

**All Japan Karate-do Goju-kai Free Sparring Competition  
Referee Terms and Gestures**

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| <b>Referees Line-up</b>                         | The chief referee (Shushin) will stand outside the main match area, with the 1st Assistant Referee (Fukushin) to their left, and the 2nd Assistant Referee (Fukushin) to their right. The Match Supervisor (Kansa) stands at the designated spot by the officiating table. |
| <b>Bowing</b>                                   | At the start of the competition, on the chief referee's command, bow to the front (Shomen ni Rei) and then bow to each other (Otagai ni Rei). At the end, bow to each other (Otagai ni Rei) and then to the front (Shomen ni Rei).   |
| <b>Chief Referee Formalities and Gestures</b>   |  |
| <b>Start of the bout</b>                        | Standing upright on the Referee Line. Chief Referee will announce "SHOBU HAJIME!" and the bout will commence.  |
| <b>Restarting the Bout</b>                      | The Chief Referee stands on the Referee Line, steps back with one foot, opens both hands toward the competitors, and restarts the bout by calling "TSUZUKETE HAJIME"   |
| <b>Stopping the Bout</b>                        | The Chief Referee will stop the bout by announcing "YAME", while stepping forward one step, and performing a downward motion with their leading hand in a straight edge position.  |
| <b>Continuation of the bout</b>                 | In the event that competitors stop competing without instruction from the referee, the referee will call "Tsuzukete".  |
| <b>Engagement gesture to assistant referees</b> | When the Chief Referee observes prohibited behaviour, they will use the appropriate gesture for the relevant violation to appeal to the assistant referees.  |
| <b>Convene Assistant Referees</b>               | To assemble the Assistant Referees, the Chief Referee will say "Shuugo", and will gesture with one <u>or with both hands</u> for the referees to come forward.   |

## Prohibited Behaviours / Warnings

- Contact ("Atte")** An attack that is uncontrolled, it physically touches the target, and force is transmitted to the opponent.
- Gesture:** Press fist against the palm of the hand
- Command:** "Atte, Chui" / "Atte, Hansoku Chui" / "Atte, Hansoku"
- Dangerous Behaviour ("Kiken Koi")** Includes repeated low kicks or groin kicks, strikes with elbows or knees that makes contact, persistent grabbing, pushing, holding, unsafe throws, dangerous techniques after a throw, overly emotional behavior, or anything deemed dangerous.
- Gesture:** Hold up the index finger and make a circular motion around the face.
- Command:** "Kiken Koi, Chui" / "Kiken Koi, Hansoku Chui" / "Kiken Koi, Hansoku"
- Fighting Posture ("Kamae")** In principle, throughout the bout, the competitors should utilize Goju-Ryu's kumite posture, including using stances such as Neko Ashi Dachi, etc.
- Gesture:** With the right hand on top for Aka, and the left hand on top for Ao, show kamae with both hands
- Command:** "Kamae, Chui" / "Kamae, Hansoku Chui" / "Kamae, Hansoku"
- Self-Endangerment ("Mubobi")** Ignoring defensive techniques and only focusing on offence. Additionally, any action that results in self-endangerment. Examples include turning their back on the opponent, stopping fighting before the Chief Referee calls "Yame" and attacking without regard to counterattack.
- Gesture:** Wave with an open hand in front of the face (Right hand for Aka, Left hand for Ao)
- Command:** "Mubobi, Chui" / "Mubobi, Hansoku Chui" / "Mubobi, Hansoku"
- Non-Engagement ("Tohi")** Loss of fighting spirit, running away, looking away (i.e. not looking at opponent), passivity and avoiding combat
- Gesture:** Point the index finger to the floor, and draw a circle
- Command:** "Tohi, Chui" / "Tohi, Hansoku Chui" / "Tohi, Hansoku"
- Attitude ("Shiai Taido")** Poor behavior or lack of respect/courtesy before, during, and after the competition. Verbal abuse, and generally poor attitude.
- Gesture:** Hit the chest with an open hand
- Command:** "Shiai Taido, Chui" / "Shiai Taido, Hansoku Chui" / "Shiai Taido, Hansoku"

## Warnings and Penalties

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| <b>Warning</b><br><b>(“Chui”)</b>                                | Announce “Aka” or “Ao,” show the relevant gesture and announce the specific warning towards the offending competitor, and then signal “Warning” (“and say Chui”) with the index finger. (Example: Aka → Contact “Atte” → Warning “Chui”)   |
| <b>Warning of Disqualification</b><br><b>(“Hansoku Chui”)</b>    | Announce “Aka” or “Ao,” show the relevant gesture and announce the specific warning towards the offending competitor, and then point toward the offender’s stomach with the index finger, and say “Hansoku Chui”. (Example: Aka → Contact “Atte” → “Hansoku Chui”)   |
| <b>Disqualification</b><br><b>“Hansoku”</b>                      | Announce “Aka” or “Ao,” show the relevant gesture and announce the specific warning towards the offending competitor, and then point toward offender’s face with the index finger, and say “Hansoku”. The Chief Referee will then indicate the opponent as “winner”, with the appropriate gesture, raising an open palm toward that side while announcing “Aka No Kachi” or “Ao no Kachi” (Example: Aka → Contact “Atte” → “Hansoku” → “Ao no Kachi”)  |
| <b>Decision</b><br><b>“Hantei”</b>                               | After the bout time ends, the Chief Referee will call “Hantei” and blow the whistle twice, and show their decision with the right hand (Red) or left hand (Blue), or crossing both hands above their head for a draw. Taking into account the decisions of the Chief Referee and the Assistant Referees, the Chief Referee will announce the final result. “Aka No Kachi” or “Ao no Kachi” or “Hikiwake” (in case of a Draw). The result will be based on a majority vote.   |
| <b>Forfeiture / Renunciation</b><br><b>“Kiken”</b>               | KIKEN is the decision given when a Competitor fails to present themselves when called, are unable to continue, abandons the bout, or is withdrawn on the order of the Doctor. The Chief Referee will announce “Aka” or “Ao,” point downwards at a 45-degree angle toward the side of the forfeiting competitor, and say “Kiken”. The Chief Referee will then indicate the opponent as “winner”, with the appropriate gesture, raising an open palm toward that side while announcing “Aka No Kachi” or “Ao no Kachi” |
| <b>Disqualification from the tournament</b><br><b>“Shikkaku”</b> | Disqualification from the entire tournament including any subsequent category the offender may have been registered for.<br><br>The Chief Referee will announce “Aka” or “Ao,” point toward the offending competitor, then gesture them out of the competition area while saying “Shikkaku”. The Chief Referee will then indicate the opponent as “winner”, with the appropriate gesture, raising an open palm toward that side while announcing “Aka No Kachi” or “Ao no Kachi.”                                    |

## Assistant Referee Flags and Whistle Signals

Assistant referees use red/blue flags to indicate the winner during the final decision. If there's an incident or foul, they will use a whistle, as well as designated gestures with their flags to alert the Chief Referee.

### Incident

For any incidents during the match (like player illness or injury), the Assistant referee will blow the whistle and wave the flag overhead. This signal is also used for asking the Chief Referee questions.

### Responses to prompts from Chief Referee

If the Chief Referee asks if the assistant referees agree with a particular warning for prohibited behaviour, each Assistant Referee will respond with these gestures, indicating their decision:

- **"Agree"**: Show the gesture for the specific foul.
- **"Disagree"**: Wave both flags horizontally from the center to the outside in front of the body.
- **"Not Visible"**: Hold both flags in front of your eyes.

### Warning Gestures

If a prohibited behaviour has been observed, the assistant referee will blow their whistle, and display the designated gesture for the relevant warning.

- **Contact ("Atte")** Cross the flags toward the offending side, with the offending competitor colour on the outside of the cross
- **Dangerous Behaviour ("Kiken Koi")** Raise the flag on the offending side up to the face, and make a circular motion.
- **Guard Posture ("Kamae")** With the red flag on top for Aka, and the blue flag on top for Ao, show kamae with both hands toward the offending competitor.
- **Self-Endangerment ("Mubobi")** Wave the flag of the offending side from side to side in front of the face.
- **Evasion ("Tohi")** Point the flag of the offending side downward and make a circular motion
- **Attitude ("Shiai Taido")** Hit the chest with the flag of the offending side.

### Decision

When the Chief Referee calls "Hantei", the Assistant Referee will indicate their decision with the following gestures:

**Winner:** Raise the Red or Blue Flag at a 45-degree angle to indicate the winner

**Draw:** Cross the flags overhead