

Ssireum Competition

Rules



WSF World Ssireum
Federation

Table of Contents

1.Ssireum Competition Rules -----	2
Section 1 General Rules -----	2
Section 2 Competition Space -----	2
Section 3 Competition Equipment -----	3
Section 4 Weight Classes -----	3
Section 5 Competition Uniforms -----	4
Section 6 Team Competitions -----	5
Section 7 Competition Procedure -----	5
Section 8 Fouls -----	9
Section 9 Appeals -----	9
Section 10 Commendations and Reprimands -----	10
Section 11 Referees -----	11
Section 12 Women’ s Ssireum Special Rules -----	12
Section 13 Regulations on Coach Qualifications -----	13
<Supplementary Rules> -----	13
2.Referees -----	14
3.Referees’ Obligations -----	16
4.Referee Qualifications and Grades -----	17

1. Ssireum Competition Rules

Section 1 General Rules

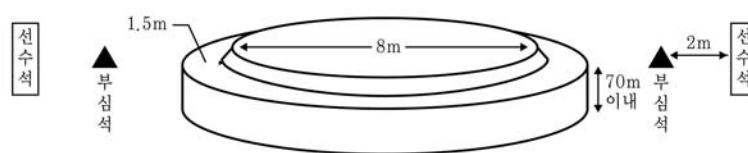
Article 1 The following rules are called World Ssireum Federation (WSF) official competition rules.

Section 2 Competition Space

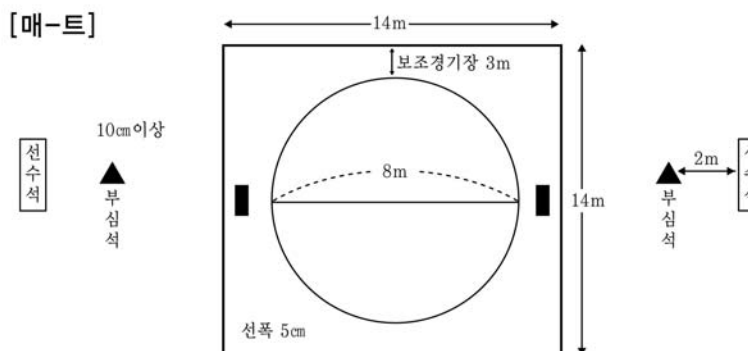
Article 2 The competition space should utilize a sand-filled circular ring in principle, but indoor competitions may substitute mats instead.

Article 3 For competitions using sand, the height of the sand in the competition ring must be between 30–70cm and the diameter of the ring shall be 8m including the bordering edge. There must be a 1.5m border of additional space at the exterior of the ring in order to help prevent player injuries. The difference in heights between the competition ring and the additional space must be 10–20cm. For competitions using mats, the diameter of the competition ring must be 8m with a 5cm border and 3m of additional width outside the ring; ring and border heights must be in same plane when using mats.

[모래장]



[매트]



모래장: Sand Ring

선수석: Player Seats

부심석: Assistant Referee Seats

70cm 이내: Less than 70cm

10cm 이상: More than 10cm

보조경기장 3m: Additional Border Space of 3m

선폭 5cm: Line Width of 5cm

Section 3 Match Equipment

Article 4 The belt-and-thigh-band (satba) for student class players 15 years or older, as well as adult class players must have a total width of 114cm of blue or red 16 mesh cotton cloth. The remainder of satba length after fastening must be less than 30cm. All satbas must be certified by the WSF.

Article 5 The satba for the student class players under 15 years of age must have a total width of 57cm (half the width of the adult satba) of blue or red 16 mesh cotton cloth. The remainder of satba length after fastening must be less than 30cm. All satbas must be certified by the WSF.

Section 4 Weight Classes

Article 6 The weight classes of players are as follows. For team competitions, there will be one player and one substitute player per weight class per team; i.e. each team will have a total of 10 members, 5 players and 5 substitute players.

A. Five Weight Divisions for Men

Division	Body Weight	Player	Substitute Player
Middle Weight	-70 kg	1	1
Light-Heavy Weight	-80 kg	1	1
Middle-Heavy Weight	-90 kg	1	1
Super-Heavy Weight	-100 kg	1	1
Giant Weight	100~-140 kg	1	1
Total Players		5	5

B. Five Weight Divisions for Men(Students under 19)

Division	Body Weight	Player	Substitute Player
Middle Weight	-60 kg	1	1
Light-Heavy Weight	-70 kg	1	1
Middle-Heavy Weight	-80 kg	1	1
Super-Heavy Weight	-90 kg	1	1
Giant Weight	-105 kg	1	1
Total Players		5	5

* The one player and one substitute player shall be appointed for each weight in case of team competition.

Article 7 The players must weigh-in between 17:00-18:00 on the day prior to their competition. The order of weighing is subject to the order of the next day' s competitions.

Article 8 Players may participate in either their own weight class or the next highest weight division during a season. However, players may NOT participate in divisions lower than their current weight class. Players may NOT participate in more than one weight division at a time. For example, at the start of a season a feather weight player could choose to enter EITHER the feather weight division OR light weight division, but he could NOT play in both at the same time.

Section 5 Competition Uniforms

Article 9 A. Players shall wear uniforms certified by their main regional office. All uniforms must allocate a 10cm wide white strip (5cm on either side of the lateral seam) on both sides of the garment for bearing the player' s name. Uniforms may have sponsorship logos attached to the back. All players must wear the standard blue or red satba as

described in Section 3 during competition. Players not in proper attire will not be allowed to compete.

B. Coaches must wear formal traditional clothing when advising players from the director's chair outside the ring. Coaches may alternately wear leather shoes, formal slacks, long-sleeve button-down collared shirt, jacket, a vest (optional), and tie; during hot weather coaches may substitute a short-sleeve button-down collared shirt and forego a jacket. Coaches not in proper attire will not be allowed to interact with players.

Section 6 Team Competition

Article 10 Each team in a competition must present 5 players, one for each weight class. A team will be disqualified if it cannot present a full 5 player roster during weigh-in; players who are outside the range of the weight class for which they were designated will be disqualified and receive a disqualifying loss for any scheduled matches. Qualified substitute players may be used when a player cannot compete because of an accident or injury; if there is no substitute player then the player will receive a disqualifying loss.

Article 11 A. Teams compete for a best 3 out of 5 matches.
B. The order of competition must be in order from EITHER light weight to giant weight OR light weight to giant weight according to the discretion of the main regional office. Players who are not registered for competition may NOT enter the competition space.

Article 12 Players may NOT change weight classes during competition. (The same rule applies for substitute players.)

Section 7 Competition Procedure

Article 13 The team competitions must be preformed in EITHER tournament OR league matches according to the chief of the match operation office; the office will decide the type of matches after receiving the opinion of the match office personnel.

Article 14 Individual competitions must be performed in EITHER tournament OR league matches according to the chief of the match operation office; the office will decide the type of matches after receiving the opinion of the match office personnel. The match order for individuals must be decided by players drawing lots.

Article 15 All matches must be the best 2 out of 3 rounds.

Article 16 The referee will give a verbal signal for matches to begin. Both players will step inside the ring and bow at the waist to each other as directed by the referee. After bowing they will proceed to the center of the ring and assume the ready position. Players will grasp each other's satbas, stand, and begin play each step under the verbal direction of the referee. Rounds will conclude with the decision of the referee. Matches will conclude with the referee directing players to the edge of the ring where they will bow at the waist to each other again and then turn to exit the ring.

Article 17 A. Under the verbal direction of the referee, players will assume the ready position by kneeling on both knees facing each other close enough to grasp each other's satbas (approximately within 30cm); next they will position their heads side-by-side and their right shoulders in contact with each other. After assuming these position players will first grasp the satba on the right leg of their opponent with their left hand by positioning their left arm outside their opponent's right arm; next they will grasp the satba on the left side of their opponent's waist with their right hand by passing their right arm under their opponent's left arm. The referee may adjust the satbas to be within reach of the player's hands if necessary; once successfully grasped satbas will not be adjusted again.

B. The thigh band shall be centered at the sewing line on the uniform and the sewing line shall be the point for grasping.

C. After players have grasped their opponent's satbas the referee will give them a verbal signal to stand. Players will stand by simultaneously placing their weight on their left legs while extending their right legs behind them, keeping their feet in contact with the ground at all times.

D. After standing, players must maintain shoulder-to-shoulder contact while grasping their opponent's satba. Players must also maintain their shoulders horizontally and level with the ground.

E. The referee has the discretion to discipline players who hinder or excessively interfere with this process prior to the signal to begin play.

F. When satisfied with the player's positioning, the referee will give a verbal signal for a round to begin. The referee will direct rounds to restart (following the procedures specified in Section 7, Article 17, Parts A-F) if both players release their opponent's satba or if one of them steps out-of-bounds. The referee has the discretion to issue players a verbal signal to stop play if they appear to be delaying or approaching the out-of-bounds area without having yet reached it; the referee will then guide the players back to the center of the ring before issuing a verbal signal to resume play. If players have been ordered to stop play they are not allowed to adjust their positions relative to each other and the referee has the discretion to discipline them if they attempt such an action.

G. Injured players must be treated and released for play within two minutes.

H. The referee has the discretion to discipline players who intentionally step out of bounds during play by issuing them a warning; the only valid out of bounds movement occurs when a player with both feet in the ring topples his opponent in such a way that the opponent falls outside the ring. A player who receives two warnings within a round will automatically lose that round. A player who receives three warnings within a match will receive a disqualifying defeat. This rule applies to both individual and team play regardless of tournament or league organization.

I. Warnings do not carry over between rounds. If a round ends in time over, the player with the fewest warnings wins.

J. The referee has the discretion to issue warnings to player's coaches during competition for inappropriate behavior. Coaches who have been issued a warning must leave their designated seat outside the ring. Coaches who have been issued two warnings will not be allowed to participate in any additional matches during that day's competition.

Article 18 Players will loop their satba around their right thigh and then around their waist before tying it. The knot of the satba will be located along the seam of their uniform. The satba should be secure, but flexible enough to allow their opponents to grasp it without interference.

Article 19 The time limit for rounds is as follows.

	Round	Break	Round
All Division	2 minutes	1 minute	2 minutes

Article 20 If the first round ends in time over, the winner of the second round wins the match. If the second round ends in time over, the winner of the first round wins the match. If the third round ends in time over, with either the first two rounds both ending in time over or the score tied, the player with the fewest warnings wins the match. If all three rounds end in time over and neither player has any warnings, a one-time additional two minute fourth round will be conducted. If any warnings are issued in the fourth round the round is immediately terminated at the player with no warnings wins the match. If the fourth round ends in time over, the match will be referred to the referee and two assistant referees for a decision.

Article 21 The order shall be decided by the winning of the pre-winner in case of two players of same score in the scoring method of league game. The order shall be decided by the gain and loss of total number of winning and losing at the matches in case of three players of same score. The player with more warnings shall be the loser if the gain or loss is same. The one time of extended round among the players of same score shall be performed in case of three players of same score.

Article 22 Players who fail to report to the ring after being called four or more times will automatically be disqualified.

Article 23 A. Players must be weighed between 17:00 to 18:00 on the day prior to their competition.
B. Players must be weighed while wearing their uniform, but without a

satba.

C. The order list of the matches for team competition shall be submitted after the first weighing of corresponding contest in principle. However, the team which wants to change the players shall submit the changed list of the matches to Department of Match and they shall perform the matches according to the changed list. However, if the order of the changed player is changed, the corresponding player shall be the loser and it is valid in corresponding contest.

D. The list of matches shall be submitted to Department of Match 20 minutes before the after the termination of weighing time. It shall be disqualified at the corresponding contest in case of no submission.

Section 8 Fouls

Article 24 The following actions are regarded as fouls.

A. Interfering with an opponent' s breathing or blood flow to the brain through strangling, grasping, or prying against the neck.

B. Prying, bending, or otherwise locking an opponent' s arm.

C. Head-butting an opponent.

D. Kicking an opponent.

E. Hitting an opponent with a fist.

F. Attacking an opponent' s eye in any manner.

G. Any actions which may cause immanent or permanent injury to an opponent.

Article 25 Players who receive a foul corresponding to the items in Section 8, Article 24, Parts A-G will be immediately disqualified from play and may face additional disciplinary action up to and including permanent expulsion from the WSF.

Section 9 Appeals

Article 26 All appeals must be filed prior to the match to which they apply. Decisions regarding player qualifications and in-match referee decisions may not be appealed by players, teams, or coaches. In-match referee decisions may only be appealed by assistant referees or the chief of referees.

Article 27 The department of contest headquarters at the local regional office is responsible for all affairs related to contest management, including contest procedures, scheduling, regulations, and appeals. All appeals must be filed with the department of contest headquarters in person or with one of their representatives.

Section 10 Commendations and Reprimands

Article 28 All commendations and awards are subject to regulation by the prize and punishment committee of the WSF.

Article 29 The prize and punishment committee is responsible for settling issues related to competition by enforcing referee committee decisions, or reprimand requests from any applicable committee.

Article 30 The following persons or actions are subject to reprimand by the prize and punishment committee.

A. Persons who disobey or resist referee judgments.

B. Persons who swear at, threaten, or physically assault a referee.

C. Persons who deliberately hinder a competition.

D. Referees and assistant referees are subject to reprimands for faulty judgments as follows.

① First offense: Verbal and written warning.

② Second offense: Suspension of the referee qualifications for three competitions.

③ Third offense: Disqualification.

Article 31 Reprimands may also be issued if a coach or non-competing player attempts to interfere with an opponent through the use of threats, foul language, or other derogatory conduct that demonstrates a lack of good sportsmanship. Such reprimands may include warnings, disqualification from competition, or the revocation of prizes or awards pending the decision of the prize and punishment committee.

Section 11 Referees

- Article 32** Competitions are judged by one head referee, one referee, and two assistant referees.
- Article 33** The referee will judge competitions and the assistant referees shall provide support.
- Article 34** All referees must wear the appropriate uniform and a pair of white shoes.
- Article 35** The referee is free to move about the interior and exterior of the ring, while assistant referees must be positioned outside the ring parallel to each other near the ring's player entry points.
- Article 36** No one aside from the referee and players are allowed entry into the ring. However, the chief of contest headquarters may allow others to enter in special circumstances.
- Article 37** The referee may stop a competition immediately if it appears that a player might become injured; assistant referees may suggest to the referee that play be terminated.
- Article 38** The referee and assistant referees must confer with each other in order to reach a decision if the referee was unable to accurately see the outcome of the match.
- Article 39** Players lose a round if one of their knees or any part of their body above the knee touches the ground.
- Article 40** If a player topples their opponent from inside the ring and the opponent then falls outside the ring then the opponent loses that round.
- Article 41** If a player sets foot outside the ring while toppling their opponent the player does not win the round; instead, the round must be reset.
- Article 42** In the even that the referee and assistant referees cannot reach a decision because of an accident during a competition, the matter will be referred to the chief of contest headquarters and the chief of the match

committee for a decision.

Article 43 Winning or losing actions that are performed either before the referee' s starting cue or after the termination cue are not valid.

Article 44 After a round or match ends the referee must promptly return to the starting position, blow his whistle, and announce his decision. The referee must declare his decision by raising the arm which corresponds to the ring' s entry point of the winning player.

Article 45 As mentioned in Section 11, Article 38, the referee must confer with the assistant referees in when he cannot clearly see the outcome of a competition; assistant referees may appeal the referee' s decision to the head referee. In such cases, all four referees will confer inside the ring and the head referee will declare the outcome.

Article 46 Any cases which are not specified herein shall be addressed at the regional level through the chief of contest headquarters; if necessary, the chief will confer with contest committee members who must always be present during competitions.

Section 12 Women' s Ssireum Special Rules

Article 47 Weight Classes
Female players are categorized according to the following weight divisions. The rules and number of players for team competitions are the same as in men' s Ssireum.

Five Weight Divisions for Women

Division	Body Weight	Player	Substitute player
Middle Weight	-50 kg	1	1
Light-Heavy Weight	-60 kg	1	1
Middle-Heavy Weight	-70 kg	1	1

Super-Heavy Weight	-80 kg	1	1
Giant Weight	80~-100 kg	1	1
Total		5	5

Article 48 Female players must weigh-in while wearing their uniform; uniforms must adhere to the following guidelines.

A. Female players must wear a sleeveless leotard top and trousers as certified by the WSF; uniforms must be interchangeably red and blue as needed for competition.

B. Female players may wear a sports-style brazier (one without ornaments).

C. Female players may restrain their hair using flexible hair ties (e.g. rubber, nylon, ribbon); hard plastic or metal hair restraints are prohibited. Likewise, female players way not wear any ornaments (e.g. rings, earrings, wrist bands, necklaces).

D. The short sleeve T shirt or the tight jacket to the body and the trouser of uniform shall be worn at the weighing with bare feet.

Article 49 If matters not discussed above arise they must be referred to the proper WSF channels for review.

Section 13 Regulations on Coach Qualifications

Article 50 A. Coaches must undergo a biannual training program administered by the WSF in order to be granted and maintain their qualification.

B. Persons who are not qualified for coaching by the WSF will not be allowed to participate as coaches in WSF events.

< Supplementary rules >

Article 51 Matters which are not specified herein shall be referred to the appropriate WSF channels for review in order to establish pertinent regulations based on precedent.

Article 52 All regulations are valid upon the establishment.
<Established on February 12, 2009>

2. Referees

- Article 1** The following regulations are the duties of referees in the WSF.
- Article 2** Referees must be fair and judge competitions impartially according to the competition rules of the WSF.
- Article 3** Referees at WSF events must be WSF qualified.
- Article 4** Every WSF event must have a referee group comprised of one head referee, one referee, and assistant referees.
- Article 5** The referee is free to move about the interior and exterior of the ring to conduct his duties; the assistant referees must be positioned outside the ring parallel to each other near the ring's player entry points.
- Article 6** The referee shall direct the progression of math events and declare judgment on match results.
- Article 7**
- A. The assistant referees will support the referee in conducting his duties and deliver an opinion on the results of a match when requested by the referee.
 - B. The referee may defer to the opinions of the assistant referees when he has difficulty in judging a match.
 - C. The head referee or assistant referees may appeal a referee's decision by raising one of their arms.
- Article 8** All referees must wear the appropriate uniform when refereeing.
- Article 9** After a round or match ends the referee must promptly return to the starting position, blow his whistle, and announce his decision; the referee must declare his decision by raising the arm which corresponds to the ring's entry point of the winning player.
- Article 10** If a round ends in a draw the referee will signal this by crossing his forearms perpendicular to each other in front of his chest in the shape

of the letter X.

- Article 11** Players lose a round if one of their knees or any part of their body above the knee touches the ground.
- Article 12** The referee may discipline players if they leave the ring without permission.
- Article 13** The referee may discipline players who initiate play before receiving the signal to do so.
- Article 14** If referees need to confer with their head referee or assistant referees, they must do so at the center of the ring.
- Article 15** The referee shall precede the match by making both players grasp the thigh band at the center of match ground.
- Article 16** The committee of referee is composed of a few persons.
- Article 17** The referee is responsible for conducting the order of events in a match as follows.
- 1) Players entering the ring (whistle blow).
 - 2) Players greeting each other (whistle blow).
 - 3) Players kneeling down (whistle blow).
 - 4) Players grasping their opponent' s satba at the right leg (verbal signal).
 - 5) Players grasping their opponent' s satba at the waist (no signal).
 - 6) Players beginning to rise by standing on their left leg (verbal signal).
 - 7) Players finishing to rise by standing on their right leg (no signal).
 - 8) Players preparing to begin play (verbal signal).
- A. The referee must ensure that the players' shoulders are level and in contact.
- B. The referee must ensure that the players' left legs are forward and their right legs withdraw back.
- C. The referee must ensure that the players' arms are relaxed.
- 9) Players begin play (whistle blow)

- 10) Players may step off of the ring after a round concludes, but they must not leave the competition space without the referee's permission.
- 11) Players finishing play (long whistle blow).
- 12) The referee must signal if a round is invalid or must be reset (two short whistle blows).
- 13) The referee must warn players when they are not following instructions (verbal signal).

☉ The referee may discipline players according to the degree of their error. Examples are as follows.

- A. Players drawing their right leg back before the signal to begin play.
- B. Players changing their grip on their opponent's satba after the referee have approved it.
- C. Players overextending their reach on their opponent's satba while setting their grip.
- D. Players speaking in the ring.
- E. Players grasping their opponent's satba around the leg with their right hand.
- F. When the player grasp the thigh band again after once it is grasped.
- G. Players appealing to the assistant referee to challenge the referee's judgment.
- H. Players beginning play before receiving the signal to start.
- I. Players stepping out of bounds during play.
- J. When the player withdraws back the right leg during the standing of both players with grasping the thigh band.

【 One Defeat 】 The referee may penalize players with an automatic loss if they engage in the following.

- A. Players deliberately taking their opponent outside the ring.
- B. Players leaving the ring after releasing their opponent's satba without being toppled.
- C. Players deliberately lifting and carrying their opponent to the edge of the ring.

3. Referees' Obligations

1. All referees must be neat and clean clothing and shall be polite to staff, directors,

players, and audience members.

2. All referees must enact their judgments with a serious mind and unbiased precision in order to avoid dishonoring their profession and damaging the trust place in them by the coaches, players, and audience.

3. All referees must be well rested before each competition and abstain from drinking the evening before or engaging in any behavior that would impair their ability to conduct their duties or reflect unbecomingly on their station.

4. All referees must maintain a dignified mindset and polite demeanor even when outside of a competition.

5. All referees must enact judgments during a competition that are precise, prompt, and fair according to the guidelines set forth by the WSF.

6. All referees must maintain the trust and respect of the persons around them by being a role model in their speech and actions.

7. All referees must have a full and precise understanding of the competition guidelines set forth by the WSF in order to conduct their duties effectively.

8. All referees must be qualified through practical experience, an unwavering commitment to fairness, and the confidence to enact proper decisions.

9. Assistant referees will ensure that players are prepared for competition by verifying the arrangement and placement of their satbas just prior to entering the ring.

4. Referee Qualifications and Grades

1. (Purpose) It is purposed to make the referee have the self-conceit and esteemed mind as a referee with taking the responsibility of reasonable match management and the development of pleasant order in match ground and matching ability and to grade the levels of referee.

2. (Qualification) The details of regulation shall be provided afterwards.