
The logo features a stylized 'W' and 'K' intertwined. The 'W' is black, and the 'K' is gold. The letters are thick and blocky. The 'W' is on the left, and the 'K' is on the right. The 'W' has a gold vertical bar on its left side with the letters 'WKU' written vertically in black. Below the logo, the text 'SOUTH AFRICA' is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. Below that, 'PROFESSIONAL' and 'RULEBOOK' are written in the same font, stacked vertically.

SOUTH AFRICA

PROFESSIONAL

RULEBOOK

The official Professional rules and regulations for WKU K1 South Africa

Annexure to the Amateur Rulebook

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Important: This rulebook is meant to be read in conjunction with the Amateur Rulebook. All rule changes or amendments for professional bouts are mentioned in this rulebook, however, if it’s not mentioned, the rules in the Amateur Rulebook will apply.

Note: This rulebook is based on the international WKU K1 rules and regulations. However, a few adjustments have been made and approved by WKU for the South African circuit. Therefore, our rules and regulations are slightly different than the international WKU rules.

If you will be attending an international WKU event, please read through the international rules to familiarize yourself with their regulations.

The international WKU rules (<https://www.wkuworld.com/organisation/rules/>)



1. Objective

Professional competitors compete at Promotional Fight Nights. These events are hosted for entertainment purposes and the objective is to get as much spectator engagement as possible. To do this, promoters aim to put together an entertaining line-up of bouts that will draw spectators to their event and sell tickets.

A professional competitor signs a contract and gets paid by a promoter to compete at their event as part of their line-up. They use their martial art skills to produce a source of income for themselves by competing and building a larger following and media presence.

The promoter's objective is to use a professional competitor's reputation, persona, fan-base, and martial art skills to promote their event, thereby ensuring high-quality and entertaining performances that draw spectators to the event. However, it's important to understand that when a promoter signs a professional competitor, he/she must get a return on their investment. If a professional competitor performs poorly or they have very little spectator engagement, the promoter is not getting any return on their investment, which could lead to the promoter not renewing the competitor's contract.

According to a promoter, a valued professional competitor is not necessarily someone that wins all their bouts, but rather someone that brings spectators to their event, puts up entertaining performances that draws a crowd, and is a great ambassador for the sport. The higher the return, the higher amount the promoter can afford to pay the competitor.

It is WKU K1 SA's duty to:

- Protect the competitor's best interests.
- Ensure that all competitors have safe and fair professional bouts.
- Manage the professional rankings on a national and provincial level.
- Connect professional competitors with local and international opportunities.
- Prevent promoters from exploiting competitors for their own financial gain.
- Ensure that all professional competitors are licensed and on an acceptable standard.
- Regulate the promoter's event to ensure all rules and regulations are followed.
- Provide quality officials and regulation procedures that support the promoter in making their event a success.

All professional contracts must be approved by WKU K1 SA before it may be distributed to any professional competitor. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in a fine or in severe cases, cancellation of the events sanctioning.



2. Professional License

- To qualify for a professional license request, a competitor must have a notable amateur fight record with an acceptable win rate against A-Class competitors.
- A competitor who wants to apply for a professional license, must complete the online *Pro Application Form* on www.k1sa.co.za. Should the request be approved, the competitor will be contacted to finalize the licensing procedure.
- If a professional competitor performs poorly and struggles to maintain a professional standard, WKU K1 SA has the right to revoke his/her professional license.
- Each applicant's licensing procedure will vary depending on their activity, recent performances, background, and overall experience.
- If a professional competitor has been inactive for more than 2 years, they will have to attend a physical licensing to ensure that they are still in good physical condition.
- To compete in international WKU professional events, the WKUWORLD Professional Registration Form must be submitted to WKUWORLD HQ for approval.
- All local and international professional licenses expire on the 31st of December of the year it was issued. The license must then be renewed in the beginning of the year.

2.1 Licensing Fees

- Application Fee – R300
- International Annual Registration – €35

The details for payment will be communicated once the application has been completed.

Please note the above fees exclude the R200 annual WKU registration fee, which all WKU K1 SA members are subject to.

3. Age Categories

- The age category for professional competitors is 18 – 45 years old.
- The age cut-off is one day after the date of the event.

In other words, if a competitor turns 46 on the day of the event, they will still be considered 45 years old. They will only be registered as 46 years old one day after the event.

- A competitor who is older than 45 must have prior approval from WKUWORLD to compete in a professional bout.



4. Doping

- WKU K1 SA and WKUWORLD has a strict anti-doping policy in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Association (WADA). Any performance-enhancing or banned substances are strictly prohibited.
- For the list of banned substances, please read through the latest [prohibited list](#).
- WKU K1 SA and WKUWORLD reserves the right to test for banned and performance-enhancing substances, including but not limited to, the following:
 - Amphetamines.
 - Barbiturates.
 - Benzodiazepines.
 - Cocaine.
 - Marijuana.
 - Methadone.
 - Methaqualone.
 - Opiates.
 - Phencyclidine.
 - Propoxyphene.
 - Ephedra.
- WKU K1 SA or WKUWORLD supervisors, tournament promoters, and official doctors can and may perform doping tests.
- Competitors who intentionally avoid or evade such controls or try to obstruct or manipulate the testers in any way, can be disqualified and banned for a period of time to be determined by WKU K1 SA or WKUWORLD.
- Privacy, especially for children and female competitors, must be respected. Doping tests must be conducted by a qualified person of the same gender. Whenever this is not available, a WKU K1 SA or WKUWORLD supervisor of the same gender shall supervise the collection of the test samples.



5. Medical Requirements

- Each athlete must submit an annual medical form that's completed by a qualified doctor declaring that they are medically fit to compete in WKU K1 SA events.
- The medical form is valid for 12-months from the date of completion. An athlete will not be allowed to participate if a valid medical form has not been submitted.
- All athletes must complete blood tests (HIV, Hepatitis B Surface Antigen, and Hepatitis C Antibodies). These tests will be valid for 6-months from the date of completion.
- The medical form and blood tests must be submitted directly to WKU K1 SA, who will then register the competitor as being medically fit to participate.
- Medical documents should not be handed in at the weigh-ins. The submissions must be made beforehand as this information forms part of the fight card approval process.

6. Fighting Area and Equipment

For the rules and regulations concerning the fighting area, see "4. Setting Up The Fighting Area" in the Event Organizer's Rulebook.

- For national and international title bouts, a minimum ring size of 6m x 6m is required.
- Promoters must provide the boxing gloves for each professional competitor to ensure that all competitors wear gloves of the same size, shape, style and manufacturer. (Lace-up gloves is recommended).
- The promoter must provide a water bucket, ice, and a bottle of water for each corner. During the bout, competitors may only use the water that's provided.

All other equipment mentioned in the Event Organizer's Rulebook must be supplied.

7. Round Duration

- Professional bout – 3 x 3-minute rounds with 1 minute rest.
- Professional title fight – 5 x 3-minute rounds with 1 minute rest.

8. Pro Weight Classes

Male Weight Divisions	Weight Bracket	Female Weight Divisions	Weight Bracket
Flyweight	Under 50.5kg	Flyweight	Under 45.0kg
Super Flyweight	50.6kg - 52.0kg	Super Flyweight	45.1kg - 48.0kg
Bantamweight	52.1kg - 53.5kg	Bantamweight	48.1kg - 50.0kg
Super Bantamweight	53.6kg - 55.5kg	Super Bantamweight	50.1kg - 52.5kg
Featherweight	55.6kg - 57.0kg	Featherweight	52.6kg - 55.0kg
Super Featherweight	57.1kg - 59.0kg	Super Featherweight	55.1kg - 57.5kg
Lightweight	59.1kg - 61.0kg	Lightweight	57.6kg - 60.0kg
Super Lightweight	61.1kg - 63.5kg	Super Lightweight	60.1kg - 62.5kg
Welterweight	63.4kg - 67.0kg	Welterweight	62.6kg - 65.0kg
Super Welterweight	67.1kg - 70.0kg	Super Welterweight	65.1kg - 68.0kg
Middleweight	70.1kg - 72.5kg	Middleweight	68.1kg - 71.0kg
Super Middleweight	72.6kg - 76.0kg	Light Heavyweight	71.1kg - 74.0kg
Light Heavyweight	76.1kg - 79.0kg	Heavyweight	Over 74.0kg
Super Light Heavyweight	79.1kg - 83.0kg		
Cruiserweight	83.1kg - 86.0kg		
Super Cruiserweight	86.1kg - 90.0kg		
Heavyweight	90.1kg - 95.0kg		
Super Heavyweight	Over 95.0kg		

9. General Rules

Note: As stated in the beginning of this document, this rulebook is meant to be read in conjunction with the Amateur Rulebook. This rulebook only contains rule changes or amendments for professional bouts.

- The promoter is responsible for paying the competitors' purse money within a maximum of 7 days after the event date. Failure to do so without a valid reason will result in fines or suspensions as decided upon by the EXCO of WKU K1 SA.
- The WKU K1 SA bout contract must be used. However, if the promoter wishes to make changes, permission must first be obtained from WKU K1 SA.

If a promoter fails to adhere to the rules and regulations, WKU K1 SA may fine the promoter or in severe cases, revoke the event's sanctioning and suspend their license.



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- When conducting interviews, inappropriate language and behaviour that damages the image of the sport will not be tolerated. When this happens, WKU K1 SA can either fine or suspend the competitor, depending on the severity of the situation.
- In professional bouts, the contest will not be stopped if a competitor loses their mouth guard until there is a clear break from the action.
- There are no standing 8-counts, unless the ropes prevent the competitor from falling.
- If there is clear evidence that the competitors are holding back and not competing, or that the knockout or foul has been a prearranged, the referee must stop the bout before the last round without declaring a winner, and order that both competitors' purses be withheld pending investigation by WKU K1 SA. If the investigation finds the competitors guilty of fixing the bout or not honestly competing, their purses will not be paid out and they will be subject to fines or suspensions.
- If at any time, the referee feels that the circumstances surrounding a bout's termination require investigation, the referee shall not make a decision on the result, but rather stop the bout and order the purses of both competitors to be withheld pending investigation. The right to do this must be given by the Chief Official.
- If a competitor is knocked down 3 times in one round or 4 times throughout the duration of the bout, the bout must be stopped via Technical Knockout (TKO).
- A maximum of three coaches are allowed in the competitor's corner.

10. Wrapping

7.1 Hand Wrapping

- Both gauze and tape and cotton wraps with the Velcro strip are allowed.
- The soft gauze must not exceed 12 metres in length and 8cm width per hand.
- The gauze must be equally distributed over the competitor's hand.
- The adhesive tape must not exceed 15 metres in length and 4cm width per hand.
- Strips of adhesive tape can be used between the fingers to hold the bandages.
- No adhesive tape is allowed on the knuckles (must stop 2cm from the knuckles).
- A knuckle pad with a maximum of 10 layers can be made of soft gauze.
- Additional material to make a knuckle pad is not allowed.
- Plaiting the gauze or adhesive tape is not allowed.
- When using cloth wrapping with the Velcro strip, no additional tape may be used.



7.2 Foot Wrapping

- A competitor may either use gauze and adhesive tape, or cloth wrapping with the Velcro strip to wrap their feet and ankles.
- Whenever foot wraps are used, it must be covered with an elastic ankle support that contains no hard materials.
- When using gauze wrapping, a competitor's foot can be wrapped with a maximum of 12 meters in length and 8cm width per foot.
- The gauze must be equally distributed over the competitor's foot.
- The gauze shall be held in place by no more than 5 meters of adhesive tape, with a maximum width of 4cm per foot.
- Adhesive tape can be used to hold down the bandages.
- A protection pad on the foot can be made of 10 layers of soft gauze.
- The wrapping cannot cover more than 10cm of the shin.
- The tape may only cover the front of the ankle and the protection pad.
- Adhesive tape to stabilize injured parts of the foot or the toes can be used with a maximum of 3 layers directly on the skin.
- When using cloth wraps with the Velcro strap, the Velcro strap must be secured above the competitor's ankle at the base of the shin.

11. Equipment

- Competitors must use the following equipment in professional bouts:
 - Mouth Guard (*dental braces must be completely covered and a letter must be provided*)
 - Hand Wraps (*both gauze and tape and cotton wraps with the Velcro strip are allowed*)
 - 10oz Boxing Gloves (*must be taped by an official to indicate the competitor's corner*)
 - Breast Protector (*mandatory for female competitors*)
 - Groin Protector (*mandatory for all male and female competitors*)
 - **Optional:** Foot Wraps or Ankle Support (*wraps must be covered by an ankle support*)
- An official will check each competitor's equipment and secure their gloves with tape matching their corner. The official may request to see the competitor's wraps at any time.



12. Weigh-Ins

- The weigh-in must be conducted 24 hours before the event.
- Contestants are responsible for making the agreed weight in their bout contract.
- A professional contestant who fails to make the agreed weight will forfeit 30% of their purse.
- If a competitor forfeits 30% of their purse, 50% of their forfeit will go to their opponent and 50% will go to the promoter.
- If both competitors miss weight, they will both forfeit 30% of their purse and 100% of the forfeit will go to the promoter.
- If a fight is cancelled due to a competitor not making the agreed weight or for any other reason within 24 hours of the event, the competitor who is not at fault will receive their *show money / losing purse*, and the competitor who is at fault will not receive any purse money and be subject to fines or suspensions as decided upon by the EXCO of WKU K1 SA.
- If a fight is cancelled more than 24 hours before the event, neither competitor qualifies for their purse money.

13. Scoring

- The judges shall score all bouts by using the *10-Point Must System without the use of clickers*.
- To judge a competitor's effectiveness in a round, the following must be considered in order:
 1. **Knockdowns** (*When the referee counts a fighter - No standing 8-counts*)
 2. **Accumulated damage** (*Swelling, bruising, bleeding, limping, being stunned, wobbled or any other signs of damage*)
 3. **Effective striking and dominance** (*How the competitor's strikes affect their opponent and any signs of control, dominance and superiority*)
 4. **Effective kicking above the waistline and spectacular techniques.**
- In this system, a knockdown scores heavily. Generally, a knockdown would result in a 10-8 round in favour of the person who scored the knockdown.
- If there is no clear winner according to the scoring criteria (*e.g. the first criteria being knockdowns*), the judges will move down the list until they can determine the winner.
- If Fighter A dominates the whole round but gets knocked down at the end of the round, the judges must weigh up the performance of Fighter A with the damage and severity of the knockdown scored by Fighter B. In most cases this scenario would still be a 10-8 round, but if the knockdown was not severe, it could be a 10-9 round or in very rare cases, a draw.



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- If a knockdown was called but it was more due to instability rather than damage, it scores lower than a damaging knockdown. In this case, the competitor might still be able to make a comeback and dominate the round with a large enough margin to be judged as the winner.
 - In professional bouts, an official knockdown is only called when a powerful strike causes the opponent to fall to the canvas or hopelessly hang on the ropes (*e.g. the ropes hold them up*).
 - Sweeps should not be given the same scoring weight as knockdowns. However, powerful and effective sweeps score high on *effective striking and dominance*. A sweep that merely causes the opponent to touch the ground should not score as high as a powerful sweep that takes the competitor completely off their feet. To judge a sweep's effectiveness, the judges must look at how the sweep affected the opponent.
 - Spectacular techniques and kicking above the waistline have higher risk and energy expenditure. Therefore, a competitor who uses these techniques effectively should be scored more favourably than the competitor who uses basic techniques (*such as effective punching and low kicks*). If the round is scored even, the score must lean towards the competitor who used more effective kicks above the waistline and spectacular techniques.
 - A competitor who aggressively presses forward throughout the round but does not land damaging kicks or punches, should not be judged as favourably as the competitor who back-pedals while causing damage with visible and effective counterattacks.

Judges shall award points on a round-by-round basis in accordance with the following scores:

- **10-10 (even round)** – both competitors are equal on all scoring areas.
- **10-9 (close round)** - one competitor dominates with marginal superiority.
- **10-8 (one-sided)** - one competitor dominates with clear superiority which might be due to a knockdown, or with exceptional damage and dominance.
- **10-7 (very one-sided)** - one competitor dominates with overwhelming superiority by achieving more than one knockdown.

14. Protests

- All decisions are final and cannot be changed unless one of the following situations occurred:
 - There is proof of collusion that affected the result of the bout.
 - A mistake on the scorecards caused the wrong result (*e.g. switching the scores*).
 - There was a clear violation of the rules and regulations which affected the result.
- If clear evidence is provided that proves any of the above to be true, WKU K1 SA will investigate the matter and announce their decision (*video evidence will not be accepted*).