

# T.W.K.S.F. International Grading System Regulations

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## Section 1 *General Provisions*

### **Article 1**

These regulations shall officially be known as “The World Kuoshu Federation (T.W.K.S.F.) International Grading System Regulations”, hereinafter referred to as “these Regulations” or “the Regulations”.

### **Article 2**

T.W.K.S.F. hereby enacts these Regulations with the objectives of furthering the development of Kuoshu, establishing a Kuoshu “Tuan” and “Chih” Grading System, promoting international cooperation, and the propagation of Chinese culture.

### **Article 3**

The examinations for conferring “Tuan” and “Chih” on Kuoshu practitioners of T.W.K.S.F. shall be based on these Regulations.

## Section 2 *Organization and Responsibilities of Kuoshu Grading Committee*

### **Article 4**

T.W.K.S.F. shall establish a Kuoshu Ranking Committee (“the Committee”) responsible for implementing these Regulations. The members of the Committee, numbering between 7 and 11, shall be nominated by the Chairman of T.W.K.S.F. and be appointed by T.W.K.S.F. Executive Board for a term of 4 years, after which they may offer themselves for re-appointment. The Committee’s Director shall be appointed by T.W.K.S.F. Chairman/President for a term of 4 years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

### **Article 5**

The Kuoshu Ranking Committee established under article 4 shall be the highest authority in T.W.K.S.F. for the grading of practitioners of Kuoshu. The Committee shall be responsible for the supervision and review of Grading Examinations conducted by the following subordinate organizations:

- a) For examinations for promotion up to and including 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuan by each national federation of T.W.K.S.F. and up to 6<sup>th</sup> Tuan by Continental Presidents of T.W.K.S.F.
- b) Instructors of Kuoshu training units, schools, studios, etc. who have qualified to carry out Chih Grading Examinations.

### **Article 6**

T.W.K.S.F. Tuan and Chih certificates will be issued by the Chairman of T.W.K.S.F.

### **Article 7**

Measures and administrative procedures for the Tuan and Chih Grading Examinations shall be enacted by the Committee, and subject to the prior approval of T.W.K.S.F. Chairman. (Refer to Guidelines and Procedures in Appendix 1).

### **Article 8**

Authorized organizations (see article 5) shall enact their own measures and administrative procedures using those enacted by the Committee under article 7 as a model. (Refer to Guidelines and Procedures, paragraph 2, in Appendix 1).

## Section 3 Grading Structure

### Article 9

All individuals who are members, in their respective nations, of a T.W.K.S.F. recognized national federation, shall be eligible to apply for Tuan and Chih Grading Examinations.

### Article 10

There are 6 (six) Chih grades (Chih 6 to Chih 1 in descending order of seniority) and 10 (ten) Tuan grades (1<sup>st</sup> Tuan to 10<sup>th</sup> Tuan in ascending order of seniority).

### Article 11

Each grade shall be identified by the color of the Sash (Belt) as follows:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Description of Sash</b>
Chih 6 (Lioh Chih):	White Sash.
Chih 5 (Oo Chih):	White Sash with green stripe.
Chih 4 (Suh Chih):	Green Sash.
Chih 3 (Sarn Chih):	Green Sash with brown stripe.
Chih 2 (Er Chih):	Brown Sash.
Chih 1 (Ee Chih):	Brown Sash with black stripe.
1 <sup>st</sup> (Ee) Tuan:	Black Sash with one yellow stripe.
2 <sup>nd</sup> (Er) Tuan:	Black Sash with two yellow stripes.
3 <sup>rd</sup> (Sarn) Tuan:	Black Sash with three yellow stripes.
4 <sup>th</sup> (Suh) Tuan:	Black Sash with four yellow stripes.
5 <sup>th</sup> (Oo) Tuan:	Black Sash with five yellow stripes.
6 <sup>th</sup> (Lioh) Tuan:	Red Sash with one thick yellow stripe and one thin yellow stripe.
7 <sup>th</sup> (Chee) Tuan:	Red Sash with one thick yellow stripe and two thin yellow stripes.
8 <sup>th</sup> (Par) Tuan:	Red Sash with one thick yellow stripe and three thin yellow stripes.
9 <sup>th</sup> (Chio) Tuan:	Gold Sash with one thick red stripe and four thin red stripes.
10 <sup>th</sup> (Sze) Tuan:	Gold Sash with one thick red stripe and five thin red stripes.

### Article 12

Tuan grade practitioners shall be conferred the following official titles:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>English Translation</b>
Ee Tuan to Sarn Tuan:	Chiao Lian	Instructor
Suh Tuan to Lioh Tuan:	Shih Fu	Senior Instructor
Chee Tuan to Par Tuan	Ta Shih	Master
Chio Tuan to Sze Tuan	Tao Chang	Grandmaster

Note: Throughout this document, reference to the grades may be made to its Chinese or English versions as stated in this article and also in article 11.

### Article 13

Regulations regarding uniforms, grade insignia, badges, etc. shall be separately enacted by T.W.K.S.F.

## Section 4

### *Examinations for Chih Grades*

#### **Article 14**

To be eligible for the Chih Grading Examinations, at least 3 months must have elapsed since the applicant received his/her last Chih grade. For 1<sup>st</sup> Tuan, applicants must have received their Chih 1 Grade at least 6 months earlier.

#### **Article 15**

For Tuan gradings, each applicant must earn activity points (including points received while the applicant was a Chih grade) based on the results of competitions and other activities that have been officially sanctioned by the appropriate T.W.K.S.F. recognized national federation. (Points shall be allocated in accordance with the table in Appendix 2. The Committee may amend this, from time to time.)

#### **Article 16**

Those organizations and individuals referred to in article 5 shall have the authority to conduct Chih Grading Examinations based on the following criteria:

- A. Promotion to Lioh Chih (Chih 6)
  - (1) Fundamental Stances.
  - (2) Mandatory Bare-Hand Form.
  - (3) Bare-Hand Form of Candidate's choice.
- B. Promotion to Oo Chih (Chih 5)
  - (1) Fundamental Stances.
  - (2) Mandatory Bare-Hand Form.
  - (3) Form of Candidate's choice.
- C. Promotion to Suh Chih (Chih 4)
  - (1) Mandatory Bare-Hand Form.
  - (2) Bare-Hand Form of Candidate's choice.
  - (3) Weapon Form of Candidate's choice.
- D. Promotion to Sarn Chih (Chih 3)
  - (1) Mandatory Bare-Hand Form.
  - (2) Bare-Hand Form of Candidate's choice.
  - (3) Weapon Form of Candidate's choice.
  - (4) Two-Man Set of Candidate's choice.
- E. Promotion to Er Chih (Chih 2)
  - (1) Mandatory Bare-Hand Form.
  - (2) Bare-Hand Form of Candidate's choice.
  - (3) Weapon Form of Candidate's choice.
  - (4) Two-Man Set of Candidate's choice.
- F. Promotion to Ee Chih (Chih 1)
  - (1) Mandatory Bare-Hand Form.
  - (2) Bare-Hand Form of Candidate's choice.
  - (3) Weapon Form of Candidate's choice.
  - (4) Two-Man Set of Candidate's choice.

Note: For each grade above, candidates must perform different Bare-Hand and Weapon Forms.

## Section 5 *Examinations for Tuan Grades*

### **Article 17**

In addition to article 9, candidates for Tuan Grade examinations must meet the criteria based on age, number of months/years studying and training since previous grading and total activity points (see article 15). Those whose “Wu Te” or “Martial Arts Morality” are judged to be below acceptable standards (such as breach of the law or violation of T.W.K.S.F. rules) shall not be eligible to apply for Tuan Grade examinations.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Time Since Last Grading</b>	<b>Minimum Age</b>	<b>Total Activity Points</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Tuan	6 months from Chih 1	16	50
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuan	2 years from 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuan	18	100
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuan	3 years from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuan	21	150
4 <sup>th</sup> Tuan	4 years from 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuan	25	200
5 <sup>th</sup> Tuan	5 years from 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuan	30	250
6 <sup>th</sup> Tuan	5 years from 5 <sup>th</sup> Tuan	35	300
7 <sup>th</sup> Tuan	5 years from 6 <sup>th</sup> Tuan	40	350
8 <sup>th</sup> Tuan	6 years from 7 <sup>th</sup> Tuan	46	400
9 <sup>th</sup> Tuan	7 years from 8 <sup>th</sup> Tuan	53	450
10 <sup>th</sup> Tuan	8 years from 9 <sup>th</sup> Tuan	60 or above	500

\*10<sup>th</sup> Tuan may be achieved earlier if the Candidate is the Head of his/her style.

### **Article 18**

The activity points referred to in articles 15 and 17 shall consist of “service points” (for organizing competitions, other events and activities) and “competition points” (for winning or participating in competitions). As stated in article 15, these points shall be allocated in accordance with the table set out in Appendix 2.

## Article 19

Only candidates who meet the criteria set out in article 17 will be permitted to take the Tuan Grading Examinations, which consist of the following:

- A. Promotion to Ee (1<sup>st</sup>) Tuan
  - (1) Bare-Hand Form.
  - (2) Weapon Form.
  - (3) Kung-Li (Strength) Test.
  - (4) Two-Man Set.
- B. Promotion to Er (2<sup>nd</sup>) Tuan
  - (1) Bare-Hand Form.
  - (2) Weapon Form.
  - (3) Kung-Li (Strength) Test.
  - (4) Two-Man Set.
- C. Promotion to Sarn (3<sup>rd</sup>) Tuan
  - (1) Bare-Hand Form.
  - (2) Weapon Form.
  - (3) Two-Man Set.
  - (4) Kuoshu Rules, Judge & Referee.
- D. Promotion to Suh (4<sup>th</sup>) Tuan
  - (1) Bare-Hand Form.
  - (2) Weapon Form.
  - (3) Teaching Demonstration.
  - (4) Sports Injury & Physiology.
- E. Promotion to Oo (5<sup>th</sup>) Tuan
  - (1) Bare-Hand Form.
  - (2) Weapon Form.
  - (3) Teaching Demonstration.
  - (4) Kuoshu Theory.
- F. Promotion to Lioh (6<sup>th</sup>) Tuan
  - (1) Bare-Hand Form.
  - (2) Weapon Form.
  - (3) Teaching Demonstration.
  - (4) Kuoshu Theory.

The promotion from Chee (7<sup>th</sup>) Tuan upwards will be based on the criteria set out in articles 20 to 22.

In each examination, the candidate shall choose the Bare-Hand and Weapon Forms. However, the candidate may **not** perform the same Bare-Hand Forms and Forms using the same weapons from the candidate's previous Tuan Grading examination.

## Article 20

Candidates for promotion to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Tuan shall submit their theses or books on Kuoshu Theory & Practice or a demonstration recorded on video. In addition, they will be required to perform a teaching demonstration and to take an examination on Kuoshu Theory.

## Article 21

In order to be promoted to Chio (9<sup>th</sup>) Tuan, the candidate must be recommended by their country's national federation (in recognition of their dedication, achievements and reputation), and be approved by two-thirds of the Ranking Committee members.

## **Article 22**

In order to be promoted to Sze (10<sup>th</sup>) Tuan, the candidate must be recommended by their country's T.W.K.S.F. recognized National Federation for their distinguished contributions to the promotion of Kuoshu, attainment of technical excellence in Kuoshu and their "Wu Te" (Martial Arts Morality), and be approved by three-quarters of the Ranking Committee members.

## **Article 23**

Subject to the approval of T.W.K.S.F., the Committee may confer Honorary Tuan grades, without examinations, for those who have contributed in a special way to the development of Kuoshu. The following are some examples:

- a) Generous donation for the development of Kuoshu.
- b) Promotion of Kuoshu and cultivation of outstanding Kuoshu practitioners.
- c) Outstanding Kuoshu research and publishing important books on Kuoshu.
- d) Collecting and studying historical Kuoshu materials and events, which are widely accepted to be important to the development of Kuoshu.
- e) Outstanding leadership of Kuoshu organizations, especially in promoting and popularizing Kuoshu.
- f) Outstanding efforts in developing Wu Te.

## **Article 24**

Depending on their actual Kuoshu attainments and training, Chih and Tuan grades (maximum 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuan) may be awarded to children aged 15 or less. A child who is already 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuan can be promoted to the Adult Grade of 1<sup>st</sup> Tuan without examination when he or she reaches the age of 16. Under this article, each T.W.K.S.F. recognized national federation is authorized to enact the exact rules governing each respective country.

## **Section 6**

### *Fees for Chih and Tuan Examinations*

## **Article 25**

The respective T.W.K.S.F. recognized national federation shall retain fees received for Chih grading examinations, after deducting the cost of certificates, and shipping and handling.

## **Article 26**

The respective T.W.K.S.F. recognized national federation shall retain 40% of fees received for Tuan grading examinations, while the other 60% shall be paid to T.W.K.S.F. The Committee will, from time to time, adjust the fees for Chih and Tuan Grading Examinations.

## **Section 7**

### *T.W.K.S.F. Executive Board*

## **Article 27**

The Executive Board of T.W.K.S.F. has approved these Regulations. The Executive Board of T.W.K.S.F. must similarly approve any amendments.

## *Kuoshu Grading Committee Guidelines and Procedures*

1. This Committee has been formed based on article 4 of T.W.K.S.F. International Grading System Regulations (“the Regulations”). These Guidelines and Procedures (“the Guidelines” or “these Guidelines”) are issued in accordance with article 7 of the Regulations.
2. In accordance with article 5 of the Regulations, this Committee shall be the highest world authority within T.W.K.S.F. for the grading of Kuoshu practitioners. All T.W.K.S.F. recognized national federations shall use these Guidelines as a model for establishing their own detailed guidelines and procedures. This is essential if their own guidelines and procedures are to gain the approval of this Committee.
3. This Committee will consist of one Director and between 7 to 11 members who have been appointed in accordance with article 4 of the Regulations.
4. This Committee will be subdivided into 4 sections made of Committee members as follows:
 

a. Grading Eligibility Section	2 to 4 members
b. Enforcement Section	2 members
c. Research and Development Section	2 members
d. Secretarial Section	3 members (with 1 acting as secretary)
5. The Committee’s Director is ultimately responsible for overall organization, planning and enforcement of all issues relating to the International Kuoshu Grading System in accordance with the Regulations.
6. The responsibilities of each section are as follows:
  - a. **Grading Eligibility Section**  
Approving grading applications provided they satisfy the criteria set out in articles 14 and 17 of the Regulations.
  - b. **Enforcement Section**  
Administer the grading examinations and enforcement of all rules enacted by the Committee.
  - c. **Research and Development Section**  
Study, research and develop different styles and techniques, in order to promote Kuoshu throughout the world.
  - d. **Secretarial Section**  
Provide secretarial support to the Committee, including record keeping, accounting and other office/secretarial duties.
7. The Committee will meet, at the request of T.W.K.S.F. Chairman, at least once every four years. Emergency meetings may be called, if necessary.
8. With the approval of the Committee’s Director, each section may meet as often as is required to discharge their responsibilities.

9. Chih Grading Examinations may be held by any sanctioned organization in accordance with articles 14, 15 and 16 of the Regulations.

10. For Tuan Grading Examinations, the candidate will be examined by the appropriate Kuoshu Grading Panel ("the Panel") appointed by this Committee, as follows:

a. **1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuan**

The Panel will consist of three or more members of at least 4<sup>th</sup> Tuan. Two or more of the Panel members must agree to the candidate's promotion.

b. **4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Tuan**

Two-thirds of the Panel must be present and, to pass, the candidate must have the approval of at least 50% of attending Panel members.

c. **7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Tuan**

Two-thirds of the Panel must be present and, to pass, the candidate must have the approval of at least two-thirds of attending Panel members.

d. **9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Tuan**

All members of the Panel must be present and, to pass, the candidate must have the approval of at least two-thirds of the Panel's members.

If circumstances prevent Committee members from attending, the Chairman may use absentee votes.

11. Generally, this Committee will hold Tuan Grading Examinations once a year (or more frequently, if necessary). A letter confirming the results of the examination will be sent to each candidate. Public announcements regarding successful candidates may be made at the same time or at a later date.

12. The Grading Examination fees (including Sash and Certificate for Tuan grades, Certificate only for Chih grades) are as follows:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a. Chih 6 to Chih 4:                         | US \$25.00                                  |
| b. Chih 3 to Chih 1:                         | US \$35.00                                  |
| c. 1 <sup>st</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> Tuan:  | US \$100.00, 200.00, 300.00, 400.00, 500.00 |
| d. 6 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> Tuan:  | US \$600.00                                 |
| e. 9 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> Tuan: | FREE  |

13. All fees must be received in advance (by the date specified by the Committee) and are non-refundable.

## Appendix 2 (Table A)

**Table of Activity Points**  
**Kuoshu Competitors**  
**Advanced Divisions or Lei Tai Full Contact**

Competition Level	Placement						Participant's Points
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	
County or City Tournament	5	3	2	1	0	0	1
Regional Tournament	10	7	5	3	0	0	2
National Tournament	20	15	10	5	0	0	3
Continental Tournament	30	20	15	10	5	5	4
World or Olympic Tournament	40	30	25	20	10	10	5

**NOTE:** The points shown above are for the Lei Tai Full Contact Competitors. Competitors in the Advanced Division Forms events (Bare-Hand, Weapon and Two-Man Set) qualify for half the points shown in the table.

## Appendix 3 (Table B)

### Table of Activity Points Kuoshu Competition Officials

Competition Level	Category (See Explanations Below)						Remarks
	A	B	C	D	E	F	
County or City Tournament	6	5	4	3	2	1	
Regional Tournament	10	7	5	4	3	2	
National Tournament	20	15	12	8	6	4	
Continental Tournament	30	20	15	10	7	5	
World or Olympic Tournament	40	30	25	20	10	6	

#### Explanations

- A. Tournament President/Director; Team Leader and Team Coach of Champion Team.
- B. Referee General or Deputy Referee General; Chief Arbitrator; Chief Coordinator; Team Leader/Coach of 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team.
- C. Chief Referee or Judge; Deputy Director; Deputy Chief Referee or Judge or Arbitrator; Team Leader/Coach of 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Team.
- D. Tournament Referee or Judge; Team Leader/Coach of 4<sup>th</sup> Place Team; Persons who have been awarded the Kuoshu "A" Medal.
- E. Each participating Team's Leader/Coach; Ring Coordinators; Persons who have been awarded the Kuoshu "B" Medal plus the Certificate of Merit.
- F. Officials from Teams winning 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Places; all Tournament Officials and Persons who have been awarded the Certificate of Merit.

**APPLICATION FOR SCRUTINY OF TUAN/CHIH PROMOTION OF KUOSHU**

1.		2.		3.		PHOTO (5 COPIES)
NAME		SEX		NATIONALITY		
4.		5.				
I.D.NUMBER		ADDRESS				
6.		7.		8.		
EDUCATION		PROFESSION		TELEPHONE		
9.	EXPERIENCE					
10.		11.		12.		13.
DATE OF BIRTH		BEGINNING DATE OF STUDY		CURRENT TUAN/CHIH NO. OF DIPLOMA		TUAN/CHIH TO BE PROMOTED TO
14.	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		
ITEMS TO BE TESTED						
RESULT OF TEST						
SCRUTINY ON QUALIFICATION	AGE	YEARS OF PRACTICE	SCORES ACCUMULATED	CHIEF OF SEC.		
CONCLUSION OF SCRUTINY	CHIEF COMMISSIONER			PRESIDENT		
<b>INSTRUCTIONS:</b> 1. Fill out items 1-14, and attach 5 copies of his/her photo. 2. The applicant's Instructor must confirm the beginning date of learning as provided by the applicant in item 11. 3. Fill out item 14 in accordance with Article 16 and 19, Regulations Governing Scrutiny of Tuan/Chih Promotion. 4. Attach the "Application for Scrutiny on Scores Evaluated" and evidentiary documents. 5. Once the applicant has successfully passed the Scrutiny, a time and place will be designated for the test. 6. The application will not be accepted without the applicant's parent organization and Instructor seals.						
APPLICANT'S ORGANIZATION:			APPLICANT'S INSTRUCTOR SIGNATURE:			
PERSON IN CHARGE'S SIGNATURE:			APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE:			
						DATE



