

National Open Martial Arts Deca – NOMAD

Rules of Competition

The National Open Martial Arts Deca (NOMAD) circuit is a collaboration of Martial Arts schools representing different organizations and governing bodies. They have joined together to promote the Arts through competition, sportsmanship, and friendship. Rules of competition have been agreed upon to allow those who wish to participate in a NOMAD event the ability to know in advance what is and is not allowed during the competition. The NOMAD is fully aware that our rules are not recognized universally, still ALL martial arts students are welcome. A competitor does not have to be a member of a NOMAD school to enter the competition. They simply must know, agree to, and adhere to the NOMAD Rules of Competition as NOMAD students adhere to the rules of competition at non-NOMAD events.

Tournaments will consist of, but not be restricted to Forms and Sparring competitions. Each Tournament Director may include other activities or items that can make their event unique. Other events could include the following:

Forms: Traditional, Creative, and Weapons.

Self-Defense Routines

Light Contact Point Sparring

Stick Fighting

Electronic Vest Challenges

The Tournament Director is responsible for providing a safe and comfortable environment for both competitors and spectators. The Director will set the pace of the event by breaking the competitors into groups and assigning them to rings where their competition will be held. Non-Black Belt competitors will be divided at the Directors discretion in order to make the group safe and manageable.

Basic Rules

General information: Tournament rules have been implemented to insure the safe enjoyment of all participants and spectators. The promoter, staff, and officials reserve the right to refuse entry, and/or the right to eject anyone for non-compliance of the rules or unsportsmanlike conduct.

1. **Non-Competitor Safety Issues:** No one but competitors, judges, and officials are allowed on the competition floor or to enter a ring while in session. Spectators should remain in designated seating areas at all times to avoid unintentional injury. (*Exceptions will be made for parents of small children escorting them to and from a ring.)
2. **Coaching:** NO COACHING IS ALLOWED DURING COMPETITION. Coaching has the potential to cause distractions for the judges and competitors. Anyone attempting to coach a competitor will cause the competitor forfeit the division or match.
3. **Sportsmanship:** Any competitor that displays poor sportsmanship, or that *deliberately* causes or attempts to cause injury to another opponent will be disqualified and removed from the tournament. Not demonstrating appropriate respect to judges or other competitors shall be grounds for match or division forfeit.
4. **Ranks Levels:** Generally, a beginner has been training from 0 to 8 months, an intermediate competitor has been training from 8 months to 1 1/2 years, an advanced competitor has been training more than 1 1/2 years. Black belt and junior black belts (or equivalent) are self-explanatory. Questions about where a competitor fits in the competition level can be directed to the tournament staff.
5. **Forms – Traditional**
Scoring: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced ranks shall receive scores between 6.0 and 8.0 for their performance. Competitors *may* receive scores lower than 6.0 for failing to complete a form, or if they are required to restart a form. Forms that must be restarted incur an automatic .5 deduction by the scorekeepers. Black belts shall be scored from 7.0 to 10.0 for their performance. No black belt shall be allowed to restart a form. Failing to complete a form is cause for disqualification in the black belt divisions.
6. **Judging:** Since all styles and schools forms contain different techniques and pattern variations. Judges score the competitor based on their display balance, focus, technique fluidity, and power. Each ring shall have a minimum of three black belt judges. The Center (ranking ring official) shall maintain control of the ring at all times. The major responsibility of the Center is to maintain competitor safety. All protests must be made to the Center. Protests can only be made by the competitor or his/her instructor for rule violations and or scorekeeping errors. No protests will be allowed on judgment calls.

7. **Traditional Forms:** A traditional hard or soft empty hand form must be taught as a part of the competitors actual style and contain traditional techniques. No acrobatics are allowed.

- The first three (3) competitors will do their Form for the judges in order to give the judges some idea of the level of competition. Once the third competitor has completed the Form, all three (3) competitors will stand in front of the judges and receive their scores. All other competitors in the division will then proceed to perform and receive scores immediately following their performance.

Light Contact Point Sparring

1. **Safety Equipment:** No competitor may compete in a sparring match without appropriate protective equipment including, but not limited to: head gear (M/F), closed finger hand gear (M/F) **Boxing Style Gloves Prohibited*, foot gear which covers toes (M/F) **soled shoes are prohibited*, mouth piece (M/F), and groin cups (M). Rib guards, chest protectors, and face shields are optional. All equipment should be in good, functional order. Competitors will not be able to compete with equipment deemed unsafe by the center judge. (i.e. taped, wrapped, torn items)
2. **Judges:** Each ring shall have a minimum of three black belt judges. The Center (ranking ring official) shall maintain control of the ring at all times. The major responsibility of the Center is to maintain competitor safety. All protests are must be made to the Center. Protests can only be made by the competitor or his/her instructor for rule violations and or scorekeeping errors. No protests will be allowed on judgment calls.
3. **General Ring Size:** 18' x 18' main rings to 16' x 16' auxiliary rings
4. **Understanding calls:** Judge covers eyes (did not see); Judge points to competitor (point); Judge points to floor by competitor (point due to illegal technique by opponent); Judge hits fist to hand and points to competitor (point due to excessive contact by opponent); Center hits fist to hand and circles while pointing at competitor (disqualification)
5. **Scoring:** Matches are a maximum two minutes in duration. Match time does not stop unless called by the Center. The first competitor to reach a five (5) point spread or the competitor with the most points at the end of the match wins. One (1) point is awarded for any legal technique. Legal techniques are defined as any controlled hand or foot technique executed to a legal area. Legal areas include front of the body above the belt, and the side and top of the head. The face is only a legal light contact target area for adult black belts. Light contact rules are in effect. To score a light contact point the competitor must execute a controlled technique to a legal target area and make non-jarring contact. In the event time expires and competitors are tied, the round will go into "Sudden Victory". In a "Sudden Victory" match the next point achieved results in a win.

Prohibited Acts: Excessive contact, blind techniques, and illegal techniques are prohibited. Excessive contact may result in a one (1) point being added to the injured competitor *or* disqualification of the offending competitor. More than one call for excessive contact in a match is grounds for immediate disqualification. Excessive contact is defined as any contact that causes injury or that causes to an opponent tremble from impact. Excessive contact to the head (force that causes the head to rock) will result in an automatic forfeit of the match. Blind techniques are defined as those techniques where the actor cannot reasonably see his/her opponent and safely execute the technique. (Example: spinning back fist) Illegal techniques include but are not limited the following: groin kicks, leg kicks, leg sweeps, spinning techniques where the head is not turned to the opponent at the time of contact, any contact technique to the face (except adult BB), any throw, any grappling technique, holding on to an opponent, etc. Running (not fighting) outside of the ring is considered an illegal technique for scoring purposes. Illegal techniques result in a point being given to the offending competitor's opponent.

Black Belts collect points in the Forms and Sparring competitions of any National Open Marital Arts Deca (NOMAD) competition during the tournament season. Points are earned as follows:

- 5 points for a 1st Place
 - 3 points for a 2nd Place
 - 1 point for a 3rd Place
 - No points are given for not placing in the tournament
-
- A competitor must hold the rank of 1st Degree Black Belt Recommended or higher to earn points.
 - A competitor does not have to be a member of a NOMAD school to earn points.
 - At the end of the tournament season, the Black Belt with the most points will be that season's champion.
 - Tournament Directors have the right to break up or combine divisions if they so desire to make them more manageable.