The National Blackbelt League (NBL) is the only international sport karate league based upon a series of conferences, tournaments, and awards. The NBL has a set number of divisions with different age groups, belt levels, and/or regions. Each conference and tournament is limited to a maximum of six (6) tournaments per season. Each NBL conference consists of several regional areas which may have a maximum of six (6) conferences per season. There are also five (5) national conferences which consist of up to six (6) of the regional conferences/largest tournaments in the conference that were held in the same season, 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. If a player qualifies for the Super Grands (SG) then they are eligible to compete in all conferences in the SG season. The highest-rated conference that a player is rated in at the end of the season. He/she may compete in as many divisions as SG that he/she qualifies for (see “Wild Card System” below). Qualifying competitions will be announced by mail or e-mail in October and their names shall appear in the final ratings which come out in early October.

3. WILD CARD SEEDING: The SG also offers wild card seeding for each division. This is an open competition for any player who elects to compete in a pre-run SG at SG immediately before each division starts. The competition is open for any player who wants to see how they stand for the possible wild card seeding. The wild card seeding is available for the top 16 seeds in each division. The wild card seeding competition is open to any player who qualifies for the SG season and it is not limited to the set points that a player has already achieved. The wild card seeding is a competition of the highest qualified players in each division (whether a wild card or not) and it is conducted by the NBL Rules Scribe and the SG Committee.

4. RATING VERIFICATION / ERRORS: Errors in prior published standings and verification of final ratings to be announced in early October must be point by point and must be received by the NBL between September 1 and October 1st. All errors must be received in writing by mail and a one-time-only change can be made. (See SKITA ratings chart in the back of any Sport Karate Magazine or Section 3 of this document.)

The NBL awards website (nblskil.com) starting June 1 and in the July-October (appearing June 1) and the final standings/plaques at the Sport Karate International Awards Banquet at the Super Grands (SG) each year. The NBL is the only national black belt league that has a black belt. Players receive 3 points for 1st place, 2 points for 2nd place, and 1 point for 3rd. The awards are determined by the points from the conference points. The conference points are calculated by the points earned for the conference and the points from the regional area. The conference points are the sum of the points earned in each conference and the regional area points. The conference points are used to determine the highest-rated conference at theend of the season. The highest-rated conference that a player is rated in at the end of the season. He/she may compete in as many divisions as SG that he/she qualifies for (see “Wild Card System” below). Qualifying competitions will be announced by mail or e-mail in October and their names shall appear in the final ratings which come out in early October.

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