

Rules Addendum - 'A' Novice divisions

A guidelines for athletes, coaches and parents.



Novice at Unity is NOT solely based on belt rank or time served, please read these guidelines and use your judgement and integrity as to whether you/your student is a genuine novice before booking your divisions for the event.

The point of the Novice divisions is to allow new competitors with a **lower level of ability** to compete against other athletes of a **similar ability** without feeling overwhelmed by the more experienced athletes with higher ability levels. We want to give these newer competitors the chance to shine in their own right and to feel like they had a fair chance.

These divisions are intended for competitors with **less than 18 months competition experience** and a more basic ability level. **The key phrase here is 'basic ability level'** for example a competitor who has been tricking for sometime but has never competed at a sport martial arts tournament is NOT a novice in the eyes of Unity as his/her general ability level is too high, likewise someone who has been competing regularly in Open Hand divisions and has just taken up a weapon would not be seen as a novice as overall the ability and experience level would be too high. Typically a novice competitor would be a low to mid belt grade (but may be a higher belt if they have never competed before).

Whilst it is virtually impossible to come up with a definitive list of what constitutes a high level ability move, in general, we would not expect to see complex tricking moves and passes, complex kick sequences or complex weapons tricks in Novice divisions. It really does come down to judgement and integrity of the coach & parents, would you feel comfortable watching alongside other parents/coaches that your athlete genuinely belonged in the Novice division?

Therefore, **a competitor who has a higher level of ability and wants to use more complex moves should register in the 'AA' divisions REGARDLESS of time served at competition or belt rank.** The organisers and judges reserve the right to disqualify or move up to the 'AA' divisions (providing the appropriate division has not yet run) any competitor they deem to be not of novice standard.

Please remember that athletes who win an 'A' division DO NOT advance to the Run Offs or Grand Championships. For detailed and quick reference rules see our website before you book . . .

WWW.UNITYWORLDGAMES.COM or CALL +44 (0) 1480 532400