression of energy

Speed and power (score 2.0):

(Explanation #4): Ability to perform Poomsae shall be evaluated on whether the movements are performed in accordance with the characteristics of the pertinent movement, for example, whether attacking techniques like Jireugi, Chagi, etc. are best performed, whether the movement is presented with a soft start and with a perfect balance between speed and power utilizing the body weight at the maximum, and whether a special movement is performed slowly intentionally, etc.

Examples of possible Deductions for Speed and Power:

1. Deduction of point shall be made if too much strength is revealed in the beginning of the movements as it slows down the movement at the most important point of the movements.
2. Deduction of point shall be made if one exaggerates a movement to propel the next movement or utilizes the reaction of the body to express power, (lack of fluency).

Control of power, speed and rhythm (score 2.0):

(Explanation #5) - Control of power means the strongest power shown at the most critical moment of the movement through speed and softness. - Control of speed means an appropriate connection between actions and changes of speed - Rhythm means repeated actions according to set rules and length of note, and flow of power.

Examples of possible Deductions for Control of Power, Speed and Rhythm:

1. Too much power makes the movement look stiff from the start. Points shall be deducted if the speed, power and rhythm are presented with no changes from the start to the end of the lines of movements.
2. Points shall be deducted in case of stiff actions coming from stiff body: A strong start makes it difficult to accelerate, thus slowing down the action at the critical point of movements, (lack of fluency).
3. Points shall be deducted if balance is affected by the power and speed of the actions.

Expression of energy (score 2.0):

(Explanation #6) - Whether actions are presented with quality and dignity that come from mastering of the energy: size of body action, concentration, courage, sharpness, confidence, etc. according to the characteristics of actions of Poomsae - Eyesight, kihap (yelling), attitude, costume, confidence, etc. all through the actions of Poomsae based on the performer's physique and characteristics shall be evaluated.

Example:

1. Points shall be deducted if actions are not vivid, connecting actions are not big enough for the performer's physique, performance is made in the same rhythm all the time without quality and dignity, and eyesight, kihap, confidence, etc. are not expressed perfectly.
2. Attitude is not respectable or professional when walking onto the mat.
3. Appearance is not professional i.e.: long hair not tied off the face, jewellery is worn, colourful t-shirts on under the dobok and are in sight, belt is not even in length and it is either too long or too short, socks and shoes are worn on the mat, dobok is not ironed or is not clean etc.
4. Competitor talks on the mat without being addressed.
5. Coach is behaving incorrectly or unprofessionally on the side of the mat.

There are many more types of deductions that can be factored into these, but these are the main, generic deductions that are made in the above categories of the Poomsae.

Score calculation

- 1 Accuracy (for recognized Poomsae) shall be scored separately from presentation.
- 2 Final score shall be the average point of the total points summed up except the highest and lowest points in respective points for accuracy and presentation.
- 3 All penalties accumulated during the competition shall be taken into account and deducted from the final score

Publication of Scoring

The final score shall be announced immediately after collating the judges' total scores.

In case of using electronic scoring instruments

- Judges shall input points in the electronic scoring instruments after the performance of Poomsae, and total points shall be automatically displayed on the monitors.
- The final score (average point) and the individual scores shall be displayed on the monitor following the **automatic deletion of the highest and lowest scores** among the judges

In case of manual scoring

- The coordinator shall collect each scoring sheet and convey the results to the recorder immediately after completion of the Poomsae.
- The recorder shall report the final score to the Referee, following the deletion of the highest and lowest scores, and announce the final score or have the final score displayed.

Decision and Declaration of Winner

- The winner shall be the contestant who is awarded more points in total.
- In case of a tied score, the winner shall be the contestant who has more points in presentation.
- In case the score are still tied, then the one who has higher total points (total points of all judges, including highest and lowest points) is the winner.
- If it's still tied then a rematch shall be conducted to determine the winner. The referee will decide on the Poomsae to be assessed. The rematch will feature one compulsory Poomsae. The previous score will not affect the score from the rematch.
- In case of a tied score after the rematch, the winner shall be the contestant who is awarded more points in total, including the highest and lowest scores that were not included in collection of scores.

Decisions:

1. Win by score

The winner is determined by having the higher total points

2. Win by Referee Stop the Contest (RSC)

In the event that the referee or commission doctor determines that a contestant is unable to continue, even after (1) a minute of recovery period, (2) or a contestant disregards the referee's command to continue, the referee shall declare the contest stopped and the opposing contestant shall be declared the winner.

3. Win by withdrawal of opponent

The winner is determined by the withdrawal of the opponent a. When a contestant withdraws from the match due to injury or other reasons b. When a coach throws a towel into the court to signify forfeiture of the match

4. Win by disqualification of opponent

Should a contestant lose his or her contestant status before the competition begins, the opposing contestant shall be declared the winner.

5. Win by opponent's penalties

In the event that a contestant accumulates two "Gam-jeom" (deduction of points by penalties), as prescribed in Article 12.3, the opponent shall be declared the winner.

Duration of Contest

Duration of Contest by Division:

Recognized Poomsae: Individual, Pair, and Team competitions from 30 seconds to 90 seconds

The waiting period between 1st poomsae and 2nd poomsae is 30 to 60 seconds.

(The starting of waiting period between 1st poomsae and 2nd poomsae shall be activated after the competition coordinator has declared a decision.)

Judges and Referees

Judges: Holder of an International Poomsae Referee Certificate registered by the WTF

Referee: Holder of 1st class International Poomsae Referee Certificate registered by the WTF

Classification of refereeing officials:

Based on promotion article of the regulations on the administration of the international poomsae referees and Dan grade of World Taekwondo Federation or Kukkiwon, refereeing officials shall be classified into the following categories:

Class 1:

1. Holder of 9th or 8th Dan issued by either the WTF or Kukkiwon or
2. Holder of the Class 2 more than 5 years with at least 8 times refereeing experiences in WTF-recognized international championships

Class 2:

1. Holder of 7th or 6th Dan issued by either the WTF or Kukkiwon or
2. Holder of the Class 3 more than 3 years with at least 5 times refereeing experiences in the WTF-recognized international championships

Class 3:

1. Holder of 5th or 4th dan issued by either the WTF or Kukkiwon and
2. The one who successfully passed the WTF Poomsae Referee Seminar

Formation and assignment of refereeing officials

Composition of refereeing officials shall be as follows:

- Seven-judge system: 1 Referee, 6 Judges
- Five-judge system: 1 Referee, 4 Judges

In TUNZ tournaments, given that we do not have a large amount of qualified referees or judges, general there will be 2 judges minimum and one referee or 3 judges and one referee.

Assignment of refereeing officials:

- The assignment of the referees and judges shall be made after the contest schedule is fixed.
- Referees and judges from the same family or club as that of either contestant shall not be assigned to such a contest. However, an exception shall be made for the judges when the number of refereeing officials is insufficient, as the case may be.

Methods of Competition

The systems of competition are divided as follows. Methods of competition shall be decided by Technical Delegate and shall be stated at outline of championships prior to championships:

- Single elimination tournament system
- Round robin system
- **Cut off System**
- Combination System: Cut off system + Elimination tournaments system

Two Poomsae from the designated Compulsory Poomsae are decided by Technical Delegate for each division and must be performed for the preliminary, semi-final and final rounds for all competitions.

The cut-off system shall comprise the preliminary, semi-final and final rounds.

Cut off system preliminary: When the number of contestants reaches 20-39; competition shall start from preliminary round with two groups competing in two courts. (This rarely happens in TUNZ tournaments).

Cut off system semi-final: When 9 to 19 contestants are participating; competition shall start from semi-final round, Contestants shall perform the two assigned compulsory Poomsae, and, 8 of them shall be advanced to final based on their points.

Cut off system final: When 8 or fewer contestants are participating; competition shall start from the final round. Contestants shall perform the two assigned compulsory Poomsae, and, the top 4 contestants / pair/ team shall be awarded prizes based on their points. 3rd and 4th places are awarded with bronze medals (In TUNZ Poomsae, 4th place is not awarded a bronze – this is just International events procedure).

TUNZ Tournaments are cut off systems regardless of the belt division and age.

We have a WTF event and a Traditional event.

The WTF divisions are BLACK BELT ONLY.

The Traditional divisions are for all belt levels and the above will apply with set poomsae (however, Traditional Divisions, Black Belts can select their own second pattern, Colour belts will have both patterns pre-selected and distributed in entry pack details).

Procedures of Contest

Call for contestants: Thirty minutes prior to the scheduled start of the contest, the names of the contestants shall be announced three times to contestants' training area. Any contestant who fails to appear in the competition area after "Chool-jeon" command of the competition coordinator shall be regarded as having withdrawn from and forfeited the match.

Pre-contest and post-contest procedures:

- The contest shall begin after the declaration of "Chool-jeon", "Cha ryeot", "Kyeong rye", "Joon-bi" and "Shi-jak" by the competition coordinator
- After the end of the each Poomsae, the contestants shall stand in their respective positions and make a standing bow at the coordinator's command of "Ba-ro, Cha-ryeot, Kyeong-rye." Contestants shall wait until the coordinator's declaration of "Pyo-chul"
- The referee shall declare the winner according to the results of the judges.
- Contestant's exit.

Prohibited Acts/Penalties

Penalties for any prohibited act shall be declared by the Referee.

Penalties are defined as "Gam-jeom" (deduction of points by penalties).

Should a contestant accumulate two "Gam-jeom" (deductions of points by penalties), the Referee shall declare that the contestant lost on penalties. "Gam-jeom," as defined in this Article, refers to deduction of points due to behaviours that disrespect the spirit of sport, rather than due to judges' scoring in terms of accuracy and presentation.

"Gam-jeom" shall be declared on the following prohibited acts:

- Uttering undesirable remarks or any misconduct on the part of a contestant or a coach
- According to judgment of the referee, a coach an amateur contestant or taekwondo practitioners should have the manner and respect the code of conduct.
- Athletes or coach should not interrupt or stand in the way of the competition coordinators in the midst of the coordination activity during the competitions.
- Should a contestant be assessed two (2) deductions, the referee shall declare the contestant a loser on penalties.

The Judges Scoring Sheets

Below is a version of the score sheet that Judges use for each Poomsae when scored Manually or Paper Format (majority of competitions will be conducted electronically).



Judge's Score Sheet

Contest No.	Court

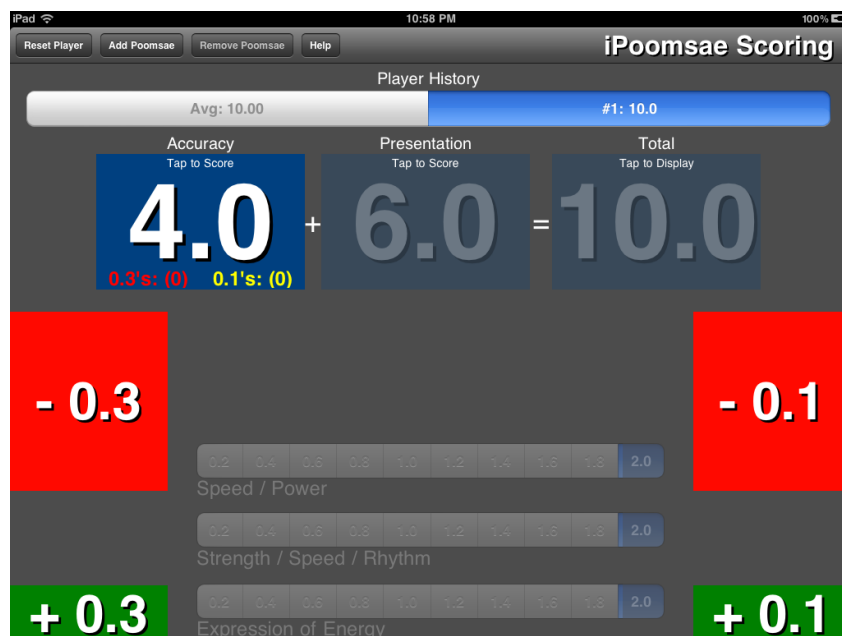
Category	Sub-Category	Score Allocation																Score
Accuracy (4.0)	Accuracy in basic Movement	4.0 (deduct -0.1, -0.3)																
	Accuracy in individual Movement of the Poomsae																	
	Balance																	
Presentation (6.0)	Power & Speed	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	
	Coordination of rhythm & Tempo and Softness & Power	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	
	Expression of Energy	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	
		Total Score (10.0)																

Judge's Name : _____

Judge's Nation : _____ Signature : _____

Below is a version of the score sheet/App that Judges use for each Poomsae when scored electronically.

This first picture is what the screen looks like before the Poomsae has started and before Accuracy Points begin to decrease.



This second picture is what the screen looks like when the competitor has finished the Poomsae, the Accuracy marking has stopped and Presentation scoring begins – the competitor will be waiting for the Referee to call them back onto the mat for the second Poomsae or they are waiting in the centre of the arena to hear the final result.



This third picture is what is on the screen when both Presentation and Accuracy Points are added together to obtain a total (in the white).

If both Poomsae have been performed, you will see the overall total of both scores averaged together (in the green).

For example, if the first patterns total was 5.5 and the second was 5.7, the score showing in the green average total will be 5.6 and this will be the final score.

Currently in the picture below, they have only completed one Poomsae, hence the average being 5.5.



Finally, you as the public will see the following on the TV screen for both Poomsaes (please note this will be different for some tournaments – there may be no screen at all or it is displayed in a different format. This is one I could find with the averages of the different judges).



References

Enacted: September 23, 2003

Amended: April 12, 2005

Amended: October 4, 2011

Amended: April 3, 2012

Amended: December 26, 2012

Amended: July 14, 2013

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