



***EUROPEAN KARATE FEDERATION
REFEREES AND REFEREE COMMISSION
RULES***

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1. COMPOSITION AND SELECTION OF THE REFEREE COMMISSION

- 1.1. The Referee Commission (hereafter referred to as “the Commission”) will have at least nine (9) members, all of them with EKF Kata and Kumite license. The Executive Committee (EC) will appoint a Chair (with voting rights), and a Secretary and an Assistant Secretary, these latter two without voting rights; and it may also appoint a Vice Chairman. The other six (6) members appointed by the EC will be voting members and examiners. Furthermore, additional members will be filled by EC appointment, should this be deemed necessary to ensure a right balance within the Commission.
- 1.2. A country can only have one voting member on the Commission at any one time with the exception of the Chairman which will be considered independent.
- 1.3. Members of the Commission are appointed for a period of four (4) years by the Executive Committee.
- 1.4. The new members will assume their duties from the first day after the Championships in which they are appointed by the EC.
- 1.5. The EC may remove and/or replace a Commission member after considering a report from the Referee Commission Chairman on non-compliance with the EKF rules in place, bad performance or serious criticism.
- 1.6. Any vacant positions may be filled by EC appointment, keeping both nationality and qualification conditions.

2. POWERS AND AUTHORITIES

- 2.1. The Commission will be responsible for the examination and certification of Referee Officials and their deployment at European Championships. It shall be the responsibility of the Referee Commission to maintain the standards of Refereeing and a uniform interpretation and application of the WKF Competition Rules.
- 2.2. The Commission will monitor the performance of the Referees and Judges during the scheduled European Championships.
- 2.3. Complaints received by the Commission Chairman may result in the subsequent performance of the official(s) in question being closely scrutinized and reported on by delegated members of the Referee Commission.
- 2.4. In the event that a Judge or Referee incurs serious criticism, then the Commission will decide whether to suspend that official in their absolute discretion. The Referee Commission has the power to take measurements against such an official by demanding a new examination, new Referee Course and examination or suspension for up to two years depending on the seriousness of the misdemeanor or fault.
- 2.5. The Commission shall also have the power, with the agreement of the EC, to convene meetings of its membership in order to discuss refereeing matters such as the implications of changes in the WKF Competition Rules.

3. REFEREES DUTIES

3.1. Duties of the RC Chairman:

- To conduct the work of the Commission and EKF body/assembly of Referees and Judges.
- To be responsible for executing EC decisions and duties.
- To be in charge of official Referee courses, seminars, meetings and briefings.
- To report directly to the President, General Secretary and Members of EC.
- To regularly inform the EKF EC about all activities and to get necessary consensus on any proposals.
- In the name of the Commission to be an arbitrator in cases of obscurities, not defined in WKF rules or any other complaints.
- To be in charge of the EKF Sport Commission.
- To prepare and present the necessary reports to the EKF EC and Congress.

3.2. Duties of the RC Members:

- To carry out tasks given by the President or the Chairman.
- To take active part at Referee seminars and examinations.
- To act as Tatami Managers (TM) at European Championships.
- To be responsible for quality work on their tatami, to brief and debrief all officiating panels; to evaluate the work of the Tatami Manager Assistants (TMAs) and the Referees and Judges under his/her command. To give encouraging and constructive feedback to all officials under his/her leadership.
- To write a daily report about the performance of all Officials in his/her Tatami.
- To take an active part as an Official on the Tatami.

3.3. Duties of the RC Secretary:

- To conduct permanent activities connected with the work of the RC.
- To arrange with the EKF Head Quarters Office for the supply of certificates, badges, stationery, examination papers, passbooks, ties, and such other items as may be required for the Referee Program.
- To coordinate, minute and circulate the meetings and the activities of the Commission as well as to the members of the EC.
- To have up-to-date Referee's register on the EKF's database and website.
- To prepare all the activities for implementation of Referee Courses, Seminars, and other official activities. To take an active part as an Official on the Tatami.

3.4. Duties of the RC Assistant Secretary:

- To be the Secretary's technical and administrative help.
- To prepare all the necessary administrative forms needed to run the Championships, Referee Courses and Briefings. To take an active part as Official on the Tatami.

3.5. Duties of the Tatami Managers and TM Assistants

- To manage the work on the tatami. The TM and TM Asst. can take active part as Referees in Kata and Kumite bouts. To give constructive feedback and guidance to all officials in their Tatami and to write a daily report on the Judges and Referee's

performance. The report is to be given to the RC Chairman. Their position lasts only during the actual championship.

3.6. Referees and Judges' rights and duties

- To be delegated by their National Federations to official EKF Championships.
- To work in accordance with the WKF Competition Rules.
- To exercise their right to be present at briefings and de-briefings at championships. Absence has to be justified officially by the National Federations and in written form.
- To be professionally promoted.
- To perform tasks given by the Commission Members, TM, TM Asst. and Appeals Jury.
- To take over the full responsibility for all above mentioned duties when taking part on other international events.

3.7. Selection of TM Asst. prior to European Championships

The Commission selects three or more senior Referees from the present list for each tatami. There are no fix names, but they have to be senior Referees with Kata and Kumite licences. It is mandatory that each and one of them are from a different country. They can have the same nationality as one of the TM, but not active on the same tatami as the TM with the same nationality.

Due to Commission Chairman or TM proposal, they can be changed during the Championship and replaced by another official.

3.8. Referees and Judges Deployment and panel allocation:

For the elimination rounds the RC Secretary and Asst. Secretary will facilitate to the software provider a list containing the Referees and Judges available per Tatami. This list is done by the RC Secretary once the athletes draw is finished and at the end of the Referees Briefing. This list must only contain Referees present at the Briefing and must comply with the above-mentioned criteria. Then for the Referees draw the software provider will enter the list in the system and one Referee, four Judges, one Kansa, one Score Supervisor and one VR Supervisor will be randomly allocated as Referee Panel for each bout.

- 3.9. For medal bouts the Tatami Managers will provide the RC Chairman and Secretary with a list containing 8 officials from their own Tatami after the last bout of the eliminatory rounds is finished. Once the list is approved by the RC Chairman it will be facilitated to the software provider to enter them in the system. The system will then allocate randomly the Referee panel, which will only contain 5 out of the 8 officials from each tatami.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1. Good evaluation result is one of the criteria for delegating TM and TM Asst. for the following championships.
- 4.2. For their 10, 15 and 20 years of active work, Referees or Judges are awarded a bronze, silver and gold Referee-pin.

4.3. New licenses will be entered in the database and published on the official EKF's website.

5. THE REFEREE COURSE AND EXAMINATIONS

5.1. DATE AND VENUE

5.1.1. The venue for the Referee Courses and examinations shall be the same as for the Cadets, Juniors and U21 European Championships and the latter shall serve as confirmation event (during the elimination phase). Nevertheless, if the EC agrees to separate the courses from the Championships, a Kumite and Kata Referee course and examination will take place on an annual basis, providing:

- a) The venue for the EKF Referee Course, if separated from the Cadets, Juniors and U21 Championships will be set by the Congress as part of the official events calendar of the EKF. In the event that after the Congress the next year's venue becomes unavailable, the Executive Committee shall have the power to re-locate the course.
- b) The venue for the Referee Course must be within 40 kilometers of an international airport at a hotel with adequate accommodation. Six (6) months before the scheduled start of the course, the host NF will send details to the EKF HQ Office, who, in turn, will circulate the hotel details, to EKF member countries and to the RC Chairperson and Secretary. These countries shall have direct access to the selected hotel directly or through the travel agency appointed by the host NF.
- c) A competition must be organized after the course, if separated from the European Championships and will serve as the confirmation event.

5.1.2. The course venue must be within walking distance of the headquarters hotel, or free transport must be arranged between the two. Walking distance means a maximum of 15 minutes time.

5.1.3. The course timetable will be set by the Referee Commission three (3) months prior to its scheduled start date, so as to be circulated with the hotel information as mentioned before.

5.2. PREPARATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.2.1. The Chairman of the EKF Organization Commission or a nominee thereof shall inspect the proposed course venue and Headquarters Hotel during the scheduled pre-Championships visit (see Article 15 of the EKF Organizing Rules). At this time, the host NF will receive a detailed briefing on requirements and details. A report of this meeting will be lodged with the Referee Commission Chairman or Secretary.

5.2.2. The software program will select the questions to be used at the examinations, which will be provided in English and French. The questions will be presented at the course on the screen in both official languages at the same time.

5.2.3. Application forms for the course have to be provided for an authorization by the mandated representative of each NF in respect of the nominated candidates.

- 5.2.4. The Secretary of the Commission will confirm that he/she has an adequate supply of badges, certificates, passbooks, forms, and the necessary documentation to operate the course.
- 5.2.5. For the Kumite course and examinations including those including those separated from the Championships, the host NF will ensure that it can provide at least 30, high quality Kumite competitors, each day. All competitors must be black belts and at least 18 years old.
- 5.2.6 The host NF will ensure that it is able to provide adequate facilities for the Referees during the course and the competition.
- 5.2.7 The EKF HQ will also circulate to the NFs information relating to the online registration and payment procedures for the course.

5.3. COURSE CONTENT

- 5.3.1. In order to standardize the level of refereeing, the course will involve explanations and updating of the Competition Rules, as well as the practical Kata and Kumite judging education. At the conclusion of this lecture, there will be a theory examination.
- 5.3.2. The practical examinations will take the form of observation of a Candidate whilst such attempts to work in a real Kata or Kumite bout.
- 5.3.3. A Candidate's performance will be summarized by means of a pass/fail form and the result of the examination will be given to the candidate by the Referee Commission and if required, a copy will be sent to the candidate's nominating NF.
- 5.3.4. **Kumite examination procedures:**
- a) First part, theory questions: Candidates will pass this part by having a maximum of seven (7) wrong answers for Referee A or B licence and ten (10) for Judge A or B licence, if more they will continue with the practical part but will fail the examination. A maximum of 10% bonus will be added to the total examination evaluation by passing the theory part.
 - b) Second part, practical examination: Each Candidate applying for Judge will be evaluated at least four times as Judge (all Judge positions in the Tatami) and at least one time as Referee and Kansa. The final examination result will be the summation of both parts and those achieving or exceeding the pass mark will receive their respective qualifications. Candidates applying for Referee will be evaluated one time as Kansa, four times as Judge and two times as Referees.
- 5.3.5. **Kata examination procedures:**
- a) First part, theory questions: Candidates will pass this part by having a maximum of five (5) wrong answers, if more they will continue with the practical part but will fail the examination.
 - b) Second part: Technical instruction of five or more Ryu-Ha.
 - c) Third part: practical judgment of 10 Kata bouts by video presentation.
- 5.3.6. Kata und Kumite evaluations will be done according to the above.

5.4. QUALIFICATIONS CONFERRED

- 5.4.1. Licensed EKF Officials may be qualified as Tatami Managers, TM Assistants, Karate

Referees (both Kata and Kumite level A qualified), Kumite Referee B, Kumite Judge A or B and Kata Judge B. Qualification entitles the official to officiate in that capacity in all scheduled EKF events.

- 5.4.2. All qualifications at the EKF examinations are provisional; they are confirmed as a result of a satisfactory performance at the first scheduled EKF event that they attend after the actual examination.
- 5.4.3. A candidate's first qualification(s) will be as Kumite Judge B and/or Kata Judge B. Candidates will be required to progress through each level. The order of progression is as follows:
- 1) Kumite Judge B and/or Kata Judge B
 - 2) Kumite Judge A and/or Kata Judge A or B
 - 3) Kumite Referee B and/or Kata Judge A or B
 - 4) Kumite Referee A and/or Kata Judge A or B
 - 5) Karate Referee (Qualified in both Kata and Kumite to A level)
 - 6) Tatami Managers (Must serve a minimum of five years as a Referee)

It should be noted that it is compulsory to have dual Kata and Kumite "A" level qualifications in order to be qualified as a Karate Referee. However, Officials may hold single qualifications up to Kumite Referee A or Kata Judge A.

- 5.4.4. Provided that a Tatami Manager, Karate Referee, Kata Judge A or B or Kumite Referee A or B, Kumite Judge A or B, attends the pre-championship briefing and lecture and officiates satisfactorily at one official EKF Championships each year at least, then they will not be expected to undergo the practical examination parts of the Referee course, although they must sit and pass the theory paper which will be presented the day before the Championships, once in four years.

License renewal will be conducted during the European Seniors Championships. All Referees and Judges must Renew (pay) their licenses every four years. All current Officials are required to be paid up to date with the EKF Treasury.

- 5.4.5. Adverse reports on performance may well result in non-confirmation of provisional qualifications or in severe cases, actual downgrading or suspension, pending satisfactory re-examination.
- 5.4.6. The practical examination for Referees and Judges will normally take place each year during the scheduled Cadets, Juniors and U21 European Championships. Candidates will be assessed by means of an evaluation form with scores allotted to the various sections of the examination. As each candidate is examined the examiners will submit their score sheets to the secretary or Asst. Secretary of the RC. In order to ensure impartiality and to avoid possible conflicts of interest the examining panel's highest and lowest scores will be automatically excluded. The remaining scores will be averaged and those achieving or exceeding the pass mark will receive their respective qualifications.
- 5.4.7. The Commission Chair will decide the pass mark for each examination after consultation with the EKF President.
- 5.4.8. The examining panel will give a copy of the averaged evaluation form to each Candidate and the EKF RC Secretary will, if requested, send another copy to the candidate's National Federation for their records.

- 5.4.9. **The scheduled EKF events are as follows:**
- a. Junior, Cadet & Under 21 European Championships
 - b. Senior European Championships

5.5. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 5.5.1. For the theory lectures and examinations, the host NF must furnish a room with sufficient chairs and desks to accommodate 130 people. The room must be equipped with an LCD Projector and a suitable screen. The organizer provides 30 kumite competitors of high quality.
- 5.5.2. The Kumite practical examination will be during the Junior, Cadet & Under 21 Championships. If the examinations are separated from the Championships there must be capable of holding one full Kumite competition area, and equipped with sufficient chairs, electricity connections for the examiners' laptops, bells/buzzers, stop watches, approved protective mitts, red and blue belts, a scoreboard, and an adequate supply of Kumite competitors, as specified in 6.2.5 and appropriate medical cover.
- 5.5.3. The Kata practical examination will be during the Junior, Cadet & Under 21 Championships. If the examinations are separated from the Championships, there must be an area with chairs and tables sufficient for having the candidates monitoring and evaluating the video performances. An LCD projector and a suitable screen are also needed.
- 5.5.4. The host NF will meet the cost of all these items.

6. **GENERAL REGULATIONS**

- 6.1. The National Federations may nominate their country's citizens or residents as candidates to the EKF Referee course provided the NF is in current paid-up membership of EKF. Candidates must be registered online through the EKF software provider at least 30 days before the start of the course.
- 6.2. Kata and Kumite Candidates must be at least 25 years old and be a minimum 2nd WKF Dan Grade.
- 6.3. Candidates must wear the uniform detailed in point 7.
- 6.4. All refereeing officials who have not attended the course and examinations and wishing to officiate at the Championships must attend the Referees Briefing on the afternoon or evening prior to the Championships. They must also be present at the competition venue for final briefing and area allocation, at least one hour before the scheduled start.
- 6.5. Referees and Judges officiating in an EKF event must in principle have the nationality or residence in the country they represent and be exclusively affiliated through the NF of their country of residence. Exceptions to this must be approved by the NF in which the individual has citizenship and will be subject to the final approval of EKF EC.
- 6.6. Referees officiating in an EKF event cannot perform another function in that event unless authorized by EKF-EC
- 6.7. EKF Referees and Judges officiating in a EKF event are strictly warned against

interacting with coaches and contestants during competitions in progress. Regardless of the place or circumstances, EKF Referees and Judges are not either allowed to appear in photos/videos together with coaches and contestants when wearing the official uniform. Referees and Judges violating this vital norm of conduct and Fair Play may face suspension from all EKF official events for a period to be determined.

Referees and Judges are also strictly advised to not publish content on any social media platforms with information that violates the privacy and integrity of other EKF/WKF members and the discretion of internal information. Referees and Judges violating this norm of privacy will face suspension from future appointments. The terms Referees and Judges in this paragraph refers to all National and Continental Referees and Judges. Furthermore, EKF events in this paragraph refer not only to official EKF events but also to all events under the EKF umbrella.

- 6.8 When an EKF Official registers to attend a Referee Course or to officiate at an EKF event and does not attend without having sent a legitimate excuse, that person will have to pay a fine of the amount as defined by the EKF fees and conditions that are established by the EKF Executive Committee from time to time. The excuse for non-attendance must in any case be sent in writing before the event starts.

Also, if a candidate after passing the examinations does not stay and officiate every day during the eliminations without accepted and verifiable emergencies, he/she will lose his/her new license(s) and it will be considered as the candidate did not attend the said event. Furthermore, and in line with the aforementioned, EKF Officials with Kumite Referee-A and/or Kata Judge-A license(s) who attend a European Championships have to stay until the tournament has finished and is completed, as otherwise their presence will not count, and it will be considered as a non-attendance.

- 6.9. In order to avoid conflict of interest, the Referee, Judges, Match Supervisor, Score Supervisor, and/or VR Supervisors of a Kumite bout and the Judges of a Kata bout must not have the nationality, residence or belong to the NF of the contestants. In law conflict of interest must be also avoid in all cases. It remains the duty of any official to self-report on any possible conflict of interest before the bout or match starts.

Officials not complying with these criteria will be immediately suspended from the actual tournament and will face a further suspension from all WKF official events for a minimum of one year.

- 6.10. The Refereeing panel is strictly warned against discussing the outcome of a bout or match with others than the members of the Referee Panel, Tatami Manager, Appeals Jury or the Referee Commission. Infringement of this rule may incur in penalties being taken against the offender.
- 6.11. Only EKF qualified and licensed Referees and Judges may officiate at official EKF events.
- 6.12. The RC-Secretary will make each year a list of qualified officials, from which the organizers of international events will draw their Refereeing and Judging personnel. This list will be circulated no later than the end of March each year by the RC-Secretary to the EKF HQ-Office.

- 6.13. Referees must renew their licenses every four years. All current officials are required to be paid up to date with the EKF Treasury. Officials of countries in debt to EKF may not participate in EKF Championships or Ref. Courses.
- 6.14. All refereeing officials may be required to submit their licenses to the RC at all EKF official events.
- 6.15. This license duly signed and validated will allow the officials to attend all EKF official events and Championships.

7. UNIFORM

- 7.1. Referees and Judges must wear the official uniform designated in the WKF Competition Rules. This uniform must be worn at all Competitions, Briefings, Seminars and Courses.

EKF Referee Commission Members must not, during the round trip as well as participation in official EKF competitions, Referee Courses and Seminars, wear the tracksuit of their National Federations. When not in uniform, their attire has to be discreet, not showing the origin of the Official.

7.2. The official uniform will be as follows:

- A single-breasted navy-blue blazer (color code: 19-4023 TPX).
- A white shirt with short sleeves.
- An official tie, worn without tiepin.
- A black whistle.
- A discreet white cord for the whistle.
- Plain light-grey trousers without turn-ups (color code: Pantone 18-0201 TPX).
- Plain dark blue or black socks and black slip-on shoes for use on the Tatami.
- Referees and judges may wear a plain wedding band.
- Voluntary religious headwear that is WKF approved.

For Female Referees and Judges the following additional specifications are made:

- A hairclip.
- Discreet earrings.
- Hair must be worn off the shoulders.
- Make-up must be discreet.
- Heels of more than 4 cm may not be worn with the uniform.

7.3. Continental Games and multisport events

For Continental Games and other multisport events where a cross-sport uniform is provided for Referees at the cost of the LOC with the feel & look of the specific event, the official uniform for Referees might be substituted by that common uniform, provided that it is requested in writing by the event organizer and formally approved by the EKF.