



U.S. Open ITF Taekwon-Do Championships (May 16-17, 2026)
Official National Qualifying Event



Invitation

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The **Original ITF Taekwon-Do of America**, an official branch of ITF HQ Vienna, is pleased to invite national and international Taekwon-Do practitioners to participate in the **U.S. Open ITF Taekwon-Do Championships 2026**.

This prestigious open tournament brings together competitors of all ages and ranks in the spirit of original ITF Taekwon-Do, sportsmanship, and international friendship.

The **U.S. Open ITF Taekwon-Do Championships** is designated as an **Official National Qualifying Event**, where eligible competitors may qualify for selection to national-level teams in accordance with ITF regulations and national selection criteria.

Venue

Harper College

Palatine, Illinois, USA

1200 Algonquin Rd, Palatine, IL 60067

Event Highlights

- Open international participation
- Individual and team divisions
- Patterns (Tul), Sparring (Matsogi), Point Fight (not designated as a national qualifying discipline), Special Techniques, and Power Breaking
- Certified ITF referees and officials
- Official national qualification opportunities

This event is conducted under the rules and standards of the **International Taekwon-Do Federation (ITF)**.

We warmly welcome competitors, instructors, officials, and supporters to join us for a high-level championship that celebrates excellence, discipline, and the true spirit of Taekwon-Do.

Further details regarding divisions, eligibility, schedule, and registration will be announced separately.

We look forward to welcoming you to the **U.S. Open ITF Taekwon-Do Championships**.



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Umpires

Each team is required to provide **qualified umpires** in accordance with the team size:

- **Minimum of one (1) qualified umpire** for teams of **up to 10 competitors**
- **Minimum of two (2) qualified umpires** for teams of **10 or more competitors**

All umpires must strictly comply with the **official dress code**, which is **mandatory**:

- Dark blue suit
- White long-sleeve dress shirt
- Black or dark blue tie
- White socks
- White shoes

An umpire **may not simultaneously perform the role of coach or competitor** at these Championships.

Failure to comply with umpire requirements or dress code regulations may result in **penalties or restrictions** as determined by the Organizing Committee.

Sparring (Matsogi)

According to the ITF rules, punches to the high section are allowed for all ages

AGE and DIVISIONS			
Veterans 35+ y.o	10-4 Gup	3 Gup +	
Adults 18-34 y.o	10-4 Gup	3 Gup +	
Youth 16-17 y.o	10-4 Gup	3 Gup +	
Juniors 14-15 y.o	10-4 Gup	3 Gup +	
Boys/Girls 12-13 y.o	10-8 Gup	7 Gup to 4 Gup	3 Gup +
Boys/Girls 10-11 y.o	10-8 Gup	7 Gup to 4 Gup	3 Gup +
Boys/Girls 8-9 y.o	10-8 Gup	7 Gup to 4 Gup	3 Gup +
Boys/Girls 6-7 y.o	10-9 Gup	8 Gup to 1 Gup	



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Weight Categories	
Male	Female
Boys/Girls 6-7 y.o	
-20, -24, -28, -32, -36, -40, -44, +44 kg	-18, -22, -26, -30, -34, -38, -42, +42 kg
Boys/Girls 8-9 y.o	
-24, -28, -32, -36, -40, -44, -48, +48 kg	-22, -26, -30, -34, -38, -42, -46, +46 kg
Boys/Girls 10-11 y.o	
-30, -35, -40, -45, -50, -55, -60, +60 kg	-25, -30, -35, -40, -45, -50, -55, +55 kg
Boys/Girls 12-13 y.o	
-30, -35, -40, -45, -50, -55, -60, +60 kg	-25, -30, -35, -40, -45, -50, -55, +55 kg
Juniors 14-15 y.o	
-45, -50, -55, -60, -65, -70, +70 kg	-40, -45, -50, -55, -60, -65, +65 kg
Youth 16-17 y.o	
-45, -51, -57, -63, -69, -75, +75 kg	-40, -46, -52, -58, -64, -70, +70 kg
Adults 18-34 y.o	
-52, -58, -64, -71, -78, -85, -92, +92 kg	-47, -52, -57, -62, -67, -72, -77, +77 kg
Veterans 35+ y.o	
-64, -73, -80, -90, +90 kg	-54, -61, -68, -75, +75 kg

Weigh-in will be conducted using scales displaying pounds (lbs).

Official weight categories are defined in kilograms (kg).

All results will be recorded and applied in kilograms.

Bout Duration

- Boys/Girls: (6-7 and 8-9 y.o): 2 rounds × 1:00 min (break 0:30)
- Boys/Girls (10-11 and 12-13 y.o): 2 rounds × 1:30 min (break 0:45)
- Juniors: 2 rounds × 2:00 min (break 1:00)
- Adults: 2 rounds × 2:00 min (break 1:00)
- Veterans: 2 rounds × 1:30 min (break 1:00)



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Mandatory SPARRING Equipment					
	Boys/Girls 6-7 y.o	Boys/Girls 8-9 y.o	Juniors	Adults	Veterans
Gloves	8 OZ	8 OZ	10 OZ	10 OZ	10 OZ
Foot Guard	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
Shin Guard	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
Groin guard	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
Mouth Guard	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
Head Gear	Masked	Required	Required	Required	Required

All teams (competitors) must have a **BLUE** and **RED** set of equipment (not limited to any manufacturer, any official brand is allowed).

N.B Gloves with open fingers are forbidden for safety reasons.



Mandatory Headguard for Boys/Girls 6-7 y.o	Mandatory Headguard 8+ y.o

Official Equipment

Official **Daedo** Taekwon-Do equipment will be available for purchase at the competition venue during the event.



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National Qualifiers!

National Qualifier divisions include age categories from Juniors through Veterans (inclusive) and are limited to "3 Gup +" divisions.

Sparring competitions within National Qualifier divisions shall be conducted using a round-robin system, where each competitor faces all others within the division.

All other age groups and divisions, including non-qualifier categories, shall be conducted using the single-elimination (Olympic) system.

PATTERN CATEGORIES

Boys/Girls (6-7 years old): 8 Gup +
Boys/Girls (8-9 years old): 8-6 ; 5-3 ; 2 Gup +
Boys/Girls (10-11 years old): 8-6 ; 5-3 Gup ; 2 Gup +
Boys/Girls (12-13 years old): 8-6 ; 5-3 Gup ; 2 Gup +
Junior (14-15 years old): 8-6 ; 5-1 Gup ; I Dan, II Dan
Youth (16-17 years old): 8-6 ; 5-1 Gup ; I Dan, II Dan, III Dan
Adult (18-34 years old): 8-6 ; 5-1 Gup ; I Dan, II Dan, III Dan, IV Dan
Veteran (35+ years old): 8-6 ; 5-1 Gup ; I Dan, II Dan, III Dan, IV Dan, V Dan

Color Belts :

Color belts will perform one (optional) pattern till the final

And two patterns (optional and designated) in the final

Black Belts:

Black belts will perform two patterns for all rounds (optional and designated).

Optional Pattern to Perform	
8 Gup	Dan-Gun
7 Gup	Do-San
6 Gup	Won-Hyo
5 Gup	Yul-Gok
4 Gup	Joong-Gun
3 Gup	Toi-Gye
2 Gup	Hwa-Rang
1 Gup	Choong-Moo
I Dan	Kwang-Gae or Po Eun or Ge-Baek
II Dan	Eui-Am or Choong-Jang or Juche
III Dan	Sam-Il or Yoo-Sin or Choi Yong
IV Dan	Yong-Gae or Ul-Ji or Moon-Moo
V Dan	So-Sang or Se-Jong
VI Dan	Tong-Il



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Division Merging and Draw Procedure

In the event of an insufficient number of competitors, divisions may be merged at the discretion of the Organizing Committee.

For the sake of transparency and fairness, team coaches have the right to be present at the draw and to participate in discussions regarding the merging of divisions.

Any coach who does not attend the official draw waives the right to submit objections concerning the merging of divisions after the draw has been conducted.

Protest

Any official protest must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Organizing Committee by the team coach or team representative within the time frame specified by the organizers. A protest fee of \$100 USD must be paid at the time of submission.

If the protest is upheld, the full protest fee will be refunded.

If the protest is rejected, the protest fee will not be returned.

All decisions of the Tournament Organizing Committee regarding protests are final.

Dobok Regulations

Participants competing in the U.S. Open ITF Taekwon-Do Championships may wear a dobok of any brand, provided it bears Taekwon-Do symbolism and is appropriate for competition.

For divisions designated as National Qualifiers, competitors are required to wear an ITF dobok, of any brand, in accordance with ITF regulations.

Liability and Insurance

The Organizers shall not be held responsible for the **loss of or damage to personal property** during the Championships.

All participants are **personally responsible** for ensuring that they have **valid medical and accident insurance** covering the duration of the competition.



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Registration and Fees

Registration for all members of **ITF HQ Vienna** must be completed **exclusively through the official ITF database**.

Representatives of **other organizations** are required to submit their registrations using the official **.xls registration form provided by the organizers**. In addition, **digital photographs of all participants** must be submitted together with the completed registration form.

Registration is open **until May 5**.

The individual **entry fee** is **USD 130(All disciplines)**.

The team event entry fee is **USD 50 (Sparring and Patterns)**.

The entry fee must be paid **in cash** during **on-site check-in / weigh-in (May 16)**.

Entry fees are **non-refundable**, including in cases of **non-attendance, injury, or insufficient number of competitors within a division**.

Additional Information

The **competition schedule, detailed discipline rules, hotel recommendations**, and the **participant registration form (.xls)** will be provided in **separate documents**.

Contact:

Original ITF Taekwon-Do Of America

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