



INTEGRAL
FIGHTING SYSTEM

Adults Kiếm Combat

RULES & REGULATIONS

KIẾM



COMBAT

Published by
Vovinam World Expansion Office
Under the Integral Vovinam World Federation
© 1997 *corrected edition* © 2021

www.vovinam-weo.com
vovinam_world_expansion_office@yahoo.com
integralworldfederation@gmail.com

Sword fights

In Integral Vovinam, we have 4 types of unarmed combat: Vậ combat, Punching/kicking fights, Ground fights, Mixed standing & ground fights. In this way, each practitioner can find the combat modality in which he/she feels good, or which involves the less risk of injury.

However, we wanted our style to be more complete. And what could be more complete than to experiment fighting with the first weapon we must learn: the sword (Kiếm).

The categories ? None.

In saber, weight and size are not a main factor in winning, neither is gender. Therefore, Kiếm's fights have no gender category or weight. For the 4 types of unarmed combat the difference between male and female might be a problem, but not in saber fights. The only danger could be kicks to the head, which is why they are not allowed.

ADULT “ KIẾM COMBAT” REGULATIONS

Fighting in the KIẾM COMBAT CATEGORY is for the World Federation of Integral Vovinam the opportunity for experienced Vovinam practitioners to assess their abilities as a sword fighter by being able to apply all of Vovinam's sword techniques. Therefore, this type of combat must be practiced in a strictly regulated environment, so that the safety and integrity of the athletes are placed first.

ART. 1:

The World Federation of Integral Vovinam only recognizes competitions if the World Federation of Integral Vovinam has given permission or delegation, whether through a continental, national or regional entity.

ART. 2:

- 1) The organization of competitions can only be done by the World Federation of Integral Vovinam and/or by a promoter, association or federation recognized by the World Federation of Integral Vovinam.
- 2) Competitions under the auspices of the World Integral Vovinam Federation will only take place if the World Integral Vovinam Federation has given written permission, or after acceptance of a written request.

ART. 3 A:

All participants in competitions in the Integral Vovinam Combat category of/or under the auspices of the World Integral Vovinam Federation must be at least 14 years old. Below 14 years old, they fall into the children category. A special regulation is created for children.

ART. 3 B:

All underage athletes must present parental authorization.

ART. 3 C:

All athletes must present a medical certificate specifying that they have no contraindication to the practice AND COMPETITION of sword fights. The certificate must have been issued less than 3 months before the competition, or else have been signed and stamped by the doctor on the IVWF Sports Passport for the current season (Pages 7 to 9)

INTEGRAL VOVINAM - Adult Kiếm Combat Rules

ART. 4:

1- Any participation to a competition in the category Sword Fights held by/or under the Integral World Federation will be permitted only if the participant in Integral sword Fight Category has a VALID license approved by the Integral World Federation.

2- It WILL be asked the participants to perform IVWF Sword techniques, in order to verify that they really are IVWF athletes.

3- the children in categories U8 to U10 will perform the 5 first sword techniques

4 - the children in categories from U12 to U16 will perform the whole Sword Quyên (KATA).

3- The sword Quyên asked for the verification will be: Tinh Ho Lương Nghi Kiếm Pháp.

4- The performance of the sword Quyên will not give any point, but if it happens that the athlete does not know the sword Quyên, he or she will be disqualified.

5 - The sword Quyên must be performed with fluidity, the techniques must be the ones of the programme, the directions must be the correct ones, and the cutting and block moves must be executed fast and clear.

6- If the participant shows a bad knowledge of the sword Quyên or is hesitating, has lack of confidence or is marking pauses, he or she will be eliminated. Then, his or her opponent will ALSO have to perform a sword Quyên. If he or she is able to perform it, he or she will pass to the next phase. If not, he or she will be eliminated too.

ART. 5:

1) A competition of sword COMBATS must be held on a tatami mat with a minimum 6 m X 6 m fighting surface or in a ring approved by the Integral World Federation, which dimensions are at least 5m X 5m.

2) The ring floor must be done in a solid construction, flat and covered with foam material of at least 2 cm of thickness, placed under a rigid canvas sheet. In case of a Tatami mat, or must follow to the International Fights with norms related to throwing and falling.

3) No norms are imposed about the ropes dimensions and diameter.

4) The ropes must be covered by a soft protecting material and will be attached together to each corner of the ring.

5) The corners diagonally opposed will be in BLUE for one of them, and in RED for the other. The other corners will be neutral or white.

ART. 6: Fighting Uniforms (Võ Phục)

1) The participants will wear a Vovinam Võ Phục (Gi), approved by the Integral regulations.

1 – b) the Integral round Logo must be worn on the chest (color accorded to the belt rank).



1- c) The IVWF badges MUST NOT BE COPIED OR MADE. It is practically the only way of fund source of the IVWF. They are under Copyright. The countries must buy the badges to the Integral World Federation. No local making!

1 – d) the Vovinam Việt Võ Đạo logo is **not allowed** on the Uniform (Võ Phục).



INTEGRAL VOVINAM - Adult Kiếm Combat Rules

- 2) Any sharp or hard objects, rings, jewellery, necklace, etc. on the uniform, under the uniform, or on the athlete are forbidden.
- 3) Any kinds of shoes are forbidden.
- 4) On the fighting uniform, advertisements or commercial texts are authorized if they are discreet and only if these advertisements or these texts are non-contrary to the ethic, the courtesy or the interests of the promoter or the Integral World Federation. The club's logo or the name of the athlete is/are authorized.

ART. 7: Protection Gear

- 1) Groin protection is compulsory for all participants (Boys and girls).
- 2) Wearing body gear protection is compulsory.
- 3) Wearing the Homologated IVWF headgear (helmet) provided by the organizer or by the participants, according to the conditions of the competition.
- 4) The helmet MUST be the official one, stamped with the official logo of the IVWF. Any fake helmet or illegal copied helmet would lead to the disqualification of the bearer.
- 5) The Referee must check all the protection gears before each fight.



ART. 8: Duration of the fight

The actions in sword combat are very fast. The duration of the rounds is as follows:

- 1 x 1 minute for the elimination stages
- 2 x 1 minute in semi-finals
- 3 x 1 minute in finals
- 30 second rest between rounds

ART. 9: weight category

- 1) No weight categories, except for children (see specific regulations for children)

ART. 10: Techniques for the standing part of the sword fight

Are tolerated: all sword techniques.

Other techniques allowed

- 1) Kicking to the body gear only,
- 2) Sweeping included in a series of sword attacks (outside and inside sweeping)
- 3) Scissors do not count anything, but the falling will be counted if the scissors is included in a series of sword attacks.

ART. 11: Unauthorized techniques

- 1) Grabbing the opponent's sword
- 2) Biting, scratch, clawing, and spitting
- 3) Pull or grab the helmet, the opponent's body gear, the opponent's arm
- 4) All techniques on the groin area
- 5) Elbow and forearm attacks

INTEGRAL VOVINAM - Adult Kiếm Combat Rules

- 6) Head-butting
- 7) Strikes against the spine
- 8) Kicks against the head
- 9) Knee strikes
- 10) Pressing on Adam's apple
- 11) Grabbing on to the safety fence or the ropes
- 12) Flee the fight under the ropes or outside the fighting area.
- 13) Going down to the floor without having done any technique or planned action.
- 14) Flee clearly the fight and lacking of fighting spirit or defense.
- 15) Pushing or throwing the opponent out of the competition area
- 16) Ignoring the instructions of the referee
- 17) Simulating being hit in the groin area or by a forbidden technique
- 18) If the head protection goes out during the fight, the referee will order a pause. Then, the referee will put the helmet back.
- 19) If a headgear goes out more than twice during a round, it should be removed and replaced by another one tighter. Any tactic using the headgear problems to save time or to receive advices will be sanctioned by the referee.

ART. 12: CLINCH (STAND-UP)

No standing-up clinches. Only fight in movement.

ART. 13 A: AWARDING POINTS

- 1) sweeping with falling, 1 point
- 2) sweeping with falling + striking on a valid target, $1 + 1 = 2$ points
- 3) Points for Sword strikes: all effective and authorized strikes score 1 point.
- 4) Scissors do not score anything, but the falling does if the scissors has been executed inside a sword strike series. If the opponent does not fall, he will be awarded one point.

ART. 13 B:

For a striking action to score, it must hit a legal target powerfully, and accurately.

Legal targets:

Foot, leg, thigh, hip, hand, wrist, upper arm, arm, head, face, front of body gear, side of body gear.

ART. 13 C:

- 1- Simultaneous strikes (clashes) of the two contenders: they do not score.
- 2- Simultaneous strikes, but one of them was a "blocking + counter attack", then the counter attack scores 1 point (principle of the Counter attack priority).

ART. 14

K.O. and K.O. technique (TKO)

- 1) K.O.'s are not authorized as a mean of winning the fight. These fights are sword fights, not kicking fights.
- 2) When a contender has received a kick to the body gear, and cannot resume the fights, if the referee sees that it was not a deliberate intention to knock out the opponent, then he or she will be declared losing the fights: the body protection MUST cover the power of a kick.
- 3) Any knock-out to the head will lead to the disqualification of the author of the strike.

INTEGRAL VOVINAM - Adult Kiếm Combat Rules

- 4) Any kicking to other parts that the body gear will lead to the disqualification of the author of the kick (low kicks are forbidden!).
- 5) Big weight difference: in case of a big weight difference, the Referee will ask the heavier contender not to use too much power. It must remain a sword fight, and not a kicking fight.
- 6) Combat swords are made to be used like swords, not baseball bats. If a fighter breaks his weapon because he hit too hard, he will have to use another sword immediately (it is his responsibility). If he cannot change his weapon, he will be disqualified (TKO).

ART. 15

- 1) Any legal technique started inside the limit of the fight area of the ring or the tatami mat and finished outside the legal limit of area will be considered valid, and will award the corresponding points, unless there was a clear intention to execute the technique outbound.
- 2) Any technique started outside the limit of the fight area of the ring or the tatami mat will be penalized.
- 3) Any legal technique started after the starting round bell sounded will be considered as valid and the points awarded.
- 4) Any technique started after the end of round bell sounded will be considered as illegal and the contender responsible of the action will be penalized.

ART. 16

- 1) Draws. In case of equality of results, if the 2 contenders reached the same amount of points after the fights, then they will perform the Sword Quyền Tinh Hoa Lương Nghi Kiếm Pháp. The better technician will win the fight.

ART. 17: END OF THE FIGHT

A fight is over if:

- 1) If a contender cannot resume the fight due to the doctor's or the referee's decision.
- 2) If a contender is disqualified.
- 3) The contestant's coaches stop the match by throwing in the towel and thus forfeiting the match.
- 4) The length of the fight is over.

ART. 18: PUBLIC WARNINGS and DISQUALIFICATION

- 1) If a contender performs a forbidden technique or action, or if he is violates the INTEGRAL Code of Ethics in a blatant and unsportsmanlike manner, then he will receive a public warning and will be automatically disqualified.
- 2) A fighter will be directly disqualified:
 - a) If he or she acted contrary to the fair sport attitude of the competition, or if he or she violated the moral integrity of his/her opponent, or if the Security of the competition is put in danger.
 - b) If the fighter or his/her coach do not follow the referee's orders.
 - c) If the fighter or his/her coach has a behavior that is not allowing the competition to be held normally.
 - d) If one (or several) action(s) of a fighter (can be) are seen as forbidden techniques or movements.
 - e) If a fighter does not show enough fight spirit or is only defending during the fight.
 - f) If a fighter does not wear the protection gears imposed by the present rules and regulations, he then should have to wear them right away; on the contrary, he (she) will be disqualified by the referee.
 - g) If a contender has covered his/her body of (massage) oil. However, neutral Vaseline is authorized on the face.

INTEGRAL VOVINAM - Adult Kiếm Combat Rules

- h) If he or she is wearing some clearly “no sport” clothes.
 - i) If there are more than 3 coaches/helpers on his/her corner.
- 4) In case of a disqualification, the Main Referee will write a report that will be communicated to the secretary of the corresponding Federation or Association.
- 5) During the fight, the referee can give informal warnings without limits. This will not influence directly the scores.

ART. 19: Competition Administration Committee

1) Composition of the Competition Administration Committee

- Person-in-charge of the competition
- Person-in-charge of the Stopwatch and the sound signal
- Chief of jury, Score keeper
- (Head of the referees)
- Referees
- Communication Referee
- Competition Control Referee
- Judges
- Doctor
- (Speaker)

ART. 20: Injuries

- 1) In a contender is “out” due to an illegal action (forbidden action of his/her opponent) and that the referee has seen such action, he will have to apply immediate sanction against the contender that committed the faulty action.
- 2) If a contender is “out” due to an illegal action (forbidden action of his/her opponent) and that he or she cannot keep fighting, according to the doctor’s judgment, then his opponent will be disqualified.
- 3) If a contender had one or several injuries during the competition that were not caused by his opponent (or were accidental) but do not allow him/her to keep fighting, and that he/she wishes to quit the fight, or when the doctor wants him/her to stop the fight, then he will be declared losing the fight by TKO.
- 4) If the 2 contenders are injured simultaneously, and that, following these injuries both of them cannot resume the fight, then the fight decision will be a “draw”.
- 5) The Doctor’s judgment and decisions cannot be appealed.

ART. 21: stopping a fight

The referee or the Chief Referee can stop a fight:

- 1- if a contender has a too different level from the other (clear technical inferiority) then, the best of them will be declared Winner by intervention of the referee.
- 2- if the Doctor says that one or several injuries could be a risk for a contender’s health.
- 3- if a contender’s coach cannot behave properly, then his fighter will receive a public warning, and if this behavior keeps going on, the fighter will be disqualified.
- 4- if the audience is not behaving as it should, and if that is not allowing the competition to be held correctly and securely.
- 5- if a contender has more than 3 people in his/her corner. He or she will be punished by a public warning, and if the situation is repeated, he or she will be disqualified.
- 6- if the referee decides to end the fight, he will inform the head of referees of the motive of the end of the fight.
- 7- if the competition is stopped during the fight due to natural disaster or for any other involuntary. In that case, no victory will be declared (« NO CONTEST »). The results will not be published.

ART. 22: doping and stimulating products or substances.

- 1) The use of any drug, stimulating or doping substances is strictly forbidden.

INTEGRAL VOVINAM - Adult Kiém Combat Rules

- 2) Any contender participating in a competition organized by, or under, INTEGRAL WORLD FEDERATION (IVWF) must pass through medical examination by the Doctor of the competition, or by the Commission of anti-doping control.
- 3) If a contender, or his/her coach, is declared positive to anti-doping control, then this or these person(s) will be suspended for an undetermined period, and the result of the fight will be estimated again.
- 4) The Rules and Regulations of our federation are applicable in ALL event of the INTEGRAL WORLD FEDERATION.

ART 23: Team and assistants

- 1) A fighter can have up to 3 persons as assistants for his/her fight near the ring or the fighting area.
- 2) Contender assistants must be clearly identifiable, either by wearing a uniform such as sport clothes of the club or the country, or by wearing a same T-shirt showing the belonging to a club or a country.
- 3) The assistants will remain during the whole length of the fight in the place that had been assigned to them, whether the Red or the Blue corner.
- 4) The assistants or coaches can only give instructions in a decent way.
- 5) The assistants or coaches can never interfere in the proper progress of the fight.
- 6) Only the Main Coach can enter the ring/the fighting area during the beginning of the fight or during the rest times.

ART. 24: Contesting a result (disputes)

A dispute must be started ONLY if a clear wrong result was given.

As a famous boxing champion said once: “if the victory is not evident, don’t blame the referees for having lost the fight. You should have fought better!”

Therefore, a dispute must be started ONLY if it was a real and CLEAR mistake.

- 1) if a referee decision or a final result is in conflict with the above rules and regulations, the only persons allowed to contest this decision are the contender, his/her coach, or any of his/her official representatives.
- 2) to dispute a result, an official letter must be sent to the Organizing Committee, to the Federation or Association, directly after the fight concerning that dispute
- 3) the Person-in-charge of the competition will consult the chief referee and the JUDGES.
- 4) if all the facts available are considered, the Person-in-charge of the competition will take a decision.
- 5) the right of contesting a result expires one month after the day of the competition in question.
- 6) the party who is asking for a revision of the result must do it with a video of the fight, as a proof of arguments.
- 7) this video will be asked to the organizer
- 8) videos taken by the public or by the member of the Team can be studied too in case of no having videos of the organizer.
- 9) any dispute without a video to prove the fact will not be taken into account.

ART. 25: Insurance and Sports Passport

- 1) All the contenders must present, before the beginning of the event, a valid insurance and a valid IVWF Sports Passport.
- 2) The results of the competitions must be noted (signed and stamped) in the IVWF passports of each participant, by the Director or Person-in-charge of the Organizing Committee of the Competition.
- 3) Any false result noted on the IVWF passport will conduct to the lifetime expulsion of the author(s) and accomplices.
- 4) If a contender has not reached the podium (1st, 2nd or 3rd place) a “slash” will be noted on the

INTEGRAL VOVINAM - Adult Kiếm Combat Rules

space for the results. But the date and place of the competition will be noted and signed/stamped, as a proof of the participation to the competition.

