



Child & Cadet Head Kicking Policy

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Responsible Person:	CEO

1. Definitions

AT means TKD Sports Taekwondo Australia Limited, trading as Australian Taekwondo, which is the recognised MNA for Australia.

Face Shield means the plexiglass or plastic face covering that is affixed to a taekwondo head guard

Hogu is the body protector worn by athletes in kyorugi competitions

IVR means Instant Video Replay as defined in Article 21 of the World Taekwondo Competition Rules and interpretations

Gam Jeom means a penalty declaration by the referee for a prohibited act as defined in Article 14 of the World Taekwondo Competition Rules and Interpretations

RSC and **WDR** are match decisions as defined in Article 16 of World Taekwondo Competition Rules and Interpretations

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure the safety of Child and Cadet Division athletes in relation to head and face contact in sparring competition. The objectives are:

- To protect AT athletes aged 14 years and under.
- To ensure that AT complies with the World Taekwondo (WT) Junior Sparring Rules pertaining to the refereeing of Head Contact.
- To ensure that consistent rules are applied where Head Contact is made. Head Contact is defined as kicking to the head area above the collarbone as per the WT Competition Rules.

3. Policy Principles

In all AT sparring competitions including Team Selection Events, National Championships, State Championships and other sanctioned events, the rules concerning a kick to the head or face shall be as follows:

3.1 Face Shield Usage

1. Face Shields are mandatory for all Child and Cadet divisions at national AT Promoted events, including but not limited to the Australian National Championships.
2. Face Shields are strongly recommended for all Child and Cadet divisions at State events, and all other events endorsed by AT.
3. AT will provide a sufficient supply of Face Shields at all events where their use is mandatory. Athletes may elect to use their own Face Shield in non-head contact divisions, providing it passes inspection.

3.2 Child (11 Years and Under) All Belts and Cadet (12-14 Years) Blue and Yellow Belts

1. These divisions shall be considered as “non head contact divisions”. Kicking to the head or face area is strictly prohibited.

3.3 Cadet (12-14 Years) Black and Red Belts

1. Cadet black and red belt divisions will follow the head and face contact rules as prescribed in the WT Competition Rules.
- 2.
3. Cadet red and black belt division athletes must qualify at a State level championship using the same head or face contact rules prior to entering the National Championships or Australian Team selection Events.
- 4.

3.4 Junior (15-17 years) all belts and Senior (17 years & over)

1. The rules concerning head and face kicks shall be as prescribed in the WT Competition Rules.

3.5 Penalties for attacks to the head in non-head contact divisions

1. Any contact to the head shall be given a Gam Jeom according to its assessment as:
 - a. **Dangerous Play** - any contact to the head not caused by the opponent’s Unsafe Play. This includes unintentional or accidental contact caused by contact to the hogu or shoulder and the foot sliding up to hit the head as a result of the motion of the opponent. Three (3) occurrences of Dangerous Play in a match shall result in the suspension of the match by RSC.
 - b. **Unsafe Play** - contact to the head is caused by the athlete either intentionally or unintentionally positioning themselves such that their head becomes a target or there is an increased risk of contact to the head. This includes but is not limited to ducking, crouching, or blocking in a manner that causes contact to the head.
2. IVR - in a situation concerning Unsafe or Dangerous Play, the referee may request IVR to determine the cause if they are uncertain. In the case where IVR is not requested by the referee prior to a penalty being given, the coach may request for invalidation of a penalty given to their athlete for Dangerous Play due to Unsafe Play by the opponent, or vice versa.

2.6 Procedure in the event of head contact in non-head contact divisions

1. The referee shall keep the opponent away from the athlete that received contact to the head by calling “kay-yeo”

2. If there is evidence of abrasion, bruising, bleeding or jarring following head or face contact, there was strong contact, or the referee has any doubt regarding the athlete’s state or ability to continue, they will immediately call for the event doctor to make the final decision within the “kye-shi” procedures.
 - a. If the doctor confirms that the athlete is medically able to continue, the referee shall resume the match after giving the required Gam Jeom in accordance with section 3.5 above.
 - b. If the doctor confirms that the athlete is medically able to continue but the athlete indicates they do not wish to do so, the opponent will be declared the winner by withdrawal (WDR)
 - c. In the case that the doctor deems the athlete medically unable to continue, the winner shall be determined based on the cause of the contact to the head and penalised appropriately
 - i. If the contact was a result of Dangerous Play either intentionally or unintentionally, the athlete who received the head contact shall be declared winner by RSC.
 - ii. If the contact was a result of unsafe play from the athlete who received the contact the opponent shall be declared winner by WDR

4. Accountabilities

Implementation:	National Kyorugi Referee Committee
Compliance:	AT Board
Monitoring and Evaluation:	Chief Executive Officer
Development and Review:	National Kyorugi Referee Committee
Interpretation and Advice:	National Kyorugi Referee Committee

5. Who Should Know This Policy

1. All Australian Taekwondo registered Referees, Athletes and Coaches are responsible for informing themselves of this policy.
2. The Board is responsible for the approval and maintenance of this policy.
3. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for ensuring adherence to this policy.
4. The National Kyorugi Referee Committee is responsible for implementation of this policy.

6. How Will The Effectiveness Of This Policy Be Measured?

1. The policy will be inserted in the Kyorugi Referee Course and disseminated to all current Kyorugi Referees.
2. The policy will be included in the Coach Course and disseminated to all current Coaches.
3. All Kyorugi Sports Members will have knowledge of the policy.

Policy Owner:	NKRC
Compliance:	Mandatory

Approved by:	AT Board
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