



WORLD KARATE FEDERATION

For enforcement as of 1st January 2025

CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR REFEREES 2025

1. KARATE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Qualification Phase

License requirements

Referees with Kumite Referee B **and/or** Kata Judge B license.

Annual attendance requirements for registering as a Referee

Minimum participation requirements in K1 events for an aggregate of four (4) K1 events, with a minimum of:

- **1 Series A**
- **2 Youth League**

In at least 2 Continents.

Note: The 4th event is at their choice

Final Phase

License requirements

Referees with Kumite Referee A **and** Kata Judge A license

Annual attendance requirements for registering as a Referee

Minimum participation requirements in K1 events:

- **1 Premier League.**
*For the members of the RC and those wishing to be eligible list of 30 WKF appointed referees, the minimum requirement will be of **2 Premier Leagues.***
- **1 Series A**
- **2 Youth League**

In at least 3 Continents.



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Conditions

- a) The WKF will assume the flight ticket and the full board accommodation in the HQ hotel for the full Referee Commission (RC).
- b) In addition to the RC members, the WKF will appoint 30 Referees, complying with the established requirements, and will assume for each of them a benchmark lump sum for the flight as well as the full board accommodation in one of the official hotels. Criteria to be considered for the appointment of these 30 Referees will be:
 - Highest WKF license (Kumite Referee A and Kata Judge A)
 - Compliance with the Referees' requirements for attending a WKF Karate World Championships, including one extra Premier League
 - Activity attendance according to the WKF Referee Ranking
 - Universality (Continental Federations)

See Annex 1 for more detail.
- c) NFs will be allowed to register a maximum of two (2) referees with Referee Kumite A and Kata Judge A license per NF that comply with the overall established annual requirements (see above), regardless of those Referees belonging to their NF already included with those appointed by the WKF under points a) and b) above.



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2. KARATE 1 events

Referees' registration will be adjusted to the specific frame of the different Karate 1 events, to enhance the experience of referees and offer better conditions and opportunities of refereeing at the said events. This is currently not always the case due to the high attendance at certain events where the number of referees is significantly higher as the actual required number, leading to very limited officiating time for referees present at these events.

For Premier League events:

*Only Referees with a WKF Kata Judge-A **and/or** Kumite Referee-A License are entitled to officiate at Premier League events.*

- The WKF reserves its right to stop the registration once the number of registered referees with WKF License (that are not RC members nor within the top 30 Referee Ranking) has reached the number of: 75
- Referee Commission members
- Referees ranked within the top 30 of the WKF Referee Ranking on the opening date of registration for each event.

Note: Number of Referees is 75 + 30 + RC

For Series A and Youth League events:

- The WKF reserves its right to stop the registration once the number of registered referees with WKF and/or Continental License has reached the number of:
 - 90 in Series A
 - 120 in Youth League.
- Referee Commission members
- Referees ranked within the top 30 of the WKF Referee Ranking on the opening date of registration for each event.
- NF Referees without WKF and/or Continental License

Note:

Number of Referees for Series A is 90+30+RC+NF Referees

Number of Referees for Youth League is 120+30+RC+NF Referees

General

Taking into account the overall situation and adequate conditions for a successful event at the highest level, special requests may be considered on a case-by-case basis after the closing of the registration.



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3. WKF Referee Courses

There will continue to be two (2) separate Referee Courses per year, that will be included in the WKF Calendar:

1) Course for Referees at a Karate 1 event

- a. Referees without a WKF license
- b. Referees who have their WKF license expired due to the lack of attendance at K1 events in the previous season.

The event at which the course will be held, shall serve as *confirmation event*.

This annual Referee Course will take place, preferably between February and July and preferably at the occasion of a YL event.

2) Course for Referees at Karate World Championships (Qualification Phase Event)

- a. Referees already having a WKF license
- b. Referees who have their WKF license expired due to the lack of attendance at K1 events in the previous season.

Requirements for the WKF referee license renewal

- Participate annually in at least one Karate 1 event.
- Participate in at least one Karate World Championships during the period of validity of the license. For the World Championships, the Qualification Phase or the Final Phase, either of them count.



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ANNEX 1: Methodology for the selection by the WKF of the 30 Officials for refereeing in the Karate World Championships Final Phase

The WKF, additionally to the full Referee Commission, will appoint 30 Referees, complying with the established requirements, and will assume their full board accommodation.

Requirements

1. Highest WKF license Kumite Referee A and Kata Judge A

The full Referee Commission, plus all 30 selected referees must be WKF qualified with the highest licenses in Kata and Kumite.

2. Compliance with the Referees' requirements for attending a WKF Karate World Championships, including one extra Premier League

The selected referees must have attended on the relevant year a minimum of two (2) Premier Leagues, two (2) Youth Leagues and one (1) Series-A, in at least three (3) continents.

3. Activity attendance according to the WKF Referee Ranking

The 30 referees will be selected among the list of the 50 first in the Referees Ranking, taking into consideration the breakdown between Continental Federations as per point 4 below and compliant with points 1 and 2 above.

4. Universality (Continental Federations)

The breakdown of the 30 Referees between Continental Federations will be as follows:

- EKF: 11 Officials
- AKF: 7 Officials
- UFAK: 5 Officials
- PKF: 5 Officials
- OKF: 2 Officials

5. Methodology for the selection of the 30 Referees

The preliminary selection of the 30 referees will be made within a deadline of around six (6) months before the relevant Karate World Championships. Those selected will receive an appointment letter from the WKF and will have to answer accepting the appointment and the conditions associated, including the commitment to fulfil the requirements in place - as per point 2 above - before the date of the Championships.

The selection will be made taking the number of referees specified in point 4 above for each of the 5 Continents, continent by continent, using the top 50 referees in the ranking list by the date of the selection. There will be no limitation in the number of referees selected for a specific NF.

Those referees initially selected that for whatever reasons excuse themselves from attending the Karate World Championships will be replaced by the next in the ranking from the same Continent.



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When the continental substitution line is exhausted, then the replacement will be made using the Ranking list irrespective of the Continent, starting with the best ranked and following the same path.

Once the selection of the 30 has been made, and the 30 confirmations have been received, the NFs will be informed of the names of the 30 list, in order to be able to make their respective appointment of the up to two (2) referees there are entitled to appoint per NF.