



EUROPEAN KARATE FEDERATION REFEREE COMMISSION

Information to all EKF Referees, Judges and Candidates

- 1.** Kata & Kumite Candidates must be at least 25 years old and be a min. of 2nd WKF Dan grade. Only EKF qualified and licensed Referees and Judges may officiate at official EKF events.
- 2.** The National Federations may nominate their country's citizens or residents as candidates to the EKF Referee Course provided the country 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.
- 3.** 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.
- 4.** Referees and Judges officiating at the Championships and who have not attended the Referee Course must always attend the Referees Briefing.
- 5.** Provided that a Judge/Referee 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 examination which will be presented before the Referees Briefing, once in every four (4) years.
- 6.** All Judges and Referees must renew (pay) their licenses every four (4) years, PLR. Officials that do not pay for the license renewal by the end of the year that the payment is due will not be able to officiate as EKF Judges/Referees until the payment is satisfied.
- 7.** The Refereeing panel are strictly warned against discussing the outcome or decision of a match or bout with other than the members of the Referee panel, Tatami Managers or the Referee Committee.
- 8.** Referees officiating in an EKF event cannot perform another function in that event. The Referees and Judges of a Kumite or Kata bout must not have the nationality nor represent the National Federation of either of the participants.

9. EKF Referees and Judges officiating in an 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.

10. EKF 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.

11. 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.

12. 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 non-attendance.

13. 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 avoided 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 further suspension from all WKF official events for a minimum of one year.