

Common Questions for First Time Tournament Participants

(Updated February 2020)

What is the purpose of a tournament?

We love tournaments! We want everyone participating in a tournament to have fun. It is an opportunity for our students to demonstrate their taekwondo skills in a safe but competitive environment and to challenge themselves to do their best.

It is also an excellent opportunity for students AND PARENTS to practice our ATA life skills, especially COURTESY, RESPECT and INTEGRITY. We expect our parents and spectators to support and cheer for all competitors in a ring, not just their own. And, no matter how much we want to help our children, coaching of any kind by spectators is strictly against tournament rules.

What time should I arrive at the tournament?

Color Belts should arrive no later than 10:00 am. Black Belts 14 and older should arrive in the time for black belt meeting at 7:30 am. The tournament starts at 10:30 am with opening ceremonies.

What to expect and do when you first arrive at the tournament.

- ◆ Pay admission for spectators not in uniform. Youth and adults - \$5.00. Children under 5 – free.
- ◆ Acquire your and/or your child's tournament registration form.
- ◆ Opening ceremonies usually goes as follows:
 - ◆ Moderator will ask students to line up by rank. Junior's age 16 and younger will line up on the left facing the head table and the adult's age 17 and older will line up on the right.
 - ◆ The head table/regional officers are introduced along with the tournament host and any special guests.
 - ◆ All spectators and students rise for the playing of The Korean and American National Anthems.
 - ◆ The regional director, tournament coordinator and tournament host make remarks. (Special guest is also given the opportunity to make remarks).
 - ◆ During this time people are recognized for coming to the tournament from out of region, for being a state or world champ and for having a birthday on or close to the tournament date. Awards are also given out if appropriate.
 - ◆ Finally, the demo team will perform if appropriate and permission is asked to begin the tournament.

What should I wear?

Competitors should arrive with their uniform on to save time. If a student chooses to arrive without their uniform on or chooses to change out of uniform after their competition, it is best to be dressed nicely. Black Belts out of uniform should be dressed in business casual attire. We represent the American Taekwondo Association and it is to be expected to look like a leader.

What does it cost to come to the tournament?

Competitors can see their instructor for the proper tournament registration fee. It varies depending on the events that the competitor is competing in. Parents and spectators pay five dollars at the door to enter the tournament. Spectators under 5 years old are free.

Where do I get my tournament registration form? I paid for the tournament at the school.

Your head instructor will have your competitor registration form at the tournament site, unless otherwise specified. You will have to find that person at the tournament to get your form. Tournaments are full of ATA members. If you cannot find your instructor right away, do not panic, someone will tell you where they are.

Parents need to sign the back of the tournament registration form when they receive it. Your child will need to give the registration form to one of the judges in his/her ring in order to be allowed to compete. The registration form should be marked paid.

Is there food at the tournament?

There is usually a concession stand where you can purchase food. Snacks are permitted at tournament sites. You should have a bottle of water available while competing.

What time does my child compete?

You have to listen for when your child's age and belt color is called to the staging area. (The staging area is a designated place where the competitors are divided into the appropriated ring based on height, belt rank, age and gender). Color belt boys and girls may be put in the same ring based on available competitors. It is not uncommon to have multiple belt ranks in the same ring at the color belt level. Tiny Tigers (age 3-6 depending on the instructor's judgment) usually compete first at a tournament and have a special ring assignment. It will be announced. All tournament times are subject to change from the schedule originally made and sent to your academy.

What are staging area guidelines?

Parents should wait just outside of the staging area, not in the staging area with your child. Your child will be safe, and the tournament staff will make sure that they are with the correct group. When you see your child leaving the staging area, you should follow them or ask what ring the group is going to. Find a seat near your child's ring and enjoy. Please cheer for your child in their ring, but no coaching.

What are equipment guidelines?

If your child will be sparring, (Camo belts and above) they will need sparring gear with the ATA logo on the equipment. They will also need a face shield. Boys and men who are competing in sparring or combat sparring are required to have groin protection (cup AND supporter).

We **STRONGLY** suggest that you put your child's name on his/her sparring bag and ALL of their gear in silver sharpie marker. Please mark the equipment so that WE can identify the owner.

White, orange and yellow belts perform one-steps sparring and equipment is not required.

Medals and Pins

All competitors will receive a collectible tournament pin. Competitors who place 1st, 2nd or 3rd in an event in their ring will be awarded a tournament medal.

Memories

It is okay to bring a camera or video recorder if you would like.

Competition Rules

General information:

The order of competition in a ring is: traditional forms, traditional weapons, combat weapon sparring, sparring.

ATA Tigers do not get scores from judges. They receive words of encouragement and their ring may only have two (2) judges as opposed to the normal three (3).

There are three (3) judges in a ring during regular competition. The Center Judge, Judge A and judge B. Judge A, (Kicks & Stances), is to the left of the center judge when facing the competitors, Judge B (Strikes and Blocks) is to the right of the Center Judge when facing the competitors. Scores should be called out from left to right. The first score you hear is for kicks/stances, followed by overall quality of the form, and finally, for hands. See Basic Tournament Rule Overview. If at any time you have questions about the rules at an ATA tournament, please see your instructor(s) and we can clarify anything for you.

Please Remember

Every Taekwondo student who competes is a winner. Tournaments are intended for fun, as well as, a valuable learning experience. As Fort Wayne ATA students, we always aim to be respectful, courteous, and treat others as we would want to be treated at an ATA event. It is important to remember that as a competitor, you are representing the American Taekwondo Association, your school and yourself.

The instructors at Fort Wayne ATA will always be proud of you for doing your best at a tournament. We had a first tournament, too! Always remember: "TO COMPETE, IS TO WIN."