



# **WORLD KARATE FEDERATION**

## **PARA-KARATE KATA COMPETITION RULES**

**EFFECTIVE FROM 1.8.2018**



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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

These Rules and Regulations are mandatory for all WKF Para-Karate events, as well as other recognised competitions. The Competition Rules of the World Karate Federation supplement these Rules and Regulations.

## **2. DISCIPLINE, CATEGORIES, AND IMPAIRMENTS**

In Para-Karate only Kata Individual is performed.

There are three Categories for individual Kata in Para-Karate:

- a) Wheelchair Athletes
- b) Visually Impaired
- c) Intellectually Impaired

### **2.1. ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS**

#### **2.1.1. Wheelchair Athletes**

Only those athletes with at least one of the following 7 impairments will be considered eligible for competition in the Para Karate Wheelchair category.

##### **Impaired Muscle Power**

Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a Health Condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force.

Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete, tetra-or paraplegia or paraparesis), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida.

##### **Impaired Passive Range of Movement**

Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints.

Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include arthrogyrosis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint.

##### **Limb Deficiency**

Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (for example traumatic amputation), illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (for example dysmelia).

##### **Leg Length Difference**

Athletes with Leg Length Difference have a difference in the length of their legs as a result of a disturbance of limb growth, or as a result of trauma. Leg length difference must be at least 7cm.

##### **Hypertonia**

Athletes with hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system.

Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Hypertonia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.



## **Ataxia**

Athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system.

Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Ataxia include: cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.

## **Athetosis**

Athletes with Athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements.

Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Athetosis include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.

### **2.1.2. Visually impaired:**

Athletes with Vision Impairment have reduced or no vision caused by damage to the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the brain.

Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Vision Impairment include retinitis pigmentosa and diabetic retinopathy.

### **2.1.3. Intellectually Impaired:**

Athletes with an intellectual Impairment have a restriction in intellectual functioning (IQ  $\leq 75$ ) and adaptive behavior in which affects conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills required for everyday life. This Impairment must be present before the age of 18.

If athlete's impairment do not comply with the three criteria mentioned above, athlete not be considered eligible to compete and will therefore be excluded from the Para Karate competition.

## **2.2. CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURE**

### **2.2.1. The System**

Classification in Para-Karate consists in an extra point compensation depending on the influence of the particular impairment when performing the Kata. Expert WKF Classifiers will assess during the Classification session the limitation in Kata performance caused by the impairment.

Consequently, the classification panel will give up to 3 extra points with one decimal number (From 0,0 to 3,0) to the athlete that will later be added to the Judges` Score as explained in the Scoring section (see 5.2).

### **2.2.2. Specifications and Classification Session**

Classification session will take place prior to competition in the same location, ideally one or two days before its start. In order to participate, the National Federations must include on the online WKF registration system the Medical Diagnostics Forms of the athletes, as well as (if necessary) the Diagnostic Evidence Documents.

Medical Diagnostic Forms and extra testing at the competition are tools to provide more accurate extra points to the athlete.

During the classification session, one national coach has to be with the athlete all the time. In case of an athlete with Intellectual Disabilities, one member of his inner circle will be also allowed to accompany him if necessary.

As for wheelchair athletes, they will attend to the classification session with the same wheelchair that will later be used during the competition. If straps and/or shoes are



used for the competition, they have to be used in classification, too.

Concerning athletes with visual impairments, no extra testing will be performed during the classification session. Nevertheless, the athletes have to show up to the testing for verification of their disability. Extra points will be given based on the Medical Diagnostic Form.

### **2.3. MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC FORMS**

Medical Diagnostic Forms (MDF) are documents created by the WKF to effectively summarize diagnostic information of the para-athlete. This document will provide valuable information to WKF classifiers to better understand the deserved extra points that will later be given.

In case of Wheelchair Athletes and Visually Impaired Athletes the MDF has to be completed by a registered Medical Doctor.

In case of athletes with intellectual disabilities, the MDF's must be completed by the athlete's personal/primary coach.

### **2.4. RECLASSIFICATION PROCEDURES**

An official WKF classifier may reclassify athletes at any time during the competition.

A reclassification may occur in following cases:

- a) if the classifier notices a difference in the performance of the athlete between the classification session and the competition.
- b) in the event of an official protest granted

In the case of an athlete being reclassified during the competition by the decision of the classifier, the extra points achieved in the competition will be added to points that correspond to the newest assessment made by the official WKF classifier.

Reclassification may result in a positive or negative result.

If an athlete is suspected to have intentionally deceived the classifier, the athlete will be disqualified immediately.

## **3. KATA COMPETITION AREA**

1. The competition area must be flat and devoid of hazard.
2. The competition area must be of sufficient size to permit the uninterrupted performance of the Kata. The WKF able-bodied competition rules for Kata apply.
3. The whole competition area must be without any form of barriers.
4. There must be one changing room for male and one for female; the doors to them must be at least 1 metre wide; there must be a treatment couch for the wheelchair user to change their clothing
5. In any unforeseen incident, such as extra testing, doping control, fire, case of evacuation, the national coaches are responsible for their athletes

### **EXPLANATION:**

- I. For the proper performance of Kata a stable smooth surface is required. Usually, the matted Kata areas for able-bodied competitions will be suitable.
- II. Athletes must have the opportunity to come to the hall, extra testing rooms, doping controls, the warm up area, dressing area, the toilets and spectators' area without any barriers, especially for wheelchair athletes and visually impaired athletes. This applies



in particular to competition areas on platforms, which are also to be made easily accessible for wheelchair athletes by means of a safe, drivable ramp.

- III. Should final matches or competitions take place on a platform, the coaches will bring the athletes on the platform via steps or a ramp. There they are taken to the competition perimeter by WKF officials and supervised by them during the competition for safety reasons. Coaches have to sit on the coach chairs during the bout. After the bout the athletes will be taken back to the departure of the platform by the WKF Officials and guided from the platform by the coaches.

#### **4. OFFICIAL DRESS**

1. Contestants and Judges must wear the official uniform as defined in the WKF Kata and Kumite Competition Rules.
2. Wheelchair athletes are allowed to wear white sport shoes.
3. During the first rounds, female competitors have to wear a red belt and male competitors have to wear a blue belt
4. In the finals one competitor will have to wear a red belt, and the other a blue belt. According to the Rules of the WKF the Athlete with the red belt (Aka) is placed on the right side of the competition area as seen from of the chief judge, the Athlete with the blue belt (Ao) on the left side of the competition area.

##### EXPLANATION:

- I. The karate-gi jacket may not be removed during the performance of the Kata.
- II. To protect the feet of wheelchair athletes from injuries they may wear sport shoes. Shoes of wheelchair athletes have to be completely white and without any logo or manufacturer's marks. The shaft may be only go to the ankles. Socks may be worn but have to be of white color and must not be longer than the shoe shaft.
- III. Contestants who present themselves incorrectly dressed or does not comply to these rules will be given one minute in which to remedy the situation.

#### **5. EQUIPMENT**

The IPC Policy on Sport Equipment (outlined in the IPC Handbook) applies to all recognized competitions.

##### **5.1. Blindfolds**

Athletes of the category "Visually Impaired" are allowed to wear blindfolds. They should be of a dark, restrained color (grey, blue, black) and should not have any logos or signs of sponsors or manufacturers.

##### **5.2. Wheelchair**

All types of wheelchairs are allowed, which allow the athletic and undisturbed presentation of a Kata. Only the following types and variations are not permitted:

- a) Wheelchairs for basketball
- b) Wheelchairs for rugby
- c) Wheelchairs with electric drive support (e.g. electric motors integrated in wheel hubs)
- d) Power wheelchairs

Wheelchairs used in competition must also be used in classification session. If a



different wheelchair is used in competition than in classification session, the athlete will be disqualified.

### **5.3. Straps**

Straps to fix the legs of wheelchair athletes are allowed. They have to be of white colour and with no logo and may be placed between the ankles and the knee. A fixation of the thighs or the upper body is not allowed.

Straps used in competition must also be used in classification session. If no strap is used in the classification session and one used in competition or a different strap is used in classification session than in competition, the athlete will be disqualified.

## **6. ORGANISATION OF KATA COMPETITION**

1. Kata competition takes the form of individual bouts. An individual Kata bout consists of an individual performance in separate male and female divisions.
2. A point system with best score ranking will apply.
3. Contestants can perform the same Kata in each round repetition is therefore allowed.
4. The score list will be entered before the tournament, and it will consist of classification information along with the corresponding number of additional points for each competitor, according to the official list of competitors. Before each round the Kata the athlete wants to show is entered in the list.
5. The best two in each group at the first round will form a new pool for the finals for the First and Third place. The first of pool A and first of pool B will compete in the finals for first place. The second of pool A and the second of pool B will compete in the finals for third place. As a result, there will be one gold medal, one silver medal and one bronze medal. The athlete, who gets fourth place, will get a diploma after the official medal ceremony as a reward to his achievement.
6. In the bout for medals, Aka first shows his Kata and is then evaluated, then Ao branches his Kata and is then evaluated. The result will then be officially announced.
7. The medals will be awarded in the usual way.

### **EXPLANATION:**

- I. The personal coach does not have to have an official license but has to obey the WKF rules for coaches as the official coach has to.
- II. Personal and official coaches who do not obey the rules of the WKF may be suspended from the competition. In that case the participation of the athlete is still applicable, there are no consequences for the athlete.

## **7. THE JUDGING PANEL**

1. The panel of seven Judges for each bout will be designated and trained by the Chairman of the Referee Commission, support in training by the Para-Karate Commission Chairman can be given.
2. The Judges of a Kata bout must not have the nationality of either of the participants or be from the same National Federation of either of the participants.
3. In addition, scorekeepers, assistant scorekeeper and caller/announcer will be appointed and trained by the Chairman of the Para-Karate Commission in coordination with the Organizing Commission.



### EXPLANATION:

- I. The Chief Judge will sit in the centre position facing the contestants and the other six Judges will be seated at the corners of the competition area and the left and right side centered to the competition area.
- II. Each Judge will have a scoreboard with numbers and decimal numbers from 0 to 9 or, if electronic scoreboards are being used, an input terminal (see Appendix 2).

## **8. KATA PERFORMED**

1. The Kata is freely selectable from the WKF Kata list as shown in the WKF able-bodied Competition Rules
2. Deviations may be acceptable due to the type of disability
3. Slight variations as taught by the contestant's style (ryu-ha) of Karate will be permitted.

### **8.1. ASSESSMENT**

1. In assessing the performance of a contestant, the Judges will evaluate the performance based on equal weight to both of the major criteria (technical performance and athletic performance) as described in the able-bodied Competition Rules of the WKF for Kata.
2. The performance is evaluated from the bow starting the Kata until the bow ending the Kata.
3. The two major criteria are to be given equal importance in the evaluation of the performance.

### **8.2. SCORING**

1. The seven Judges give their score based on the assessment. The highest and lowest score will not be taken into account in the calculation of the result.
2. Scoring average in:
  - a) First round: 7,0
  - b) Finals: 8,0
3. Extra Point system:

After the classification of the degree of disability by the classification panel, up to 3 extra points will be added to the Judge evaluation respectively, taking into account how the impairment affects Kata performance (see 6.2.1).

### **8.3. DISQUALIFICATION**

A competitor or a team of competitors may be disqualified for any of the following reasons:

- a) Failing to bow at the beginning and completion of the Kata performance.
- b) A distinct pause or stop in the performance.
- c) Interference with the function of the judges (such as the judge having to move for safety reasons or making physical contact with a judge).
- d) Belt falling off during the performance.



- e) Failure to follow the instructions of the Chief Judge or any other misconduct

#### **8.4. FOULS**

The following fouls, if apparent, must be considered in the evaluation according to above criteria.

1. Belt coming loose to the extent that it is coming off the hips during the performance.
2. Time wasting, including prolonged marching, excessive bowing, or prolonged pause before starting the performance.

##### EXPLANATION:

- I. Kata is not a dance or theatrical performance. It must adhere to the traditional values and principles. It must be realistic in fighting terms and display concentration, power, and potential impact in its techniques. It must demonstrate strength, power, and speed — as well as grace, rhythm, and balance.
- II. To the technical performance wheelchair manipulation and fluidity of techniques should be taken in account, too.
- III. Deviations may be for example alternative techniques for non-executable techniques (hand techniques or raising the wheelchair instead of kicks for wheelchair athletes, Hikite to wheelchair wheel instead of to hip) or turns instead of jumps for athletes of all categories.
- IV. It is the sole responsibility of the coach to ensure that the Kata as notified to the score table is appropriate for that particular round.
- V. Reasons for disqualification and the considering of fouls in the evaluation should be treated with care, as some clinical pictures can cause or influence certain behaviours or problems may occur. The judges should be given the possibility of a meeting (Shugo) here, without necessarily resulting in a consequence.

#### **9. OPERATION OF BOUTS**

1. At the start of each bout and in answer to his name, the athlete wearing a blue (male contestants) or red belt (female contestants) will line up at the middle of the match area perimeter facing the Chief Kata Judge. He may be guided to this position by the coach. Then the athlete moves to the starting position by himself which is within the perimeter of the competition area, the coach is not allowed to enter the perimeter. The athlete will bow and make a clear announcement of the name of the Kata that is to be performed, and begin the Kata. On completion of the Kata, the athlete will after bowing at the end of the Kata await the decision of the panel.
2. The Chief Judge will call for a decision (HANTEI) and blow a two-tone blast on the whistle whereupon the Judges will cast their scores in direction to the table. The points are then announced one after the other loudly and clearly audibly. The announcer points with stretched arm and hand to the respective scoreboards while announcing the score. In the moment the scores are announced one after the other the scoreboards are turned 180 degrees to the viewers side. Then the athlete bows again and returns to the match area perimeter to leave the competition area. The coach may fetch him after the athlete left the perimeter.
3. If the Chief Judge is of the opinion that a competitor should be disqualified, he/she may call the other Judges in order to reach a verdict.
4. Individual contestants that do not present themselves when called will be disqualified (KIKEN) from that category. Disqualification by KIKEN means that the contestants are



disqualified from that category although it does not affect participation in another category.

5. When announcing disqualification by KIKEN the Chief Judge will be required to signal by pointing, with the red flag towards the starting position of the contestant in question, announcing clearly "KIKEN".
6. If contestants, which may proceed to the next round, have the same sum of scores the lowest given, not deleted score counts. If they are the same the highest given score is considered.
7. If two athletes in a pool have an identical score and both are standing around the move into the next round, a jump-off takes place. Here both athletes compete against each other again and are judged by the judges as usual and the scoring is calculated according to the rules. The judges are required to cast a clear vote. A repetition of the Kata is allowed for the athletes.

## **10. OFFICIAL PROTESTS**

Official protests in Kata competition and in classification matters will follow the same procedure as described under the WKF able-bodied Kata Rules Article 7: Official Protest and Appendix 10: Official Protest Form

Complaints outside the official protest procedures are not accepted.

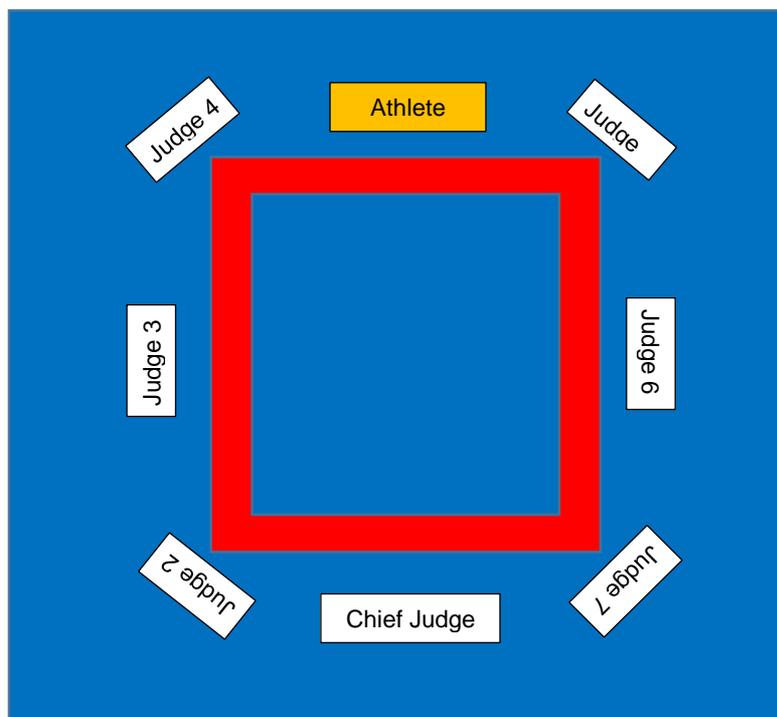
## **11. ACCREDITATION OF ATHLETES**

1. Athletes have to be minimum 18 years old.
2. They have to be registered through their National Federation.
3. The registration has to be made on the WKF online registration system.
4. The registration, together with the MDF, the TUE approved by the National Anti-Doping organization, and a coach must be uploaded on the WKF online registration system. Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUE) are to be submitted and approved by the corresponding National Anti-Doping Organization and then submitted to the WKF Anti-Doping Manager.
5. One additional personal coach can be registered per athlete.
6. The registration will initially remain as "pending", subject to a medical expert reviewing the entry (within max. two days)
7. There must be at least 4 athletes registered per category in order for the category to be present at the Championships. However, the Organizing Committee may make exceptions if the number of participants is not reached.
8. One responsible person of the athletes' NF has to collect the accreditation at the accreditation room within the established date and time
9. After registration the classification session of the para-athletes takes place to determine the extra score. The participation at the classification session is obligatory, athletes who do not do this classification are excluded from the competitions.
10. The athletes have to be available for extra classification procedures and reclassification at all times during the Championships

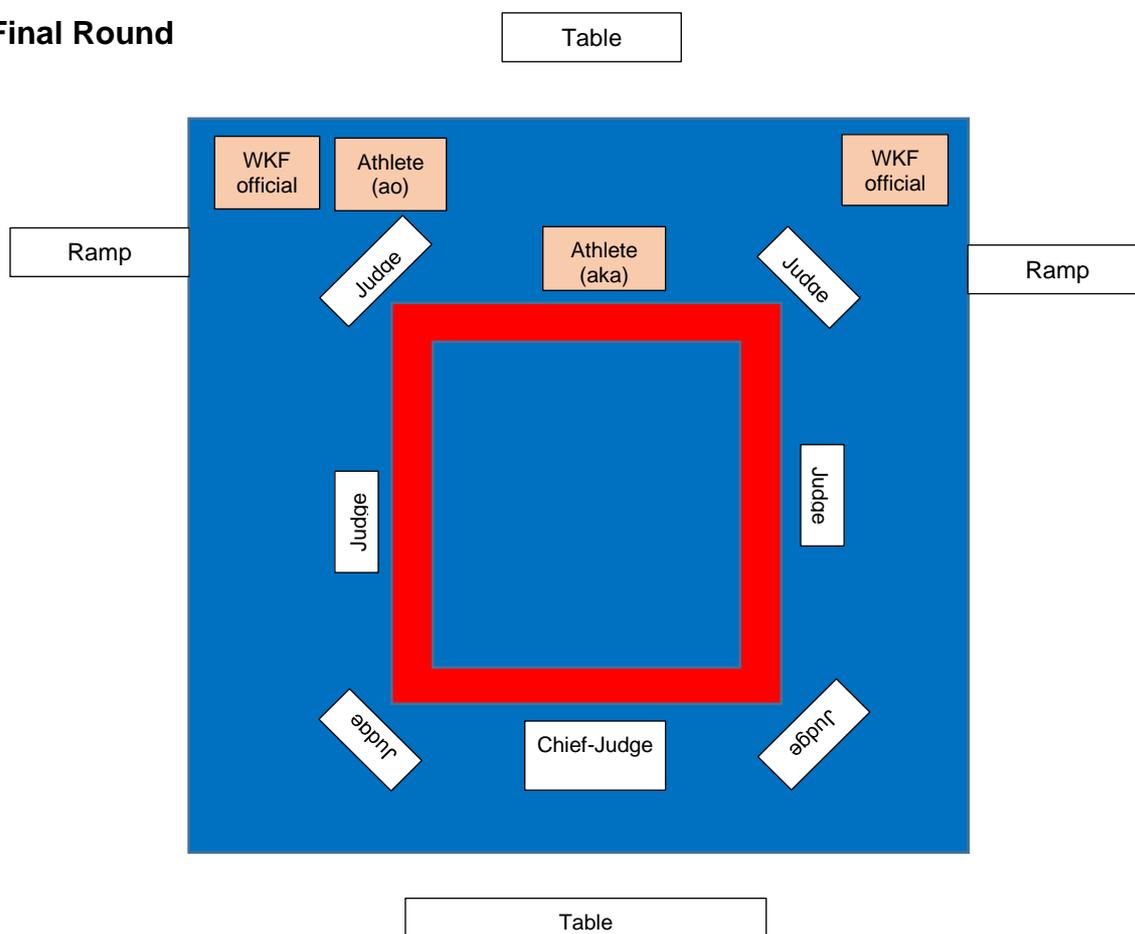


## APPENDIX 1: LAYOUT OF THE KATA COMPETITION AREA

### Elimination Round



### Final Round





## APPENDIX 2: THE SCOREBOARDS

If no electronic device is available, every judge has a scoreboard where the sheets with the numbers can be turned over. The scoreboards are divided into sheets for full points and decimal points. The full points range from 0-9 with a comma, the decimal points also range from 0-9.

The format of the scoreboards should not be too small to ensure good legibility, but should also not be too large to make them easier to handle. A size of approx. 25 x 35 cm is recommended.

### **Example:**

