



American Youth Sports Martial Arts Association

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HOW TO USE THE DECIMAL SCORING SYSTEM IN MARTIAL ARTS FORM COMPETITION

The easiest way to understand this system is to think of the scores in forms similar to grades in public schools; A, B, C, D, F.

An A is 9.8, B is 9.3, C is 8.8, and D is 8.3, keep these scores in mind as the competitor performs you adjust your score up or down a given score. Example; a competitor is a solid B, 9.3 as he performs, then in the final 7-12 moves of the form the competitor starts to speed up, making several incorrect stances and barely folding a sidekick within the last 3 movements of the form. This would bring the form down to 9.2 or 9.1 as the final score for this particular competitor.

When you understand the system and how to apply the numbers to those four grades the competitor is scored accurately and the judges knows he/she has given a fair score for the actual performance of the competitor. The judge has four basic scores with the ability to divide each of those scores into a "high" and "low" score. The "A+" or 10.00 for a perfect form may be awarded but these should not be handed out regularly. The "F" or 8.0 will be given to competitors that forget their form.

There are four blocks of scores you can use to better describe your decision for the competitor's performance.

A - EXCELLENT 9.6, 9.7, 9.8, 9.9, 10.0

B - ABOVE AVERAGE 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5

Start your scoring in the middle, mentally giving the competitor an 8.8 score.

C - AVERAGE 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9, 9.0

As the competitor enters the ring she/he is under

F - FORGETS FORM 8.0

scrutiny. Determine a base score (A/9.8, B/9.3, C/8.8, D.8.3). Start your score with the presentation, attention and ready stance. The second point at which to establish a "base score" is within the first 3-8 movements you must watch for consistency in stance and delivery of technique, clarity in stance and technique and concentration. Watch for stance, the width and lengths are different between styles but a forward balance stance in any system has a bent forward knee and a straight rear knee. Look for consistency in execution of the various strikes and blocks. Body position and standing foot position is different between styles but all styles require the knee to fold and extend on every kick except the crescent kicks. Head and body position is always to be kept upright in all styles except for stances. Usually the kung fu styles will maintain a low body position, as if ducking from an opponents strike and kicking while dropping the body to evade. Pay attention to the "points" that all the styles share, pay attention to consistency, clarity of techniques and concentration and you will become a better judge

Always look for three aspects and then judge accordingly; consistency, clarity and concentration.

The competitor must execute the various techniques and stances in their form over and over, look for consistency in the delivery of a given technique and look for consistency in the stance (example; Okinawan stances tend to be short and shallow, similar to Sanchin stance, their toes tend to point out on a horse stance unlike the Korean styles that usually point their toes "in" on a horse stance).



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Consistency in stance and in delivery of technique.

Clarity in hand techniques, in kicking techniques and stance.

Concentration; a competitor must be completely involved in their "form" and the performance of the form.

Examples; Consistency, a competitor makes the front stance that is one shoulder width wide and two shoulder widths long, a "classic front stance". He also maintains a very steady beat as he moves through the form. He maintains those dimensions in the front stance and that steady beat until just after the middle of the form. Then in the final movements he speeds up and breaks the steady beat with jerking movements, moving faster and faster. Every stance now has the back leg bent, and there is no width, it as if he is standing on a tight rope.

Clarity is the ability to see a given technique, a side kick should be delivered in a linear motion, and a backfist should be delivered in a way to clearly distinguish from a linear technique like a punch.

Concentration, the final ingredient must be evident from the moment the competitor steps into the ring. The competitor should not be watching the activities outside of the ring.

All three of these are joined by power and speed. These are the elements of a good form. As judges it is up to you understand this simple scoring system. Everyone and anyone will find they can judge martial art systems they have never seen

RING ETIQUETTE

The center judge controls the ring.

The center judge will call to attention and bow in his/her particular division.

The winner of that particular division will bow out the division after the center judge calls the competitors to a ready stance.

The phrase the AYSMA will use is; FIRST PLACE WINNER "BOW OUT" THE DIVISION. At which time the child winning first will call the division to attention and bow.

The center judge has the choice of calling the competitor to the ring to compete or the score keeper may perform that task (yelling all day long can be tiring).

The center judge will perform the roll call and decide which divisions go first in that particular ring.

The order of competitors is aligned by computer the several days before the event. Start at the top and go to the bottom. In the case of several divisions having 5 or less competitors; start with the beginners and have the first two competitors go first then call them back up to be scored. As you continue with the intermediate belts and advanced belts inside of that age group, score each competitor after they compete. DO NOT run the first two competitors and call them back to score for each division inside an age group.

The center judge will decide who awards the various awards to the competitors.

The center judge will always complement the division at some point when bowing out the competitors (even if all the competitors were weak and even if all the competitors scored low that day, in their minds they tried hard compliment the effort if not the technique).

The center judge is responsible for reminding the score keeper to subtract a "point" from a competitor that forgets his form and then completes the second attempt.

All judges will keep talking to a minimal or not at all, you are here to make an honest attempt at "scoring" a child in forms. This is not to be taken lightly. These children (and parents) are customers and they are people who have worked hard and are entrusting you, that Saturday to give them an honest, non biased score for that child's form. Your skill and attention is needed, please take it seriously. The children do, the parents do, the instructors do and the AYSMA does.

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