IBJJF 2027 RULE-CHANGE MESSAGE PACK

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The IBJJF rules change on January 1, 2027. Here's the message to send your students before the holidays, a short version for each group, and a sign for the gym wall. Every rule in it comes from the IBJJF's own change page.

Gym: _____

Coach sending: _____

Send by: ____/____/_____

Who Gets Which Block

The message has six blocks. Send each group only the ones that apply. Ages follow the IBJJF's count: 2027 minus the birth year.

BLOCK	WHO GETS IT	BORN (2027 SEASON)
White belts	White belts of every age	Any year
Kids 15 and under	Kids at every belt, and their parents	2012 or later
16- and 17-year-olds	Juveniles at every belt	2010 or 2011
No-Gi	Everyone who competes No-Gi	Any year
Masters	Masters 61 and older	1966 or earlier (Master 8: 1961 or earlier)
Everyone	Every competitor	Any year

Placeholders

Swap these before you send.

PLACEHOLDER	SWAP IT FOR
[Coach name]	the coach the students know
[date]	the December class you'll run under the 2027 rules
[class]	which class that is (kids, fundamentals, No-Gi)

The Full Message

Send this to everyone who competes, or split it by block on the next page. Drop the subject line if you're sending it as a text.

EMAIL

Subject: New IBJJF rules start January 1

Hi everyone,

The IBJJF rules change on January 1, 2027. If you're planning to compete at an IBJJF event next year, here's what applies to you.

White belts (any age): No straight foot locks. Jumping into closed guard on a standing opponent is now an instant disqualification. For No-Gi, your shirt has to be more than half white, with black as the only other color.

Kids 15 and under, and their parents: Jumping into closed guard, including flying armbars and triangles, is now an instant disqualification at every belt. For No-Gi kids divisions, shorts need to reach at least halfway down the thigh.

16- and 17-year-olds: No straight foot locks, at any belt.

Everyone who competes No-Gi: Colored belts need a shirt with at least 10% belt color, visible from the front and the back. Shorts can't go past the knee, or end more than 15 cm above the middle of it. In men's No-Gi, spats are now allowed under shorts.

Masters 61 and older: There's a new Master 8 division for 66 and up, with four-minute matches. Master 7 is now 61 to 65.

Everyone: If you and your opponent both pull guard at the same time, you still have 20 seconds to get on top or score. If you don't, the referee now stops the match and penalizes you both, even if you have a submission locked in. A lapel or belt grip with your leg wrapped gets 20 seconds to go somewhere before it's a stalling penalty.

What we're changing in class: We'll keep teaching straight foot locks, and we'll tell you which events allow them. On [date], our [class] will run under the 2027 IBJJF rules. Please check your No-Gi kit before you buy anything new.

Ask me before you register for anything, and I'll tell you which rules you'll be under. The full list of changes is on the IBJJF's website: ibjjf.com/rule-changes-2027

See you on the mat,
[Coach name]

One Short Text per Group

For a group chat or a bulk text to one list. Each one stands on its own.

GROUP	TEXT
White belts (any age)	Heads up: the IBJJF rules change January 1. White belts (any age): No straight foot locks. Jumping into closed guard on a standing opponent is now an instant disqualification. For No-Gi, your shirt has to be more than half white, with black as the only other color. Ask me before you register for anything. - [Coach name]
Kids 15 and under, and their parents	Heads up: the IBJJF rules change January 1. Kids 15 and under, and their parents: Jumping into closed guard, including flying armbars and triangles, is now an instant disqualification at every belt. For No-Gi kids divisions, shorts need to reach at least halfway down the thigh. Ask me before you register for anything. - [Coach name]
16- and 17-year-olds	Heads up: the IBJJF rules change January 1. 16- and 17-year-olds: No straight foot locks, at any belt. Ask me before you register for anything. - [Coach name]
Everyone who competes No-Gi	Heads up: the IBJJF rules change January 1. Everyone who competes No-Gi: Colored belts need a shirt with at least 10% belt color, visible from the front and the back. Shorts can't go past the knee, or end more than 15 cm above the middle of it. In men's No-Gi, spats are now allowed under shorts. Ask me before you register for anything. - [Coach name]
Masters 61 and older	Heads up: the IBJJF rules change January 1. Masters 61 and older: There's a new Master 8 division for 66 and up, with four-minute matches. Master 7 is now 61 to 65. Ask me before you register for anything. - [Coach name]
Everyone	Heads up: the IBJJF rules change January 1. Everyone: If you and your opponent both pull guard at the same time, you still have 20 seconds to get on top or score. If you don't, the referee now stops the match and penalizes you both, even if you have a submission locked in. A lapel or belt grip with your leg wrapped gets 20 seconds to go somewhere before it's a stalling penalty. Ask me before you register for anything. - [Coach name]

Before You Send It

Eight things for December.

- [ ] **Send it before the holiday break,** while students are still deciding which January events to enter.
- [ ] **Build each list by birth year, not today's age.** The IBJJF counts age as 2027 minus the birth year, so some 15-year-olds compete as 16.
- [ ] **Send each group only its own block if you can.** A parent of an eight-year-old doesn't need to read about spats.
- [ ] **A 16-year-old white belt gets two blocks.** Both apply to them.
- [ ] **Run one December class under the 2027 rules,** and have the referee call a jumping guard at least once.
- [ ] **Run a No-Gi kit check in December.** A mostly black rash guard with a 10% white stripe is out for white belts.
- [ ] **Add a line to your tournament-day checklist:** confirm the division's rules before warm-ups.
- [ ] **Put the sign on the wall,** next to the schedule, where parents wait.

Send each group its own block

Gymdesk's member list filters by rank and by age, so you can pull every white belt or every kid and send that list its block as a bulk email or text.

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IBJJF Rules Change January 1, 2027

What's different for our competitors. Ask a coach before you register for any IBJJF event.

WHO	WHAT CHANGES
White belts	No straight foot locks. Jumping into closed guard on a standing opponent is an instant DQ. No-Gi shirt more than half white, black the only other color.
Kids 15 and under	Jumping into closed guard is an instant DQ at every belt. No-Gi kids' shorts at least halfway down the thigh.
16 and 17	No straight foot locks, at any belt.
No-Gi, colored belts	At least 10% belt color, visible front and back, or a shirt that's 100% belt color. Spats allowed under men's shorts.
Masters	New Master 8 for 66 and up, four-minute matches. Master 7 is now 61 to 65.
Everyone	Double guard pull: 20 seconds to get on top or score, or both penalized, even with a submission locked in.

Full list: ibjjf.com/rule-changes-2027