

Weigh-In

Time:

The weigh-in must be completed at least two hours prior to the first bout.

International Tournaments, Competitions or Galas:

Whenever possible, a selection of volunteer referees, preferably from different countries, shall supervise the weigh-in on the day before the competition.

Tolerance:

Generally, there is no tolerance. Only kids will be allowed a half kilo discrepancy of weight.

Only three participants from each country are permitted per weight division. No overbooking is allowed except with written consent from GCO HQ, which may be given in electronic form (e-mail). The GCO Representative shall apply for the forementioned GCO HQ consent a minimum of one month prior the competition in written or electronic (e-mail) form.

Overbooking in the case of the forementioned exception of a weight division in any age must be handled in such a way that the number of participants of the same country in one particular weight division is reduced to three.

The corresponding national coach or country representative can influence the placement of his/her competitors for the "fight-off" during the pool drawing.

Medical Examination

All competitors must present medical check no older than 12 months, undersigned by a physician. Otherwise the competitor must undergo a medical check by the present physician, who shall be designated by the promoter of the tournament. Whenever there are male and female participants, the medical examinations must be held in separate rooms or, depending on availability, in one room at different times.

If a competitor is not in possession of his or her sport book with the annual GCO license stamp at the time of the physical examination and the weigh-in, he or she shall not be permitted to fight.

7. Competition Management

Fighting Areas:

Fighting Areas for Point Fighting, Forms, Light Contact, and Karate Kumite:

- a) The fighting area must be square. Each side must be 8 metres in length (8 m X 8 m) maximum or 6 metres (6 m X 6 m) minimum.
- b) Around the fighting area, a safety zone strip of two meters shall be kept clear. Only referee tables are allowed to be placed within this safety zone. No spectators are allowed to be within that zone. The safety strip zone can be marked.
- c) The timekeeper and scorekeeper are located at the referee table facing the head referee.
- d) In the case that there is only one fighting area, sufficient space for the medics and/or emergency personnel shall be provided at the referee table.
- e) The referee table must be equipped with the following items:

Pool lists

Score displays

Table stop watch. A hand stop watch is not acceptable.

Acoustic signal (Bell, whistle, or horn for ringsports; voice is sufficient for other disciplines)

"Bean-Bag" is allowed

Spare paper and pencils

PC and printer are allowed

Box Rings:

- a) Full contact competitions shall be held inside a box ring.
- b) The box ring's components, including but not limited to, all side protection and ropes, must be inspected for suitability and safety prior to the first competition.
- c) The length of each side of the box ring shall be at minimum 4.5 meters and at maximum 6.00 meters (side length of the rope). It shall consist of 4 ropes.
- d) The minimum diameter of the 4 ropes is 2.5 centimetres (1 inch).
- e) The lowest rope must be placed 33centimetres (13 inches) above the platform, while the top rope shall be placed no more than 1.30 metres above the platform.
- f) All ropes must be covered with soft, tightly fitted materials.
- g) The four corners must be made of metal. The diagonal distance between opposite corners must not exceed 10.6 metres (outside measurement).
- h) The height of the corners must not be more than 1.30 metres (52 inches) above the platform of the ring.
- i) All corners must be covered with commonly used cushions in order to avoid possible injuries.
- j) The platform itself may not be placed higher than 1.20 metres above ground level. It must be covered with a shock absorbent (Mat Puzzles or similar) material below the ring floor layer.

- k) Stairs shall be placed in the red and the blue corners as well as in one white corner.
- l) Sufficient chairs must be provided for coaches.
- m) The referee table must be equipped with the following items:
 - Pool lists
 - Score cards
 - 6 clickers
 - Table stop watch and hand stop watch as a reserve
 - Acoustic signal (Bell, whistle or horn)
 - PC and printer are allowed
 - Spare paper and pencils
- n) Judges tables and chairs shall be located along the other three sides of the ring box.
- o) If there is only one ring in use, sufficient space for the medics and/or emergency personnel shall be provided at the referee table.
- p) To avoid possible injuries, media are not allowed on the platform during the rounds.

8. Referees

All provisions in this article set the basic duties of referees. Referees must fulfill other conditions, requirements and duties set in other GCO official documents related to referees, which are published on the GCO web page.

Referee Categories:

International referee categories:

Referees of the categories “master referee”, “international referee” and “international judge” are identified by a different colour ID card marked with “REFEREE.”

A Master Referee is required to take part at the GCO World Championships as an international referee for 3 years (3 times) and pass the Master Referee test. A Master Referee must also have sufficient knowledge of English.

An International Referee is required to take part at the GCO World Championships as an International Judge for 3 years (3 times) and pass the international referee test. An International Referee must also have sufficient knowledge of English.

An International Judge is required to have 3 years of practice in refereeing as a first class national referee and pass the International Judge test. An International Judge must also have sufficient knowledge of English.

GCO HQ organizes referee super seminars one time per year before the World Championships for training and licensing “Master Referees”, “International Referees” and “International Judges”. Attendance of this seminar and successful passing of the appropriate test as well as sufficient knowledge of English (the official language of the GCO) are the conditions to become a “Master Referee”, “International Referee” or “International Judge”.

Each country is responsible for its own graded referees’ training and licensing of national class referees. However, the GCO may also offer such seminars.

The power of the “Master Referee”, “International Referee” and “International Judge”:

“Master Referee”: Entitled to be head referee and ring inspector at the GCO World Championships or to act as a supervisor in international titled competitions. A GCO Master Referee cannot have a leading position in other world kickboxing associations.

“International Referee”: Entitled to be a referee in the GCO World Championships finals and/or to act as a referee or judge in international titled competitions. An International Referee is entitled to be a ring inspector at the GCO World Championships as well in the case that there is no master referee on the fighting area in this position.

“International Judge”: Entitled to be a referee in the elimination competitions in the GCO World Championships or to act as a judge in national titled competitions.

Licensed referees are registered in a central database. Their names, categories, nationalities and MAP-numbers will be published in the official GCO members website (www.GCO-members.de).

Conflict of Interest:

Nationality:

In continental and world championships competitions, the referee team has two composition options:

- a) One referee from the nationality of the red corner competitor, one referee from the nationality of the blue corner competitor, and one or more referees neither from the nationality of red nor blue corner competitors.
- b) All referees have different nationalities than both the red and blue corner competitors.

Note:

If a referee has several nationalities, or if he/she, based on the exception of the nationality principle, has chosen a country, he/she must step down whenever the competitor is either from one of the referee's nationalities or from his/her country of choice.

Note: This rule concerning the nationality of referees can be broken only by the decision of the supervisor and only in the case that there are not enough referees of different nationalities at the tournament.

It is the referee's responsibility to report any possible conflict of interest. In case of an omission, the GCO HQ, after consulting with the Head Referee may impose one or more of the following measures:

- a) Warning;
- b) Exclusion of further participation as a referee in the event;
- c) Reduction of the referee's compensation; and/or
- d) Withdrawal of the referee's license for a period of time to be determined by the GCO HQ.

Head Referee:

A Head Referee must be designated for every competition.

In a competition with several competition areas or rings, the Head Referee appoints a ring inspector, who supervises application of GCO rules at one fighting area or ring.

The Head Referee can replace referees who have been obviously not neutral or who violate the official GCO competition rules, just as in such cases the Head Referee can overrule their decisions.

Ring Inspector:

On each fighting area, the head of the officials is the ring inspector. He/she is responsible for all GCO rules being correctly applied on his/her fighting area. It is the responsibility of ring inspector to place officials at his/her competition area or ring according to their nationalities or affiliations with school, club or particular competitor.

He/she reports the results according to the instructions of the Head Referee.

At events with only one competition area or ring, the Supervisor acts as a ring inspector.

Supervisor:

The supervisor is responsible for managing all referees and supervising the work at all competition areas and/or rings. He/she shall take care that the time schedule will work and the safety of the fighter is provided for (by the compulsory attendance of the physician and first aid team).

The supervisor is the part of the GCO Event Organization Team (of the GCO World Championships). At international events or galas, the supervisor is appointed by GCO HQ and, after the championship or gala, must send a report about the event to GCO HQ.

Protests:

Decisions of the official doctor can be subject to protests if a second doctor is present at the event. The second doctor will make the decision about the protest.

Protests are only possible in the following situations, and shall be considered after a fee of 100 Euro in cash has been paid to the ring inspector or the Head Referee:

- a) A proven agreement between the referees /judges;
- b) The mathematical addition of the scores is wrong;
- c) An obvious confusion between the red and blue corners occurs; and/or
- d) The official GCO Rules were violated.

Note: Video recordings cannot be used to justify a protest.

A protest does not hold back the competition. However, the Head Referee can interrupt the continuation of the fights for a short period of time if the result of the protest has a significant influence on the proceeding of the competition.

After hearing the protest from both coaches and the referee's comments, the Head Referee shall then make the final decision.

The protest fees shall go into the general account of the GCO HQ fund for future referee training and development.

If a protest is submitted after the competition, the GCO HQ shall then make the decision after hearing the protest from both coaches and the referee's comments. The national federation has a limit of 30 days to make a statement about a protest.

If the decision of a protest leads to a loss of a European or World title, the final decision can be only made by the Executive Board of the GCO.

Clothing:

All referees shall wear black trousers, black socks, and black Polo shirts with the GCO logo on the shirt.

GCO Rules Committee members shall wear a white shirt and black trousers.

To minimize injuries, it is forbidden for referees to wear any jewelry, watches, pens, etc. Judges are excepted from this rule since no bodily contact with competitors is possible.

The use of medical gloves is recommended.

Registration of referees per country for the GCO World Championships:

For every country, the following number of referees must be present:

0-4 competitors	0 Referees
5-25 competitors	1 Referees (Master or International referee)
26-50 competitors	2 Referees (both Master or International referee)
51-75 competitors	3 Referees (at minimum one Master and one International referee)
76-100 competitors	4 Referees (at minimum one Master and one International referee)
101-125 competitors	5 Referees (at minimum one Master and two International referees)
126+ competitors	6 Referees (at minimum one Master and three International referees)

Each country that does not fulfill the number of referees requirement will be fined 250 Euro per each missing referee. The money shall go into the GCO HQ general account.

Countries which pre-register their referees for championships and receive confirmation from the GCO will receive priority.

The referee's payment is as follows:

Master referees	10 € per hour
International referees	7 € per hour
International judges	5 € per hour

Payment is due on the morning of the final competitions' rounds before the competitions start.

The organiser/host is responsible for the payment of referees as well as general care of said referees. This includes providing separate rooms containing food and beverages. In addition, it is necessary to have mineral water on the referees' and judges' tables.



