

GENERAL RULES FOR HAND AND WEAPON FORMS

Forms must capture the essence of classical martial arts movements, showcase the traditional techniques, stances, footwork, and weapons. Emphasis is placed on the execution of technique, application of technique, balance, speed, power, solid stances, swift footwork, and focus.

TIME LIMIT FOR FORMS

- Traditional Hand and Weapon Forms: average 2 minutes
- Open Hand and Weapon Forms: average 2 minutes
- Group Forms: average 2 minutes
- Tai-Chi 24 Hand Form: minimum 4 minutes / maximum 5 minutes
- Tai-Chi 42 Hand Form: minimum 5 minutes / maximum 6 minutes
- Yang, Chen, and Other Tai-Chi Hand Forms: minimum 3 minutes / maximum 5 minutes
- Tai-Chi Weapon Forms: minimum 2 1/2 minutes / maximum 4 minutes
- Tai-Chi Group Hand and Weapon Forms: minimum 3 minutes / maximum 4 minutes

SCORING

- Point Range for: Novice and Beginner - from 7.00 to 8.00 points
 Intermediate - from 8.00 to 9.00 points
 Advanced - from 9.00 to 10.00 points
- Each form will be judged by five Judges with one serving as Chief Judge.
- The highest and the lowest of the 5 scores will be "dropped" and the score of the remaining three judges are "averaged out" and announced.
- The top three averaged scores will be announced as the 1st-3rd place winners.
- In the event of a tie, the highest and lowest scores will be added back in to break ties. If there is still a tie after adding back the two scores, then the competitors must perform again to break the tie.
- 1/2 point will be deducted when a competitor forgets the form and has to start and perform the form again. A competitor can only start over one time.
- Weapons that hit, slam, or scrape the floor as part of the routine result in an automatic disqualification. Accidental contact with the floor by a weapon will result in 1/2 point deduction.

OTHER RULES

- Competitors will not have to introduce their routine when called to compete. When they are called, they only have to salute/bow when entering the ring and proceed to their starting location. Once the Center Judge has acknowledged to begin, they may do so.
- If more room is needed for the routine than what is available, a competitor should make a verbal request to the Chief Judge before beginning the routine.
- Group Hand and Weapon Forms: – For Tai-Chi Group, 3 to 8 competitors – For other Group, at least 2 competitors Each competitor within a group will pay the competition fee. Thus, if there are 4 competitors on a team, each of them will have to pay the competition fee. The judge's scores are credited to the team, not to each individual member of the team.
- Salute/bow when finished and to exit the ring.
- Competitor is expected to step back vs. forward when needed."
- Weapon Forms: – Short Weapons, 4 feet or shorter – Long Weapons, longer than 4 feet The Judges have the authority to check any of the weapons for the secureness of the weapon parts (to avoid any loose parts flying about) as well as the weapon weight. (Lightweight/modern wushu swords are discouraged)
- Single entries in a category may be subject to combination with a similar category.

Sabers and Swords used in Tai Chi Division must be able to sustain its own weight when placed on its tip.
