



Junior competitions and the new IJF contest rules

The JVI Committee, Referees Committee and Tournament Committee have been concerned by the IJF contest rules regarding golden score on the impact on junior competitors.

Many junior contests have been going far too long and so stressing out the competitors. This does not provide a good and fun experience.

This will be further impacted by the new IJF rules to be implemented on the 1st of January 2018. The rules state that only a score or hansoku-make (usually three shido) can decide the winner and hence stop the contest.

The junior age group competitors often do not have sufficient skill, or sufficient strength, to score. As well, they appear to continually attack but without effect, so the referees are not willing to penalize for 'non combativity'. As a consequence, golden score continues until one of the competitors becomes stressed.

To overcome this, the JVI Committee has decided that golden score time for Under 9 years, Junior Boys and Girls and Senior Boys and Girls age groups will count down instead of counting up.

The match clock will be set to count down for these times:

Under 9's	1 minute
Junior Boys and Girls	2 minutes
Senior Boys and Girls	3 minutes

If no decision has been made at the end of the count down time, the referees will decide the winner based on almost a score (kinsa) and attacks (break of balance).

These concerns also apply to National and State open competitions and so the JVI will request the JFA to implement this initiative for those competitions.