



USA KARATE OFFICIALS

PROFICIENCY LEVELS

OFFICIALS

January 2019





USA KARATE OFFICIALS PROFICIENCY LEVELS

➤ REGIONAL JUDGE

1. Dress properly in the USA Karate Officials' uniform and understand referee panel members' positions in the line-up for initial and final bows and know chair numbers for *kata* and *kumite*.
2. Officiate in beginner, novice, and intermediate level divisions.
3. Demonstrate understanding of the 6 criteria for *kumite* scoring.
4. Recognize 7 target areas for *kumite* scoring.
5. Display correct flag/hand positioning for *aka* and *ao* while seated in all corners of the ring.
6. Understand score values and flag/hand positioning signals for *kumite* scores of *yuko* (1 point), *wazari* (2 points) and *ippon* (3 points).
7. Signal scores to the referee without hesitation using flags with correct posture.
8. Readily identify *jogai* (out of bounds) infractions and indicate category 2 *jogai* penalty flag signals to the referee throughout the *kumite* match.
9. Understand and be prepared to acknowledge and pass judgment upon referee's signals for category 1 (excessive contact) warnings/penalties in a *kumite* match.
10. Understand and be prepared to acknowledge and pass judgment upon referee's signals for 11 category 2 (prohibited behavior) warnings/penalties in a *kumite* match.
11. Demonstrate knowledge and application of the 3 criteria for *hantei* (tie score) to declare a winner in a *kumite* match.
12. Demonstrate the ability to declare the winner of a *kumite* match upon referee's signal for *hantei* without hesitation.
13. Assist in visually monitoring the scoreboard in the absence of a *kansa*.
14. Possess clear understanding of scoring criteria for *kata* matches (Technical & Athletic Performance) in beginner, novice and intermediate level divisions.



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15. Possess clear understanding of criteria for *kata* fouls and disqualification.
16. Demonstrate the ability to declare a *kata* match winner and react without hesitation to “chief judge’s” signals for *kata* flag score.
17. Obtain and maintain Safe Sport and Background Investigation status in accordance with Safe Sport and Background check rules and regulations.

➤ REGIONAL REFEREE

1. Assist “chief referee” in division arrival from staging, competitor check in, and line up as needed.
2. Demonstrate understanding of coaches’ and competitors’ required attire/equipment. Assist “chief referee” and/or *kansa* to tactfully resolve attire/equipment correction issues.
3. Demonstrate the ability to begin and conclude individual *kumite* matches.
4. Maintain effective positioning in the ring with clear view of action and judges’ flags.
5. Observe judges’ scores and award points when appropriate based on their decisions.
6. Observe, evaluate and apply warnings and penalties.
7. Establish working knowledge of the 10 second rule and its application.
8. Understand the disqualification criteria and signals.
9. Interpret and assist in managing chart(s), with understanding of the bye system and recharge, among others.
10. Maintain a cohesive ring environment with scorekeepers and staff with a focus on safety measures and efficient ring operation.
11. Assist with division conclusion and ensure competitors’ proper exit from competition area.
12. Practice being prepared to implement reasonable emergency protocol in the event of an accident, sudden illness and/or other kind of match interruption.



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13. Obtain and maintain Safe Sport and Background Investigation status in accordance with Safe Sport and Background check rules and regulations.

➤ NATIONAL JUDGE

1. Assist “chief referee” with competitors’ arrival at (non-elite) ring from staging, and effectuate expedient equipment/attire check, charting, check in, and line up as needed.
2. Assist “chief referee” and/or *kansa* regarding coaches’ attire, credentials and participation, with ability to tactfully resolve and correct inconsistencies.
3. Assist to ensure efficient operation of a (non-elite) ring with little or no supervision and establish rapport with table staff.
4. Officiate in divisions up to and including advanced non-elite categories.
5. Demonstrate expertise in starting and suspending matches, charting, scoring, imposition of warnings and penalties, and managing accidents or injuries.
6. Understand the application of the 10 second rule, and *shikkaku*.
7. Manage kata matches from the “chief judge’s” chair, including being able to competently demonstrate whistle signals and calls for *hantei* and disqualification.
8. Mentor junior officials regularly.
9. Effectuate reasonable emergency protocol as needed.
10. Re-certify annually at USA Karate Signature Events in accordance with USA Karate rules to maintain current licensing.
11. Obtain and maintain Safe Sport and Background Investigation status in accordance with Safe Sport and Background check rules and regulations.



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➤ NATIONAL REFEREE

1. Demonstrate a complete working knowledge and comprehension of USA *Karate* and WKF Rules of *Kata* and *Kumite* Competition.
2. Understand all aspects of tournament operations and troubleshoot problems such as charting and administrative errors.
3. Understand all duties of a kansa per USA *Karate* and WKF rulebooks, and delegate on-site officials with responsibilities in the absence of a kansa (i.e. equipment/uniform check, scoreboard monitoring, flag count).
4. Delegate officials' positioning in the ring for each match, and rotate officials to resolve conflicts and to maintain efficiency.
5. Manage coaches' issues with clear understanding of coaches' participation and access levels, with the minimal amount of ring action interruption.
6. Demonstrate knowledge and application of the protest process and *shikkaku* procedures.
7. Demonstrate the ability to safely and efficiently implement the 10 second rule and take appropriate follow up action (i.e. fit to resume, disqualification, penalty imposition, etc.).
8. Establish familiarity with the members and knowledge of the responsibilities of the USA *Karate* Referee Committee, and any "appeals jury" designees.
9. Establish familiarity with the "tournament director", "medical staff", and USA-NKF hierarchy and protocol for handling emergencies or serious problems.
10. Demonstrate ability to activate reasonable emergency protocol and take necessary remedial actions to ensure safety and smooth tournament operations.
11. Conduct educational workshops with appropriate USA *Karate* Instructor licensing.
12. Provide support and mentoring services to fellow officials.
13. Re-certify annually at USA Karate Signature Events to maintain current licensing.
14. Obtain and maintain Safe Sport and Background Investigation status in accordance with Safe Sport and Background check rules and regulations.