

### Special Notice

The contents of this rulebook are translated from the Japanese version of Bushiroad TCG Advanced Floor Rules ver. 1.02.

To ensure that the integrity of the floor rules are the same for the games across different languages, the following notices are to be followed.

- Should there be any conflict between the rules stated in English and Japanese, the rules within the Japanese version takes precedence.
- Should there be any conflict between the rules stated in different versions, the latest version of the rules will take precedence.
- These rules include additional sections and additions to existing sections that are exclusive to the English edition. Additional sections will be in a text box, while additions to existing sections will be in [blue text](#).
- Some portions of the Japanese version of the Bushiroad TCG Advanced Floor Rules are omitted to focus only on the rules that pertain to the games with English editions.

### □ Range of Application

These rules apply to every official tournament held or sanctioned by Bushiroad. These rules apply to the following trading card games (TCGs).

「Future Card Buddyfight」

「Cardfight!! Vanguard」

「Weiss Schwarz」

「**Luck & Logic**」

Although the contents of these rules can be used as the guidelines for handling our tournaments, the handling of situations need not necessarily be bound by these text. When handling different situations, the most important response is to be flexible and provide the most appropriate settlement. Also, when handling tournaments with specific requirements and guidelines, the settlement of situations should place those requirements and guidelines as priority.

### □ Regarding different terminologies used in respective TCGs

The term “Player” in Weiss Schwarz is referred to as the “Fighter” in these rules.

As a standard, all similar terminology to describe the above are all referred to as the “Fighter” in these rules as well.

### □ Overview

Floor rules are the rules that maintain the fairness of our tournaments. All participants need to follow the floor rules in order for tournaments to be run fairly and smoothly so that all participants can enjoy themselves.

Anyone who interferes with the fairness of our tournaments will be penalized according to the penalty guidelines written in these rules and Bushiroad may take further action if necessary.

## Rules

### Section 1. Responsibility of Participants

#### 1.1. Manner

Any behavior lacking in dignity may be penalized.

##### 1.1.1. Manner for all participants

In this section, all people attending our tournaments, such as fighters, audience, press, judges, organizers and staffs are called participants.

Rules in this section apply to all people in our tournaments, including people not actually participating in the tournaments, such as the press or audience. The organizer can decide to apply any penalty, such as ejection from the venue, to anyone with extremely bad behavior.

All participants are to behave with common sense in the tournament area, venue and areas surrounding the venue.

All participants are to make an effort to keep the tournaments fair. They also have to make an effort to keep the tournaments enjoyable for everyone.

Especially in highly competitive tournaments, all participants must understand and follow the rules and guidelines to the fullest of their capabilities presented by Bushiroad.

#### 1.2. Responsibility and Rights of Fighters

All participants playing in our tournaments are called fighters. In this section, we define the responsibility and rights of fighters.

##### 1.2.1. Responsibility of Fighters

###### \* Understand the rules and mannerisms

All fighters must know the basic rules of the game they are playing and display basic manners during the tournament. Especially in highly competitive tournaments, they are also responsible for understanding the latest comprehensive rules, floor rules, errata on cards and guidelines. All fighters must also follow any rulings and instructions given by the organizer, staffs, head judge and judges.

###### \* Strive for fair play

All fighters must cooperate with officials in order for the tournament to progress fairly and smoothly.

All fighters are also have to display good sportsmanship and be respectful towards their opponents.

###### \* To not commit foul play

Fighters must not commit any kind of foul play, any action that may be suspected as a foul play and any behavior that lacks sportsmanship. When a fighter commits any kind of foul play, hinders the progress of a tournament or behaves in a way that harms the quality and reliability of a tournament, the organizer or judges may apply penalties, such as disqualification or ejection from the venue.

When any kind of infraction occurs, judges may apply penalties to the fighters. Fighters must follow the judges' instructions. Fighters who argue against or do not follow the instructions may be penalized by the organizer or staffs. Fighters cannot ask judges to decline the penalties given to their opponents. However, if it is not the final ruling, fighters can appeal to the head judge.

Fighters should not attempt to lead his or her opponent to be penalized. Penalties should only be given as a result of infractions, so any deliberate action to get his or her opponent penalized will be regarded as unsportsmanlike conduct or deemed as foul play.

###### \* Prepare the deck and materials

Fighters are to bring their own materials needed to attend the tournament. For example, in constructed format tournaments, fighters are required to have his or her own legally constructed deck, and in a tournament that requires writing a score sheet, fighters are required to have a pen.

Fighters are to keep his or her deck legal during the tournament. Fighters are to ensure that the number of cards in their deck, and the condition of the cards and sleeves are legal.

###### \* Be effective in communicating

Fighters are to take his or her seat at the beginning of each match. Being late for a match may result in a penalty. Any fighter who does not show up at the table until the end of a match is considered to have forfeited the tournament.

Fighters must declare all actions clearly to his or her opponent, as well as to communicate and understand the actions of their opponents. When a fighter moves any card, he or she needs to move

them one by one, showing it clearly to his or her opponents. In particular, during the drawing of multiple cards, infractions due to drawing too many cards may occur when multiple cards are added to the hand at the same time, and thus not recommended.

If a fighter needs to leave the table during a match, he or she is to ask his or her opponent and seek permission from a judge.

Any fighter who does not follow the rules in this section, or are banned from joining the tournament due to prior penalties, may be subjected to investigation by Bushiroad. As a result, that fighter may receive a penalty to have his or her results and / or prizes forfeited from the tournament, and/or be suspended from participating in future tournaments as a fighter.

### **1.2.2. Rights of Fighters**

All fighters have the right to call for a judge in order to ask any questions that arise during a game. Only fighters playing the game can ask judges to judge their match. However, if any kind of rule infraction occurs during a game, the audience can also call for a judge. In this case, the audience cannot stop the game. Fighters do not have the right to ask particular judges to spectate their game.

All fighters have the right to appeal to the head judge if he or she has any uncertainty with the ruling by other judges. However, in a tournament with multiple judges, fighters cannot ask the head judge directly for rulings without having been ruled by any other judges.

Ruling done by the head judge is the final ruling, and fighters cannot appeal against it. Fighters can appeal to Bushiroad after the tournament if they are not convinced by the ruling of the head judge. However, the results of the tournament will not be altered.

Judges can give extra time or turns to the game if they take more than one minute to make the ruling. In this case, the judge must take note and inform the players how much extra time or turns they gave and indicate on the players' score sheets.

### **1.2.3. Eligibility of Fighters**

Anyone who does not meet any of the criteria below is eligible to participate in tournaments as a fighter:

- \* Organizer of the tournament
- \* Staffs of the tournament
- \* Head judge of the tournament
- \* Judges of the tournament
- \* Any fighters banned from the tournament by Bushiroad
- \* Any fighters who do not possess qualifications required to participate in the tournament
- \* Any fighter asked not to participate by any other guidelines from Bushiroad.
  - ex. Fighters cannot participate in a tournament without an invitation if it is an invitational event for winners of qualifying events.
  - ex. Male fighters cannot participate in a tournament for female fighters only.
  - ex. A fighter already qualified for an event might be banned from future qualifiers for the same event.

All people who meet the criteria below, unless otherwise authorized by Bushiroad, cannot participate in any level 2 or 3 tournament.

- \* Employee of Bushiroad.
- \* Designer or developer of any of the cards used in the tournament, or former designer or developer that had been working in that post within the last year.
- \* Anyone who knows the information of cards one month prior to its release.

Anyone who knows non-public information of cards before its release, but do not know one month prior, and also players who are barred from tournaments by Bushiroad cannot attend any level 2 or 3 tournaments using those cards until two weeks have passed from the day of its release.

However, Bushiroad has the right to allow individual fighters to participate in any specific level 2 or 3 tournament they would have otherwise not been eligible to participate.

## **1.3. Responsibilities and Rights of Officials**

All organizers, staffs and judges are officials. In this section, we define the responsibilities and rights of the officials.

### **1.3.1. Organizers**

Organizers have the responsibility to manage the tournament. Organizers do not need to be certified judges, but must make efforts to progress the tournament smoothly.

All tournaments must have one organizer.

Organizers have the full responsibility to run and report the tournament, and at the same time have the highest authority with regards to the tournaments that he or she organizes. Organizers have the right to publish images of the tournament and information of decks used by fighters during the tournament. However, they must pay full respect to any legal rights the participants have.

Staff, head judge and judges can concurrently be organizers.

#### \* Responsibilities of Organizers

To have a sanctioned tournament, organizers must prepare a venue to run the tournament, as well as any staff and equipment necessary to run it. Then, he or she must apply to Bushiroad in order to run the tournament.

After the tournament has been approved by Bushiroad, he or she must announce it to the public. In the announcement, he or she is required to show the venue, date, time, format and any other information that fighters should know.

During the tournament, organizers must make an effort to run the tournament fairly and smoothly, and be careful not to cause any trouble to anyone or anything around the venue. After the tournament, he or she must report the tournament details to Bushiroad in the specified format, and return any tournament kit if required.

#### **1.3.2. Staff**

Staff are people who manage the tournament, such as scorekeeper, timekeeper and paperwork staff. Staff do not need to be certified judges, but have to make efforts to keep the tournament moving smoothly.

All tournaments must have at least one staff. Staff are assigned by the organizer.

Organizer, head judge and judges can concurrently be staff.

#### **1.3.3. Judges**

Judges have the right to make rulings to fighters. All the rulings made by judges other than the head judge can be overruled by the head judge.

All tournaments must have at least one judge. Judges are assigned by the organizer.

Organizers and staff can concurrently be judges.

All judges other than the head judge do not need to be certified judges, but must have sufficient knowledge of the rules to give fair rulings.

All judges have to make an effort to cooperate with other officials and fighters to run the tournament fairly and smoothly. Additionally, all judges need to act as a good role model for all fighters. Judges should not perform any actions that may be seen as unfair.

All judges can step in during any games if they find any infractions or foul play by fighters. All judges also have the right to correct and give penalties to games with infractions of the comprehensive rules or the floor rules, regardless of who noticed the infractions.

All judges are expected to work actively to correct any kind of situation that may harm the fairness or integrity of the tournament. All judges must be fair to all fighters to make fair rulings, and must not tolerate any kind of foul play.

#### **1.3.4. Head Judge**

Head judges have the right to make the final ruling for all rules and cards in the tournament. Additionally, he or she is responsible for all the rulings made by the judges. Any ruling made by the head judge cannot be overruled in that tournament.

All tournaments must have one head judge. The head judge is designated by the organizer from among the judges. The head judge must be a certified judge or a judge authorized by Bushiroad.

Organizers and staff can concurrently be a head judge.

The head judge must act as a good role model for all fighters and judges.

If the head judge receives any appeal from fighters who have doubt about the rulings made by other judges, he or she has the right to overrule the previous ruling and make the final ruling in the tournament. If there are judges besides the head judge in the tournament, the head judge should not make the first ruling.

The head judge may give disqualifications to any fighter that may threaten a smooth and fair tournament, and may also eject those fighters from the venue after receiving permission from the

organizer. Additionally, he also has the right to eject any participants from the venue after receiving permission from the organizer.

The head judge must report to Bushiroad either directly or through the organizer if he or she had given any disqualification or ejection during a tournament.

### 1.3.5. Certification of Judges

Unless otherwise specified, in order to hold an official or sanctioned tournament, a judge certified by Bushiroad must be present.

[For more information about the judge certification, please refer to a separate document specifically for overseas judges.](#)

## Section 2. Cards and Shuffle

This section explains the rules for cards and shuffling.

### 2.1. Cards

#### 2.1.1 Legal Cards

In a tournament, all cards created by Bushiroad or parties recognized Bushiroad are legal for use in their respective TCG.

All fighters are required to use opaque sleeves so that cards cannot be distinguished from the back side or edges.

All sleeves must be the same and cannot be distinguishable from one another. Any kind of holograms or print on sleeves must not hide any information on cards that are needed to play the game.

[Fighters may only put cards in single or double sleeves.](#)

[With the authorization of the organizer or judge, translation slips may be included into sleeves for use with Japanese edition cards.](#)

[The text within these slips must reflect the correct information of the card, and not hamper the visibility of information that is not reflected on the slip.](#)

[The authenticity of the translations however, is the responsibility of the player and any infractions due to misuse or mistranslation of the text will not be excused. In that case, the judge will rule on what should be the correct text of the card.](#)

However, in the case that there are further specifications or guidelines for sleeves, please follow the contents of those guidelines.

If a fighter finds his or her opponent's sleeves to be in a condition that cards may be distinguishable from the backside or edges, he or she may ask a judge to check if those sleeves are legal to use in the tournament. If the judge finds the sleeves to be illegal, he or she will prohibit the fighter from using those sleeves.

All the information on the cards needed to play the game has to be legible to all fighters. If any writings, drawings, or misprints on the cards hide any information necessary to play the game, that

card cannot be used. If a fighter uses a card with misprint and abuses it to gain any kind of advantage, he or she will be penalized.

Cards are treated as having the most updated text. If any errata is announced by Bushiroad, it will always be applied. However, the head judge has the right to make the final ruling on the text of cards.

### **2.1.2. Position of cards**

Fighters must keep all cards in his or her hand above the table level.

ex. Fighters are not to move cards in his or her hand below the table level.

Cards that are not used for the tournament are not to be on the table.

### **2.1.3. Proxy Cards**

Only judges may make proxy cards. Generally, they can make them only when a card is extremely worn out, bent or torn as the result of ordinary use in the tournament, or, in a limited tournament, when a card from a pack is clearly distinguishable from other cards from the backside or edges.

When a judge makes a proxy card, the original card is kept somewhere near the table but outside the deck during the period of that match. When the proxy card comes into a public zone, it is exchanged with the appropriate original card. When the original card goes to a hidden zone, it is exchanged with the appropriate proxy card.

### **2.1.4 Orientation of cards**

Standing cards (cards that have not performed any action) must be put on the table in an upright position from the fighter's perspective. Resting cards (cards that complete an action) must be put at approximately 90 degrees from the standing position. Reversed cards must be put at approximately 180 degrees from the standing position.

## **2.2. Shuffle**

Decks must be shuffled to completely randomize the order of the cards. Fighters must show the process of shuffling to their opponent. A fighter must give his or her opponent a chance to either cut or shuffle his or her deck after he or she has shuffled it. Instead of asking his or her opponent to cut or shuffle his or her deck, a fighter may ask a

judge do so. The judge may decide whether this appeal is legitimate or not.

If a fighter thinks that the deck he or she has been asked to cut or shuffle is not sufficiently randomized, he or she may ask their opponent to re-shuffle the deck or call for a judge. The judge will decide if the deck is sufficiently randomized, and the head judge has the right to make a final ruling on this matter.

All shuffling and searching of cards from a deck should be done within an appropriate time. If a judge determines that the fighter is taking too long to perform the action, he or she may penalize the fighter.

However, in the case that there are further specifications or guidelines for shuffle, please follow the contents of those guidelines.

Generally, each fighter has about three minutes before each fight to prepare. Shuffling and changing of sleeves is to be done during this time. This includes the time to cut or shuffle their opponent's deck. The regulations for shuffling are applied during this preparation process as well.

If a fighter is chosen for a deck check, judges should give that fight extra preparatory time. The extra preparatory time should be the time taken for the deck check.

## **Section 3. Tournaments**

### **3.1. Category of Tournaments**

For tournaments, there are official tournaments and sanctioned tournaments. However, these rules do not necessarily apply only within the above tournaments.

#### **3.1.1. Official Tournaments**

These are the tournaments organized and ran by Bushiroad.

#### **3.1.2. Sanctioned Tournaments**

These are the tournaments held by shops or tournament organizers under the permission of Bushiroad.

#### **3.1.3. Tournament Level**

Each tournament has its level. The level of the tournament determines the severity of rulings by judges, and penalties given. During the latter half of the tournament, and matches between players with no losses, stricter penalties will generally be enforced.

Level 1: Unless there are any special reasons, all tournaments should be this level. Tournament organizers for this level should work to make the atmosphere a casual one instead of a competitive one. Also, there is a possibility of new players joining the tournament. Due to such, without being overly strict to these players, instruct the players repeatedly during infractions, and should primarily focus on the completion of the games. As such, the penalties are not as severe as other levels.

ex. All weekly shop tournaments should be level 1.

Level 2: All the qualifier tournaments for Level 3 events should be this level. Both competition and entertainment are held as the same regard. As it is a more competitive tournament than level 1, the rulings are stricter, should mistakes be made, penalties will definitely be given. In this level, as much as possible, focus on the completion of the game.

ex. Cardfight!! Vanguard Championship qualifiers should be level 2.

Level 3: Official tournaments with invitations should be this level. This is the most competitive,

and all penalties are given strictly.

ex. Cardfight!! Vanguard Championships should be level 3.

### **3.2. Running the Tournaments**

For tournaments, Bushiroad recommends the following tournament structures. However, the tournament structure can be a structure other than those stated below. In those cases, the rules and guidelines of those tournaments will have to be complied.

#### **3.2.1. Swiss Draw**

Fighters are paired randomly for the first match of the tournament. The second match and proceeding matches are paired according to the points of the fighters.

For each match, the winner gains 3 points, whereas a draw and loss will result in no points.

In each round, match up the fighters with equal points as much as possible. However, no two fighters should be matched up against each other twice in the same tournament.

When time is up for the game and a game is not finished, both fighters end in a draw. However, a method for determining the winner in the case of time being up for games can be announced before the tournament. [Annex A] provides a general guideline for such methods. If there are specific guidelines for the tournament, those guidelines take precedence.

##### **3.2.1.1. Recommended number of matching in Swiss Draw**

In a Swiss draw tournament, the recommended minimum number of rounds is decided by the number of fighters. For 2 - 4 fighters, a round robin format is recommended in place of Swiss Draw. The following are the recommended number of rounds.

5 - 8 fighters: 3 rounds  
9 - 16 fighters: 4 rounds  
17 - 32 fighters: 5 rounds  
33 - 64 fighters: 6 rounds  
65 - 128 fighters: 7 rounds  
129 - 256 fighters: 8 rounds  
257 - 512 fighters: 9 rounds  
513 - 1024 fighters: 10 rounds

The organizer may change the number of rounds as they deem appropriate. For example, the organizer may choose to play the tournament until there is only one undefeated fighter left, when the number of fighters left are less than a pre-determined number of winners, or, in order to give fighters with a loss a chance, the organizer may add one more round.

### 3.2.1.2. Determination of Standings during Swiss Draw

The standings are decided by the total number of points. If they are the same, it is decided by a tiebreaker in the following order of priority. However, in the case that there are further specifications or guidelines for determining the standings, please follow the contents of those guidelines.

#### 1. Comparison of Number of Over-time Games

In tournaments where a method is used to determine the winner when the time is up, a comparison will be made between fighters with the same score. The fighter with less number of matches played by a time up determination wins the tiebreaker.

#### 2. Opponent Match Win %

At the end of the tournament, calculate each fighter's match win % using the following formula (the fighter's point total) / (number of rounds × 3). Round down the results to two decimal places. If the result is lower than 0.33, it is calculated as 0.33.

For each fighter, add up each of his or her opponents' match win %, and divide by the number of those opponents. The result of this calculation is called the Opponent Match Win %. The fighter with a higher Opponent Match Win % wins the tiebreaker. If a fighter had any byes, exclude that round from the calculation.

#### 3. Head to Head

If two or more fighters have equal Opponent Match % but had played each other during any of the Swiss Draw rounds, the winner of that round wins the tiebreaker.

#### 4. Random Method or Playoff

If the standing still cannot be decided, then it is decided in one of the following ways:

#### a. Random Method

Use random methods such as a coin flip or dice roll to decide.

#### b. Playoff

Play an extra playoff round between those fighters. To decide the winner, it is recommended to use the method of Single Elimination (see below).

### Recommended Determination of Standings during Swiss Draw for Territories out of Japan

For Swiss Draw tournaments running in territories outside of Japan, the following order to determine standings are recommended.

1. Match wins
2. Opponent's Match Wins %
3. Opponent's Opponent's Match Wins %

To find out the Opponent's opponent's match win %, uses the same formula to calculate the opponent's match wins, but instead, calculate and add the % of all the opponent's opponent's win %.

### 3.2.2. Double Elimination

A format where only winners will not be eliminated. Fighters who lose two matches will be eliminated from the tournament, and the last fighter to be undefeated wins the tournament. In a tournament that requires a specific number of fighters to be chosen, fighters with all wins will battle until there is less than that number of players.

In the event of a tie, both players are considered to have lost the game. However, in the case that there are further specifications or guidelines for the tournament, please follow the contents of those specifications or guidelines.

#### 3.2.2.1. Double Elimination Matching

Randomly pair fighters in the first round. In later rounds, pair fighters with the same record as much as possible. However, no two fighters should be play against each other more than once in the same tournament. When a fighter loses two matches, he or she is eliminated from the tournament. When there is only one undefeated fighter left, he or she wins the tournament.



When time is up for a game and a game is not finished, both fighters end with a draw. However, a method for determining the winner in the case of time being up for games can be announced before the tournament. [Annex A] provides a general guideline for such methods. If there are specific guidelines for the tournament, those guidelines take precedence.

### 3.2.2.2. Determination of Standing during Double Elimination

If not specified, the standing of the fighters are determined by the number of wins of the fighters. The higher number of wins by the fighter, the higher the standing of the fighter. In the event of fighters having the same number of points, please conduct a tiebreaker by the same mean as the **Swiss Draw Tiebreaker**. However, for the “Opponent Match Win %” procedure, please follow the following procedure:

At the end of the tournament, calculate each fighter's match win % by  $(\text{the fighter's point total}) / (\text{number of effective rounds} \times 3)$ . Cut off the results to two decimal places. If the result is lower than 0.33, it is calculated as 0.33.

The number of effective rounds for the calculation is the lowest of the following:

- The number of rounds up to the point the fighter has two losses.
- If the fighter dropped out while he or she had one or no losses, take the number of rounds up to the point the fighter dropped out, and add one round (if he or she had one loss) or two rounds (if he or she had no losses).
- The total number of rounds in the tournament.

For each fighter, add up each of his or her opponents' match win %, and divide by the number of those opponents. The result of this calculation is called the Opponent Match Win %. The fighter with a higher Opponent Match Win % wins the tiebreaker. If a fighter had any byes, exclude that round from the calculation.

### Recommended Determination of Standings during Double Elimination for Territories out of Japan

For Double Elimination tournaments running in territories outside of Japan, the following order to determine standings are recommended.

1. Match wins
2. Opponent's Match Wins %
3. Opponent's Opponent's Match Wins %

To find out the Opponent's opponent's match win %, uses the same formula to calculate the opponent's match wins, but instead, calculate and add the % of all the opponent's opponent's win %.

### 3.2.3 Single Elimination

Only fighters who win their match get to advance to the next round, and the last fighter remaining in the tournament wins.

Should both fighters meet the losing condition at the same time, the non-turn fighter wins and the turn fighter is given a loss. However, in the case where there are further specifications or guidelines, please follow the contents of those guidelines.

When time is up for the game and the game is not finished, both fighters end in a draw. However, a method for determining the winner, in the case of time being up for games, can be announced before the tournament. [Annex A] provides a general guideline for such methods. If there are specific guidelines for the tournament, those guidelines take precedence.

### 3.3. Format

#### 3.3.1 Constructed

Each fighter brings his or her constructed deck to the tournament. In the case that there are further specifications or guidelines for the construction of the deck, please follow the contents of those guidelines.

Unless otherwise specified by the organizer, each fighter can only use one deck during the tournament. No fighter may change his or her deck between matches. Please see the comprehensive rules for rules on deck construction.

In some cases, organizers can choose legal sets or additional banned/restricted cards for the tournament. In this case, the organizer must announce it publicly before the tournament.

ex. In a trial deck constructed tournament, all decks may only have specified sets of cards from the appropriate trial decks.

Generally, all cards are legal in a constructed event from the day that the cards are released. However, cards that are sold or distributed early are still only legal from the official release date in that region. Promotional cards are legal from the day that they are distributed, but if it is a card that is included in a product, it is only legal from the official release date of that product in that region..

In a tournament spanning multiple days, a card is legal if it is legal on the first day of the tournament.

ex. If a tournament is held from Jan. 14th to 16th, cards published on Jan. 15th are not legal on any day of the tournament.

### Limited

This type of tournaments normally refer to draft tournaments or special tournaments with a different set of game rules. For the specifications or guidelines for the type of limited tournament, please refer to the rules for those tournaments. Section 4. Miscellaneous

#### 3.3.1.1. Registering the Deck

The organizer or head judge may request fighters to register their decks before the tournament begins. In a tournament that requires deck registration, fighters are to write the contents of their deck on a deck registration sheet and present it to the officials. When the official receives it, the registration is completed. After registration, fighters may not change their decks.

#### 3.3.1.2. Deck Check

The organizer and head judge may check any deck in the tournament to see if it is legal.

The deck check must be done in the presence of the judge and the owner of the deck.

## Section 4. Miscellaneous

### 4.1. Match and Set

A single game between both fighters is called a “Match”. Unless otherwise specified, games are determined by best-of-one. In a best-of-three format, each fight is called a “Set”. Bushiroad recommends best-of-one, but organizers may choose to use other formats. The rules stated below are in accordance to best-of-one format. There are formats that consists of multiple sets. In those cases, the rules and guidelines of that format will be complied.

#### Winner of Match

For best-of-three format, the fighter who wins more sets than his or her opponent wins the match. In a Swiss Draw tournament, if both fighters had won the same number of sets, the match ends in a draw.

In a single elimination tournament, if both fighters had won the same number of games, fighters will play an extra game to decide the winner.

### 4.2. Time

The following are the recommended time for each game:

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| 「Future Card Buddyfight」 | 20 minutes |
| 「Cardfight!! Vanguard」   | 20 minutes |
| 「Weiss Schwarz」          | 30 minutes |
| 「Luck & Logic」           | 30 minutes |

According to the organizer’s judgment, under acceptable ranges, the time can be set to a different time for a game, but this information must be announced clearly.

When time is up for the round and the match is not finished, the game ends with a draw.

If a judge had given the table extra time, the round ends when the time for the round and the extra time have elapsed.

For best-of-three matches, the time for a match includes the time for preparation in between sets.

### 4.3. Conceding

Fighters can concede the game or match at any time. If a fighter concedes, no matter how the game or match had progressed, he or she loses the game or match. If a fighter refuses to play a game or a match, he or she is considered to have conceded the game or match.

Any of the following actions are considered as foul play and will be penalized.

ex. To decide winning, losing, conceding, dropping out, or drawing by bribery or splitting of prizes.

ex. To decide who wins the game or match by a method other than by playing a game, such as a coin flip.

#### 4.4. Intentional Draw

Fighters may not choose to end a game or match in a draw even if both fighters agree and even if the game or match is yet to be concluded. As intentional draw is not allowed in the tournament, intentional drawing is considered an infraction.

#### 4.5. Drop

If a fighter wants to drop out from the tournament, the fighter needs to tell the scorekeeper before the next round pairings. If the tournament uses a score sheet or result slip, the fighter needs to indicate on it that he or she is dropping out.

If a fighter drops out after officials had made the next round pairings, that fighter is considered to have lost the match and been eliminated from the tournament after that round.

#### 4.6. Nickname

If the organizer allows it, fighters may use nicknames when registering his or her fighter name. However, using offensive words or words that lack morality may be penalized.

If the tournament does not allow nicknames, generally the player must use his real name.

#### 4.7. Extra Turns

The organizer may choose to use extra turns if they announce it before the tournament.

When time is up for the round and the game is not finished, the turn in progress is played until it finishes, then three extra turns in total are played. If

the game is not finished after the three extra turns, the result is decided with the following procedure for each card game:

"Future Card Buddyfight"

1. The fighter with less life loses the game.
2. If both fighters have the same amount of life, the game ends in a draw.

"Cardfight!! Vanguard"

1. The fighter with more damage loses the game.
2. If both fighters have the same number of damage, the game ends in a draw.

"Weiss Schwarz"

1. The fighter whose level is higher loses the game.
2. If both fighters are at the same level, the fighter with more cards in clock loses the game.
3. If both fighters have the same number of cards in clock, the game ends in a draw.

In addition to the extra turns, the organizer may also choose to set a time limit for fighters to play the extra turns if they announce it before the tournament (including time to finish the turn that was in progress when the round ended).

If the time limit is reached before the extra turns are finished, the game ends in a draw.

The following are the recommended extra turn time limit for each card game:

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| "Future Card Buddyfight" | 5 minutes  |
| "Cardfight!! Vanguard"   | 10 minutes |
| "Weiss Schwarz"          | 10 minutes |

##### 4.7.1. Extra Turns in Single Elimination

For a single elimination tournament, the organizer may choose to use the following rules for extra turns if they announce it before the tournament.

When time is up for the round and the game is not finished, the turn in progress is played until it finishes, then three extra turns in total are played. If the game is not finished after the three extra turns, the result is decided with the following procedure for each card game.

"Future Card Buddyfight"

1. The fighter with less life loses the game.
2. If both fighters have the same amount of life, two additional turns in total are played.
3. If the game is not finished by the end of the two additional turns, proceed to step 1.

"Cardfight!! Vanguard"

1. The fighter with more damage loses the game.

2. If both fighters have the same number of damage, two additional turns in total are played.
3. If the game is not finished by the end of the two additional turns, proceed to step 1.

"Weiss Schwarz"

1. The fighter whose level is higher loses the game.
2. If both fighters are at the same level, the fighter with more cards in clock loses the game.
3. If both fighters have the same number of cards in clock, two additional turns in total are played.
4. If the game is not finished by the end of the two additional turns, proceed to step 1.

#### **4.8. Tokens**

Fighters are allowed to use tokens to mark the change in power of units in Cardfight!! Vanguard games, and to mark the life points for use with official Future Card Buddyfight playmats.

Fighter must keep all the information on cards visible when using tokens on cards.

Fighters may not place tokens on their decks, and may not use tokens that the organizer determines to be too big.

Fighters may not use tokens for any other purpose.

## **Section 5. [Annex A] Protocol to Determine a Game During Time Up**

When an extra turn is given, an extra turn is given at the point when time is up, and it will conclude on the next turn's end phase (the current fighter's opponent's turn). This point of time is considered the moment the game ends. However, in the case that there are further specifications or guidelines, please follow the contents of those guidelines.

For territories outside of Japan, it is recommended to follow the rules in sections "4.7.Extra Turns" and "4.7.1.Extra Turns in Single Elimination" to determine a game during time up.

### **5.1. In a Game of 「Future Card Buddyfight」**

1. When time is up, even if effects or actions are in the middle of being resolved, play will stop at that point..
2. At this time, the fighter with less life loses the game. If both fighters have the same amount of life, continue play until the end of the current turn.
3. At the end of the current turn, the fighter with less life loses the game. If both fighters have the same amount of life, proceed to the next turn, and continue play until the end of that turn. Repeat step 3 until a winner is determined.

### **5.2. In a Game of 「Cardfight!! Vanguard」**

1. When time is up, even if effects or actions are in the middle of being resolved, play will stop at that point
2. At this time, the fighter with more cards in his or her damage zone loses the game. If both fighters have the same number of cards in their respective damage zones, continue play until the end of the current turn.
3. At the end of the current turn, the fighter with more cards in his or her damage zone loses the game. If both fighters have the same number of cards in their respective damage zones, proceed to the next turn, and continue play until the end of that turn. Repeat step 3 until a winner is determined.

### **5.3. In a Game of 「Weiss Schwarz」**

1. When time is up, even if effects or actions are in the middle of being resolved, play will stop

at that point

2. At this time, the fighter with the higher level than his or her opponent loses the game. If both fighters are of the same level, the fighter with more cards in his or her clock than his or her opponent loses the game. If both fighters are of the same level and have the same number of cards in their respective clock zone, continue the game
3. At the beginning of the next check timing, if the number of cards in the clock and level is the same, continue play until there is a change in number of cards in any player's clock or level. If not, go to 2.

### **5.4. In a Game of 「Luck & Logic」**

1. When time is up, even if effects or actions are in the middle of being resolved, play will stop at that point
2. At this time, the fighter with the less number of undestroyed gates loses the game. If both fighters have the same number of undestroyed gates, continue the game until the end of that turn.
3. At the end of that turn, the fighter with the less number of undestroyed gates loses the game. If both fighters have the same number of undestroyed gates, proceed to the next turn and continue until the end of that turn. Repeat step "3." until someone loses the game.

## Penalty Guide

Penalties are given to fighters in order to penalize fighters who intentionally commit a foul play, and to keep tournaments fair. At the same time, it serves to instruct fighters who unintentionally makes a mistake or breaks a rule, and help prevent them from making the same mistake again. Also, penalties can be given to audiences as well.

Should an infraction happen that is not in this guide, by paying attention to the situation and cross-referring other examples within this guide, judges may give appropriate penalties depending on the degree that the infraction would affect the running of the event, the completeness of the game, or the fairness of the tournament. For example, many minor acts of ungentlemanly behavior impede the running of the tournament. Using an incorrect deck resulting in a significant loss of integrity to the match. Last but not least, foul play constitutes to a complete loss of fairness in the tournament.

This guide serves as a reference for penalties to be given in “Level 1” and “Level 2 or above” tournaments. However, this guide only serves to be a standard, and the judge can give an appropriate penalty depending on the situation on the judge’s discretion.

## Section 1. Tournament and Enforcement Level

Each tournament has different enforcement levels. Generally, the higher the tournament level is, the stricter the penalties become. However, it is not intended to mean that foul play is accepted in lower level tournaments. Any kind of foul play should be strictly penalized regardless of tournament level.

### <Tournament Level 1>

In level 1 tournaments, the focus is more on creating a casual atmosphere rather than a competitive one. As fighters attending tournaments of this level might not know most of the comprehensive rules or floor rules, it is to be expected that players might commit infractions when resolving parts of an effect of a card, or do not know what must or must not be done in certain situations.

When the infraction is committed due to unfamiliarity with the rules, penalties are to be lightly given. However, it does not mean that judges may overlook any infractions. Judges need to educate the fighters about the rules, and give severe penalties to any kind of foul play.

Generally, it is recommended that all shop tournaments use this level.

### <Tournament Level 2>

Generally, this level is used for qualifiers of big official events. Fighters attending this tournaments are expected to know the game rules and floor rules well. Penalties in this level are given more strictly than in level 1. When a major infraction is committed, strict penalties may be given to the fighter.

### <Tournament Level 3>

This level is used in big official competitive tournaments. Fighters attending this events are expected to be very familiar with both the game rules and floor rules, and strict penalties may be given even to unintentional infractions.

## **Section 2. Rank of Penalties**

Penalties are divided into several ranks. Each penalty will be upgraded if the same fighter does the same infraction again within the same tournament. If a fighter receives a penalty of the same rank but for a different infraction, no upgrades will be made. Judges will decide whether those infractions are the same or not. For each penalty, they will generally only be valid during that tournament.

When judges give a fighter a penalty, judges must tell the fighter verbally what the infraction is and what the penalty is. Each penalty only lasts until end of the tournament. Also, when required, penalties will be recorded on the score sheet with the description of the penalty.

### **“Verbal Caution”**

A verbal caution, or caution for short, is a penalty for very minor infractions. If the player receives multiple cautions for the same infraction within the same tournament, it can be upgraded to a “warning” at the discretion of the judge.

Cautions should be recorded on the score sheet for repeated infractions and upgrades.

### **“Warning”**

A warning is a penalty for a bigger infraction than cautions, but not too severe. A warning is given to a fighter when he is an interference to the tournament, or has committed moderate infractions. If the player receives multiple warnings for the same infraction within the same tournament, it can be upgraded to a “loss of match” or “disqualification” at the discretion of the judge. Warnings are to be recorded in case of repeat infractions and upgrades.

### **“Loss of Match”**

If a loss of match is given during a game, the game ends immediately and the fighter loses the match. A loss of match is given to a fighter when he is a big interference to the tournament, or has committed severe infractions.

If it is given between matches, the penalty is applied to the next match. If the match was close to the end and that game ended in that fighter's loss, the judge may choose to apply the penalty to the next match.

When a judge gives a fighter a loss of match, he or she must report that to the head judge.

### **“Disqualification”**

A disqualification is given to a fighter who has committed a major foul play or unsportsmanlike conduct.

If a fighter is given this penalty, he is excluded from the tournament immediately and any match in progress will be ruled as the fighter’s loss. All prizes that he or she had already gotten from the tournament and his or her standing in the tournament can be revoked at the discretion of the event organizer or head judge.

Even if an infraction that will be penalized with a disqualification is found after the tournament by the official the penalty of disqualification can still be given by the official.

Normally, only head judges are able to give disqualifications. Should this penalty be given, the head judge must report the details to Bushiroad.

Additionally, the participant that has been given this penalty can be ejected from the venue by the decision of the event organizer or head judge after permission has been provided by the event organizer. Participants given the penalty must leave the venue immediately and may not return until the organizer gives permission.

In the case when a disqualification is given, the participant may be suspended from joining Bushiroad tournaments should the infraction be deemed malicious. This decision is made and determined by Bushiroad. A fighter suspended from joining Bushiroad tournaments can be banned for a determined but nonrestrictive period of time.

If actions judged by Bushiroad leading to a disqualification occurs outside of the tournament venue, Bushiroad reserves the right to penalize these fighters, including suspensions.

### Section 3. General Infractions

#### 3.1. Infraction Concerning the Deck

Infractions and penalties concerning the deck and deck registration is described in this section.

##### 3.1.1. Illegal Deck when Deck Registration is Not Required

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| = Default penalties = |               |
| Level 1               | Loss of Match |
| Level 2 and above     | Loss of Match |

ex. Number of cards in the deck is not correct.  
ex. Contents of the deck do not meet the requirement of the deck.

In the cases above, the deck is found to be illegal in the event when deck registration is not required. The fighter must fix the deck to make it legal. In addition, excess cards with the same names, or cards that do not meet the ruling criteria must be removed from the deck. In the case there are excess cards in the deck, remove cards until the deck is legal. In the case the deck is missing cards, fill the deck with cards until the deck is legal.

##### 3.1.2. Illegal Deck Registration with a Legal Deck

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| = Default penalties = |               |
| Level 1               | Warning       |
| Level 2 and above     | Loss of Match |

ex. Number of cards on the deck registration sheet is not correct.  
ex. The cards within the deck registration sheet does not meet the deck construction criteria.  
ex. Card names on the deck registration sheet are ambiguous and cannot be distinguished.

In the cases above, the deck registration sheet is illegal. If the deck registration sheet is illegal, the fighter must fix the sheet to make it the same as his or her actual deck. This must be done by the fighter under the observation of a judge.

If the registration sheet contains more than the limit allowed by the rules, remove cards that are not in the actual deck. If the registration sheet contains less cards than the minimum number allowed by the rules, add cards in the actual deck that are not on the sheet. In this case, the rewritten deck registration sheet must match the actual deck. If the card name is ambiguous, check the deck and the fighter must rewrite the sheet to make it

distinguishable.

##### 3.1.3. Illegal Deck with a Legal Deck Registration

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| = Default penalties = |               |
| Level 1               | Loss of Match |
| Level 2 and above     | Loss of Match |

If a deck does not match with the legal deck registration sheet, the deck is illegal. If the deck is illegal, the fighter must fix the deck to make it same as the deck registration sheet. This must be done by the fighter, under the observation of a judge.

If the fighter lost his or her cards and cannot replace them, the fighter is to add another card to that deck that can be legally used. In this case, the fighter must fix the deck registration sheet to match the new deck.

##### 3.1.4. Illegal Deck Registration with an Illegal Deck

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| = Default penalties = |               |
| Level 1               | Loss of Match |
| Level 2 and above     | Loss of Match |

In this case, it should be processed in the following manner. This must be done by the fighter, under the observation of a judge.

First, fix the deck registration sheet into a legal one. Remove excess cards of the same name or illegal cards from the sheet. Once the deck registration sheet is appropriate, adjust the contents of the deck according to the deck registration sheet. In the case that there are still excess cards in the sheet, remove cards from the sheet till appropriate. In the case that there are too little cards in the sheet, add cards that are legal to the deck into the sheet till appropriate. After doing so, match the deck registration sheet with the actual deck.

#### 3.2. Unintentional Illegal Game State

##### 3.2.1. Minor Infraction

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| = Default penalties = |                 |
| Level 1               | Caution         |
| Level 2 and above     | Caution~Warning |

ex. Entered the draw phase without standing his or her units.  
ex. Played characters with a higher level than his or her level and realized at the beginning of the attack phase.



If the infraction does not affect the current game, correct the infraction until it is a legal game state. If required, the judge must correct the game state legal with neutrality so that the fighter who has committed the infraction does not gain any advantage. If the game had advanced to the point that it cannot be corrected, it will fall under a moderate or major infraction.

### 3.2.2. Moderate Infraction

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Caution~Warning  
Level 2 and above        Warning

ex. Called units with a higher grade than his or her vanguard and realized at the beginning of his or her opponent's draw phase.

ex. Had received one more damage than he or she should have and realized at the beginning of his or her opponent's main phase.

As the infraction might affect the strategy of the game, the game situation cannot be reverted by simply reversing the steps. However, if the game state is illegal, make the game state legal by the judgment of the judge. If required, the judge must correct the game state legal with neutrality so that the fighter who has committed the infraction does not gain any advantage.

### 3.2.3. Major Infraction

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Loss of Match  
Level 2 and above        Loss of Match

ex. Mixed up the cards in his stock and his hand, and cannot tell which ones were in the hand.

If the infraction is too severe to fix the game, the fighter is penalized with a Loss of Match. However, in tournaments level 2 and below, if it is still possible to legalize the game state under the judgment of the judge, the game state can be legalized by the judge with the consent of the fighters, and the game can continue. In this case, the fighter who has committed the infraction will be given a warning instead.

### 3.3. Forgetting to Resolve Automatic Abilities

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Caution~Warning  
Level 2 and above        Warning

If any triggered automatic abilities were overlooked, by the judgment of the judge, resolve it in the next check timing. However, if the automatic ability has "may" in the effect, it is considered that the fighter chose not to resolve it, and there are no penalties given.

### 3.4. Penalty for Revealing/Moving Cards in Zones

#### 3.4.1. Failure to Reveal Cards

##### 3.4.1.1. In the Case When the Card can be Distinguished

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Caution~Warning  
Level 2 and above        Warning

ex. If a card chosen by "Search your deck for up to one 《Magic》, reveal it to your opponent, shuffle the rest of your deck, and put the chosen card on the top of your deck." is not revealed to the opponent and put on the top of his or her deck. The card on the top of his or her deck is a 《Magic》 card.

If a fighter moved a card that should have been revealed to a hidden zone without revealing it, and both fighter can tell which card it was, reveal the card. If the revealed card is a legal card, the penalty stated above is applied. If the revealed card is an illegal card, it is considered as a foul play and is penalized under a different category.

##### 3.4.1.2. In the Case When the Card cannot be Distinguished

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Loss of Match  
Level 2 and above        Loss of Match

ex. If a card chosen by "Search your deck for up to one 《Magic》 character, reveal it to your opponent, and put it into your hand. Shuffle your deck afterwards." is not revealed to the opponent and put into his or her hand. The opponent cannot tell which card is chosen.

If fighters cannot agree with which card it is that was not revealed, the game is in an irreversible situation. However, in tournaments level 2 and below, if it is still possible to legalize the game state under the judgment of the judge, the game state can be legalized by the judge with the consent of the fighters, and the game can continue. In this case, the fighter who has committed the infraction will be given a warning instead.

### 3.4.2. Failure to Discard Cards

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Caution~Warning  
Level 2 and above        Warning

ex. A fighter played an effect with “Draw up to two cards, choose a card from your hand and discard it.” and the player fails to discard a card, but realizes it at his or her end phase.

ex. A fighter has hand cards exceeding the maximum hand limit, and realizes it at his or her opponent’s turn’s draw phase.

If a fighter realized that he or she should have discarded a card, discard the appropriate number of cards.

If a fighter has any information at that time which should not have been known at the time when he or she should have discarded, choose the cards to discard randomly or by a similar manner, with the judge making sure that the player who committed the infraction does not take advantage.

When a failure to move cards from zones other than the hand occurs, this ruling can be used as a base to resolve the penalty.

### 3.4.3. Looking at Extra Cards

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Caution~Warning  
Level 2 and above        Warning

ex. Flipped over the next card in the deck when drawing a card.

ex. Dropped some cards while shuffling his or her opponent's deck.

If any cards in a zone which are not intended to be public are revealed, the fighter that revealed the cards has looked at extra cards. The act of a fighter intentionally revealing cards from his or her hand, and the seeing of an opponent’s hand from such an act, are not penalized. However, as it is an action that reduces the fun factor of the game, it is not recommended.

Even if a fighter looked at several cards at the same time, it is still penalized as one infraction.

If cards in a hidden zone are revealed, the judge will first determine what cards that are not revealed within the hidden zone. Shuffle all the cards in that zone except for the card that should not have its position randomized. This action needs to be done

by a judge.

### 3.4.4. Drawing Extra Cards

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Loss of Match  
Level 2 and above        Loss of Match

If any cards move from a fighter’s deck and touches a card in his or her hand, the card is considered to be drawn. However, in tournaments level 2 and below, if it is still possible to legalize the game state under the judgment of the judge, the game state can be legalized by the judge with the consent of the fighters, and the game can continue. In this case, the fighter who has committed the infraction will be given a warning instead.

Put the extra card on top of the fighter’s deck. Shuffle all the cards in that zone except for the card that should not have their position randomized. This action needs to be done by a judge.

If both fighters cannot agree with which card was the extra card, and if the judge determines that it is unintentional, he or she can let the game continue. In this case, choose the cards in his or her hand randomly equal to the number of cards that were drawn and put it to the top of the player’s deck or by a similar manner, with the judge making sure that the player who committed the infraction does not take advantage.

### 3.5. Overlooking Infractions by Accident

#### 3.5.1. The Infraction Originates from the Opponent’s Cards

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Caution  
Level 2 and above        Caution~Warning

#### 3.5.2. The Infraction Originates from the Fighter’s Own Cards

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Caution~Warning  
Level 2 and above        Warning

Fighters have the responsibility to play the game in an appropriate manner. It goes without saying that the player should play his or her cards appropriately, but also cooperate and pay attention to his or her opponent to avoid any infractions.

This penalty is given to a fighter to prevent fighters from getting an advantage by overlooking

infractions. If a fighter overlooked an infraction intentionally to gain an advantage, that is seen as foul play and falls under a different section.

### 3.6. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Unsportsmanlike conduct are not only penalized based on actions that deviate from expected behavior, but also through the accumulation of penalties from the judgment of the judge.

#### 3.6.1. Minor and Moderate Unsportsmanlike Conduct

= Default penalties =

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Level 1           | Caution~Warning       |
| Level 2 and above | Warning~Loss of Match |

- ex. Left garbage on the table.
- ex. Made noise outside of the venue and annoyed people in another event.
- ex. Behaved rudely towards other participants.
- ex. Used an offensive nickname in a tournament allowed to use nicknames.
- ex. Requested a judge to give his or her opponent penalties.

All participants have responsibilities to keep the tournament enjoyable and fair. For that reason, these kinds of behaviors must not be allowed. Judges can upgrade repeated unsportsmanlike conduct penalties, even if those penalties are not for the same actions.

#### 3.6.2. Major Unsportsmanlike Conduct

= Default penalties =

|                   |                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Level 1           | Loss of Match                      |
| Level 2 and above | Loss of Match<br>~Disqualification |

- ex. Ignored instructions by officials.
- ex. Ignored rulings by judges.
- ex. Argued against the ruling from the head judge.
- ex. After losing the match, slammed his or her hands on the table and kicked the chair.

Participants need to follow all instructions by officials. This penalty is given to the participants who ignored instructions that were given to him or her individually, but not for failure to follow instructions made in general. Some offensive statements and violent behaviors would fall under this section.

### 3.6.3. Severe Unsportsmanlike Conduct

= Default penalties =

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Level 1           | Disqualification |
| Level 2 and above | Disqualification |

- ex. Grabbed his or her opponent's collar to intimidate.
- ex. Stole tournament equipment.
- ex. Stole other participants' belongings.
- ex. Betted on the result of a match.
- ex. Randomly decided the result of a match.
- ex. Offered his or her opponent a share of his prize to lose on purpose.
- ex. Agreeing to a proposed bribery.

Any behavior that may break public law or any form of bribery that denounces the fairness of how the tournament will be run fall under this section.

### 3.7. Tardiness and Failure to Play the Proper Match

#### 3.7.1. Tardiness

= Default penalties =

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Level 1           | Caution~Warning       |
| Level 2 and above | Warning~Loss of Match |

- ex. Could not hand in the deck registration sheet in time.
- ex. Could not come to the table at the beginning of the round.
- ex. Failure to hand in the result slip even after a long period of time had passed since the match ended.

A fighter who cannot act on time is penalized. However, this penalty should not be given to a fighter if the round had started earlier than scheduled. In that case, judges should give the fighters extra time to show up in a match.

However, if the fighter comes to the match within 3 minutes from the start of the round in a best-of-one match, the penalty can be downgraded.

#### 3.7.2 Severe Tardiness

= Default penalties =

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Level 1           | Loss of Match |
| Level 2 and above | Loss of Match |

- ex. A fighter did not show up at the table after 5 minutes from the beginning of the round

In the case of a severe tardiness, the fighter is considered to have lost the match. After that, if his score sheet is not submitted to the score keeper or any staff, then, the fighter is automatically dropped from the tournament.

### 3.7.3. Failure to Play the Proper Match

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Caution~Warning  
Level 2 and above      Warning

If a fighter comes to the wrong table and started the match, both fighters at that table will be penalized.

Then, the fighter playing at the wrong table must move to the correct table. However, if the time lapsed is longer than the determined time of severe tardiness, the penalty for severe tardiness will be given.

### 3.8. Marked Cards

#### 3.8.1. Random Marking of Cards

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Caution~Warning  
Level 2 and above      Warning

ex. Some sleeves have scratches, but it is not possible to distinguish the cards.

If there are any marks on sleeves or there are bends on cards but does not give any big advantage to a fighter, it would fall under this section. The fighter must change his or her cards or sleeves to ones without marks.

#### 3.8.1. Patterned Marking of Cards

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Warning~Loss of Match  
Level 2 and above      Loss of Match

ex. All the sleeves on trigger units have bent corners and are distinguishable.

ex. All climax card are upside down in the deck.

If any marks on sleeves or bent cards make them distinguishable and it is determined by the judge that it gives a big advantage to the fighter, it will fall under this section. However, this is for cases where it is determined to be unintentional. If a fighter does this intentionally, it is a foul play and would fall under a different section. The fighter must change his or her cards or sleeves into ones

without marks.

### 3.9. Miscellaneous

#### 3.9.1 Improper Shuffle

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Warning~Loss of Match  
Level 2 and above      Loss of Match

Decks must be shuffled well and totally randomized before being presented to the opponent to shuffle or cut. Should the cards not be in a sufficiently unintended order, this infraction will fall under this. In the case that the fighter intentionally randomized his cards insufficiently, he will still be penalized, but according to the penalties of foul play.

If a card was to appear in the deck in a specific order or way, randomness is lost. If an action were to lead into this specific order before randomizing the deck, more time will be spent to ensure cards are randomized and wastage of time will occur, and is not recommended. If the judge feels that it constitutes to slow play, appropriate penalty will be given.

#### 3.9.2 Failure to Follow Public Announcements

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Warning  
Level 2 and above      Warning

ex. Ignoring the announcement to move further away from the fighters in a match, and stands close enough to bother the fighters in the match.

ex. A fighter is eating in a space where it is not allowed to.

ex. Did not sit in the specific seats even after being called out in an announcement.

Fighters have the responsibility to cooperate with officials so that the tournament progresses smoothly and fairly. Following announcements is needed to accomplish that.

#### 3.9.3 Improper Behavior that Interferes with Operation of the Tournament

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Warning  
Level 2 and above      Warning

ex. A fighter puts his or her bags on the back of his or her chair and blocks the aisle between tables.

Fighters have the responsibility to cooperate with officials so that the tournament progresses smoothly and fairly. Improper behavior goes against that policy.

### 3.9.4 Consumption of Food while Playing in Matches

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Warning  
Level 2 and above      Warning

Eating food during a match interferes with the smooth progression of the game.

### 3.9.5 Use of Electronic Devices in a Match

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Warning  
Level 2 and above      Warning

Using electronic device during a match can be suspected of cheating, and is not allowed.

### 3.9.6 Note-taking

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Warning  
Level 2 and above      Warning

Taking notes during a game slows the game down, and is not allowed.

[Tracking life points on a note pad for a Future Card Buddyfight game does not constitute to this offense.](#)

### 3.9.7 Infractions Related to Score Sheets

#### 3.9.7.1. Improper Results Written on a Score Sheet

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Caution~Warning  
Level 2 and above      Warning

Fighters are considered to be agreeing with the results on a result slip or score sheet when he or she presents it to officials. Generally, it cannot be fixed after it is presented. Improper result interfere with a smooth and fair tournament, and is penalized.

#### 3.9.7.2. Damaging a Score Sheet

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Caution~Warning

Level 2 and above      Warning

#### 3.9.7.3. Losing a Score Sheet

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Disqualification  
Level 2 and above      Disqualification

In a tournament that uses score sheets, the score sheets are vital to the smooth running of the tournament and the loss of the score sheet will result in penalties.

However, if the scores of the tournament can be recovered without impeding the speed and smoothness of the tournament, the event organizer or head judge can choose to re-issue a score sheet to the fighter. In that case, the fighter who has lost the sheet will be given a penalty of Warning~Loss of Match instead.

#### 3.9.8. Unintentional Slow Play

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Caution~Warning  
Level 2 and above      Warning~Loss of Match

ex. Checking the drop zone multiple times even when there are no changes in the situation.

ex. Took too much time to shuffle his or her deck.

ex. Left the table without noticing judges or officials.

All fighters are to play at a proper pace, in order to finish the game within the proper time. A fighter intentionally slowing the game down will fall under a different section.

#### 3.9.9. Excessive Hand Shuffling

= Default penalties =  
Level 1                      Caution~Warning  
Level 2 and above      Warning

Making too much noise when hand shuffling, and excessive hand shuffling, may be considered by the opponent to be intimidating behavior, and may be a nuisance to the surrounding fighters. Also, excessive hand shuffling may cause damage to cards, or make markings on the sleeves, and thus, should be avoided.

## Section 4. Foul Play

Any kind of foul play and cheating that harms the fairness of tournaments is not tolerated. This section explains the penalties given to fighters making intentional infractions to gain an advantage. When giving the penalty, it does not matter whether the fighter was aware that the action was a foul play.

### 4.1. Cheating

= Default penalties =

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Level 1           | Disqualification |
| Level 2 and above | Disqualification |

- ex. Falsified the score sheet.
- ex. Used pirated cards.
- ex. Using a fake name to enter a tournament as his or her right to enter a tournament was revoked.
- ex. Intentionally told the wrong number of cards in his or her hand to the opponent.
- ex. Realized an infraction by his or her opponent but did not call a judge, because it would give him or her an advantage.
- ex. Told incorrect information to officials to avoid his or her friend from getting penalized.
- ex. Played cards in an improper way to gain an advantage.

Any behavior to gain an advantage by handling/telling incorrect information falls under this section. Any participants may point it out to judges whenever he or she witnesses cheating.

### 4.2. Moving Cards Improperly

= Default penalties =

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Level 1           | Disqualification |
| Level 2 and above | Disqualification |

- ex. Intentionally perform an improper shuffle.
- ex. Put cards in his or her drop zone into his or her hand while the opponent was looking away.

Any actions to move cards improperly to gain an advantage fall under this section.

### 4.3. Intentional Slow Play

= Default penalties =

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Level 1           | Disqualification |
| Level 2 and above | Disqualification |

- ex. Pretended to think for a long time even though the situation does not require much evaluation.
- ex. Stalling for time by appealing against a penalty from slow play.

Any actions to waste time to gain an advantage on purpose fall under this section.

### 4.4. Asking for Outside Assistance

= Default penalties =

|                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Level 1           | Warning~Disqualification            |
| Level 2 and above | Loss of Match<br>~ Disqualification |

Matches should be played with the fighter's own skill and no other outside assistance should be provided. For any actions asking for or getting outside assistance, the penalty for the fighter will fall under this section.

### 4.5. Giving Outside Assistance

= Default penalties =

|                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Level 1           | Warning~Disqualification            |
| Level 2 and above | Loss of Match<br>~ Disqualification |

Matches should be played with the fighter's own skill and no other outside assistance should be provided. If any participant gives assistance to any fighter still in a match, the penalty for him or her it will fall under this section.

### 4.6. Others

With regards to other infractions, the judge may give any participant any reasonable penalty according to his or her judgment. The penalty given should be based on the penalties from similar examples stated above.