



2009 NBL PLAYER MEMBERSHIP

SPORT KARATE INT'L TOURNAMENT ALLIANCE
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2009 NBL Player Membership 11/8/08



HOW THE NBL WORKS

The National Blackbelt League (NBL) is the only international sport karate league based upon a series of open tournaments which rate and qualify blackbelt level players to become official sport karate world champions at a year-end championship called the "Super Grands World Games". NBL ratings are free (no membership fee) to all players who attend and place in NBL divisions at NBL tournaments. NBL tournaments have divisions for all ranks however. Every NBL tournament is also sanctioned "AAA" with Sport Karate International (SKIL) ratings (which rates both blackbelts and under blackbelts), so all ranks following SKIL can get the most points by competing in NBL tournaments (see SKIL ratings information in the back of any *Sport Karate Magazine* or Section 3 of any *SKITA Handbook*).

The NBL ensures true world championship status to players of the sport with a unique system of conference competition leading up to the Super Grands (SG) to crown each year's world champions. Each NBL regional conference consists of large sectioned areas of a continent and may have up to one (1) tournament per month during this season for a maximum of six (6) tournaments per conference per season. There are also five (5) national conferences which consist of up to six (6) of the regional conferences' largest tournaments. These national conferences are for individuals and teams that want a variety of competition by traveling to different areas, instead of just one regional area, and for those who want to earn a higher seeded (placement) position for SG. The competition in each of the conferences is a points race within that conference that competitors are rated in during those months of competition.

In NBL Conference, Commissioner attends each conference tournament to represent the NBL, evaluate the tournament and process the players' results. An NBL Rules Arbitrator also attends each tournament to conduct the rules meeting, direct the Center Referees and render all final decisions regarding rules of play and penalties according to SKITA rules.

As a player, your participation in the NBL will provide the best recognition at an affordable cost to achieve true sport karate world championship status. We hope to see you as part of NBL this season.

HOW TO QUALIFY FOR THE NBL SUPER GRANDS WORLD GAMES

- TOURNAMENT SEASON** - The NBL season to earn rating points and qualify for SG runs from February through September. (See SKIL information for SKIL Season July 1 to June 30).
- GETTING RATED** - When you compete in NBL tournaments you will automatically receive points for any NBL divisional win up to eight (8) places [top four (4) for NBL 10 point sanctioned tournaments]. These points will count toward the corresponding division(s) that the NBL rates, however these points will only count in the ratings of the NBL conference(s) that the tournament is part of. Ratings are published on our website (nblskil.com) starting June 1 and in the July-October (appearing June 1) and the final standings in the November-February (appearing in October) editions of *Sport Karate Magazine* (SMASH). At the end of the NBL season competitors placing within the top five (5) NBL rated positions in any of the NBL rated divisions of any conference will automatically qualify to compete at and be seeded according to this

placement at the Super Grands World Games. The higher a competitor's rating, the higher their seeded positioning in the double eliminations at SG. National conference rated players get preferred placement (forms) or byes (sparring), if any, in each round. (See Appendix O and P of a SKITA Handbook). A competitor can enter the SG as a seeded player representing any conference(s) that he/she is rated in at the end of the season. He/she may compete in as many divisions at SG that he/she qualifies for (see "Wild Card Seeding" below). Qualifying competitors will be notified by mail in October and their names shall appear in the final ratings which comes out in early October.

- DIVISIONS** - For 2008, the NBL will rate 113 standard divisions for juniors, adults and seniors, as listed below. The Super Grands has the same 113 divisions to determine the world champions of each division. All NBL national and some regional conference tournaments have the standard 113 divisions. Some of the regional conference tournaments have a scaled down version of 60 or more divisions. Players may compete in as many different divisions at an NBL tournament as the quality for
- RATINGS VERIFICATION / ERRORS** - Errors in prior published standings and verification of final ratings to be announced in early October must be done by point chart and must be received by the NBL between September 1 and October 2. A player that wants any errors corrected after that date will be charged \$25 per change. (See SKIL/NBL point chart in the back of any *Sport Karate Magazine* or Section 3 of any *SKITA Handbook*).
- WILD CARD SEEDING** - The SG also offers wild card seeding for each title division. This is a run-off between all non-rated players who elect to compete in a pre run-off at SG immediately before each division starts. This is open competition for any player. The winner earns a fifth place (last place) seed for SG eliminations play, which immediately follows the wild card run-off.
- COMPETITORS' AGES** - Competitors can only compete in their proper age division. NBL players must enter divisions based upon the age they were on January 1 at 12:00 a.m. at all NBL tournaments and the SG excepting that players who will be turning 18, 35 or 45 during the circuit season are allowed to move up and compete in those divisions starting at the beginning of the season, or may compete at the same age all season that they were on the first day the season started - see SKITA rulebook V.B.4.
- RULES** - The SG and most NBL tournaments follow Sport Karate International Tournament Alliance Rules. (See the latest edition of the *SKITA Handbook* or website (nblskil.com) and click on SKITA.)
- SUPER GRANDS WORLD GAMES** - The SG is a six (6) day tournament held in November, December or January in a different world class location each year. It is held simultaneously with the Sport Karate Amateur Internationals, which is the final championship for Sport Karate International (SKIL) rated players for both blackbelts and under blackbelts. The SG is a closed competition that is only open to seeded players, or those players winning a wild card position at the tournament. Championship awards in each division include the NBL World Championship blackbelts and the coveted specially-struck world champion gold rings. Over-sized certificate plaques are awarded for the Sport Karate Amateur Internationals champions. The Super Grands World Games/Sport Karate Amateur Internationals ends with the NBL and Sport Karate International Awards Banquet. The NBL Super Grands World Games champions and Sport Karate Amateur Internationals champions are featured in the March/May edition (appearing February 1) of *Sport Karate Magazine* each year.

MINIMAL 60 NBL DIVISIONS FOR REGIONAL CONFERENCE NBL TOURNAMENTS FOR THE 2009 SEASON

(Note: A division labeled contemporary allows creative and open musical. No sound effects or background music in choreographed divisions.)				(Note: N-90 to N-101 can be of any rank, but under blackbelts cannot wear a belt)			
FORMS	CONTEMPORARY			SPARRING	POINT	lbs.	kilo
N-1/2/10	() 11- Hard Creative	(m/f)	N-24/25/26	() 17- Kenpo/Kajukenbo	(m/f)	N-50	() 18+ Soft Open
N-3/4/11/12	() 12-17 Hard Creative	(m/f)	N-27/28/29	() 17- Korean	(m/f)	N-52	() 35+ Hard Contemporary
N-5/6/7/13	() 17- Hard Choreo Musical	(m/f)	N-30/31	() 18+ Japanese/Okinawan	(m/f)		
N-9	() 17- Soft Open	(m/f)	N-32/35	() 18+ Kenpo/Kajukenbo	(m/f)		
N-14	() 18+ Hard Creative	(m)	N-33	() 18+ Soft (no Wushu/Kenpo)	(m/f)		
N-15	() 18+ Hard Choreo Musical	(m/f)	N-36/37	() 35+ Hard Traditional	(m/f)		
N-16	() 18+ Hard Choreo Musical	(m/f)					
N-17	() 18+ Soft Contemporary	(m/f)					
N-18	() 18+ Hard Creative	(m/f)					
N-19/20	() 35+ Hard Contemporary	(m/f)					
N-21/22/23	() 17- Japanese/Okinawan	(m/f)					

113 NBL DIVISIONS FOR ALL NATIONAL (AND SOME REGIONAL) CONFERENCE NBL TOURNAMENTS FOR THE 2009 SEASON

(Note: A division labeled contemporary allows creative and open musical. No sound effects or background music in choreographed divisions.)				(Note: N-90 to N-101 can be of any rank, but under blackbelts cannot wear a belt)			
FORMS	CONTEMPORARY			SPARRING	POINT	lbs.	kilo
N-1	() 9- Hard Creative	(m)	N-25	() 12-14 Kenpo/Kajukenbo	(m/f)	N-63	() 9- Fly
N-2	() 10-11 Hard Creative	(m)	N-26	() 15-17 Kenpo/Kajukenbo	(m/f)	N-64	() 10-11 Fly
N-3	() 12-14 Hard Creative	(m)	N-27	() 11- Korean	(m/f)	N-65	() 12-13 Light
N-4	() 15-17 Hard Creative	(m)	N-28	() 12-14 Korean	(m/f)	N-66	() 14-15 Lt. Middle
N-5	() 11- Hard Choreographed Musical	(m)	N-29	() 15-17 Korean	(m/f)	N-67	() 16-17 Middle
N-6	() 12-14 Hard Choreographed Musical	(m)	N-30	() 18+ Japanese/Okinawan	(m/f)	N-68	() 11-12 Lt. Heavy
N-7	() 15-17 Hard Choreographed Musical	(m)	N-31	() 18+ Kenpo/Kajukenbo	(m/f)	N-69	() 13-14 Heavy
N-8	() 17- Hard Open Musical	(m/f)	N-32	() 18+ Korean	(m)	N-70	() 15-17 Sp. Hvy
N-9	() 17- Soft Open	(m/f)	N-33	() 18+ Soft (no Wushu/Kenpo)	(m/f)	N-71	() 18+ Fly
N-10	() 11- Hard Creative	(m)	N-34	() 18+ Japanese/Okinawan	(m)	N-72	() 18+ Feather
N-11	() 12-14 Hard Creative	(m)	N-35	() 18+ Korean	(m)	N-73	() 151.8-165 Lt. Middle
N-12	() 15-17 Hard Creative	(m)	N-36	() 35+ Hard Traditional	(m/f)	N-74	() 162.8-174 Lt. Middle
N-13	() 17- Hard Choreographed Musical	(m/f)	N-37	() 45+ Hard Traditional	(m/f)	N-75	() 173.8-184 Middle
N-14	() 18+ Hard Creative	(m)				N-76	() 184.8-196 Lt. Heavy
N-15	() 18+ Hard Choreographed Musical	(m)				N-77	() 200.2-212 Sup. Hvy
N-16	() 18+ Hard Open Musical	(m)				N-78	() 212-224 Sp. Hvy
N-17	() 18+ Soft Contemporary	(m/f)				N-79	() 121-135 Fly
N-18	() 18+ Hard Creative	(m)				N-80	() 132-146 Feather
N-19	() 35+ Hard Contemporary	(m)				N-81	() 143-160 Light
N-20	() 35+ Hard Contemporary	(m)				N-82	() 160-174 Middle
N-21	() 11- Japanese/Okinawan	(m/f)				N-83	() 151.8-165 Light
N-22	() 12-14 Japanese/Okinawan	(m/f)				N-84	() 173.8-184 Middle
N-23	() 15-17 Japanese/Okinawan	(m/f)				N-85	() 184.8-196 Lt. Heavy
N-24	() 11- Kenpo/Kajukenbo	(m/f)				N-86	() 200.2-212 Sup. Hvy

NBL HALL OF FAME AWARDS

- CONFERENCE HALL OF FAME AWARDS** - The junior and adult top point winners of each NBL conference are awarded with induction into the NBL Hall of Fame (HOF) and receive their award plaques at the Sport Karate International Awards Banquet at the Super Grands (SG) each year. The awards are determined by a total of points earned in divisions at that conference by the player. To be eligible the conference must have, and player must attend, two (2) or more NBL tournaments in the conference. The adult HOF can be won by either an adult (18+) player or a senior (35+ or 45+) player, but seniors will only have adult (18+) divisional points used toward their total. However a senior's point total will have substituted any senior (35+ or 45+) division for any single equivalent adult division if their points are higher in the senior division. Men's and senior totals will include hard creative or a hard musical forms division, whichever is higher, but not both. Ties will be broken by giving the win to the tied player with the most first place conference wins from the divisions allowed to be used for their point totals. If still tied it will be broken by giving the win to the player with the most second place wins, etc.
- EXECUTIVE HALL OF FAME AWARDS** - HOF awards for executives are chosen by the NBL executive office based upon dedication to the NBL. These awards may include: promoter, tournament, commissioner, arbitrator, official, woman, man, photo-journalist and conference of the year. They receive their award plaques at the Sport Karate International Banquet at the Super Grands.
- SUPER GRANDS HALL OF FAME AWARDS** - The NBL Super Grands Hall of Fame players' awards are determined by the most points obtained in SG competition by a player that competes as a blackbelt. Players receive 3 points for 1st place, 2 points for 2nd place, 1 point for 3rd. The awards categories include junior male and female rookie and competitor of the year (4), adult male and female rookie and competitor of the year (4), and team of the year and runner-up team of the year (2). (Rookie refers to a player's first year in NBL competition at the SG and is not affected by a prior year's competition as an under blackbelt in an NBL division that allowed under blackbelt players to compete if they didn't wear a belt. An adult HOF can be won by either an adult (18+) player or a senior (35+ or 45+) player, but seniors will only have adult (18+) divisional placements used toward their total. However a senior's point total from their wins will have substituted any senior (35+ or 45+) divisional wins for any single equivalent adult division if their placement was higher in the senior division. The team award does

not include points from team sparring, unless the sparring team was registered with their team name. If that is the case and if the team places in the top three (3) positions, then the team gets 3, 2 or 1 point toward its tally, depending upon the place it took. Ties are broken by 4th to 8th place wins. Winners' notifications and Hall of Fame plaques are sent by mail.

TOP 25 SPORT KARATE SCHOOLS IN THE WORLD AWARDS

Based upon students' wins at both the Super Grands World Games and Sport Karate Amateur Internationals, the top 25 karate schools are announced in the first issue of *Sport Karate Magazine* after the Super Grands each year. Each of the winning schools will receive an official letter from the Sport Karate International executive offices verifying their accomplishment. This letter can be submitted to various media in their area for exposure and due recognition. The point structure in determining the top 25 schools is as follows. Super Grands and Amateur Internationals: 1st place - 3 points, 2nd - 2, 3rd - 1. The school award tallies do not include points from team competition. Only students who are members of and train at a single school's location, and who legitimately indicate the school and one of the instructors at that school location on the front side of their players' card for Super Grands/Amateur Internationals registration will count toward that school's tally to win. The top schools will be sent a Hall of Fame plaque after the Super Grands. Different school locations cannot be combined together as one school for points or awards.

- NEW! Additional rules and regulations governing NBL Hall of Fame Awards. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- Verification of Awards - Submission of points is not required, but any verification of points requested for "Conference awards" must be received by fax, email or postal by October 14 to be considered and verification for "Top 25 School Awards" must be received within two weeks after the last day of the SG. We will not be responsible for verification that is not received.
 - Phone Calls - Absolutely no phone calls will be accepted, excepting return phone calls from the NBL executive offices.
 - Changes after publicizing - Reserving the right of a rare exception, NBL will not change awards after being announced or printed even if an error is found.