

Karate Australia
Rules of the National and State
Referee Commissions
Version 24th February 2023
Includes rules for non WKF events within
Karate Australia.

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Mission

To ensure that all KA Officials allow no unfair advantage to any competitor in accordance with WKF Rules.

Structure

NRC Composition

The NRC is made up 5-7 member positions including that of NRC chairperson.

NRC Selection

The selection process is conducted by the Executive Committee of the KA on a four yearly basis. Suitably qualified persons are invited to submit an expression of interest for an NRC position. Expressions of interest will be considered and appointed by the Executive Committee.

NRC Qualifications

To be considered for an NRC position, candidate must hold a minimum international (WKF/OKF) qualification in both Kata and Kumite. The chairperson must hold a minimum WKF Referee licence. NRC members must also be a member of an KA organisation.

State RC Composition

SRC Chairperson must hold a minimum OKF qualification in both Kata and Kumite.

SRC members must have minimum National qualification in both Kata and Kumite.

Accountabilities

NRC Accountabilities

- Abide by KA code of ethics and behaviour
- Conduct NRC meetings prior to National level events
- Conduct an annual meeting for NRC & SRCs
- Review and maintain Referee & Judge policies and procedures
- Maintain a current national level register of qualified Referees and Judges
- Provide a high standard of seminar based education and development to ensure advancement of referee and judge capability and knowledge
- Ensure rules and policies are adhered to by SRCs
- Examine and accredit applicants for upgrades to national level.
- Ensure international applicant adhere to the NRCs criteria for international upgrade.
- For all WKF divisions at national championships finals panels must be endorsed by the chairman or chief referee.

SRC Accountabilities

- SRC must follow policies and procedures of the NRC
- Maintain and provide a list of all active judges, referees and table official to the NRC secretary by 30 June each year.
- Prepare annual report for NRC/SRC annual meeting.
- Follow and use NRC Kata and Kumite power point examination and adhere to prescribed pass mark as outlined by NRC.

OFFICIALS CODE OF ETHICS & BEHAVIOUR

- Act honestly and with the utmost integrity, showing neither unfair bias nor undue harshness to any competitor regardless of Nation, State, Style or Origin, age or gender.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous to athletes, coaches and other officials, both on and off the competition area.
- Maintain objectivity in dealing with all athletes and ensure that no competitor receives an unfair advantage in any decision through personal relationship with the official.
- Ensure that behaviour is both decorous and sportsmanlike at all times whilst in official dress representing the Federation
- Maintain a level of technical expertise sufficient to ensure accreditation appropriate to the position held within the KA Regularly attend clinics and seminars to ensure personal and professional development is maintained.
- Ensure that the competitors in his/her charge comply with the compulsory safety equipment standards and that the competition area is devoid of hazards.
- Ensure that in the case of junior competitors that any modified rules of competition are strictly adhered to.
- Support and encourage the ideal of good sportsmanship at all times.
- KA accredited referees and judges are not permitted to officiate in official KA uniform at non-endorsed/sanctioned local, state or national events. Participation at such events in KA uniform will result in the suspension of that official's KA license.

Commendations

- For 10yrs of service officials will receive an KA pin.
- Awards will be presented at the Annual KA referee dinner at the national Championships.

Referee Courses and Exams

National

The NRC will conduct no less than two referee seminars per year. These will be held prior to the Australian Open Championships and the National Championships. The venue for such course should have sufficient seating for 50 people, have access to a data projector and services such as tea/coffee etc.

The NRC will devise the questions for national and state exams. These exams will be conducted by PowerPoint presentation.

The NRC secretary will circulate application forms to all national licenced members and the state secretary's' no later than one month prior to the seminar date.

The NRC secretary will also arrange Badges, Ties and Certificate for applicants.

Kata examination procedures:

- a) First part; theory questions, candidates will pass this part by having met the requirements as set by the NRC Exam paper.
- b) Second part; technical part with Karate Gi, the candidates have to perform one Kata and answer the questions concerning Kata performance.
- c) Third part; practical during the Championship as a Kata Judge.

The final examination result will be the summation of the three parts and those achieving or exceeding the pass mark will receive their respective qualifications.

Kumite examination procedures:

- a) First part; theory questions, candidates will pass this part by having met the required pass mark as set out by the NRC.
- b) Second part; practical during the competition, each Judge candidate will be evaluated at least two times as a Judge and at least one time as a Referee. The final examination result will be the summation of both parts and those achieving or exceeding the pass mark will receive their respective qualifications.

Referee & Judge Accreditation Policy

KUMITE ACCREDITATION

STATE JUDGE – 'B'

1. 15 years of age or over
2. 1st Kyu or higher.
3. Pass the theory and practical tests prescribed by the National Referee Commission
4. Officials under 18yrs may only officiate children, cadet and junior divisions. Officials under 16yrs may only officiate children and cadet divisions.

STATE JUDGE – 'A'

1. 16 years of age or over
2. 1st Kyu or higher.
3. Complete 2 KA state endorsed tournaments
4. Pass the theory and practical tests prescribed by the N.R.C.
5. Officials under 18yrs may only officiate children, cadet and junior divisions.

STATE REFEREE – 'B'

1. 17 years of age or over
2. 1st Dan or higher.
3. Complete 2 KA state endorsed tournaments.
4. Pass the theory and practical tests prescribed by the N.R.C.
5. Officials under 18yrs may only officiate children, cadet and junior divisions.

STATE REFEREE – 'A'

1. 18 years of age or over
2. 1st Dan or higher.
3. Complete 2 KA state endorsed tournaments.
4. Pass the theory and practical tests prescribed by the N.R.C..

If age appropriate 'A / B' grade Referee/Judge to be determined by the SRC

S.R.C Chairman must be on panel for upgrading or a nominated representative from the NRC.

NATIONAL JUDGE – ‘B’

1. 19yrs of age or over
2. 1st Dan or higher
3. Complete 3 KA state or 1 national endorsed tournaments
4. Attain endorsement from the SRC
5. Pass the theory and practical tests prescribed by the National Referee Commission.

NATIONAL JUDGE – ‘A’

1. 19yrs of age or over
2. 1st Dan or higher
3. Complete 3 KA state or 1 national endorsed tournaments
4. Attain endorsement from the SRC
5. Pass the theory and practical tests prescribed by the National Referee Commission.

NATIONAL REFEREE – ‘B’

1. 20yrs of age or over
2. 1st Dan or higher
3. Complete 3 KA state or 1 national endorsed tournaments
4. Attain endorsement from the SRC
5. Pass the theory and practical tests prescribed by the National Referee Commission.

NATIONAL REFEREE – ‘A’

20yrs of age or over

1. 1st Dan or higher
2. Complete 3 KA state or 1 national endorsed tournaments
3. Attain endorsement from the SRC
4. Pass the theory and practical tests prescribed by the National Referee Commission.

If age appropriate ‘A / B’ grade Referee/Judge to be determined by the NRC.

N.R.C Chairman must be on panel for upgrading or a nominated representative from the NRC.

KATA ACCREDITATION**STATE KATA JUDGE 'C'**

1. 15 years of age or over
2. 1st Kyu or higher.
3. Pass the theory and practical tests prescribed by the National Referee Commission
4. Perform a kata and answer relevant questions.
5. Judge C's may only officiate up to quarter finals (subject to the discretion of the Tatami Manager)
6. Officials under 18yrs may only officiate children, cadet and junior divisions. Officials under 16yrs may only officiate children and cadet divisions.

STATE KATA JUDGE 'B'

1. 17 years of age or over
2. 1st Dan or higher.
3. Complete 2 KA state endorsed tournaments
4. Pass the theory and practical tests prescribed by the National Referee Commission
5. Perform a kata and answer relevant questions
6. Officials under 18yrs may only officiate children, cadet and junior divisions.

STATE KATA JUDGE 'A'

1. 18 years of age or over
2. 1st Dan or higher.
3. Complete 2 KA state endorsed tournaments
4. Pass the theory and practical tests prescribed by the National Referee Commission
5. Perform a kata and answer relevant questions

If age appropriate B / C grade State Judge to be determined by the SRC.

S.R.C Chairman must be on panel for upgrading or a nominated representative from the NRC.

NATIONAL KATA JUDGE – 'B'

1. 19 years of age or over
2. 1st Dan or higher.
3. Complete 2 KA state endorsed tournaments
4. Attain endorsement from the SRC
5. Pass the theory and practical tests prescribed by the National Referee Commission
6. Perform 2 kata one from your own and one from another style and answer relevant questions

NATIONAL KATA JUDGE – 'A'

1. 20 years of age or over
2. 2nd Dan or higher.
3. Complete 1 KA national endorsed tournament or 3 state endorsed tournaments
4. Attain endorsement from the SRC
5. Pass the theory and practical tests prescribed by the National Referee Commission
6. Perform 2 kata one from your own and one from another style and answer relevant questions

N.R.C Chairman must be on panel for upgrading or a nominated representative from the NRC.

ATTENDANCE AT CHAMPIONSHIPS & SEMINARS

STATE

1. State officials must attend a minimum of one State endorsed event per year to maintain accreditation.
2. State officials must attend a minimum of one State seminar every year.
3. Officials not meeting the minimum requirements will need to resist the relevant theory and practical tests at the next seminar.
4. State Officials may officiate at the Australia Open or the Nationals in order to participate. Officials must hold a SJA Kata and SJA Kumite licence. Furthermore, they may attempt a state level upgrade at the event.

NATIONAL

1. National officials must attend a minimum of one National KA endorsed event every two years as well as the specified minimum State level endorsed championships to maintain accreditation.
2. National officials must attend a minimum of one National seminar every two years.
3. National officials must pass theory examination as set by the NRC every two years to maintain accreditation.
4. Officials not meeting the minimum requirements will need to resist the relevant theory and practical tests at the next seminar and will not be eligible to upgrade until they pass the exam.

INTERNATIONAL Championships

1. To attend International events accredited officials must attend the most recent Australian Open and National Championships and have prior endorsement by the NRC.
2. Officials not meeting minimum requirements will follow the procedures set down by the relevant International RC.

Oceania Upgrades

In order to be considered for OKF upgrade or endorsement the NRC wishes to communicate the following prerequisites.

Kumite

1. KA "A" Licence in Kata & Kumite
2. Participation at the most recent Australian Open
3. Participation at the most recent National championships

Kata

1. KA "A" Licence in Kata & Kumite
2. Participation at the most recent Australian Open
3. Participation at the most recent National Championships

All nominations to be forwarded NRC Secretary 30 days prior to the event and addressed to the NRC Chairman. Criteria obviously, that prior support is gained from the relevant RSA Referees Council.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

In order to be considered for WKF upgrade or endorsement the NRC wishes to communicate the following prerequisites.

Kumite

1. OKF Referee A Licence
2. Participation at the most recent Australian Open
3. Participation at the most recent National championships
4. Consideration will also be given to participation at recognised international events.

Kata

1. OKF Kata Judge A License
2. Participation at the most recent Australian Open
3. Participation at the most recent National Championships
4. Consideration will also be given to participation at recognised international events.
5. Practical assessment at National Championships i.e. Performance of two kata.

All nominations to be forwarded 10 days prior to Nationals and addressed to the NRC Chairman. Criteria obviously, that prior support is gained from the relevant RSA Referees Council.

KA Guidelines for Competition

Kata

KA FLAG KATA OPERATION OF MATCHES

1. At the start of each bout and in answer to their names, the two contestants, one wearing a red belt (AKA), and the other wearing a blue belt (AO), will line up at the match area perimeter facing the Chief Kata Judge. Following a bow to the Judging Panel, AO will then step back out of the Match Area. After moving to the starting position and a clear announcement of the name of the Kata that is to be performed, AKA will begin. On completion of the Kata, AKA will leave the area to await the performance of AO. After AO's Kata has been completed both will return to the match area perimeter and await the decision from the Panel.
2. If the Kata does not conform to the Rules, or there is some other irregularity, the Chief Judge may call the other Judges in order to reach a verdict.
3. If a contestant is disqualified the Chief Judge will cross and uncross the flags (as in the Kumite TORIMASEN signal).
4. After completion of both Kata, the contestants will stand side by side on the perimeter. The Chief Judge will call for a decision (HANTEI) and blow a two-tone blast on the whistle whereupon the Judges will cast their votes.
5. The decision will be for AKA or AO. No ties are permitted. The competitor, who receives the majority of votes will be declared the winner by the caller/announcer.
6. The competitors will bow to each other, then to the Judging Panel, and leave the area.
7. It is important when considering a decision that judges take note and weigh their decision 70% technical and 30% Athletic as per WKF rules

EXPLANATION:

- I. The starting point for Kata performance is within the perimeter of the competition area.*
- II. If flags are being used the Chief Judge will call for a decision (HANTEI) and blow a two-tone blast on the whistle. The Judges will raise the flags simultaneously. After giving sufficient time for the votes to be counted (approximately 5 seconds) the flags will be lowered after a further short blast on the whistle.*

Should a competitor fail to turn up when called or withdraws (Kiken) the decision will be awarded automatically to the opponent without the need to perform the previously notified Kata.

Children's Kata

Please see list of compulsory kata. Schedule of permitted kata at KA national championships version 4.0

Children's Kumite

Cadet rules will be applied to all Children's Kumite divisions within the Australian Karate Federation. Children are also required to wear a WKF facemask or KA Head Guard.

Prescription Sports Safety Goggles for Children 13 Years & Under

Children 13 years and under are permitted to wear Prescription Sports Safety Goggles in competition under the following conditions:

1. The parents are required to provide a supporting letter from the child's doctor/optometrist presenting the need for the child to wear such goggles. This letter must be presented to the Federation at least one week prior to the competition and remains in place for the year.
2. Prescription Sports Safety Goggles must be presented to an officer of the Federation at least one week prior to the competition. Approval remains in place for the year. A review must take place if the competitor changes the actual goggles throughout the year.
3. Prescription Sports Safety Goggles are worn at the competitor's own risk.

Kumite (Referee & 2 Judge System) Please refer to the WKF rules