



USA Senior National Team Selection

Revised June 17, 2018

I. Purpose

- a. Select the best athlete to represent the USA in international competitions
- b. Separate the formal US Team Trials from the National Championships
- c. Select the US Team positions by using an international standard used by the IOC/PASO and not based on single elimination.
- d. Select the Official USA Senior National Team at the start of the calendar year and be eligible for events in that calendar year.

II. National Championships as a Qualifier

- a. To be eligible to compete in the Elite Division (Team Trial Division) at the National Championships an athlete must be 18 years of age or older for kumite and 16 years of age or older for kata on December 31st of year of the National Championship.
- b. Athletes must bring their US passport when picking up their competitor pass (passport must be current and be valid for at least 6 months after the start of the first international event following the selection). If you do not provide proof of US citizenship with a valid passport you will not be allowed to compete in the Elite Divisions.
- c. Athletes are only allowed to compete for one country regardless of citizenship.
- d. Non-US Citizens or US Citizens that are members of another countries national team seeking high-level competition are encouraged to compete in our advanced divisions.
- e. The top 6 athletes from the elite individual kumite and kata divisions and the top 6 teams from the elite team kata divisions from the National Championships would qualify for the US Team Trials.
- f. The top 6 athletes/teams would be determined by the current method of single elimination and repechage. All athletes in medal rounds would be qualified for the US Team Trials. (1 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze, 2 losing athletes from the bronze medal matches).
- g. This would eliminate the need for a match to determine the "true" (Super) third place. Both winners of the bronze medal matches would be equal and qualify for the US Team Trials.

III. Protection of Seniority and Current Pool

- a. The current seat 1 and 2 athletes/teams would be prequalified for the trials each year and not required to compete at the National Championships if they have a conflicting international event or medically verified injury recognized and approved by the USA National Karate-do Federation (USA-NKF). If they do not have a USA-NKF approved exemption based on a conflicting international event or injury, they would be required to compete in the National Championships.
- b. If the seat 1 or 2 athletes are unable to compete at the National Championships due to a USA-NKF approved conflicting international event or medically verified injury, or they fail to finish in the top 6, the top 6 from the Nationals are qualified along with the seat 1 or 2 athletes and the US Trials will run up to a maximum of 8.
- c. This allows the current US Team members to compete at international events such as the Pan Am Games, World University Championships, Olympic Festival, and others events that often conflict with the National Championships.

IV. Format of the US Team Trials

- a. The US Team Trials would have a maximum number of 8 athletes/teams per category selected from the National Championships and previous year team.
- b. The format would run as Pool Play.
- c. This is the current format used by PASO for the Pan Am Games and by the EOC for the European Games.
- d. This method allows for the greatest likelihood of selecting the best athlete/team by allowing more matches and removing single elimination.
- e. For those divisions not large enough to run Pool Play (4 or smaller), Double Elimination or best 2 out of 3 formats would be used.
- f. The top 1-4 athletes/teams would be determined and placed in the US Team Pool according to ranking as currently done.
- g. The team would be selected early in the calendar year and be eligible for events in that calendar year.