

# **ISKA LOSS OF WEAPON CONTROL RULE**

## **1. DEFINITION OF LOSS OF WEAPON CONTROL.**

A competitor loses control of a weapon when the competitor loses his or her grip on the weapon; or is otherwise unable to control the immediate movement or striking direction of the weapon or the length and/or breadth of the area or zone which is reached or affected by the weapon.

## **2. CATEGORIES OF SEVERITY OF LOSS OF WEAPON CONTROL.**

### **Category 1 Loss of Weapon Control**

The competitor briefly loses control of the weapon. The weapon may or may not touch the mat or flooring or platform. If the weapon does touch the mat or flooring or platform, the contact is brief and the competitor prevents an interruption of the form by quickly regaining control.

### **Category 2 Loss of Weapon Control**

The competitor loses control of the weapon and actually drops the weapon or otherwise loses contact with the weapon for one second or more. The weapon may or may not touch the mat or flooring or platform. The competitor must interrupt their form and pick up or otherwise reacquire control of the weapon before continuing the form. The primary difference between this Category 2 Loss of Control and the Category 1 above is that the form is completely interrupted for at least one second or more.

### **Category 3 Loss of Weapon Control**

The competitor loses control of the weapon and contact with the weapon, the weapon falls to or touches the mat or flooring, and any substantial part of the weapon comes to rest outside of the boundary of the ring (or if during the nighttime finals show on stage, any substantial part of the weapon comes to rest past the edge of the platform). Also, if a competitor strikes a spectator, judge, or other person, regardless of intent.

## **3. LOSS OF WEAPON CONTROL IN INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION.**

A Loss of Weapon Control by a competitor during an individual weapons form division will be mandatorily penalized as follows:

Category 1 Loss of Weapon Control = .02 Deduction

Category 2 Loss of Weapon Control = .04 Deduction

Category 3 Loss of Weapon Control = Immediate Disqualification (due to a safety violation)

In the case of a Category 1 or Category 2 Loss of Weapon Control, the competitor may continue with the remainder of the form and will be scored. Each judge will make their own deductions (but following the mandatory point deductions above), based on their own observations of whether a Loss of Control occurred, and if they deem so then the severity of that loss of control. If there is more than one Loss of Weapon Control in the same form, the judges will make a separate deduction for each Loss of Weapon Control that they perceive. If a competitor chooses not to continue on with their form

after a Loss of Control, that competitor will not be scored, and will not receive any NASKA points or any prize money for that division (i.e., a “no score”, but not technically a Disqualification, which only occurs for a safety or sportsmanship violation).

In the case of a Category 3 Loss of Weapon Control, safety is a consideration and the competitor will be immediately disqualified and will not be permitted to continue the form. The competitor will not be scored, will not receive any NASKA points or any prize money for that division, and may be subject to such other NASKA safety rulings as NASKA may deem necessary, including but not limited to, suspension from continued participation at that event and/or future NASKA events. The Center Official, or a majority of the other judges, will determine whether a Category 3 Loss of Weapon Control has occurred in a private judges-only conference called by the Center Official before the competition continues. This conference may include physically examining the final resting area of the weapon.

#### 4. BROKEN WEAPONS TO BE TREATED AS A LOSS OF WEAPON CONTROL.

If a weapon breaks during a form, the judges will score it as a loss of control, with all provisions of the above categories applicable. If the break prevents the competitor from continuing to use the weapon in the manner in which the form was intended, it will be determined to be a Category 3 Loss of Weapon Control by the Center Official or a majority of the other judges.

#### 5. METHOD OF JUDGES SCORING THE DEDUCTIONS

Each judge scoring a weapons form competitor, synchronized weapons team, or demonstration team, who perceives that a Loss of Weapon Control has occurred, must take the mandatory deduction off their score before deciding where to place the competitor under the Relative Ranking System. For example, in the daytime eliminations, if a judge believes a competitor would have been the second-best in the division and therefore received a 9.98, that judge will now consider that competitor a 9.96 or 9.94, depending on the amount of the mandatory deduction. That judge will give that score to the competitor or team, moving other competitors upwards or downwards in their scores in order to maintain the format of the Relative Ranking System. These scores will be subject to adjustment if necessary under the Maximum Deviation Rule just as any other score would be.

If the competition is in the runoffs or finals, and a Modified Relative Ranking System scheme is in use, i.e., all the judges have been instructed for example to give “one 9.99, one 9.98, one 9.97, and the rest 9.96s...”, each judge will again as above, determine what score he or she would have given the competitor or team, then take off the mandatory deduction, then determine the score to give in keeping with the particular format of the Modified Relative Ranking System in use. For example, if a judge would have given a competitor 9.99, but must now deduct .02 for a Category 1 Loss of Control, that judge will now score that competitor a 9.97, and will move the competitor who otherwise would have gotten the 9.98 up to 9.99; and the competitor who would have gotten the 9.97 up to 9.98 and so on. If the judge would have given a 9.98 but must deduct .04 for a Category 2 Loss of Control, that judge must make upward adjustments as described above, and the offending competitor score will now become a 9.96, as that is the lowest score permissible under the scheme of the Modified Relative Ranking System in use for that runoff or finals competition.

## 6. APPLICABILITY OF THE RULE AND PROTEST AND REVIEW.

The above rules apply to all weapons competition in all individual divisions held under NASKA Rules at all NASKA events, regardless of age or skill division, and regardless of whether the competition is during the eliminations, runoffs, or finals.

Protests on the application of this Rule must be made immediately to the Center Official or the Arbitrator, and may only pertain to the judges following the provisions of this Rule. A judge's subjective decision that a Loss of Weapon Control has occurred may not be protested, as it is considered a judgment call and is not be subject to video or other review.

NOTE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS RULE: The above Rule may be instituted immediately, as it is procedural and not substantive; i.e., no one has to change their form or do anything different due to the rule. In addition, it makes no difference if notice of the rule is not yet widely disseminated, as the penalty is less rather than greater. The only persons to suffer a detriment from the rule are those who would have placed higher because someone else in their division would previously have been disqualified, and that cannot be considered any kind of competition "strategy" that they are entitled to.