

Effects of the International Judo Federation Referee Rules on Competition Contents in the All-Japan Judo Championships: A 2008–2013 Comparison

Keisuke MIYAKE¹, Takashi MATSUI², Takeru SATO³, Yoshihisa ISHIKAWA⁴, Takayuki YOKOYAMA⁵,
Toshihiro TAKEZAWA⁶, Kenji KAWABATA⁷, Hiroyuki AKIMOTO⁸, Shinichiro SATO⁹

¹Chukyo University, ²JSPS Research Fellow (SPD), ³Kogakkan University, ⁴Nagano National College of Technology,
⁵Setsunan University, ⁶Kanto Gakuen University, ⁷Hokuriku University, ⁸Ryotokuji Gakuen, ⁹Takushoku University

Introduction

The All-Japan Judo Championships (AJJC) is an open-weight tournament for determining the best judoka in Japan. AJJC has been held under the Kodokan Judo Referee Rules (KDK Rules) since 1951. In 2011, the All-Japan Judo Federation (AJJF) introduced the International Judo Federation Referee Rules (IJF Rules), which were formulated to facilitate more dynamic judo (increased wins by *Ippon*, decreased wins by judges' decision, and stoppage time). Previous studies have examined the changes and trends of dynamic Judo for international matches like the Olympics and World Championships by introducing the IJF Rules^{2, 3}). Although the IJF Rules have facilitated dynamic judo in international competitions, the effects of the IJF Rules on the competition contents in the AJJC are still unknown. Here, we aimed to clarify whether the introduction of the IJF Rules facilitated dynamic judo in the AJJC.

Methods

The 221 judo matches in the AJJC from 2008 to 2013 were separated into two groups: the KDK Rules' tournaments (2008–2010) and the IJF Rules' tournaments (2011–2013). These tournaments' data were extracted from the AJJC records by *Judo*, the official Kodokan journal, and from the match movies recorded by the AJJF. The proportions of winning contents (wins by *Ippon* or superior performance) and winning methods (points from techniques, penalties, or judges' decisions), techniques for getting points (*Te-waza*, *Koshi-waza*, *Ashi-waza*, *Sutemi-waza*, or *Katame-waza*) and the match duration and stoppage time (match duration subtracted from net match time) for each match were analyzed. A chi-square test, a residuals analysis and an independent *t*-test were used to perform statistical analyses, and for each test, statistical significance was assumed at *P* value < 0.05.

Results and discussion

For the winning contents of the IJF Rules' and the KDK Rules' tournaments the proportion of wins by *Ippon* (39.1% vs. 49.5%) and wins by superior performance (60.9% vs. 50.5%) showed no differences (Fig. 1). The studies by Nakamura²) and Sakamoto³) have reported that wins by *Ippon* generally occur in more than 50% of the men's matches in the Olympics or World Championships. In addition, wins by *Ippon* have comprised up to 70% of the matches because of the promotion of dynamic Judo. Therefore, for the AJJC it is necessary that wins by *Ippon* will increase in order to promote dynamic Judo.

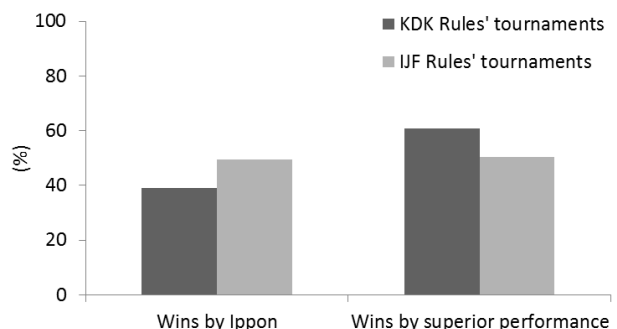


Fig. 1 Comparison of the proportion of winning contents

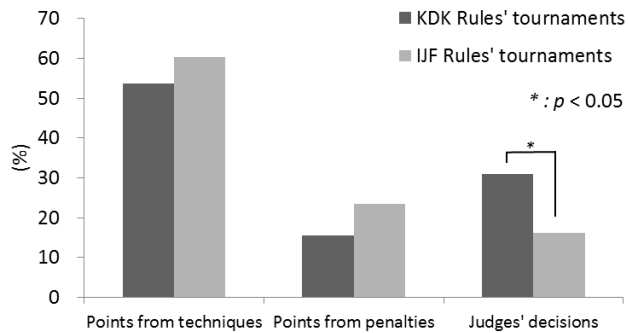


Fig. 2 Comparison of the proportion of winning methods

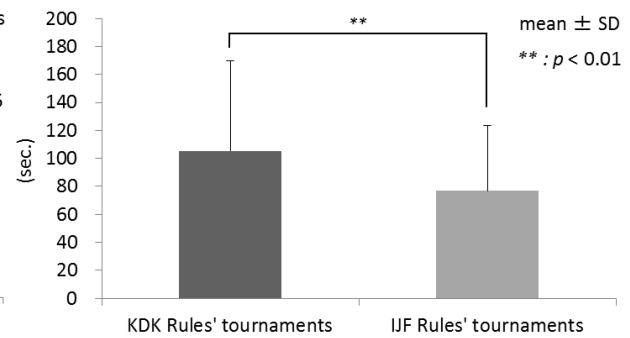


Fig. 3 Comparison of the average stoppage time

Also, the techniques for getting points and the match duration showed no differences between the IJF Rules and the KDK Rules tournaments.

However, the winning methods of the IJF Rules' and the KDK Rules' tournaments, the proportion of points from techniques (60.4% vs. 53.6%) and points from penalties (23.4% vs. 15.5%) showed no difference, but the proportion of wins by judges' decisions in the IJF Rules' tournaments was significantly lower than in the KDK Rules' tournaments (16.2% vs. 30.9%) ($P < 0.05$) (Fig. 2). The reason why judges' decisions decreased can be seen in the increasing existence of "instructional cautions" because the lack of "combative spirit" makes up 70% of all penalties. This can be undoubtedly seen as an effect of the introduction of the IJF Rules. In addition, the fact that the timing of assigning penalties by the referees got faster and the instruction not to penalize both judoka at the same time can be also seen as decisive reasons.

In addition, the stoppage time in the IJF Rules' tournaments was significantly shorter than in the KDK Rules' tournaments (77 s vs. 105 s) ($P < 0.01$) (Fig. 3). In 2003, the IJF decided that it is not necessary for the judoka to come back to the starting line for restarting the fight with "Hajime" to shorten the stoppage time. In addition, the referees either have to come back to their starting position and moreover, the injury time was also abolished¹⁾. Therefore, the stoppage time could be increased significantly.

Conclusion

Our results revealed that the introduction of the IJF Rules did not affect the winning contents, including wins by *Ippon*, techniques for getting points, and match duration, but decreased the proportion of judges' decisions and stoppage time in the AJJC. These findings suggest for the first time that the IJF Rules partially facilitated dynamic judo in the AJJC.

References

- 1) Isamu Nakamura: Kokusai jūdō no genzai, *Junia sensyu ikusei no tame no jūdō kōchingu ron*, Dōwasyoin, 178-192, 1st., 2008.
- 2) Isamu Nakamura et al.: 2003 nen sekai senshukentaikai no kyōgi bunseki: 1995 kara 2001 nen taikai to no hikaku, *Jūdō kagaku kenkyū*, [Scientific Research on Judo], 9, 1-6, 2004.
- 3) Michito Sakamoto et al.: Orinpikku jūdō kyōgi no kyōgi bunseki: 1992 nen kara 2000 nen taikai wo taisyō to shite, [Analysis of Olympic Judo: A Trend of the Judo Event 1992 to 2000], *Daigaku Taiiku Kenkyū*, [Journal of Sport and Physical Education Center University of Tsukuba], 28, 15-22, 2006.