



NATIONAL KARATE-DO FEDERATION

USA Senior National Team Selection Revised December 13, 2022

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 will qualify for the US Team Trials.
- f. The top 6 athletes/teams will be determined by the current method of elimination with repechage. All athletes in medal rounds will be qualified for the US Team Trials. (1 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze, two 5th places).
- g. This eliminates the need for a match to determine the “true” (Super) third place. Both winners of the bronze medal matches are equal and qualify for the US Team Trials.
- h. The Gold medal winner of the 18-20 category will qualify for the following Senior Team Trials unless already qualified via Top 6 placement. This does not apply to Team Kata categories.

III. Protection of Seniority and Current Pool

- a. The current seat 1 and 2 athletes/teams are 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 are 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 9.

- 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 other events that often conflict with the National Championships.

IV. Format of the US Team Trials for Kumite

- a. The US Team Trials will have a maximum number of 9 athletes per category selected from the National Championships and previous year team.
- b. The format will run as “Round Robin”/Pool Play to Double Elimination.
 - i. The top two (2) athletes emerging from both pool A and pool B will compete in seeded Double Elimination to determine team positions 1-4.
 - ii. Seeding: The top athlete from pool A will face the second position athlete from pool B. Top athlete from pool B will face the second position athlete from pool A. The athletes will advance through a standard double elimination bracket to determine US Team position.
 - iii. 3rd and 4th place will be determined by the result of the last bout between the remaining athletes not advancing to Finals.
- c. This method allows for the greatest likelihood of selecting the best athlete by allowing more matches and removing single elimination.
- d. For those divisions not large enough to run Pool Play (4 or smaller), Double Elimination format will be used.
- e. The top 1-4 athletes will be determined and placed in the US Team Pool according to ranking as currently done

V. Format of the US Team Trials for Kata

- a. The US Team Trials will have a maximum of 9 athletes per category selected from the National Championships and previous year team.
- b. Round 1 all athletes will compete and be ranked. The pool would be reduced to the top 6.
- c. Round 2 the top 6 athletes from the previous round will compete and be ranked. The pool will be reduced to the top 4.
- d. Round 3 the top 4 from the previous round will compete and be ranked. The pool will be reduced to 3.
- e. Round 4 will be the medal round and determine the placement on the US Sr. Team
 - i. The athletes will be ranked by score for position 1-3 on the US Sr. Team
 - ii. The Second Alternate (#4 position) will be the athlete eliminated in Round 3.

VI. Selection of Team Kumite Athletes

- a. The National Coaching Staff will select seven (7) male athletes and four (4) female athletes from the Athlete Pool as selected from the US Team Trials.
- b. The Athlete Pool will be defined as the top 4 athletes in each kumite category.
- c. The National Coaches will provide the selected teams to the Athlete Advisory Council (AAC) for approval. Upon approval from the AAC, the Kumite Team will be seated.
 - i. If the AAC does not approve of the athletes selected, they will request information about the reasoning of the selections to the National Coaching Staff.
 - ii. The Head Coach will provide the AAC with additional information justifying the selection.


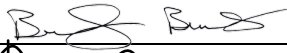

- iii. If the AAC still does not approve of the selected athletes, the National Coaching Staff will repeat the selection process with new athletes until the AAC grants approval or the National Coaching Staff believes it is no longer practical to field a Team with the remaining athletes in the Athlete Pool.

VII. Rules

- a. The US Team Trials will run using the latest version of the World Karate Federation Rules of Competition, with the following exceptions:
 - i. Video Review will be used in each bout. Coaches will have access to video review at the beginning of each bout regardless of the use in the previous bout.
 - ii. Referees will make a reasonable effort to allow each athlete a coach at the start of the bout. Should the bout start without the presence of an athlete’s coach, the coach will be allowed to enter the coaching box while the bout is in progress.
 - iii. Conflicts of Interest will be made to the Tatami Manager at the being of each bout by athletes, coaches and referees. The Tatami Manager will determine the severity of the conflict and make substitutions in the referee panel as appropriate. The Tatami Manager will make every effort to ensure bias or the perception of bias is removed from the referee panel.
 - iv. No fines will be assessed to athletes and coaches.
- b. Pool Play in Kumite Selection will use the World Karate Federation’s Rules of Competition involving Pool Play/Round Robin in Appendix 14.
 - i. Resolution of ties will use the process listed in the World Karate Federation’s rules for ties.
 - ii. Match Points will follow the latest determination by the World Karate Federation as of November 2021.
 - 1. 3 Match Points for a win
 - 2. 1 Match Point for a tie with points
 - 3. 0 Match Points for a tie with no points
 - 4. 0 Match Points for a loss

VIII. Seeding

- a. In the initial charting of the category, the following seeding will be used.
 - i. Kumite
 - 1. The current #1 and #2 position athletes from the previous year’s Team Trials will be placed in different pools
 - 2. Members of the same club, organization and/or family will be placed in different pools if possible.
 - ii. Kata
 - 1. The current #1 position athlete from the previous year’s Team Trials will perform last in round 1.
 - 2. No seeding will carry forward from round 1.

Elisa Au -Interim Board Chair		Date	12/15/22
Brody Burns - Administrative Head Coach		Date	12/15/2022
Brian Ramrup - AAC Athlete Rep		Date	12/16/2022