

WCA Regulations and Guidelines 2013

WCA Regulations Committee

December 31, 2012

1 World Cube Association: Competition Regulations 2013

1.1 Notes

1.1.1 WCA Guidelines

The WCA Regulations are supplemented by the . The Regulations should be considered a complete document, but the Guidelines contain additional clarifications and explanations.

1.1.2 Wording

To make the Regulations and Guidelines easier to read we use “he” where the reader should read “she or he”.

Uses of the words “must”, “must not”, “should”, “should not” and “may” match RFC 2119.

1.1.3 Information on the Internet

Website of World Cube Association: www.worldcubeassociation.org

Original source of the WCA regulations: www.worldcubeassociation.org/regulations

WCA regulations in PDF format.

1.1.4 Source

Development of the WCA Regulations and Guidelines is public on GitHub.

1.1.5 Contact

For questions and feedback, please contact the WCA Regulations Committee (WRC).

1.1.6 Translations

Translations of the 2013 Regulations are not available yet. Links to older versions can be found in the 2010 Regulations.

1.2 Article 1: Officials

- 1a) A competition must include a WCA Delegate and an organisation team (consisting of one or more individuals) with the following officials: judges, scramblers and score takers.
- 1b) The organisation team of a competition is responsible for logistics before, during, and after the competition.
- 1c) The WCA Delegate may delegate responsibilities to other members of the organisation team, but is ultimately accountable for how these responsibilities are carried out. The WCA Delegate for a competition is responsible for:
 - 1c1) Reporting to the WCA Board regarding adherence to WCA Regulations during the competition, the overall course of the competition, and any incidents. The report must be submitted to the WCA Board within one week of the competition date.
 - 1c3) Sending the competition results to the WCA Results Team.
 - 1c3a) All scramble sequences used during a competition must be sent with the results of the competition.
 - 1c3b) Scramble sequences must be labelled with the events, rounds, and groups for which they were used.
 - 1c4) Sending corrections to the competition results to the WCA Board.
 - 1c5) Advising the other officials where necessary.
 - 1c6) Approving all events and round formats of a competition, before the competition starts, and if changes are required during the competition.
 - 1c7) Decisions about disqualifying competitors during the competition.
 - 1c8) Providing the scramble sequences.
 - 1c9) Decisions about changes to the scheduled times of rounds. In cases of such changes, a clear announcement must be made to all competitors.
 - 1c10) Making a copy of the WCA Regulations available at the competition.
- 1e) Each event must have one or more judges.
- 1e1) A judge is responsible for executing the procedures of the event.
 - 1e1a) A judge may judge multiple competitors simultaneously at the discretion of the Delegate, as long as the judge is able to ensure that all WCA Regulations are followed at all times.
- 1e2) Capable competitors must be available for judging, if needed by organisation team. Penalty: disqualification from the competition.
- 1f) Each event must have one or more scramblers. Exception: Fewest Moves Solving.

- 1f1) A scrambler applies scramble sequences to prepare puzzles for attempts.
- 1f2) Capable competitors must be available for scrambling, if needed by organisation team. Penalty: disqualification from the competition.
- 1g) Each event must have one or more score takers.
- 1g1) A score taker is responsible for compiling results.
- 1g2) Any change to the result on a score sheet must be made at the discretion of the WCA Delegate.
- 1h) Competitors in the same round of an event may be divided into groups.
- 1h1) Scramblers and judges for a round should not scramble for/judge competitors in their own group before they have finished all of their attempts for the round. They may scramble for/judge competitors in their own group at the discretion of the WCA Delegate, but the organisation team must ensure that scramblers and judges cannot see any scrambles for their attempts that they have not attempted yet.
- 1j) All officials may compete in the competition.
- 1k) Officials may serve multiple roles (e.g. organisation team, WCA Delegate, judge, score taker, scrambler).

1.3 Article 2: Competitors

- 2a) Any person may compete in a WCA competition if he:
 - 2a1) Complies with WCA Regulations.
 - 2a2) Meets the competition requirements, which must be clearly announced before the competition.
 - 2a3) Is not suspended by WCA Board.
- 2b) Competitors below the age of 18 must obtain consent from their parent(s)/guardian(s) to register and compete.
- 2c) Competitors register by providing all information required by the organisation team (including: name, country, date of birth, gender, contact information, selected events).
 - 2c1) A competitor is not be eligible to compete without a completed registration, as determined by the organisation team.
- 2d) A competitor's name, country, gender, and competition results are considered public information. All other personal information is considered confidential, and must not be disclosed to outside organisations/persons without the consent of the competitor.
- 2e) Competitors must represent a country of which they hold citizenship. The WCA Delegate should verify citizenship standing by means of documents (e.g. a passport). If a competitor is found ineligible to represent the country under which they have registered, the competitor may be disqualified retroactively and/or suspended, at the discretion of the WCA Board.

- 2e1) The eligible countries are defined by the Wikipedia article “List of sovereign states” (“UN member states and observer states” and “Other states”).
- 2e2) Competitors with updates to their citizenship status may change their country of representation in their first competition of a calendar year.
- 2f) Competitors must obey venue rules and conduct themselves in a considerate manner.
- 2g) Competitors must remain quiet when inside the designated competition area. Talking is permitted, but must be kept at a reasonable level, and away from competitors who are actively competing.
- 2g3) Competitors in the Competitors Area must not communicate with each other about the scrambled states of the puzzles of the round in progress. Penalty: disqualification of the competitor from the event, at the discretion of the WCA Delegate.
- 2h) Competitors must be fully dressed while in the competition venue. At the discretion of the Delegate, competitors may be disqualified from the competition for inappropriate clothing.
- 2i) While competing, competitors must not use electronics or audio equipment (e.g. cell phones, MP3 players, dictaphones, additional lighting).
- 2i1) Competitors may use certain non-electronic aids that do not give the competitor an unfair advantage, at the discretion of the WCA Delegate. This includes:
 - 2i1a) Medical/physical aids worn by the competitor (etc. glasses, wrist brace, hearing aids).
 - 2i1b) Earplugs and earmuffs (but not electronic noise-cancelling headphones).
- 2j) The WCA Delegate may disqualify a competitor from a specific event.
- 2j1) If a competitor is disqualified from an event for any reason, he is not eligible for any more attempts in the event.
- 2j2) If a competitor is disqualified during the course of an event, his earlier results remains valid. Exception: cheating or defrauding (see).
- 2k) The WCA Delegate may disqualify a competitor from the competition (i.e. from all events of the competition) if the competitor:
 - 2k1) Fails to check in or register in time for the competition.
 - 2k2) Is suspected of cheating or defrauding the officials during the competition.
 - 2k2a) The WCA Delegate may disqualify any suspected results.
 - 2k3) Behaves in a way that is unlawful, violent or indecent; or intentionally damages venue facilities or personal property within the venue.
 - 2k4) Interferes with, or distracts others during, the competition.

- 2k5) Fails to abide by WCA Regulations during the competition.
- 2l) A competitor may be disqualified immediately, or after a warning, depending on the nature and severity of the infraction.
- 2l1) A disqualified competitor is not eligible for the refund of any expenses due to participating in the competition.
- 2n) Competitors may verbally dispute a ruling to the WCA Delegate.
- 2n1) Disputes are only permitted during the competition, within 30 minutes after the disputed incident happened and before the beginning of any following rounds of the relevant event.
- 2n2) The WCA Delegate must resolve the dispute before the beginning of the next round of the event.
- 2n3) The competitor must accept all final rulings of the WCA Delegate. Penalty: disqualification from the competition.
- 2s) Competitors with other disabilities that may prevent them from abiding by one or more WCA Regulations may request special accommodations from the WCA Delegate. Competitors requesting such accommodations should contact the organisation team and WCA Delegate at least two weeks before the competition.
- 2t) Each competitor must be familiar with and understand the WCA Regulations before the competition.

1.4 Article 3: **Puzzles**

- 3a) Competitors must provide their own puzzles for the competition.
- 3a1) Competitors must be present and ready to compete when they are called to compete for a round. Penalty: disqualification from the event.
- 3a2) Puzzles must be fully operational, such that normal scrambling is possible.
- 3a3) Polyhedral puzzles must use a colour scheme with one unique colour per face in the solved state. Each puzzle variation must have moves, states, and solutions functionally identical to the original puzzle.
- 3d) Puzzles must have coloured stickers, coloured tiles, or painted/printed colours.
- 3d1) Exception: Competitors with a medically documented visual disability may use textured puzzles with different textures on different faces. Textures/patterns must be uniform per face. Each face should have a distinct colour, to aid in scrambling and judging.
- 3d2) The colours of puzzles must be solid, with one uniform colour per face. Each colour on the puzzle must be clearly distinct from the other colours.
- 3d3) Stickers/tiles/textures/paint must not be thicker than 1.5 mm, or the generally available thickness for non-cube puzzles.

- 3h) Modifications that enhance the basic concept of a puzzle are not permitted. Modified versions of puzzles are permitted only if the modification does not make any additional information available to the competitor (e.g. identity of pieces), compared to an unmodified version of the same puzzle.
- 3h1) “Pillowed” puzzles are not permitted. Exception: Pillowed 7x7x7 cubes are permitted.
- 3h2) “Stickerless” cubes, and other cubes whose face colours are visible inside the cube, are not permitted.
- 3h3) Any modifications to a puzzle that result in poor performance by a competitor are not grounds for additional attempts.
- 3j) Puzzles must be clean, and must not have any markings, elevated pieces, damage, or other differences that distinguish any piece from a similar piece.
- 3j1) Puzzles are permitted to have reasonable wear, at the discretion of the WCA Delegate.
- 3k) Puzzles must be approved by the WCA Delegate before use in the competition.
- 3l) A cube puzzle may have a logo, but it must have at most one logo. For the Rubik’s Cube or bigger cube puzzles the logo must be placed on one of the centre pieces.
- 3l1) Colourless engravings (max. 1 per face) are not considered logos.
- 3m) All brands of puzzles and puzzle parts are permitted, as long as the puzzles comply with all WCA Regulations.

1.5 Article 4: Scrambling

- 4a) A scrambler applies scramble sequences to the puzzles.
- 4b) Puzzles must be scrambled using computer-generated random scramble sequences.
- 4b1) Generated scramble sequences must not be inspected before the competition, and must not be filtered or selected in any way by the WCA Delegate.
- 4b2) Scramble sequences for a round must be available only to the WCA Delegate and the scramblers for the event, until the end of the round. Exception: For Fewest Moves Solving, competitors receive scrambling sequences during the round (see).
- 4d) Scrambling orientation:
 - 4d1) Cube puzzles and Megaminx are scrambled with the white face (if not possible, then the lightest face) on top and the green face (if not possible, then the darkest adjacent face) on the front.
 - 4d2) Pyraminx are scrambled with the yellow face (if not possible, then the lightest face) on bottom and the green face (if not possible, then the darkest adjacent face) on the front.
 - 4d3) Square-1 are scrambled with the darker colour on front (out of the 2 possible scrambling orientations).

- 4f) Competition scramble sequences must be generated using the current official version of the official WCA scramble program (available via the WCA website).
- 4g) After scrambling a puzzle, the scrambler must verify that he has scrambled the puzzle correctly. If the puzzle state is wrong, he must correct it (e.g. by solving the puzzle and applying the scramble sequence again).
- 4g1) Exception: For the 6x6x6 Cube and the 7x7x7 Cube, it is not necessary to correct the scramble, at the discretion of the WCA Delegate.

1.6 Article 5: Puzzle Defects

- 5a) Examples of puzzle defects include: popped pieces, pieces twisted in place, and detached screws/caps/stickers.
- 5b) If a puzzle defect occurs during an attempt, the competitor may choose to either repair the defect and continue the attempt, or to stop the attempt.
- 5b1) If a competitor chooses to repair the puzzle, he must repair only the defective pieces. Tools and/or pieces of other puzzles must not be used to repair the original puzzle. Penalty: disqualification of the attempt (DNF).
- 5b2) Any repair to a puzzle must not give the competitor any advantage in solving the puzzle. Penalty: disqualification of the attempt (DNF).
- 5b3) Permitted repairs:
 - 5b3a) If any pieces have fallen out or moved out of place, the competitor may place them back.
 - 5b3b) If, after repairing the puzzle but before the end of the attempt, the competitor finds that the puzzle is unsolvable, he may disassemble and reassemble a maximum of 4 pieces to make the puzzle solvable.
 - 5b3c) If the puzzle is unsolvable, and can be made solvable by rotating a single corner piece, the competitor may correct the corner piece by twisting it in place without disassembling the puzzle.
- 5b4) During blindfolded events, a puzzle defect must be repaired during the attempt, and all repairs must be performed blindfolded. Penalty: disqualification of the attempt (DNF).
- 5b5) If parts of the puzzle are still defective or not fully placed at the end of the attempt, the result is recorded as the worst state obtainable by repairing the puzzle (see).
- 5c) If a competitor has a puzzle defect, this does not give him the right to an extra attempt.

1.7 Article 7: Environment

- 7b) Spectators must remain at least 1.5 metres away from the solving stations when they are in use.
- 7c) Lighting of the competition area must be given special attention. Lighting should be neutral, such that competitors can easily differentiate among the colours on the puzzles.
- 7e) The competition area must be smoke-free.
- 7f) Solving station:
 - 7f1) Definitions:
 - 7f1a) Stackmat: The Speedstacks Stackmat timer and a full-size compatible mat.
 - 7f1b) Mat: The mat of the Stackmat.
 - 7f1c) Timer: The timer of the Stackmat.
 - 7f1d) Surface: The flat surface on which the Stackmat has been placed. The mat is considered a part of the surface. The timer is not considered a part of the surface.
 - 7f2) The timer must be attached to the mat and placed on the surface, with the timer on the side of the mat nearest to the competitor.
 - 7f2a) Exception: For Solving With Feet, the Stackmat must be placed directly on the floor. The timer device may be placed on the side of the mat farthest from the competitor.
- 7h) The competition area must have a Competitors Area.
- 7h1) The organisation team may require that a competitor who has been called to compete must remain within the Competitors Area until he has finished all of his attempts for the round.

1.8 Article 8: Competitions

- 8a) An official WCA competition must:
 - 8a1) Be approved by the WCA Board.
 - 8a2) Follow the WCA Regulations.
 - 8a3) Have a designated WCA Delegate in attendance.
 - 8a4) Be announced on the WCA website at least two weeks before the beginning of the competition.
 - 8a6) Be publicly accessible.
 - 8a7) Use the authentic Speed Stacks Stackmat timer (Generation 2 or Pro) for time measurement.

- 8a8) Be open to all who wish to compete. Restrictions must be approved by the WCA Board and clearly stated when the competition is announced.
- 8f) If WCA Regulations are not correctly observed during a competition, the WCA Board may disqualify affected attempts.

1.9 Article 9: Events

- 9a) The WCA governs competitions for:
 - 9a1) Puzzles known as Rubik's puzzles.
 - 9a2) Other puzzles that are manipulated by twisting the sides, commonly known as "twisty puzzles".
- 9b) The official puzzles and event formats of the WCA are:
 - 9b1) Rubik's Cube, 2x2x2 Cube, 4x4x4 Cube, 5x5x5 Cube, Clock, Megaminx, Pyraminx, Square-1, and Rubik's Cube: One-Handed.
 - 9b1a) Competition formats for these events are: "Best of X" (where X is 1, 2, or 3), and "Average of 5".
 - 9b2) Rubik's Cube: With Feet, 6x6x6 Cube, and 7x7x7 Cube.
 - 9b2a) Competition formats for these events are: "Best of X" (where X is 1, 2, or 3) and "Mean of 3".
 - 9b3) Rubik's Cube: Fewest Moves, Rubik's Cube: Blindfolded, 4x4x4 Cube: Blindfolded, 5x5x5 Cube: Blindfolded, and Rubik's Cube: Multiple Blindfolded.
 - 9b3a) Competition formats for these events are: "Best of X" (where X is 1, 2, or 3).
- 9f) The results of a round are measured as follows:
 - 9f1) All timed results under 10 minutes are measured and rounded down to the nearest hundredth of a second. All timed averages and means under 10 minutes are measured and rounded to the nearest hundredth of a second.
 - 9f2) All timed results, averages, and means over 10 minutes are measured and rounded to the nearest second (e.g. x.4 becomes x, x.5 becomes x+1).
 - 9f4) The result of an attempt is recorded as DNF (Did Not Finish) if the attempt is disqualified or unsolved/unfinished.
 - 9f5) The result of an attempt is recorded as DNS (Did Not Start) if the competitor is eligible for an attempt but declines it.
 - 9f6) For "Best of X" rounds, each competitor is allotted X attempts. The best result of these attempts counts for the competitor's ranking in the round.

- 9f7) For “Best of X” rounds, a DNF or DNS is the worst possible result.
- 9f8) For “Average of 5” rounds, competitors are allotted 5 attempts. Of these 5 attempts, the best and worst attempts is removed, and the arithmetic mean of the remaining 3 attempts counts for the competitor’s ranking in the round.
- 9f9) For “Average of 5” rounds, one DNF or DNS is permitted to count as the competitor’s worst result of the round. If a competitor has more than one DNF and/or DNS result in the round, his average score for the round is DNF.
- 9f10) For “Mean of 3” rounds competitors are allotted 3 attempts. The arithmetic mean of the 3 attempts counts for the competitor’s ranking in the round.
- 9f11) For “Mean of 3” rounds, if the competitor has at least one DNF or DNS result, his average score for the round is DNF.
- 9f12) For “Best of X” rounds, rankings are assessed based on the best result per competitor. The following are used to compare results:
 - 9f12a) For timed results, “better” is defined as the shorter time.
 - 9f12b) For Fewest Moves Solving, “better” is defined as the shorter solution length.
 - 9f12c) For Multiple Blindfolded Solving, rankings are assessed based on number of puzzles solved minus the number of puzzles not solved, where a greater difference is better. If the difference is less than 0, the attempt is considered unsolved (DNF). If competitors achieve the same result, rankings are assessed based on total time, where the shorter recorded time is better. If competitors achieve the same result and the same time, rankings are assessed based on the number of puzzles the competitors failed to solve, where fewer unsolved puzzles is better.
- 9f13) For “Mean of 3” and “Average of 5” rounds, rankings are assessed based on the ordering of the averages/means of the competitors, where “better” is the shorter recorded time.
- 9f14) For “Mean of 3” and “Average of 5” rounds, if two or more competitors achieve identical average/mean results, rankings are assessed based on the best attempt per competitor, where “better” is defined as the shorter time.
- 9f15) Competitors who achieve the same result in a round receive an identical ranking for the round.
- 9g) A Combined Round consists of two phases of attempts, where competitors advance to the second phase if they meet a designated cutoff during the first phase.
- 9g2) Whether a competitor proceeds to next phase of a Combined round, must be decided by ranking (best x competitors) or by result (all competitors with a best result under x) of the first phase.
- 9i) Results of official WCA competitions must be listed on the WCA world rankings.
- 9i1) The WCA recognises the following types of regional records: national records, continental records, and world records.

- 9i2) All the results of a round are considered to take place on the last calendar date of the round. If a regional record is broken multiple times on the same calendar date, only the best result is recognised as breaking that regional record.
- 9i3) If the WCA Regulations for an event are changed, existing regional records stand until they are broken under the new WCA Regulations.
- 9j) Each event must be held at most once per competition.
- 9k) All competitors may participate in all events of a competition, except in cases specifically approved by the Board.
- 9l) Each round must be completed before any following round of the same event starts.
- 9m) Events must have at most four rounds.
- 9m1) Events with 99 or fewer competitors must have at most three rounds.
- 9m2) Events with 15 or fewer competitors must have at most two rounds.
- 9m3) Events with 7 or fewer competitors must have at most one round.
- 9o) Combined rounds and Qualification rounds each count as one round when counting the number of rounds per event.
- 9p) If an event has multiple rounds, then:
 - 9p1) At least 25% of competitors must be eliminated between consecutive rounds of the same event.
 - 9p2) The competitors who advance to the next round must be determined by either a cutoff ranking or a cutoff time in the preceding elimination round.
 - 9p3) If a qualifying competitor withdraws from a round, he may be replaced by the best-ranked competitor below the cutoff from the preceding round.
- 9r) A qualification round must be held before the first round of the event.
- 9r1) When announcing an event, the organisation team must include:
 - 9r1a) Any limit to the number of competitors permitted in the first round of the event.
 - 9r1b) Any limit to the number of competitors permitted in the qualification round of the event, and any limit to the maximum number of those competitors who will proceed to the first round.
 - 9r1c) The average/mean result or single solve result, achieved in a previous competition, required to qualify directly for the first round of the event.
 - 9r1d) The latest permitted date used to determine the qualifying average/mean result or single solve result in the WCA rankings.
- 9r2) Each competitor of an event who has not directly qualified for the first round of the event must compete in the qualification round in order to participate in the first round.

- 9r3) A qualification round may be added to specifically accommodate newly registered competitors, and/or the maximum number of competitors in the qualification round or first round of an event may be increased. These changes must be made at least two weeks before the competition.
- 9s) Each round of each event must have a time limit (see).

1.10 Article 10: Solved State

- 10b) Only the resting state of the puzzle, after the timer has been stopped, is considered.
- 10c) The puzzle may be in any orientation at the end of the attempt.
- 10d) All pieces of a puzzle must be fully attached to the puzzle in their required positions. Exception: see .
- 10e) A puzzle is solved when all face colours are reassembled and all parts are aligned within the limits specified below:
 - 10e1) For each two adjacent parts (e.g. two parallel, adjacent slices of a cube) of the puzzle that are misaligned more than the limit described in , the puzzle is considered to require one additional move to solve (see “Outer Block Turn Metric” in).
 - 10e2) If no further moves are required to bring the puzzle to its solved state, the puzzle is considered solved without penalty.
 - 10e3) If one move is required, the puzzle is be considered solved with a time penalty (+2 seconds).
 - 10e4) If more than one move is required, the puzzle is considered unsolved (DNF).
- 10f) Limits of acceptable misalignment for puzzles:
 - 10f1) Cube-shaped puzzles: at most 45 degrees.
 - 10f2) Megaminx: at most 36 degrees.
 - 10f3) Pyraminx: at most 60 degrees.
 - 10f4) Square-1: at most 45 degrees (U/D) or 90 degrees (/).
- 10h) Puzzles not specified in this article are judged according to the solved state as defined by the generally accepted goal of the puzzle, applying the relevant regulations for the Rubik’s Cube.

1.11 Article 11: Incidents

- 11a) Incidents include:
 - 11a1) Incorrect execution of event procedures, by officials or competitors.
 - 11a2) Interference or facility interruptions (e.g. power failure, emergency alarm activation).

- 11a3) Equipment malfunction.
- 11b) If an incident occurs, the WCA Delegate determines an impartial and appropriate course of action.
- 11d) If the WCA Regulations are not fully clear or if the incident is not covered by the WCA Regulations, then the WCA Delegate must make his decision based on fair sportsmanship.
- 11e) If an incident occurs during an attempt, the WCA Delegate may award a competitor an extra attempt, replacing the attempt during which the incident occurred. The competitor must appeal verbally or in writing to the judge and WCA Delegate at the time of the incident, before finishing the original attempt, to be eligible for an extra attempt. An appeal does not guarantee the competitor an extra attempt.
- 11e1) If a competitor is awarded an extra attempt, the extra attempt must be scrambled using a different scramble sequence. This scramble sequence must be generated using the current official version of the official WCA scramble program (see).
- 11f) Decisions about an incident may be supported with video or photographic analysis, at the discretion of the WCA Delegate.

1.12 Article 12: Notation

- 12a) Notation for Rubik's Cube and similar puzzles:
 - 12a1) Face Moves:
 - 12a1a) Clockwise, 90 degrees: F (front face), B (back face), R (right face), L (left face), U (upper face), D (bottom face).
 - 12a1b) Anti-clockwise, 90 degrees: F', B', R', L', U', D' (see).
 - 12a1c) 180 degrees: F2, B2, R2, L2, U2, D2 (see).
 - 12a2) Multiple Outer Slice Moves (outer slice plus adjacent inner slices; n is defined as total number of slices to move; n may be omitted for two slices):
 - 12a2a) Clockwise, 90 degrees: nFw, nBw, nRw, nLw, nUw, nDw. (see).
 - 12a2b) Anti-clockwise, 90 degrees: nFw', nBw', nRw', nLw', nUw', nDw' (see).
 - 12a2c) 180 degrees: nFw2, nBw2, nRw2, nLw2, nUw2, nDw2 (see).
 - 12a3) Outer Block Turn Metric (OBTM) is defined as:
 - 12a3a) Each move of the categories Face Moves and Multiple Outer Slice Moves is counted as 1 move.
 - 12a3b) Each rotation is counted as 0 moves.
- 12b) Rotations for all cube shaped puzzles:
 - 12b1) Clockwise, 90 degrees: [f] or z, [b] or z', [r] or x, [l] or x', [u] or y, [d] or y'. (see).

- 12b2) Anti-clockwise, 90 degrees: [f'] or z', [b'] or z, [r'] or x', [l'] or x, [u'] or y', [d'] or y (see).
- 12b3) 180 degrees: [f2] or z2, [b2] or z2, [r2] or x2, [l2] or x2, [u2] or y2, [d2] or y2 (see).
- 12c) Notation for Square-1:
- 12c1) Moves are applied with the smallest slice of the middle layer on left side of front face.
- 12c2) (x,y) means: turn upper layer x times 30 degrees clockwise, turn bottom layer y times 30 degrees clockwise.
- 12c3) “/” means: turn the right half of the puzzle 180 degrees.
- 12d) Notation for Megaminx (scrambling notation only):
 - 12d1a) Clockwise, 72 degrees: U (upper face).
 - 12d1b) Anti-clockwise, 72 degrees: U' (upper face).
- 12d2) Other moves are applied while keeping 3 pieces fixed at top left of the puzzle:
 - 12d2c) Clockwise 144 degrees move of whole puzzle except for the slice of top left three pieces: R++ (vertical slices), D++ (horizontal slices).
 - 12d2d) Anti-clockwise 144 degrees move of whole puzzle except for the slice of top left three pieces: R- (vertical slices), D- (horizontal slices).
- 12e) Notation for Pyraminx:
- 12e1) The puzzle is oriented with the bottom face completely horizontal and the front face facing the person who holds the Pyraminx.
- 12e2) Clockwise, 120 degrees: U (upper 2 layers), L (left 2 layers), R (right 2 layers), B (back 2 layers), u (upper vertex), l (left vertex), r (right vertex), b (back vertex).
- 12e3) Anti-clockwise, 120 degrees: U' (upper 2 layers), L' (left 2 layers), R' (right 2 layers), B' (back 2 layers), u' (upper vertex), l' (left vertex), r' (right vertex), b' (back vertex).
- 12g) Notation for Clock:
- 12g1) The puzzle is oriented with twelve on top, and either side in front.
- 12g2) Move pins up: UR (top-right), DR (bottom-right), DL (bottom-left), UL (top-left), U (both top), R (both right), D (both bottom), L (both left), ALL (all).
- 12g3) Turn a wheel next to an up-position pin and move all pins down afterwards: x+ (x clockwise turns), x- (x anti-clockwise turns).
- 12g4) Turn around the puzzle so that twelve is still on top, and then move all pins down: y2.

1.13 Article A: Speed Solving

- A1) Speed Solving attempts must abide by the following procedure.
- A1a) The organisation team may enforce time limits for attempts and/or rounds.
 - A1a1) The default time limit per attempt is 10 minutes, though the organisation team may announce a higher or lower time limit.
 - A1a2) Cumulative time limits may be enforced (e.g. 3 attempts with a cumulative time limit of 20 minutes). The time elapsed in a DNF result counts towards the cumulative time limit.
 - A1a3) For each round, any time limits must be announced before the round starts, and should not be changed after it has begun. Changes must be made at the discretion of the WCA Delegate, who must carefully consider the fairness of the change.
 - A1a4) The competitor must end each attempt within the time limit. If a competitor reaches the time limit for an attempt/round, the judge stops the attempt immediately and record the result as DNF. Exception: Multiple Blindfolded Solving (see).
 - A1a5) An attempt is considered to meet the time limit if and only if the final result, after any time penalties are applied, is less than the time limit. Exception: Multiple Blindfolded Solving (see).
- A1b) If the time limit for an attempt is greater than 10 minutes, a stopwatch must be used for timekeeping.
 - A1b1) Simultaneous use of a Stackmat timer is optional.
 - A1b2) If a time from the Stackmat timer is available, it is the original recorded time. Otherwise, the stopwatch time is the original recorded time.
- A1c) A competitor participating in an event must be able to fulfill the event's requirements (e.g. know how to solve the puzzle). A competitor competing with expectation of a DNF result may be disqualified from the event, at the discretion of the WCA Delegate.
- A2) Scrambling:
 - A2a) When called for a round, the competitor submits his puzzle, in its solved state, to the scrambler and waits in the Competitors Area until he is called to compete.
 - A2b) A scrambler scrambles the puzzle according to the regulations in .
 - A2c) After the scrambler starts scrambling the puzzle, the competitor must not see the puzzle until the inspection phase starts.
 - A2c1) The scrambler places a cover over the scrambled puzzle that makes it impossible for any competitors or spectators to see any part of the puzzle. The cover remains over the puzzle until the beginning of the attempt.
 - A2d) When taking a puzzle from the scrambler, the judge briefly inspects the puzzle to ensure thorough scrambling of the puzzle. The judge raises any concerns with the scrambler, who then conducts a detailed check.

- A2e) The judge places the puzzle onto the mat in an arbitrary orientation and ensures that it is covered completely. The competitor is not permitted to request a specific orientation.
- A3) Inspection:
 - A3a) The competitor may inspect the puzzle at the beginning of each attempt.
 - A3a1) The competitor is allotted a maximum of 15 seconds to inspect the puzzle and start the solve.
 - A3b) Before the competitor starts the attempt, the judge resets the timer and, where applicable, the stopwatch.
 - A3b1) When the judge believes the competitor is ready, he asks “READY?”. The competitor must be ready to start the attempt within one minute of being called. Penalty: disqualification of the attempt (DNF), at the discretion of the judge.
 - A3b2) When the competitor confirms his readiness, the judge uncovers the puzzle. If the attempt requires a stopwatch, the judge starts it at the same time.
 - A3c) The competitor may pick up the puzzle during inspection.
 - A3c1) The competitor must not apply moves during inspection. Penalty: disqualification of the attempt (DNF).
 - A3c2) If the pieces of the puzzle are not fully aligned, then the competitor may align the faces, as long as misalignments stay within the limits 10f.
 - A3c3) The competitor may reset the timer before he starts the solve.
 - A3d) At the end of the inspection, the competitor places the puzzle on the mat, in any orientation and position.
 - A3d1) The puzzle must not rest on the timer. Penalty: time penalty (+2 seconds).
 - A3d2) When 8 seconds of inspection have elapsed, the judge calls “8 SECONDS”.
 - A3d3) When 12 seconds of inspection have elapsed, the judge calls “12 SECONDS”.
- A4) Starting the solve:
 - A4b) The competitor places his hands on the elevated sensor unit of the timer, with his fingers touching the sensors and palms down. Penalty: time penalty (+2 seconds).
 - A4b1) The competitor must have no physical contact with the puzzle between the inspection period and the beginning of the solve. Penalty: time penalty (+2 seconds).
 - A4d) The competitor starts the solve by confirming that the timer light is green and then removing his hands from the timer, thus starting the timer.
 - A4d1) The competitor must start the solve within 15 seconds of the beginning of the inspection. Penalty: time penalty (+2 seconds).

- A4d2) The competitor must start the solve within 17 seconds of the beginning of the inspection. Penalty: disqualification of the attempt (DNF).
- A4e) Time penalties for starting the solve are cumulative.
- A5) During the solve:
 - A5a) While inspecting or solving the puzzle, the competitor must not communicate with anyone other than the judge. Penalty: disqualification of the attempt (DNF).
 - A5b) While inspecting or solving the puzzle, the competitor must not receive assistance from anyone or any object other than the surface (also see). Penalty: disqualification of the attempt (DNF).
- A6) Stopping the solve:
 - A6a) The competitor stops the solve by releasing the puzzle and then stopping the timer.
 - A6a1) If a stopwatch is in use as the timing device, the competitor ends the solve by releasing the puzzle and notifying the judge that he has stopped the solve.
 - A6a2) When using a stopwatch without a Stackmat, the competitor's default notification signal consists of releasing the puzzle(s) in his hand and placing his hands on the surface, with palms down. The competitor and the judge may agree on another appropriate notification before the beginning of the solve.
 - A6b) The competitor is responsible for stopping the timer correctly.
 - A6b1) If the timer stops before the end of the solve and the timer shows a time strictly below 0.06 seconds, then the attempt is replaced by an extra attempt. A competitor forfeits his right to the additional attempt if the WCA Delegate determines that the timer was stopped deliberately.
 - A6b2) If the timer stops before the end of the solve and displays a time of 0.06 seconds or higher, then the attempt is disqualified (DNF). Exception: if the competitor can demonstrate that the timer malfunctioned, he may receive an extra attempt, at the WCA Delegate's discretion.
- A6c) The competitor must fully release the puzzle before stopping the timer. Penalty: time penalty (+2 seconds).
- A6d) The competitor must stop the timer using both hands, placed flat on the sensors with palms down. Penalty: time penalty (+2 seconds).
- A6e) The competitor must not touch or move the puzzle until the judge has inspected the puzzle. Penalty: disqualification of the attempt (DNF). Exception: If no moves have been applied, a time penalty (+2 seconds) may be assigned instead, at the discretion of the judge.
- A6f) The competitor must not reset the timer until the judge has recorded the result on the score sheet. Penalty: disqualification of the attempt (DNF), at the discretion of the judge.

- A6g) The judge determines whether the puzzle is solved. He must not make moves or align faces when examining the puzzle. Exception: The judge is permitted to make moves when examining a Clock.
- A6h) In case of a dispute, moves or alignments must not be applied to the puzzle before the dispute is resolved.
- A6i) Time penalties for stopping the solve are cumulative.
- A7) Recording results:
 - A7a) The judge tells the competitor the result.
 - A7a1) If the judge finds that the puzzle is solved, he calls “OKAY”.
 - A7a2) If the judge assigns any penalties, the judge calls “PENALTY”.
 - A7a3) If the result is DNF, the judge calls “DNF”.
 - A7b) The judge records the result on a score sheet.
 - A7b1) If penalties are assigned, the judge records the original recorded result displayed on the timer, along with any penalties. The format should be “ $X + T + Y = F$ ”, where X represents the sum of time penalties before/starting the solve, T represents the time displayed on the timer, Y represents a sum of time penalties during/after the solve, and F represents the final result. If X and/or Y is 0, the 0 terms are omitted (e.g. $2 + 17.65 + 2 = 21.65$, or $17.65 + 2 = 19.65$).
 - A7c) The judge and competitor must both sign (or initial) the score sheet to acknowledge the result.
 - A7c1) If the competitor or the judge refuses to accept and sign the score sheet, the WCA Delegate must resolve the dispute.
 - A7f) When a competitor’s score sheet for a round is complete, the judge delivers the score sheet to the score taker.

1.14 Article B: Blindfolded Solving

- B1) Standard speed solving procedures is followed, as described in (Speed Solving). Additional regulations that supersede the corresponding procedures in are described below.
 - B1a) There is no inspection period.
 - B1b) The competitor supplies his own blindfold.
- B2) Starting the attempt:
 - B2a) The judge resets the timer and stopwatch.
 - B2b) The competitor places his hands on the elevated sensor unit of the Stackmat, with his fingers touching the sensors and palms down. Penalty: time penalty (+2 seconds).

- B2c) The competitor must have no physical contact with the puzzle before the beginning of the attempt. Penalty: time penalty (+2 seconds).
- B2d) The competitor starts the attempt by removing his hands from the timer, thus starting the timer.
 - B2d1) The competitor removes the cover from the puzzle after starting the timer.
- B2e) If a stopwatch is in use, the judge starts the stopwatch as soon as the competitor starts the solve.
- B3) Memorisation phase:
 - B3a) The competitor may pick up the puzzle during the memorisation phase.
 - B3b) The competitor must not make physical notes. Penalty: disqualification of the attempt (DNF).
 - B4b) The competitor must not apply moves to the puzzle during the memorisation phase.
- B4) Blindfolded phase:
 - B4a) The competitor dons the blindfold to start the blindfolded phase.
 - B4b) The competitor must not apply moves to the puzzle before he has fully donned the blindfold.
 - B4c) The judge must ensure that there is an opaque object between the competitor's face and the puzzle while the competitor is solving.
 - B4c1) In all cases, the competitor must wear the blindfold such that his view of the puzzle would still be clearly blocked if the opaque object were not in the way.
 - B4c2) By default, the judge should place the object (e.g. a sheet of paper or cardboard) between the competitor and the puzzle while the competitor is wearing the blindfold.
 - B4c3) If the judge and competitor agree beforehand, the competitor may choose to place the puzzle behind a suitable object (e.g. a music stand, the surface of the table) by himself during the blindfolded phase.
 - B4d) The competitor must not look at the puzzle at any point during the blindfolded phase. Penalty: disqualification of the attempt (DNF).
 - B4e) Until he applies the first move to the puzzle, the competitor may remove the blindfold to return to the memorisation phase.
- B5) Stopping the solve:
 - B5a) When using the Stackmat, the competitor stops the attempt by releasing the puzzle and then stopping the timer.
 - B5b) When using a stopwatch, the competitor ends the attempt by placing the puzzle back onto the surface and notifying the judge that he is stopping the attempt. At that moment, the judge stops the timer.

- B5c) If he is not touching the puzzle, the competitor may remove the blindfold before he stops the timer. He must not touch the puzzle until the end of the attempt. Penalty: disqualification of the attempt (DNF).

1.15 Article C: One-Handed Solving

- C1) Standard speed solving procedures is followed, as described in (Speed Solving). Additional regulations that supersede the corresponding procedures in are described below.
- C1b) During the solve, the competitor must use only one hand to touch the puzzle. Penalty: disqualification of the attempt (DNF).
 - C1b2) If a puzzle defect occurs, and the competitor chooses to repair it, he must repair it using only the solving hand. Penalty: disqualification of the attempt (DNF).
 - C1b3) If a puzzle defect occurs, and pieces of the puzzle briefly come in contact with other body parts without the competitor's intention, this is not considered touching the puzzle, at the discretion of the judge.
- C1c) During the solve, once a competitor touches the puzzle with one hand, he must not touch the puzzle with the other hand. Penalty: disqualification of the attempt (DNF).

1.16 Article D: Solving With Feet

- D1) Standard speed solving procedures is followed, as described in (Speed Solving). Additional regulations that supersede the corresponding procedures in are described below.
- D1a) During the attempt, the competitor must sit in a chair, sit on the surface, or stand.
- D1b) During the attempt, the competitor must only use his feet and the surface. Penalty: disqualification of the attempt (DNF).
- D1c) During the solve, the competitor must use only his feet to touch the puzzle. Penalty: disqualification of the attempt (DNF).
- D3) Starting the solve:
 - D3a) The competitor places his feet onto the timer sensors.
 - D3b) The competitor removes his feet from the timer sensors to start the solve.
- D4) Stopping the solve:
 - D4a) The competitor stops the timer by placing his feet onto the timer sensors.

1.17 Article E: Fewest Moves Solving

- E2) Procedure for Fewest Moves Solving:
 - E2a) The judge distributes a scramble sequence to all competitors. The judge then starts the stopwatch and calls “GO”.
 - E2b) All competitors have a total time limit of 60 minutes to devise a solution.
 - E2b1) The judge should call “5 MINUTES REMAINING” at 55 minutes, and must call “STOP” at 60 minutes.
 - E2c) At 60 minutes, each competitor must give the judge a legibly written solution with the competitor’s name, using the notation defined for Outer Block Turn Metric (described in). Penalty: disqualification of the attempt (DNF).
 - E2d) The length of the solution is calculated in Outer Block Turn Metric (see).
 - E2d1) The competitor is permitted a maximum solution length of 80 (moves and rotations).
 - E2e) The competitor’s solution must not be directly derived from any part of the scrambling algorithm. Penalty: disqualification of the attempt (DNF).
 - E2e1) The WCA Delegate may ask the competitor to explain the purpose of each move in his solution, irrespective of scrambling algorithm. If the competitor cannot give a valid explanation, the attempt is disqualified.
- E3) The competitor may use the following objects during the attempt. Penalty for using unauthorised objects: disqualification of the attempt (DNF).
 - E3a) Paper and pens (both supplied by judge).
 - E3b) 1-3 puzzles corresponding to the event (self-supplied).
 - E3c) Coloured stickers (self-supplied).

1.18 Article F: Clock Solving

- F1) Standard speed solving procedures is followed, as described in (Speed Solving). Additional regulations that supersede the corresponding procedures in are described below.
- F2) The judge places the scrambled puzzle onto the mat in a standing position.
- F3) At the end of the inspection period, the competitor places the puzzle onto the mat in a standing position. He must not change the positions of any pins from their scrambled positions before the beginning of the solve. Penalty: disqualification (DNF).

1.19 Article H: Multiple Blindfolded Solving

- H1) Standard speed solving procedures is followed, as described in (Blindfolded Solving). Additional regulations that supersede the corresponding procedures in are described below.
- H1a) Before an attempt, the competitor must notify the judge of the number of puzzles he wishes to attempt blindfolded. The number of puzzles must be at least 2.
 - H1a1) A competitor is not permitted to change the number of puzzles after the beginning of the attempt.
 - H1a2) The organisation team must not disclose the competitor's requested number of puzzles until the beginning of the attempt.
- H1b) If he is attempting fewer than 6 puzzles, the competitor is allotted a time limit of 10 minutes times the number of puzzles in the attempt, else the time limit is 60 minutes.
 - H1b1) The competitor may signal the end of the attempt at any time. If and when the time limit is reached, the judge stops the attempt and the attempt is then scored; the time limit for the attempt counts as the original recorded time.
- H1d) Time penalties for the puzzles of the attempt are cumulative.

1.20 Article Z: Optional Regulations

Organisation teams may adopt optional regulations to facilitate the administration of the competition. The WCA Board must approve any optional regulations for a competition.

- Z1) The organisation team may require competitors to submit puzzles during registration.
- Z2) The organisation team may limit the number of events per competitor.
- Z3) The organisation team may select competitors who directly qualify for certain rounds of certain events based on the results of specific previous competitions.
- Z4) The organisation team may limit the number of competitors per event, on either a “first come first serve” basis or based upon qualification times or rankings in the WCA world rankings of a previously announced calendar date.
- Z5) The organisation team may prohibit competitors from participating in specific combinations of events.

2 World Cube Association: Competition Guidelines 2013

2.1 Notes

2.1.1 WCA Regulations

The WCA Guidelines supplement the . Please see the Regulations for more information about the WCA.

2.1.2 Numbering

Guidelines are numbered in correspondence with related regulations. Note that multiple Guidelines may correspond to the same Regulation, and some Guidelines correspond to Regulations that do not exist anymore.

2.1.3 Labels

To be more informative, each Guideline is classified using one of the following labels. Note that this should be treated as metadata, not as a description of importance.

- [ADDITION] Additional information to supplement the Regulations.
- [CLARIFICATION] Information to address any possible questions about interpretation of the Regulations.
- [EXPLANATION] Information that clarifies the intent of Regulations.
- [RECOMMENDATION] Something that is not strictly mandatory, but that should be done if possible.
- [REMINDER] Information that may be addressed other Regulations/Guideline, but whose relevance is worth reiterating.

2.2 Article 1: Officials

- 1c3) [RECOMMENDATION] Results should be ready at the end of the last day of competition.
- 1c3b) [CLARIFICATION] If there are multiple groups, it is not necessary to identify which competitor was in which groups.
- 1c4) [RECOMMENDATION] Corrections to the results should be available within one week of the competition date.
- 1c10) [CLARIFICATION] It is sufficient to ensure access to a digital copy of the Regulations.
- 1h) [RECOMMENDATION] Competitors in the same group should use the same scramble sequences. Different groups should use different scramble sequences.
- 1h) [RECOMMENDATION] All final rounds of all events, as well as all Fewest Moves Solving rounds, should have the same scrambles for all competitors (i.e. only 1 group).

- 1h1) [CLARIFICATION] Scramblers/judges should only scramble for/judge other competitors in the same group only if it is important for competition logistics.

2.3 Article 2: Competitors

- 2c) [ADDITION] First-time competitors should register using their legal name. They may register using a reasonable nickname, at the discretion of the WCA Delegate.
- 2c+) [ADDITION] Competitors must not provide intentionally misleading information, and returning competitors should provide information consistent with past information (e.g. exact name and WCA ID).
- 2d) [ADDITION] Date of birth and contact information should be especially secured.
- 2d+) [RECOMMENDATION] If a third party (e.g. journalist) asks the organisation team to be put in contact with any competitor(s), the competitor(s) should first be asked for consent.
- 2h) [CLARIFICATION] Competitors may be barefoot for Solving With Feet.
- 2j2) [EXAMPLE] For example, if a competitor is disqualified from an event for failing to show up for the final round, his results from earlier rounds remain valid.
- 2s) [REMINDER] Special accommodations must be noted in the Delegate Report.

2.4 Article 3: Puzzles

- 3a) [CLARIFICATION] Competitors may use puzzles of any reasonable size, at the discretion of the WCA Delegate.
- 3a+) [ADDITION] By default, a competitor should use the same puzzle for consecutive attempts in a speed solving round. A competitor may switch puzzles between attempts, at the discretion of the judge or WCA Delegate.
- 3a++) [CLARIFICATION] Competitors may borrow puzzles from other competitors privately, to use in competition.
- 3a1) [CLARIFICATION] Competitors may be disqualified if they do not come when they are called, or if they do not have a puzzle ready to submit (e.g. if they planned to use a puzzle that another competitor is currently using, and therefore cannot submit their puzzle at the moment).
- 3h) [CLARIFICATION] Puzzles may be refined internally by sanding or lubricating.
- 3h+) [EXAMPLE] Examples of enhancements include: new moves are possible, normal moves are impossible, more pieces or faces are visible, colours on the backside of the puzzle are visible, moves are done automatically, or the puzzles has more/different solved states.

2.5 Article 4: Scrambling

- 4b1) [REMINDER] The WCA Delegate must never re-generate any scrambles to replace other ones for the purpose of filtering. For example, it is not be permitted to glance at the scrambles for a competition and generate the entire set again in order to generate “fairer” scrambles.
- 4b2) [CLARIFICATION] In general, all official scramble sequences should be kept secret during the competition and published together after the end of the competition (see). In some cases (e.g. world records), the organisation team may wish to release specific scrambles sooner after the end of a round.
- 4d) [CLARIFICATION] Some puzzles use standard colour schemes, except that black is replaced with white. In this case, black is the darkest colour and must not be treated as white.
- 4f) [RECOMMENDATION] The WCA Delegate should generate sufficient scrambles for the entire competition ahead of time, including spare scrambles for extra attempts.
- 4f+) [REMINDER] If the WCA Delegate generates any additional scrambles during the competition, he must save them (see).

2.6 Article 5: Puzzle Defects

- 5b5) [EXAMPLE] Example of a piece not fully placed: a 5x5x5 centre piece twisted in its spot.
- 5b5+) [EXAMPLE] Example of judging an attempt ending with a defective puzzle: A Pyraminx with a detached tip may be reassembled in three states, one fully solved, and two “+2” states. An attempt ending in such a situation would be assigned a “+2” penalty.

2.7 Article 6: Awards/prizes/honours

- 6a) [SEPARATE][ADDITION] Awards, prizes or honours may be given to competitors according to the announcement of the competition.
- 6b) [SEPARATE][RECOMMENDATION] Competitors should attend the winner’s ceremony to receive awards/prizes/honours.
- 6b1) [SEPARATE][RECOMMENDATION] The winner’s ceremony should be held in the competition venue, within one hour after the end of the last event.
- 6c) [SEPARATE][RECOMMENDATION] Winners of awards, prizes or honours should be prepared to talk to journalists or any media covering the competition.
- 6d) [SEPARATE][RECOMMENDATION] Organisation teams of competitions should have certificates for all category winners, signed by the leader of the organisation team and by the WCA delegate.

2.8 Article 7: Environment

- 7d) [SEPARATE][ADDITION] The temperature of the competition area should be 21 to 25 degrees Celsius.
- 7h2) [SEPARATE][ADDITION] The competitors in the competitors area should not be able to see the puzzles of the competitors on stage.

2.9 Article 8: Competitions

- 8a4) [RECOMMENDATION] Changes to increase the maximum number of competitors in qualification round or first round, or to add a qualification round for newly registered competitors should be made at least one month before the competition (see).
- 8a4+) [RECOMMENDATION] The competition should be announced at least one month before the beginning of the competition.
- 8a5) [SEPARATE][RECOMMENDATION] The competition should have at least 12 competitors.

2.10 Article 9: Events

- 9b) [ADDITION] The preferred format for the final of an event is “Average of 5” or “Mean of 3”, if possible.
- 9b+) [ADDITION] Events other than those specified in may be held during a competition, but will be considered unofficial and therefore will not be included in the official results of the competition.
- 9f5) [CLARIFICATION] The result for an attempt is DNS if the competitor was eligible for the attempt and did not attempt it. If the competitor did not qualify for an attempt (e.g. in a combined round), he does not have any result for the attempt.
- 9q) [SEPARATE][RECOMMENDATION] Events and rounds should have at least 2 competitors.
- 9r) [EXPLANATION] The goal of a qualification round is to let unranked or low ranked competitors qualify for the first round of an event with many registered competitors.

2.11 Article 10: Solved State

- 10f) [EXPLANATION] The misalignment limits are selected so that they provide a natural cutoff between one state of a puzzle (without penalty) and a state one move away.

2.12 Article 11: Incidents

- 11e) [CLARIFICATION] Since an appeal is not guaranteed to be successful, the competitor may choose to keep the timer running while appealing it, and resume the attempt when appropriate.

- 11e1) [REMINDER] The extra attempt must be scrambled using an unmodified scramble sequence generated by an official scrambler (see ,).

2.13 Article A: Speed Solving

- A1a2) [ADDITION] In case of a cumulative time limit, the judge records the original recorded time for a DNF on the score sheet in parentheses, e.g. “DNF (1:02.27)”.
- A1a3) [REMINDER] The organisation team and the WCA Delegate must be mindful that time limits influence the strategies of the competitors (e.g. rushing the first two attempts in hopes of meeting a cutoff in a combined round), and that changing time limits after the beginning of the round can disadvantage some competitors unfairly.
- A1a4) [REMINDER] If a competitor has accidentally been permitted to exceed the time limit, the time limit must be enforced retroactively, and the judge, competitor, and WCA Delegate should be informed (see). Judges must always be aware of the time limit for a current attempt (which might depend on previous attempts, in the case of a cumulative time limit).
- A2c1) [CLARIFICATION] In the past, score cards have been used to cover puzzles while leaving some sides exposed. This is no longer permitted.
- A3c3) [CLARIFICATION] Although the judge is required to reset the timer for the competitor (see), the competitor may reset it before/during the inspection phase if the judge accidentally neglected to do so.
- A6b) [EXPLANATION] The arbitrary value of 0.06 seconds was chosen to accommodate concerns about Stackmat timer malfunctions.
- A6g) [ADDITION] While he is determining whether to assign a penalty for misalignment, the judge should not touch the puzzle.

2.14 Article B: Blindfolded Solving

- B1) [REMINDER] The competitor must use a puzzle without textures, markings, or other features that distinguish similar pieces (see). This should be given special attention for Blindfolded Solving
- B1b) [RECOMMENDATION] Blindfolds should be checked by the WCA Delegate before use in the competition.

2.15 Article C: One-Handed Solving

- C1b) [CLARIFICATION] The competitor may use both hands during inspection.
- C1b+) [CLARIFICATION] The competitor is not required to use the same solving hand for different attempts of the same round.
- C1b2) [REMINDER] Use of the surface is permitted while repairing the puzzle.

2.16 Article D: Solving With Feet

- D1b) [CLARIFICATION] The competitor may wear socks while solving.
- D1c) [REMINDER] While repairing puzzle defects, other body parts must not touch the puzzle.

2.17 Article E: Fewest Moves Solving

- E2b) [CLARIFICATION] A competitor may choose to stop his attempt early by handing in a solution before the time limit.

2.18 Article H: Multiple Blindfolded Solving

- H1b1) [REMINDER] The attempt is not disqualified for reaching the time limit, due to exceptions for Multiple Blindfolded Solving (see Regulations A1a4 and A1a5).
- H1b1+) [ADDITION] The judge may permit the competitor to continue the attempt unofficially, but the attempt must be stopped and judged first, in full accordance with the Regulations.
- H1d) [EXAMPLE] Example: If a competitor attempts 10 cubes, stops with a time of 59:57, and has two time penalties, the time for the result is $59:57 + 2 \times 2 = 60:01$ (also see).
- H1d) [EXAMPLE] Example: If a competitor attempts 10 cubes, and the judge stops him at one 60 minutes, and has two time penalties, the time for the result is $60:00 + 2 \times 2 = 60:04$.