

USA National Karate-do Federation, Inc. (USA Karate)
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2020 Olympic Games
Karate – Kata and Kumite
May 10, 2019
AMENDED August 25, 2020

Note: Following the IOC's announcement that the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 have been rescheduled to take place July 23 – August 8, 2021, it was confirmed that these Games will still be referred to as the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. Therefore, any references to the Olympic qualification system, Olympic Team, Olympic Trials and Olympic Games still reflect '2020' in these selection procedures.

1. SELECTION SYSTEM.

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the Team:

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of selection.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

1.1.2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Olympic Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the Olympic Charter (Rule 41).

1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (as noted in the WKF Qualification System for the 2020 Olympic Games):

- Athlete must be a World Karate Federation (WKF) National Federation (NF) member (i.e., member of USA Karate).
- Athlete must be a member in good standing with their NF (USA Karate).
- Athlete must be born on or before ~~8 May 2004~~ June 2005 [Date To Be Confirmed (TBC)] for the Kata events and on or before ~~8 May 2002~~ June 2003 [Date TBC] for the Kumite events. [The specific 'born on' dates directly correlate with the first day of competition at the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament (1.2.1.b.) which has yet to be announced.]
- Athlete must be one of the 50 highest ranked athletes within his or her weight category in the WKF World Rankings as of ~~6 April 2020~~ May 2021 (Date TBC), with the exception of athletes who have won their place through Continental Games or the WKF Qualification Tournament.

The complete WKF Qualification System for the 2020 Olympic Games is published on the WKF website at <https://www.wkf.net/olympics-main/157>
~~<https://www.wkf.net/Olympic-tokyo2020.php>~~.

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

- Athlete must be a member in good standing with USA Karate at the time of nomination.
- Athlete must successfully complete all Games Registration requirements by stated deadline.
- Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current USOPC Background Check Policy.
- Any athlete age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport's online training.

1.2. Tryout Events:

1.2.1. Provide the event names, dates and locations of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process.

The following qualification pathways (listed in hierarchical order) are the methods in which quota places are earned for the 2020 Olympic Games, in accordance with the [Qualification System](#) established by WKF (~~<https://www.wkf.net/olympic-tokyo2020.php>~~):

a. WKF Olympic Rankings as of ~~6 April 2020~~ May 2021 (Date TBC)

Point accrual started at the beginning of the qualification period (2 July 2018) and will continue to accrue until the WKF Olympic Rankings of ~~6 April 2020~~ May 2021 (Date TBC). Points will be earned at WKF Official Events to include Karate1 Senior events (Premier League and Series A), WKF World Championships and Senior Continental Championship events. The calendar of events can be found at <https://www.wkf.net/calendar.php> and historical events can be found http://setopen.sportdata.org/wkfranking/ranking_information_main.php#ranking.

NOTE: As of the date of this amendment, there is only one event remaining where points earned will be applied towards the WKF Olympic Rankings of May 2021 (Date TBC); there is also one additional continental championship event remaining but it is not applicable to U.S. athletes. The postponed 2020 Rabat Open is now planned for Rabat on April 9-11, 2021 and the WKF reserves the right to move the event date or location based on challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The WKF Olympic Rankings are published on a continuous basis at http://setopen.sportdata.org/wkfranking/standing_tokyo2020.php and

are determined in accordance with the current WKF Ranking Rules as found at http://setopen.sportdata.org/wkfranking/ranking_information_general.php#ranking.

b. WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament: ~~May 8-10, 2020~~ June 2021
(Dates and Location TBC) – Paris, France

c. Pan American Games – August 8-10, 2019 – Lima, Peru

1.2.2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for the trials, events and camps listed above in 1.2.1. (if any).

USA Karate publishes its Senior National Team Selection Procedures (<https://www.teamusa.org/usa-karate/athlete-resources/documents-and-resources>) for fielding U.S. Teams that participate in WKF World Championship and Senior Continental Championship events. Being a member of the Senior National Team is not required for participation in the Karate1 Series A or Premier League events. The following team trials were/will be held in accordance with the published selection procedures:

- 2018 Senior National Team Trials: January 14, 2018 – Colorado Springs, CO
- 2019 Senior National Team Trials: January 19, 2019 – Colorado Springs, CO
- 2020 Senior National Team Trials: January 18, 2020 – Colorado Springs, CO

Eligibility to Karate1 Premier League Events:

All events except the Rabat Open have been completed as of the date of these amended procedures.

Any athlete who is a USA Karate member in good standing and ranked in the top 100 of the WKF World Rankings is eligible to compete in the Karate1 Premier League Events. All Kata and Kumite categories are limited to 64 athletes each. Athletes ranked in the top 50 are given priority through the 1st and 2nd stages of event registration. The 3rd stage is open to top 100 athletes and registration closes when the category has 64 athletes or the end of stage 3 registration.

Eligibility to Karate1 Series A Events:

All events have been completed as of the date of these amended procedures.

Any athlete who is a USA Karate member in good standing is eligible to compete in the Karate1 Series A Events.

Eligibility to WKF World Championships:

This event was completed November 2018.

The number 1 seed from the Senior National Team in each category (Kumite and Kata) per gender is selected to compete in the World Championships. Should the 1st seed be unable to compete, the 2nd seed will be selected, and so on up to the 4th seed.

Eligibility to PKF Continental Championships:

[This event was completed March 2019.](#)

The number 1 and 2 seeds from the Senior National Team in each Kumite and Kata category per gender is selected to compete in the Continental Championships. Should the 1st and/or 2nd seed be unable to compete, the open slot will be filled by the 3rd and, if necessary, the 4th seed. If after the 4th seed has been selected a category is still open it will remain open.

Selection to the 2019 Pan American Games:

[This event was completed August 2019.](#)

Eligibility to compete in the 2019 Pan American Games will be determined in accordance with the 2019 Pan American Games Athlete Selection procedures found on the USA Karate website at <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-karate/senior-national-team/pan-american-games>.

Qualification to the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament:

[The athletes were selected to compete in the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament on January 18, 2020.](#)

This tournament will use the eight (8) Olympic categories (see Table 2 in 1.3.). USA Karate may only enter one athlete in each category where a U.S. athlete has not yet qualified a quota for the 2020 Olympic Games. The selection of athletes will either be based on WKF World Rankings (1st determination) or based on results from the 2020 Senior National Team Trials (2nd determination).

1. 1st determination: The highest top-12 ranked U.S. athlete in the Olympic category from the WKF World Rankings as of January 1, 2020 will be selected to compete at the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament. In the event of a tie in ranking, the athlete with the highest points will be selected. If the points are also tied, a double elimination competition will be run between the tied contestants at the 2020 Senior National Team Trials. Alternates will be selected in order of actual ranking followed by total points.
2. 2nd determination: If all slots are not filled by the 1st determination as outlined above, the 2nd determination will be based on the results of the 2020 Senior National Team Trials which will contest the five WKF weight categories for Kumite and the Kata category for each gender. Since the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament will contest the three (3) Olympic weight categories and the Kata category (per gender), the 2nd determination will follow one of two processes as outlined below.

Table 1: From six (6) WKF categories per gender to four (4) Olympic categories per gender.

WKF SENIOR CATEGORIES (contested at 2020 Senior National Team Trials)	OLYMPIC CATEGORIES (contested at WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament and 2020 Olympic Games)	WKF SENIOR CATEGORIES (contested at 2020 Senior National Team Trials)	OLYMPIC CATEGORIES (contested at WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament and 2020 Olympic Games)
MEN		WOMEN	
Kata	Kata	Kata	Kata
-60 kg	-67 kg	-50 kg	-55 kg
-67 kg		-55kg	
-75 kg	-75 kg	-61 kg	-61 kg
-84 kg	+75 kg	-68 kg	+61 kg
+84 kg		+68 kg	

For the 2nd determination, the 1st seed for Female Kata, Male Kata, Female -61kg Kumite and Male -75kg Kumite from the 2020 Senior National Team Trials will qualify to compete provided there is not already a US athlete qualified in that category. Alternates will be selected in seed order. If none of the top 4 seeds are able to compete, the category will be filled following the process outlined in 4.1.1.

For the WKF weight categories of Female -50kg & -55kg Kumite, Female -68kg & +68kg Kumite, Male -60kg & -67kg Kumite and Male -84kg & +84kg Kumite, up to four (4) additional categories of competition will be used to determine the seeds for the combined WKF/Olympic categories provided there is not already a US athlete qualified in the Olympic category. The top four (4) seeds from each of these WKF categories will compete in a double elimination competition to determine the top four (4) or remaining seeds for the Olympic category. This competition will be held at the 2020 Senior National Team Trials. The 1st seed for the Olympic category will qualify to compete at the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament. Alternates will be selected in seed order from 2nd seed to 4th seed. If none of the top 4 seeds are able to compete, the category will be filled following the process outlined in 4.1.1.

- 1.3. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process (include maximum Team size).

The official qualification system is found on the [WKF website](https://www.wkf.net/olympic-tokyo2020.php) at <https://www.wkf.net/olympic-tokyo2020.php>.

The United States is eligible to qualify a maximum of four (4) male and four (4) female athletes with up to one (1) athlete in each of the eight (8) categories.

Table 2: Eight (8) Categories (events) to be contested at the 2020 Olympic Games.

Men's Categories	Women's Categories
Kata	Kata
-67kg Kumite	-55kg Kumite
-75kg Kumite	-61kg Kumite
+75kg Kumite	+61kg Kumite

There will be a total of ten (10) athletes to participate at the 2020 Olympic Games in each category and will be selected in accordance with the official qualification system.

Ranking points are earned at WKF Official Events to include Karate1 Premier League and Series A Events, WKF World Championships and PKF Continental Championships held during the Olympic qualification period in the five (5) WKF weight categories of kumite and the kata category per gender. For the Olympic Games, the five WKF weight categories are combined to three (3) Olympic weight categories per gender as defined in the Official Qualification System and shown in Table 1 in Section 1.2.2.

In summary:

- Quota places are allocated by WKF to athletes by name.
- Only one (1) athlete per country may qualify in each Olympic category.
- The following pathways are applicable for U.S. athletes:
 1. Four (4) athletes per category will be selected from the WKF Olympic Rankings as of ~~6-April-2020~~ May 2021 (Date TBC).
 - In categories where two standard WKF Kumite weight categories have been merged to accommodate the Olympic weight category, the two (2) highest ranked athletes in the WKF Olympic Rankings from each of the two standard WKF categories will qualify for a total of four (4) athletes.
 - When the Olympic category corresponds to the WKF category (i.e., -75kg Men Kumite, -61kg Women Kumite, Men's and Women's Kata), the four (4) highest ranked athletes in the WKF Olympic Rankings will qualify.
 2. Three (3) athletes per category will be selected from the top three finishers (medalists) at the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament. There will only be one bronze medalist at this event.
 3. Up to three (3) quotas per category will be designated to ensure adequate continental representation as described on page 4 of the [WKF Qualification System](#).
 - The 2019 Pan American Games is a designated qualification event. Gold medalists with the highest WKF Olympic Ranking as of ~~6-April-2020~~ May 2021 (Date TBC) who have not yet qualified for the 2020 Olympic Games may qualify a quota place in that category.
 - If the gold medalist from the 2019 Pan American Games has already qualified and the quota(s) for continental representation has/have not yet been met, then the quota may be allocated to the next best WKF-ranked silver medalist from the 2019 Pan American Games, not to exceed bronze medalists.

- a. The quotas for continental representation are determined by the Continental Federations; the Pan American Karate Federation (PKF) will be authorized to select up to 3 athletes across all categories to fill continental representation quotas. The quotas authorized by PKF must represent at least 2 different NOCs and respect gender equity as defined by the continental selection order.
- b. The following sequence will be applied for the allocation of quotas:
 - i. Selection 1 - OKF: 2 athletes (one per gender)
 - ii. Selection 2 - UFAK: 2 athletes (one per gender)
 - iii. Selection 3 - PKF: 2 athletes (one per gender)
 - iv. Selection 4 - AKF: 2 athletes (one per gender)
 - v. Selection 5 - EKF: 2 athletes (one per gender)
 - vi. Selection 6 - UFAK: 1 athlete (one per gender)
 - vii. Selection 7 - PKF: 1 athlete (male or female depending on Selection 6)

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

- 2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any): Not applicable
- 2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any): Not applicable
- 2.3. Provide the name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles currently serving on the committee: Not applicable
 - 2.3.1. Specify the process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee: Not applicable

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. Prior to entry by name to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, USA Karate has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by USA Karate may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Karate:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USA Karate CEO.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Karate. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Karate, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in Section 9 of these procedures.
- 3.1.4. Violation of USA Karate's Athlete Agreement and Code of Conduct (www.teamusa.org/usa-karate/athlete-resources/documents-and-resources).

- 3.1.5. Violation of the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code or USA Karate SafeSport Policies.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has an opportunity for a hearing per USA Karate's Bylaws, Section 14, the USOPC's Bylaws, Section 9, and/or the Policies and Procedures of the U.S. Center for SafeSport.

Once athlete entries have been submitted to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USA Karate Athlete Agreement and Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

~~www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman/Games-Info/Athlete-Conduct~~
www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents
~~www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Ombudsman/Games-and-Competition~~

- 3.2. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, PASO, WADA, WKF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

- 4.1.1. prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

For the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team: As qualification for the 2020 Olympic Games is by name, USA Karate is unable to nominate a replacement athlete. Reallocation of unfilled quota places will be determined by WKF in accordance with Section F of the official qualification system found on the [WKF website](https://www.wkf.net/olympic-tokyo2020.php) at ~~<https://www.wkf.net/olympic-tokyo2020.php>~~.

For the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament: If the "2nd determination" selection process (as outlined in 1.2.2.) has been exhausted and a category remains open, USA Karate will make every effort to fill the position by offering the position to the next highest ranked U.S. athlete in the Olympic category from the WKF World Rankings as of January 1, 2020. In the event of a tie in ranking, the athlete with the highest points will be selected. ~~If the points are also tied, a double elimination competition will be run between the tied contestants at the 2020 Senior National Team Trials.~~

- 4.1.2. after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

Refer to 4.1.1.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA Karate will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to the USOPC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Olympic Games and are included as attachments:

USA Karate's Athlete Agreement and Code of Conduct: <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-karate/athlete-resources/documents-and-resources>

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USOPC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USA Karate in the following locations:

- 7.1. NGB Web site: <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Karate/Senior-National-Team/Olympic-Games>

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOPC.

- 7.2. Other: N/A

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

The Nomination of Athletes ~~form~~, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before: ~~June 17, 2020~~

June 4, 2021 is the USOPC due date, however, USA Karate's nomination date(s) will be largely dependent upon the following:

1. The date determined by WKF for the qualification method listed as 1.2.1.a. – WKF Olympic Rankings as of May 2021 (Date TBC)
2. The date for the final qualification method listed as 1.2.1.b. – WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament: June 2021 (Dates and Location TBC)

Therefore, any Olympic quotas earned by name through the rankings (1.2.1.a.) will be submitted to the USOPC no later than June 4, 2021 and any Olympic quotas earned by name through the final qualification tournament will be submitted within 2 days of the conclusion of the event, but may not be later than June 29, 2021, which is the final Olympic qualification deadline established by the IOC.

USA Karate will ensure that, once available, the WKF's timeline is communicated to athletes in a timely manner.

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

At this time, there is no mandatory training for the 2020 Olympic Games. Should those plans change, affected athletes will be notified by USA Karate at least 30 days prior to commencement of any mandatory training.

Waivers from mandatory training for the 2020 Olympic Games are not permitted, unless there are extraordinary circumstances, in which case, a request for an exception will be reviewed and either accepted or rejected by the CEO, Head Coach (Kata or Kumite, as applicable) and an athlete representative. Any unexcused absence will serve as cause for removal from the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team with the right to a hearing pursuant to the USA Karate Bylaws and Grievance Procedures or Section 9 of USOPC Bylaws.

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, PASO, WADA, WKF, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, PASO, WADA, WKF, USADA and USOPC Rules, as applicable.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

Phil Hampel – CEO
Brody Burns – Head Kumite Coach
Akira Fukuda – Head Kata Coach
Brian Ramrup – USOPC AAC Representative

12. NGB BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

USA Karate Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:
<https://www.teamusa.org/usa-karate/about-us/governance-documents>

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IOC, PASO, as applicable, and/or WKF rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, PASO, as applicable, and/or WKF rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Karate. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.

14. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

The Athlete Ombudsman provides cost-free, independent and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between athletes and their NGB.

To contact the Athlete Ombudsman Office:

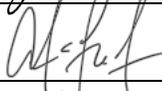
PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: www.usathlete.org

15. NGB SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA Karate.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USA Karate CEO	Phil Hampel		9/9/2020
Nat. Team Coach, Head Kumite Coach	Brody Burns		9/4/2020
Nat. Team Coach, Head Kata Coach	Akira Fukuda		9/8/2020
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Brian Ramrup		9/9/2020

* If the USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by USA Karate, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Performance Team.

* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC AAC Representative, USA Karate must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

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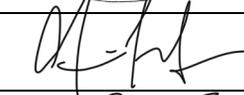
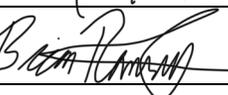
PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: www.usathlete.org

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Nat. Team Coach, Head Kumite Coach	Brody Burns		5/29/2019
Nat. Team Coach, Head Kata Coach	Akira Fukuda		5/29/19
USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Brian Ramrup		5/29/19

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