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## APPENDIX 10: RECOMMENDATIONS, COMPETITION FOR THOSE UNDER 14 YEARS OF AGE

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*This Appendix of recommended modification of rules is provided for the convenience of National Federations arranging karate competition for children under the age of 14 years. Each national federation must evaluate the suitability based on needs of their federation's members.*

### **Kumite for children between 12, 13 and 14 years of age:**

- For techniques to the head and neck (Jodan area) no contact is allowed.
- Any contact to the Jodan area, however slight, will be penalized.
- A correctly performed technique to the head or neck will be considered a score at a distance up to 10 cm.
- **The use of WKF approved face mask is recommended.**
- The bout duration can be two or one and a half minute.
- Divisions should be based on height rather than weight.
- Organizers may merge age groups

### **Kumite for children under 12 years of age:**

- Techniques to all scoring areas (Jodan and Chudan) are all to be controlled short of target.
- A correctly performed technique to any scoring area will be considered a score at a distance up to 10cm.
- Even controlled techniques to the body (chudan area) will not be considered a score if they make more than light contact.
- **The use of WKF approved face mask is recommended.**
- No sweeping, or other takedown techniques, are allowed.
- The bout duration is two or one and a half minute.
- The completion area may be reduced from 8x8 mts. to 6x6 mts. if desired by the organizer of the event.
- It is strongly recommended that all participants should be secured a minimum of two bouts per competition. This can be achieved by letting those who lose their first fight go on to a separate pool that will culminate in the fight for the third place.
- Divisions should be based on height rather than weight.

*For children under the age of 10 it is recommended to compete as pair against pair demonstrating two or one and half minute of sparring decided by Hantei based on the usual criteria for Hantei decision in kumite matches but here used to compare one pair against the other.*

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- There are no specific deviation from the standard rules, but it is recommended to limit the kata list to less advanced kata for national competitions.

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