



RESTRUCTURING CATEGORIES – FAIR MATCHING POLICY

In the event that a category receives only one entry, the organisers reserve the right to merge categories where it is safe, fair, and practicable to do so. All mergers will follow these strict guidelines:

- **Weight Difference** – The maximum permitted weight difference is **5kg**. For example, a -35kg competitor may not have been matched in their original category, of -35kg but if a -40kg category entrant also has no opponent and both athletes meet the criteria (e.g. one weighs 35kg and the other 38kg), they can be matched. This ensures the bout remains both safe and fair.
- **Junior Age Difference** – For junior divisions, the maximum permitted age gap is **2 years**. For example, if both the 11–13yrs and 14–15yrs categories each have only one entrant, and those entrants are aged 12 and 14, they may be matched. However, an 11-year-old will not be matched against a 14-year-old.
- **Age/Weight Restructure Example:**
An 11-year-old enters the 11–12yrs -40kg division and weighs 38kg.
A 10-year-old enters the -35kg division and weighs 35kg.
Neither has an opponent in their original divisions.
When we restructure, they are placed in a **10–11yrs -38kg division**.
This match is considered safe and fair because it follows WKO's strict age and weight tolerance limits.

Restructuring will only occur when both competitors can be matched within the age/weight tolerances deemed safe and fair, and the match is deemed appropriate by the organisers and officials. Safety and fairness will always be the top priority.

If the organisers didn't step in to review and adjust (restructure) the divisions, a lot of fighters wouldn't get a bout at all. Others might try to enter divisions on their own that aren't as safe or fair — for example, fighting someone with a much bigger weight difference or larger age gap — just so they can compete.

In other words, the restructuring work ensures **more athletes get matched** and that those matches are **kept within safe, fair limits**, instead of leaving athletes with no fight or pushing them into risky mismatches.

REFUND POLICY

- **Full Refunds** – Any competitor who cannot be matched, through no fault of their own, or medical reasons with proof will receive a full refund of their entry fee(s).
- **Refunds After Fair Match** – If you are matched within the terms of our fairness criteria and choose to withdraw for any reason, you will receive a refund **minus 10%** to cover non-recoverable costs such as card processing fees incurred during registration.

Do we merge categories?

Yes when we have to, but this is classed as Modifying see below why:

🔴 Competition Categories, Match-Making Explained 🔴

We often get asked how competition matching works, so here's a simple explanation of our **Standard** and **Modified** categories.

✅ Standard Category

This is always our first choice.

Athletes are matched against opponents based on the details entered at registration:

- Age
- Gender
- Weight
- Experience level
- Rules category

When there's a suitable opponent with matching details, you'll compete in a **Standard Category**.

🔄 Modified Category

Sometimes an athlete doesn't have a direct match in their Standard Category.

Rather than automatically cancelling their entry, we look to see if we can **safely combine categories** within our accepted tolerances. This may involve small adjustments to age or weight divisions where appropriate, while always keeping fairness and safety as the priority.

This gives competitors the best possible chance of getting a bout instead of missing out.

Our preferred range is no more than 2yrs and 3kgs apart, but as we all come in different shapes and sizes, see below our MAX tolerances.

Accepted 'Max Tolerances' for Juniors

No more than 3yrs in Age

No more than 5kg in weight

(fighters if capable can fight above these)

Accepted 'Max Tolerances' for Adults

No more than 6kg in weight

(fighters if capable can fight above these)

📌 If We Can't Find a Suitable Match

If we are unable to create a safe Modified Category, we notify you to see if you can see something we may have missed or an alternate rules set you are happy with. If there is nothing suitable for you, **your entry fee will be fully refunded.**

We always try to modify categories first because:

- No modification often means **no opponent.**
- No opponent means **no competition.**
- Our goal is to give every athlete the opportunity to compete wherever it is safe and fair to do so.

We appreciate everyone's understanding. Matching competitors is never simply about filling categories, it's about creating fair, competitive and safe match-ups for all athletes.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you at the event! 🇸🇮