

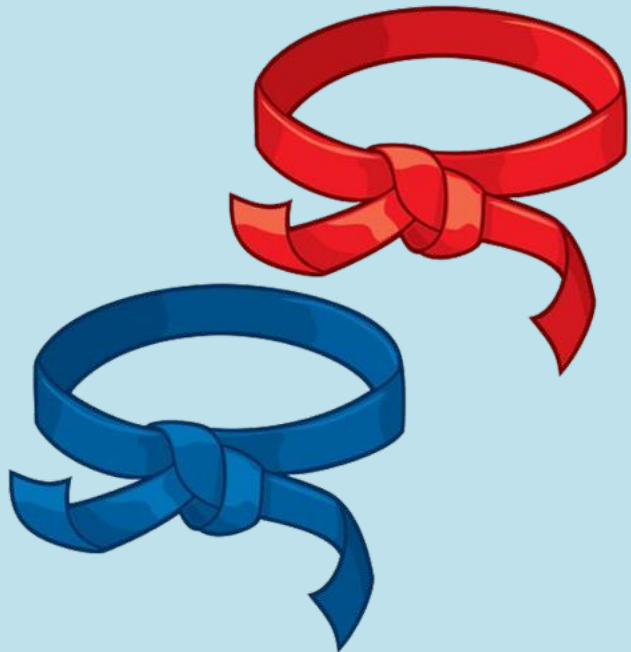


Guide for studying or teaching the WKF Kata Competition Rules

The first images show what's new for 2026

To understand this presentation, a very good knowledge of the competition rules is necessary.
The statements, drawings, and photos are self-explanatory.

WKF KATA COMPETITION RULES



**Effective from
1st January 2026**

The Karate-Gi must not be altered or manipulated to change its shape



FEMALE KATA SENIOR

FLAG

AKA LAST NAME (AKA NF)

001 Anan

FLAG

AO LAST NAME (AO NF)

068 Papuren

7.6

7.5

7.6

7.1

7.1

7.7

7.2

8.0

7.3

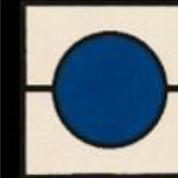
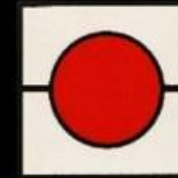
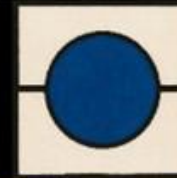
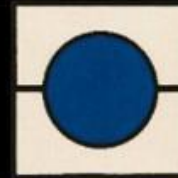
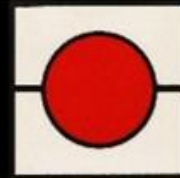
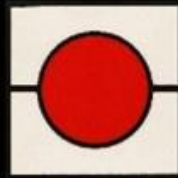
7.4

7.3

7.4

7.3

7.5



WINNER: AO 4 - 3

**DECISION BASED ON THE MAJORITY OF VOTES
BY THE JUDGES**

FOULS

USE OF AUDIBLE CUES

Of any other person, including other Team members (Bunkai)

THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE

Stamping the feet, slapping the chest, arms, Karategi or inappropriate exhalation

VERY SERIOUS FOULS

The same level as penalizing major loss of balance

INCORRECT KIAI

Kiai must be short, concentrated and simultaneously with the technique



DISQUALIFICATION

PERSISTENT AND OBVIOUS REPETITION OF THEATRICALS
stamping the feet - slapping the chest - arms - Karategi
or inappropriate exhalation

NOT ANNOUNCING THE KATA

To be considered announced, the name of the Kata must be
recognisable to the Judges

**The Chief Judge must call Fukushima Shugo
before the decision of disqualification**



TIME WASTING

From when the name
of the Athlete/Team is
announced on the monitor

UNTIL THE FIRST MOVE
AFTER THE BOW

35 SECONDS



KATA TEAM MEMBERS

Marks on the shoulders must
be of the same colour



**Any Kata may be performed
in the medal rounds, unless
already performed twice!**

Prescription sport-glasses
Soft contact lenses
can be worn at the
Athlete's own risk



WORLD KARATE FEDERATION



FOR OFFICIAL WKF COMPETITIONS

Panel of seven (7) Judges for all events using Round-Robin
Panel of five (5) Judges for all events not using Round-Robin



**Ties will be resolved
according to article 5**

Elimination system: **NO TIES**
Round-Robin Teams: **4 criteria**
Round-Robin individual : **5 criteria**

Two pool Round-Robin system
According to rules for the event



WKF Referees & Judges must have the corresponding license according to the event

Conditions and Requirements for WKF Referees 2026

PREMIER LEAGUE

Must have Kata J-A and/or Kumite R-A

NOR	ALMUND	HARADSON	RA	JB	He can only officiate in Kumite
SWE	ERIK	JOHANSSON	X	JA	He can only officiate in Kata
ISL	ÁRÓRA	KERSTINDOTTIR	RA	JA	She can officiate in both

WKF EVENTS YEAR-1

Karate-1 Event

WKF Referee Course (New Candidates)

Ind. World Championships Qualification Phase

WKF Referee Course (Upgrade license)

Ind. World Championships Final phase

WKF EVENTS YEAR-2

Karate-1 Event

WKF Referee Course (New Candidates)

World Championships Cadets - Juniors & U21

WKF Referee Course (Upgrade license)

World Championships for Teams

WORLD CUP

RESOLVING TIES

ROUND-ROBIN TEAMS COMPETITION



Most victory points scored in all matches

Winner of the match between the Teams in tie

The highest of sum of Judges picking the Team as winner for all the matches in the group

Performance of an extra Kata without Bunkai

RESOLVING TIES

ROUND-ROBIN INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION



Most victory points scored in all bouts

Winner of the bout between the Athletes in a tie

The highest of sum of Judges picking the Athlete as winner for all the bouts in the group

Athlete having the highest World Ranking

Performance of an extra Kata

KATA COMPETITION FORMATS

Elimination system with repechage
Individuals or Teams

Round Robin followed by elimination
Senior World Championships Individuals & teams
Premier Leagues

Two-pool Round Robin system
Multiple Sport Games/Olympic Games

FORMAT WORLD SENIOR TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS - WORLD CUP

Groups of 5 teams

Round-Robin System

Quarter-final

Semi-final

Medal Bouts

Only one Bronze medal



NUMBER OF KATA REQUIRED

IN PRINCIPLE ONLY 5 DIFERENT KATA ARE NEEDED

Repeating is allowed but only from the sixth round

No Kata can be repeated twice in a row

U-14 categories only

4 Kata are required

Same principles for repeating



DOUBLE DISQUALIFICATION MEDAL BOUT



**NEW KATA
MUST BE DONE**

**IN TEAMS
NO BUNKAI
IS REQUIRED**

FORMAT PREMIER LEAGUES

32 Athletes per category
8 Round Robin groups of 4 Athletes

1st Kata Round Robin

2nd Kata Round Robin

3rd Kata Round Robin



4th Kata Quarter-finals

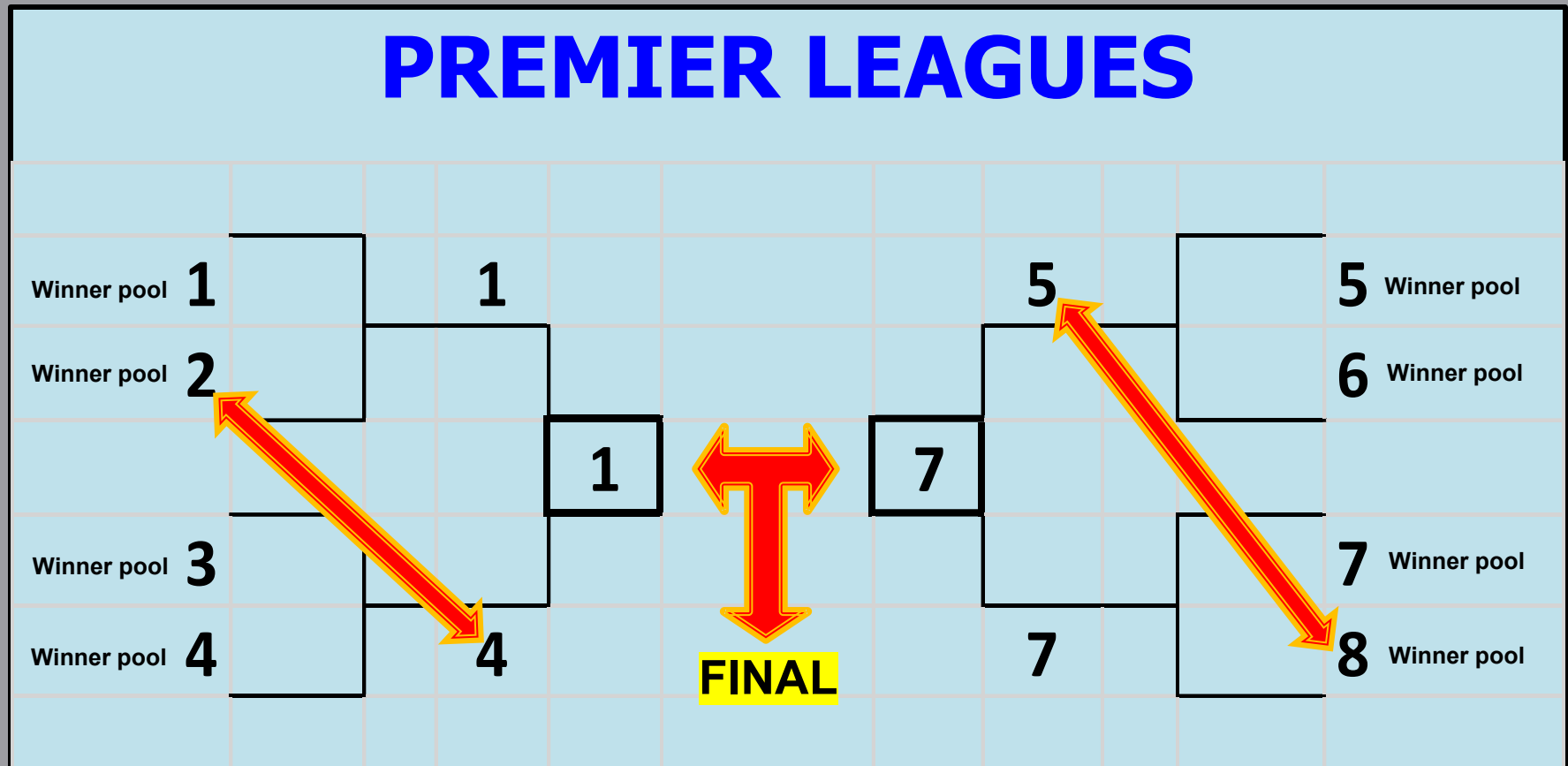
5th Kata Semi-finals

6th Kata Medal bouts

WORLD KARATE FEDERATION



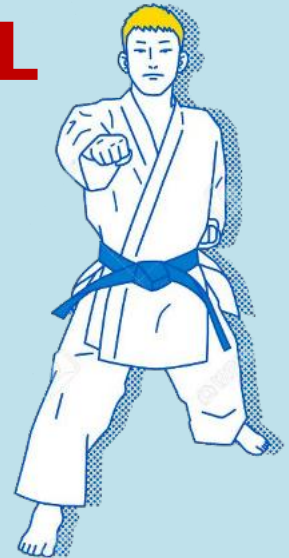
PREMIER LEAGUES



FORMAT PHASE 1 INDIVIDUAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Round-Robin groups of 6-8-12 or 24
depending on the number of Athletes**

**Winners and best runners-ups of each group
will form 6 pairs competing for the 6 places
qualifying for the Phase 2 (final phase) of the
World Individual Championships**



WORLD KARATE FEDERATION



**IF AN ATHLETE ARRIVES TO THE TATAMI WITH
UNREGULATED KARATE-GI**

AND IS GIVEN ONE (1) MINUTE TO CORRECT MATTERS

**THE COACH MAY HAVE HIS/HER LICENSE SUSPENDED FOR A
PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS AFTER THE EVENT HAS FINISHED**

**UNLESS THE EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE
HAS BEEN CHECKED BY A WKF CONTROLLER**

**CHIEF REFEREE
KANSA**



**ONE SINGLE LINE OF
TECHNICAL AND ATHLETIC SCORES**

SCORE PERFORMANCE FROM 5.0 TO 10.0

INCREMENTS OF 0.1

KATA PERFORMANCE

Speed

Balance

Strength

Stances

Techniques

Focus (KIME)

Correct breathing

Transitional movements

Timing & synchronization

Conformance (Consistence of the KIHON)



BUNKAI PERFORMANCE

Speed

Balance

Strength

Timing & Distance

Control

Stances

Techniques

Focus (**KIME**)

Transitional movements

Conformance to Kata

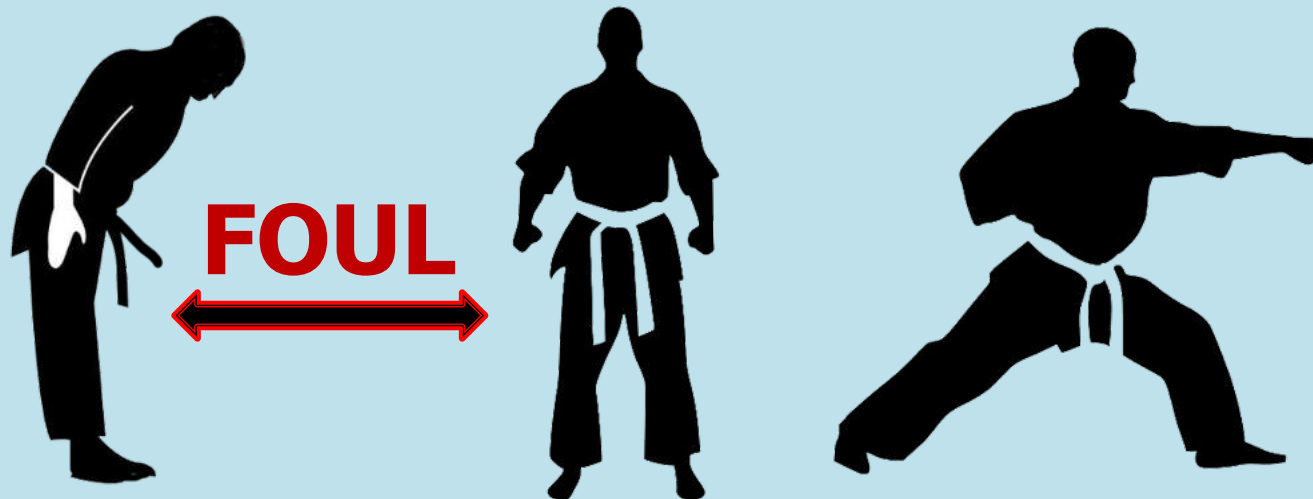
Using the actual movements as
performed in the Kata



KATA IS NOT A DANCE OR THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE



OPERATION OF MATCHES



SIMULATED UNCONSCIOUSNESS

More than 2 seconds: **FOUL**



**After being downed the Athlete must either
raise to one knee or stand up
within two (2) seconds**



GUIDELINE - PLEASE CONSIDER

➤ 10	Perfect	Perfection of performance
➤ 9 - 9.9	Excellent	World class medal competition
➤ 8 - 8.9	Very good	High level international competition
➤ 7 - 7.9	Good	Expected level for international competition
➤ 6 - 6.9	Acceptable	Performed without distinction
➤ 5 - 5.9	Insufficient	Performed with discrepancies
➤ 0	Disqualified	

1	Anan	35	Jiin	69	Passai
2	Anan Dai	36	Jion	70	Pinan Shodan
3	Ananko	37	Jitte	71	Pinan Nidan
4	Aoyagi	38	Juroku	72	Pinan Sandan
5	Bassai	39	Kanchin	73	Pinan Yondan
6	Bassai Dai	40	Kanku Dai	74	Pinan Godan
7	Bassai Sho	41	Kanku Sho	75	Rohai
8	Chatanyara Kusanku	42	Kanshu	76	Saifa
9	Chibana No Kushanku	43	Kishimoto No Kushanku	77	Sanchin
10	Chinte	44	Kousoukun	78	Sansai
11	Chinto	45	Kousoukun Dai	79	Sanseiru
12	Enpi	46	Kousoukun Sho	80	Sanseru
13	Fukyugata Ichi	47	Kururunfa	81	Seichin
14	Fukyugata Ni	48	Kusanku	82	Seienchin (Seiyunchin)
15	Gankaku	49	Kyan No Chinto	83	Seipai
16	Garyu	50	Kyan No Wanshu	84	Seiryu
17	Gekisai (Geksai) 1	51	Matsukaze	85	Seishan
18	Gekisai (Geksai) 2	52	Matsumura Bassai	86	Seisan (Sesan)
19	Gojushiho	53	Matsumura Rohai	87	Shiho Kousoukun
20	Gojushiho Dai	54	Meikyo	88	Shinpa
21	Gojushiho Sho	55	Myojo	89	Shinsei
22	Hakusho	56	Naifanchin Shodan	90	Shisochin
23	Hangetsu	57	Naifanchin Nidan	91	Sochin
24	Haufa (Haffa)	58	Naifanchin Sandan	92	Suparinpei
25	Heian Shodan	59	Naihanchi	93	Tekki Shodan
26	Heian Nidan	60	Nijushiho	94	Tekki Nidan
27	Heian Sandan	61	Nipaipo	95	Tekki Sandan
28	Heian Yondan	62	Niseishi	96	Tensho
29	Heian Godan	63	Ohan	97	Tomari Bassai
30	Heiku	64	Ohan Dai	98	Unshu
31	Ishimine Bassai	65	Oyadomari No Passai	99	Unsu
32	Itosu Rohai Shodan	66	Pachu	100	Useishi
33	Itosu Rohai Nidan	67	Paiku	101	Wankan
34	Itosu Rohai Sandan	68	Papuren	102	Wanshu



WKF

KATA LIST

GUIDELINE - POINTS DEDUCTION

- **Minor lose of balance**
- **Belt coming lose**
- **Time wasting**
- **Not bowing first**
- **Simulated unconsciousness more than 2 seconds**

Minor or single error

-0.2 / -0.3 points

Serious or repeated

-0.4 / -0.5 points

GUIDELINE - POINTS DEDUCTION

- **Asynchronous movements**
- **Incorrect or incomplete movements**

Minor or single error

-0.6 / -0.7 points

Serious or repeated

-0.8 / -0.9 points

GUIDELINE - POINTS DEDUCTION

- Audible cues
- Theatrics
- Major loss of balance

Minor or single error
-1.0 points

- Causing injury during Bunkai
- Failing to do a movement in unison in team Kata

Serious or repeated
-1.4 / -1.6 points

GUIDELINE

ACCUMULATED POINTS DEDUCTION

- **The evaluation scale is from 5.0 to 10.0 points**
- **The lowest possible score for a completed Kata without disqualification is therefore 5.0**
- **If the sum of deductions are -5.0 or more, the score will be 5.0**

GUIDELINE

DISQUALIFICATION

- 1. Not announcing the Kata, announcing wrong Kata, performing another Kata than announced.**
- 2. Failing to bow at the beginning and end.**
- 3. Not starting the Kata facing the Judges.**
- 4. A distinct pause or stop in the performance.**
- 5. Omitting or adding movements.**
- 6. Persistent and obvious repetition of theatrics**
 - stamping the feet**
 - slapping the chest, arms, or karategi**
 - inappropriate exhalation**

GUIDELINE

DISQUALIFICATION

- 7. Having to take a corrective step to recover from a total loss of balance or have a fall.**
- 8. Belt falling off during the performance.**
- 9. Exceeding the total time limit of 5 min. for Kata & Bunkai.**
- 10. Performing Jodan Kani Basami.**
- 11. Failure to follow the instructions of the Chief Judge or other misconduct (SHIKKAKU).**

DISQUALIFICATION

PERSISTENT AND OBVIOUS REPETITION OF THEATRICALS
stamping the feet - slapping the chest - arms - Karategi
or inappropriate exhalation

NOT ANNOUNCING THE KATA

To be considered announced, the name of the Kata must be
recognisable to the Judges

**The Chief Judge must call Fukushima Shugo
before the decision of disqualification**



FOUL OR DISQUALIFICATION?



INJURY

BALANCE

PAUSE/STOP

THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE



Discrepancy between the name and the number of the Kata: The number applies

Anan: 1

Bassai Dai: 6

Aoyagi: 4

Chatanyara Kusanku: 8

九 六 一 〇 ー **1**

八 七 六 五 四 **4**

KATA TEAM: 3 + 1 Reserv

ANY 3 MAY BE USED FOR ANY ROUND



SUPARINPEI: Gojuryu - Shitoryu - Shotokan (Hyakuhachiho)

**EXCESSIVE CELEBRATION
POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS DEMONSTRATIONS**

**FALLING ON ONE'S KNEES ETC.
POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS EXPRESSIONS
ARE PROHIBITED**

**Will be subject to a fine equal to the amount
determined by the EC for the protest fee**

**The Tatami Manager or/and Chief Referee
will notify the official table**

AVOID ALL KINDS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST



Nationality
Residency
Family ties in-laws
Athlete/Coach relationship

TM:s
Round-Robin

**AVOID ALL KINDS
OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**



**AVOID VERY SEVERE
CONSEQUENCES**

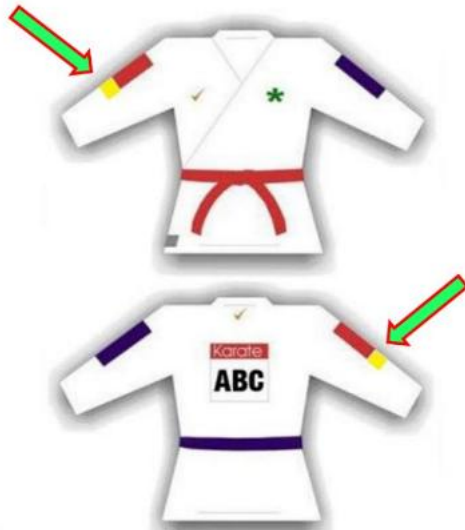
Karate Gi



WORLD KARATE FEDERATION

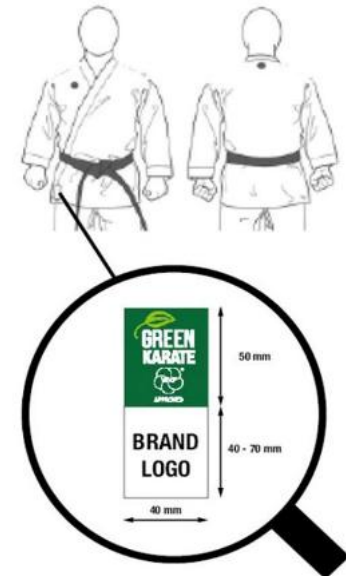


Advertising space for the Athletes (5 x 10 cm)



-  ADVERTISING SPACE FOR THE WKF OF 20 x 10 cm AD
-  ADVERTISING SPACE FOR THE N.F. OF 15 x 10 cm
-  ADVERTISING SPACE FOR THE ATHLETE OF 5 x 10 CM
-  BACK RESERVED FOR THE ORGANISING FEDERATION OF 30 x 30 cm
DISPLAY THREE LETTER COUNTRY CODE
-  EMBLEM OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF 12 x 8 cm
-  SPACES FOR THE MANUFACTURERS TRADEMARK OF 5 x 4 cm

WKF Approved GREEN Karate-Gi



Jackets with **Red and **Blue**
marks on the shoulders**



MANDATORY
AT ALL OFFICIAL WKF EVENTS

Jackets with GOLD marks on the shoulders



MANDATORY

**K1 Premier League for incumbent
GRAND WINNERS**

**World Seniors Championships for incumbent
WORLD CHAMPIONS & TEAMS (WORLD CUP)**

WORLD KARATE FEDERATION



WKF APPROVED KARATE-GI



ADIDAS

ARAWAZA

BESTSPORT

BUDONORD

DAEDO

HAYASHI

PUNOK

MOOTO

SMAI

TOKAIDO

WACOKU

WESING

FUJIMAE

KO

KOROBUSHI

SHUREIDO

TUSAH

WKF APPROVED FROM THE 1st JULY 2025

ATHLETES & TEAMS



**MUST WEAR
A PLAIN
RED OR BLUE
BELT
ACCORDING
TO THE DRAW**



TATAMI SAME DIMENSIONS AS KUMITE



WORLD KARATE FEDERATION



WKF APPROVED TATAMI



Seven Judges officiating



WORLD KARATE FEDERATION



**(ST) SOFTWARE
TECHNICIAN**

**(TM) TATAMI
MANAGER**

(R) RUNNER



**THE S.T. (OPERATOR)
AND ANNOUNCER
MAY BE THE SAME
PERSON**

**MEDAL BOUTS
TEAM KATA
TIMEKEEPER
KATA & BUNKAI**



4 Tatami in a row



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SHOMEN NI REI & OTAGAI NI REI



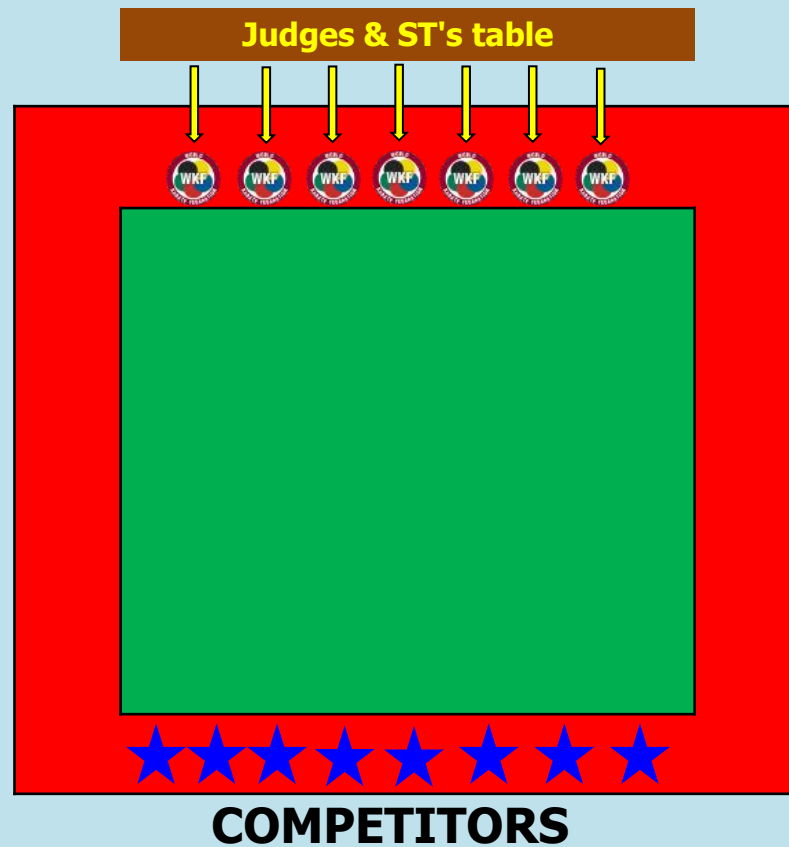
**AT THE BEGINNING
OF THE COMPETITION**

**WHEN CHANGING
CATEGORY**
Individual to Team
Male to Female

WORLD KARATE FEDERATION



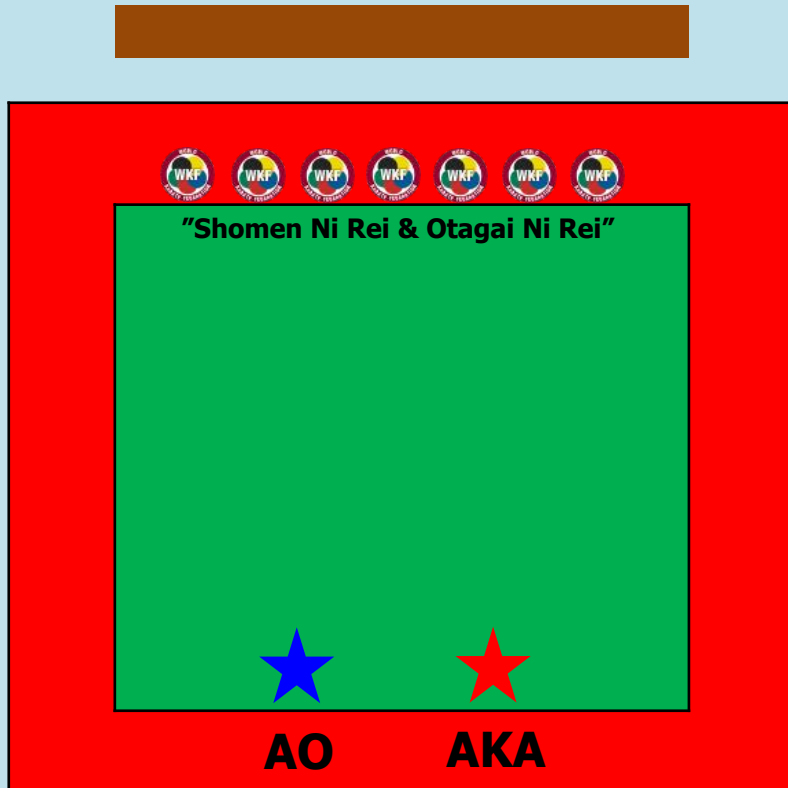
AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH CATEGORY



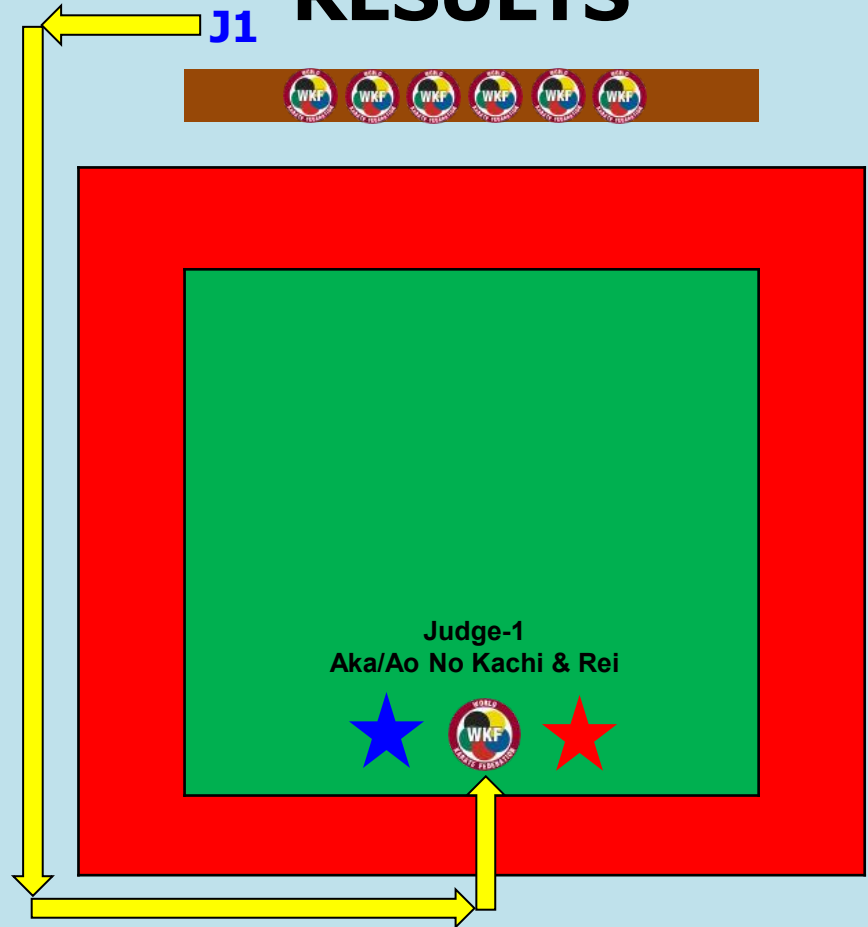
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MEDAL BOUTS



RESULTS



AKA (AO) NO KACHI



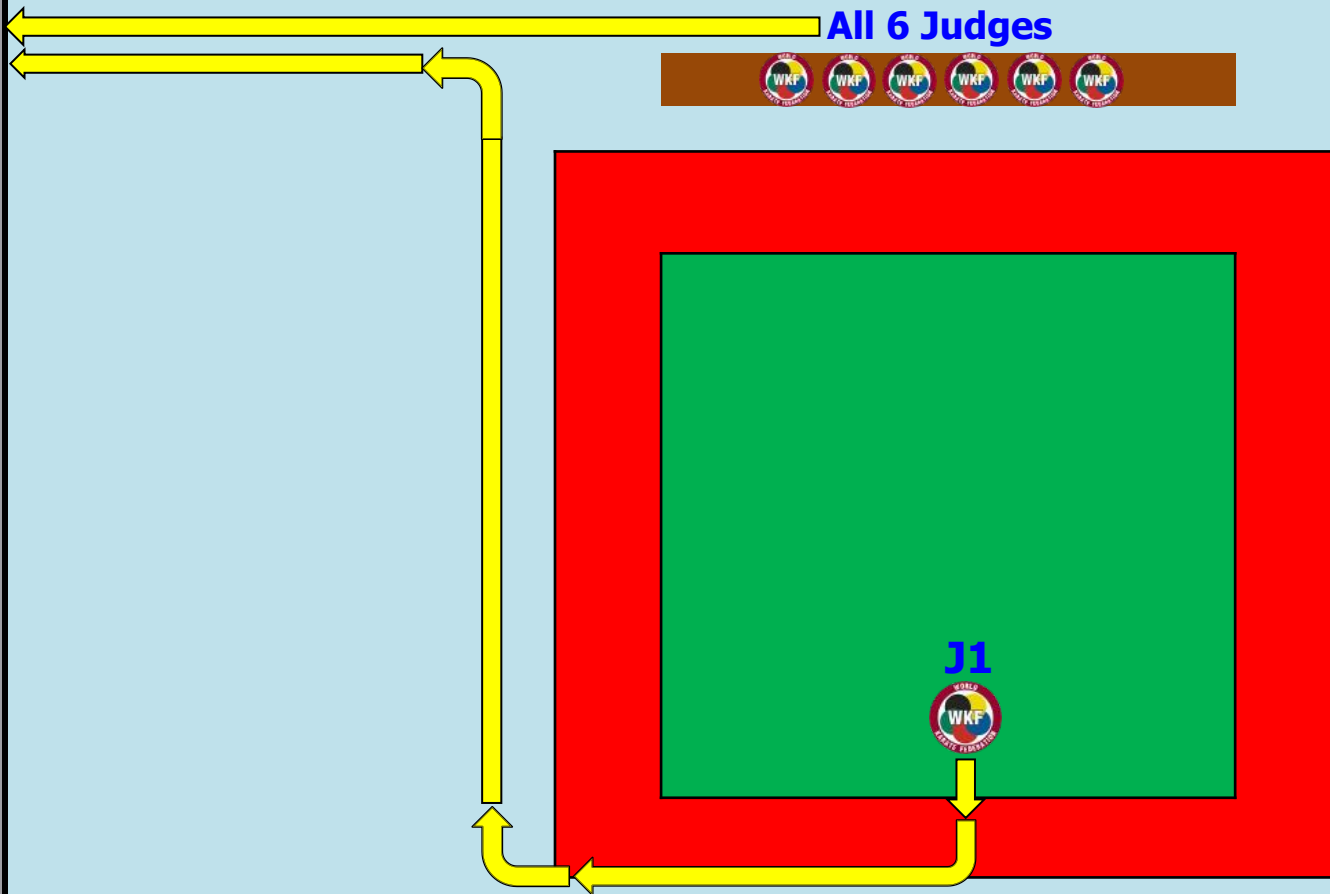
Individual Kata



Team Kata

ALL OTHER 6 JUDGES REMAIN SEATED

■ All 6 Judges



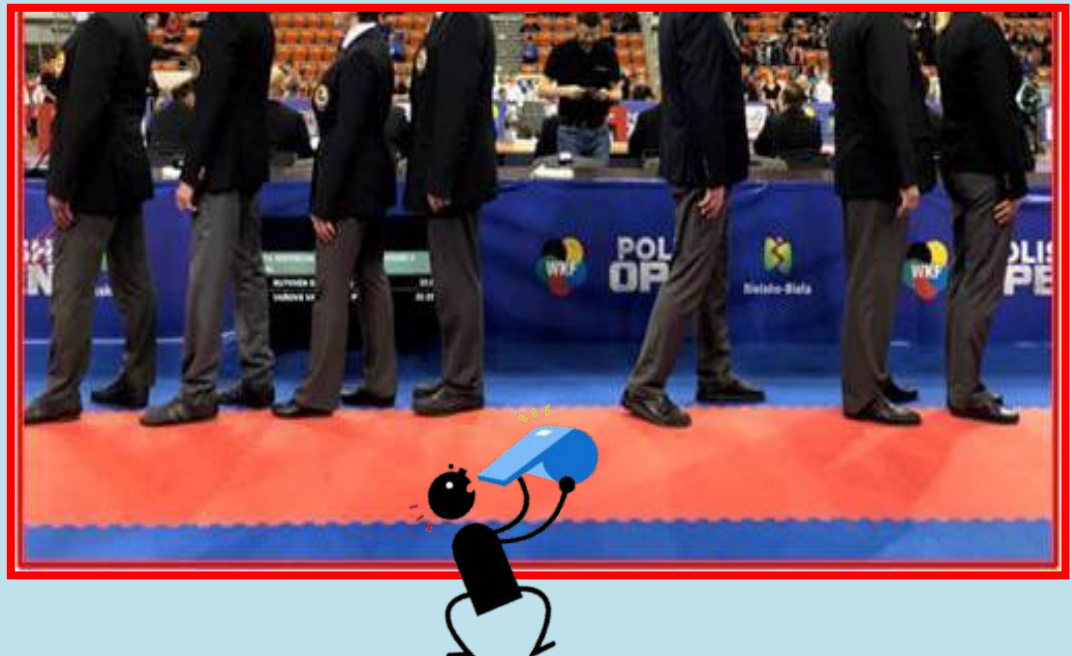
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**First turn to
the RIGHT
Back to the
LEFT**

**COMMAND - TURN - SIGNAL - BOW
COMMAND - TURN - BOW**

IN ORDER TO AVOID THIS...



Follow Judge nr.1 in Kata

and the Referee in Kumite

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Only the tablets on the table, nothing else!



BEHAVE PLEASE!

**NO TALKING - NO LAUGHING
DON'T LOOK AT EACH OTHERS' TABLETS**



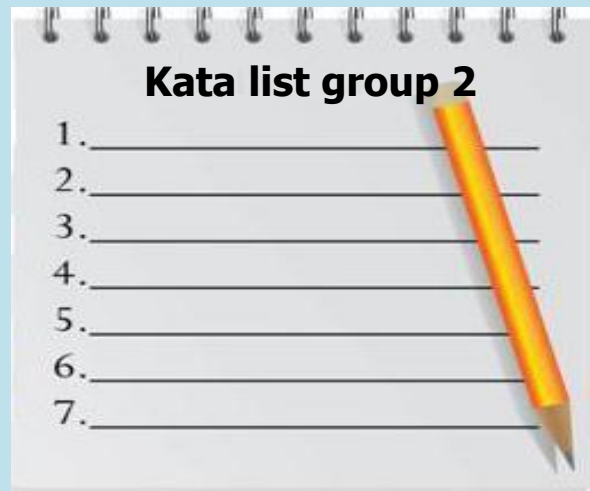
**After moving into
the starting position**

**BOW
ANNOUNCE THE KATA
BEGIN**

**When finishing the Kata
or Bunkai performance
BOW AGAIN**



Runners must be familiar with the WKF Kata list



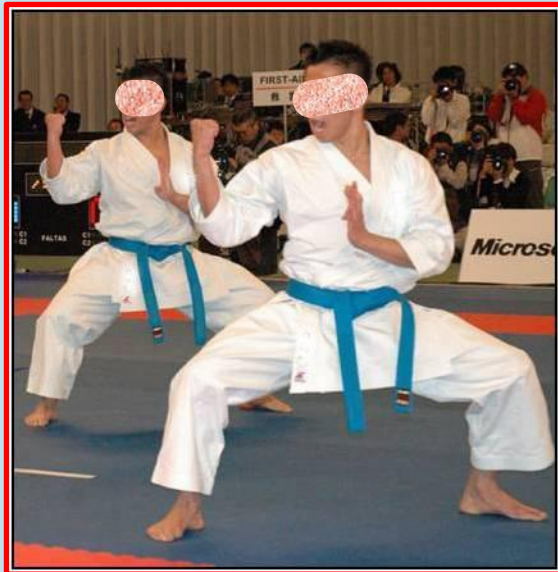
**The TM is responsible
the Runner's duties**

Only Kata from **the official Kata** list may be performed

Slight variations as taught by the **Athlete's style (Ryu-ha)** of Karate will be permitted



The total time allowed for KATA & BUNKAI demonstration is FIVE (5) minutes



The countdown clock will start when the team bow upon starting the kata



The countdown clock will stop at the final bow after the Bunkai performance

**It is the responsibility of the Coach
or the Athlete(s)**



**to ensure that the Kata notified to
the Runner is the appropriate
for that particular round!**

FOUL OR DISQUALIFICATION?



INJURY

BALANCE

PAUSE/STOP



FOULS

Balance

Minor loss of balance

Movements

Performing a movement in an incorrect or incomplete manner

Failure to fully execute a block or technique

Punching off target



FOULS



Synchronization

Asynchronous movement

**Delivering a technique before
the body transition is completed**

Team Kata; failing to do a movement in unison



FOULS

Audible cues

**Stamping the feet - slapping the chest - arms - Gi
Inappropriate exhalation!!!**

**Must be considered very serious fouls
by the judges in their evaluation!**

Same level as penalization for temporary loss of balance



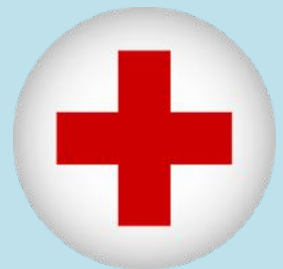
FOULS

Time wasting

Including prolonged marching & excessive bowing
Prolonged pause before starting the performance

Injury

Causing injury by lack of controlled technique during Kata & Bunkai



DISQUALIFICATION



Not announcing the Kata

Not starting the Kata facing the Judges

**Substantially changing the performance
from its original form**

**Taking a corrective step to recover from
a total loss of balance or falling**

DISQUALIFICATION

Failing to bow at the beginning and completion of the performance



DISQUALIFICATION

A distinct pause or stop in the performance for several seconds



Interference with the function of the judges

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MORE THAN 5 MINUTES: **DISQUALIFICATION**



DISQUALIFICATION



**Failure to follow the instructions
of the Chief Judge/misconduct**

Belt coming loose **FOUL**



Belt falling off **DISQUALIFICATION**



DISQUALIFICATION

**Jodan
Kani Basami**

**Leg scissor
takedown**



TEAM KATA...

**ONE MEMBER OF THE TEAM
CHANGES A TECHNIQUE**

DISQUALIFICATION!

DISQUALIFICATION

**JUDGES MUST DO
FUKUSHIN SHUGO**

KIKEN KATA

**TATAMI MANAGER
INSTRUCTS THE
SOFTWARE TECHNICIAN**

IT IS NOT...

**The name of the Athlete
or the National Federation
THAT MATTERS!**



**It is the performance
during the actual bout - nothing else!**

COACHES - MALE & FEMALE

ELIMINATIONS & MEDAL BOUTS

**In official WKF events
Exception Youth League**

**It is not permitted to change
the Coach during the
performance**

**Sandals and open-toe
shoes are prohibited**



Sunglasses are not allowed



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REFEREES & JUDGES

STRICTLY FORBIDDEN
PHONES CALLS
WEAR SMARTWATCHES
IN THE FIELD OF PLAY



Exception
Chief Referee / RC Chair & Secretary
Appeal Jury-1

OUR FUTURE... Please handle with care!



WORLD KARATE FEDERATION



THANK YOU VERY MUCH



**GOOD
LUCK!**