

Alterations in Kumite Techniques and the Effects on Score Rates following the 2013 International Judo Federation Rule Revision

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(2013IJF 競技ルール改正に伴う組手戦術行動にみる柔道投技スコア取得率の変化)

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Abstract

Significant changes in *kumite* tactics could be expected following the 2013 International Judo Federation rule revision, which mandated that competitors initiate sparring immediately at match outset. The research focused on the specific areas of *kumite* that were likely to be affected by this rule revision.

In total, 386 men's contests were selected from All Japan Judo Federation DVDs as the research material. Three analysts took part in this research. One of the analysts was "6th *dan*", and the other two analysts are "7th *dan*". *Dan* is a ranking system indicating skill level. In judo, there are examinations for the ranks from the first-*dan* to the tenth *dan*, with the tenth *dan* being the highest. Each analyst has at least 40 years of experience in judo practice, and they are all currently active in judo instruction. All data relating to competitors' use of *kumite* were confirmed unanimously by all three analysts as part of the validation process. Throws resulting in scores were identified and the preceding *kumite* was analyzed.

Chi-square tests were performed to determine variations in the number of scored throws between the 2012 and 2013 contests based on predetermined criteria and comparisons of *kumite* efficacy were made using the resulting score ratios.

Re-gripping resulted in a higher score rate in *aiyotsu*, *kenkayotsu* and the total of both stances. The score rate increased when both hands were used for throwing in the *aiyotsu* stance and the total of both stances. The score rate increased in cases where the competitor grabbed their opponents in places other than the collar or sleeve with both hands or in a place other than the collar or sleeve with one hand and the collar or sleeve with the other hand when the competitors sparred in the *kenkayotsu* stance and in the total of both stances combined.

In conclusion, the 2013 rule revision greatly changed the use of *kumite* in world class judo contests. The use of re-gripping in competitions was found to enhance scoring for competitors. Furthermore, we could confirm an evolution in the use of *kumite* to include an increase in competitors grabbing their competitors in places other than the collar and sleeves. These should be considered by trainers and competitors when preparing for competitions.