

WKO Rookies Explanation and Definition:

We are often asked if we have beginner categories?

The answer is yes indeed we do.

These are what we label Rookies and have different requirements between:

- Ringsports
- Tatami Sports

Tatami Sports

Based on a new martial artist starts training, after 6 months starts grading within 12 months has graded 2-3 times which would look like:

9th Kyu (White Belt)

8th Kyu

7th Kyu

So the 6 months getting ready to start to grade, then 12 months of beginner grades = 18 months Training and Competing Combined.

Sparring in clubs is at different stages but on average:

- 6 months training
- 3 Months sparring

Leaves 9 months to compete as a beginner (Rookie)

Then fighters by this point want to fight all comers I know I did after about 6 months training lol

Are all classed as beginner grades

So within an 18 month period they have learnt the basics and been tested

After this period are searching for harder challenges

So clubs looking for beginner competitions we do cater for you

The standards are high regardless of beginner or advanced and as a coach you know if your students are ready to be tested

Ringsports

Due the significant difference between Ringsports and Tatami sports being in a ring which is confined, the rounds are multiple and the contact heavier. WKO defines a Rookie in Ringsports as someone with no more than 12 Months competing.

This does not include the months/years they have trained for, but does include any time spent competing on tatami sports.

The 12 month time frames starts from the first fight they have had.

If they did 1 fight in 2010 then had a break and resumed for example 12 months or more later they are no longer classed as a rookie as they have competed longer than 12 months.

Switching Rules/Styles/Clubs/Coaches

If you trained in Pointfighting and competed for longer than 12 months and would like to compete in another rules set for example Light Contact. Although you are new to Light Contact you have competed for longer than 12 months so would not be classed as a rookie.

Ringsports training time of 12 months starts from the very first fight have then expires 12 months later, with no exception to the rule.

Summary:

Tatami Sports Rookie = A Martial Artist on less than **18 Months** Training & Competing Combined starting from the first day they train in Martial Arts or Boxing.

Ringsports Rookie = A Martial Artist with less than **12 Months** Competing starting from the first day they compete regardless of rules, but does not include the length of time they have trained, so could have trained for 3yrs or more but never competed and still be classed as a Rookie but only for 12 months commencing from their first bout.

