

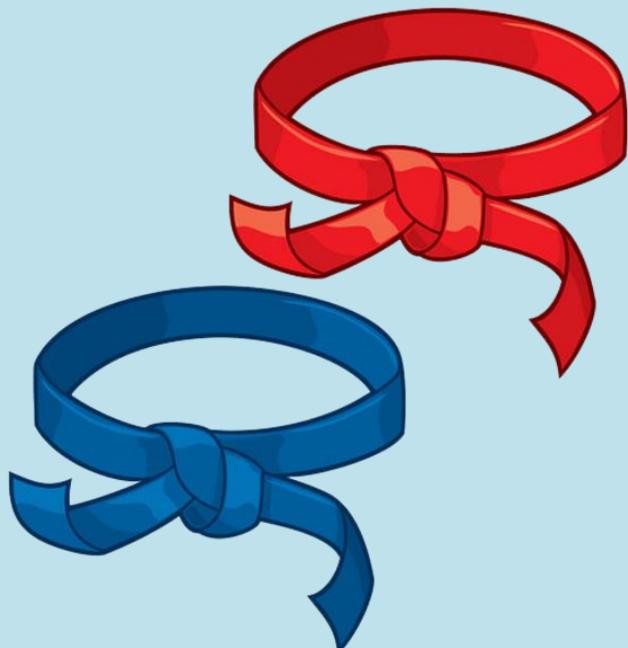


## Guide for studying or teaching the WKF Kata Competition Rules

**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  
1<sup>st</sup> 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

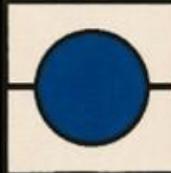
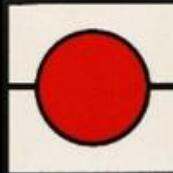
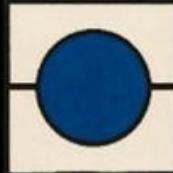
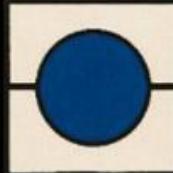
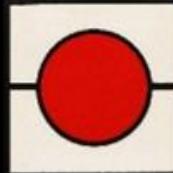
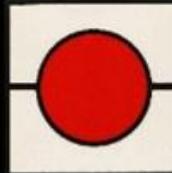
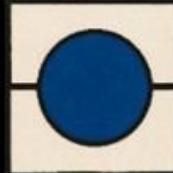
7.4

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 THEATRICS**  
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 Fukushin 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



## 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**

**1<sup>st</sup> Kata Round Robin**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Kata Round Robin**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Kata Round Robin**

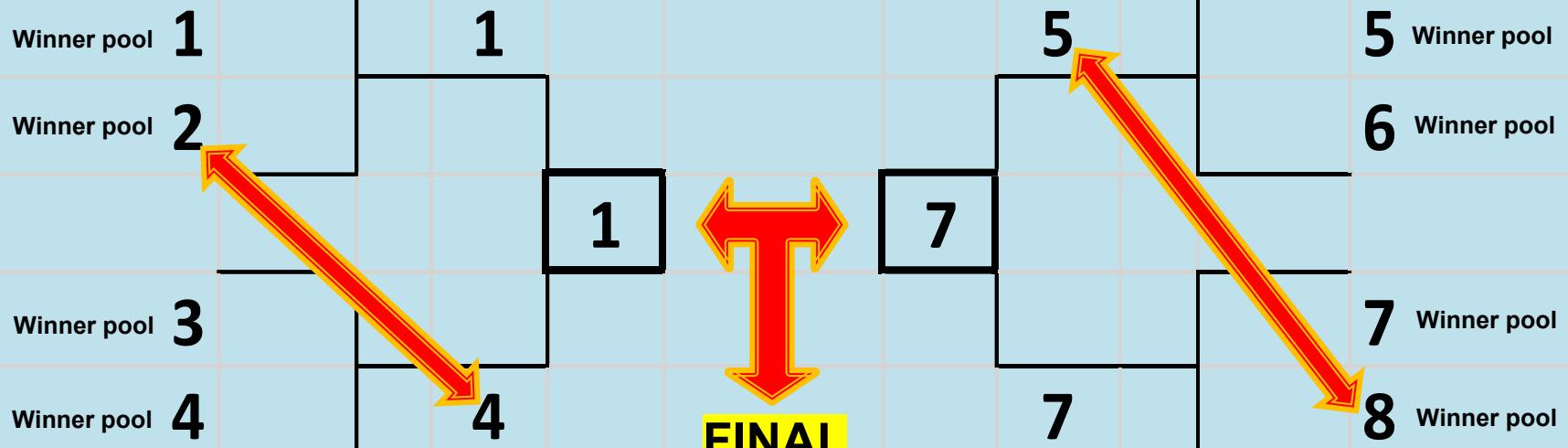


**4<sup>th</sup> Kata Quarter-finals**

**5<sup>th</sup> Kata Semi-finals**

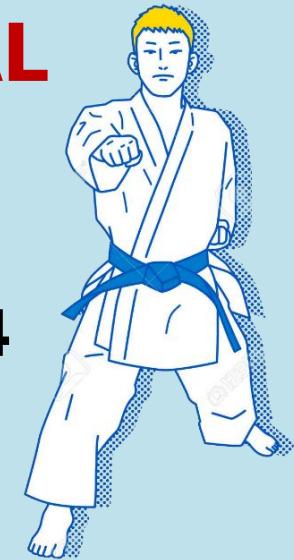
**6<sup>th</sup> Kata Medal bouts**

## 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**

**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**

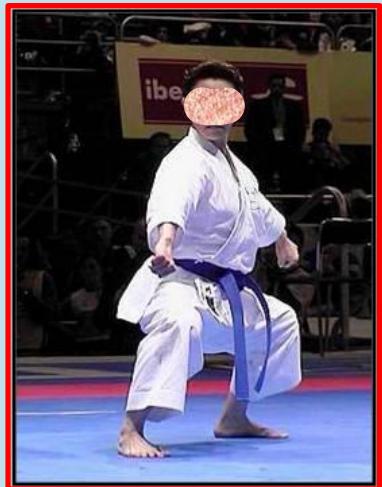


**ONE SINGLE LINE OF  
TECHNICAL AND ATHLETIC SCORES**

**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**

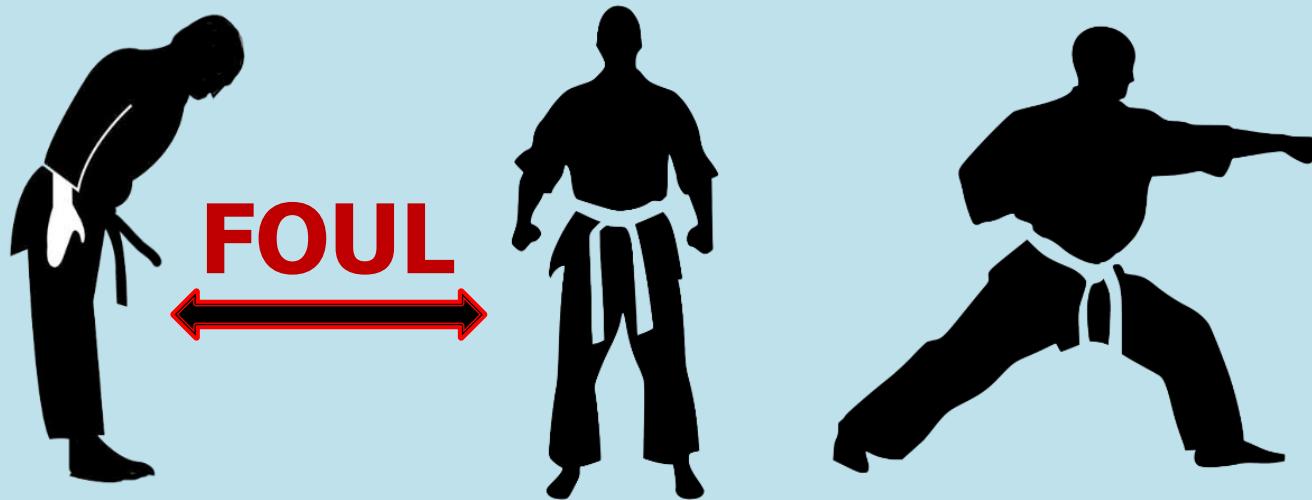


Using the actual movements as  
performed in the Kata

## 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**

## 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  
Theatrical performance  
Major lose 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**

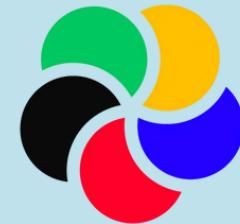
## GUIDELINE

**Persistent and  
obvious  
repetition of  
theatrics**

**DISQUALIFICATION**

**Not announcing  
the Kata in a  
recognisable  
way to the  
Judges**

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



# KATA LIST

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

**Anan: 1**

一六一〇— 1

**Bassai Dai: 6**

八ξ×九四 4

**Aoyagi: 4**

**Chatanyara Kusanku: 8**

## KATA TEAM: 3 + 1 Reserv

**ANY 3 MAY BE USED FOR ANY ROUND**



**SUPARINPEI: Gojuryu - Shitoryu - Shotokan (Hyaku hachi ho)**

## **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**

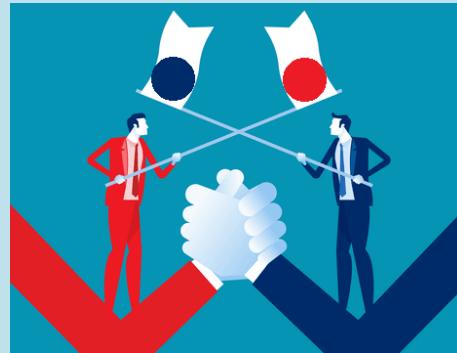
# AVOID ALL KINDS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST



**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





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



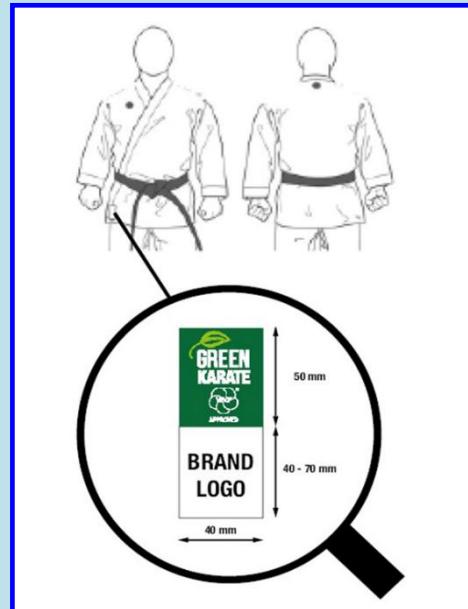
BACK RESERVED FOR THE ORGANISING FEDERATION OF 30 x 30 cm  
DISPLAY THREE LETTER COUNTRY CODE

\* EMBLEM OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF 12 x 8 cm

✓ SPACES FOR THE MANUFACTURERS TRADEMARK OF 5 x 4 cm

**Advertising space  
for the Athletes  
(5 x 10 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)**



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> JULY 2025

## ATHLETES & TEAMS

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



## TATAMI **SAME DIMENSIONS AS KUMITE**



## WKF APPROVED TATAMI



## Seven Judges officiating



**(ST) SOFTWARE  
TECHNICIAN**

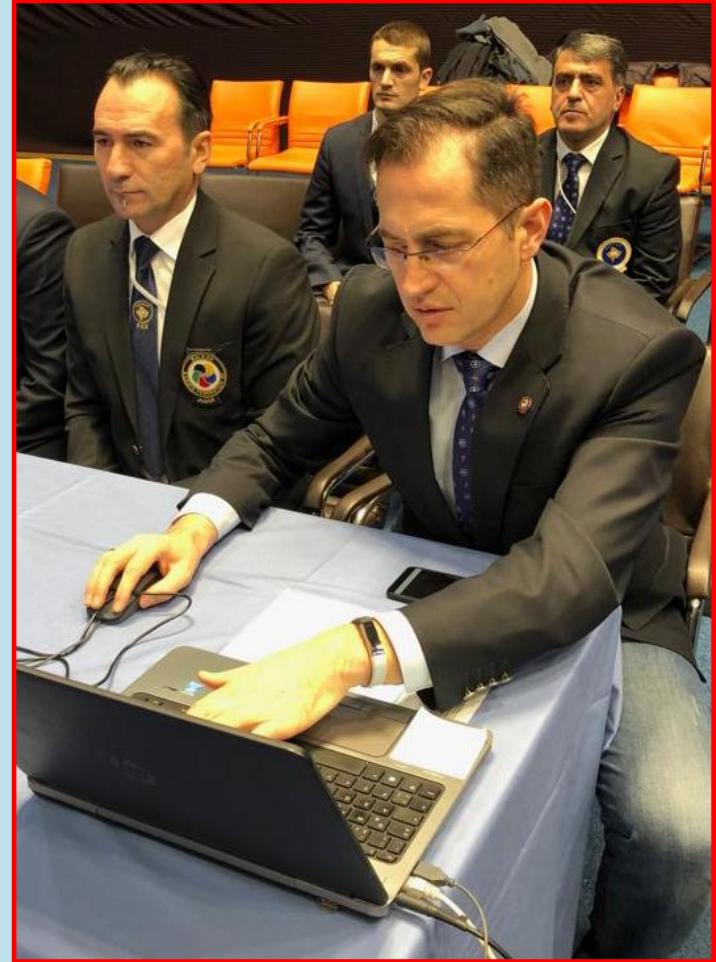
**(TM) TATAMI  
MANAGER**

**(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



## SHOMEN NI REI & OTAGAI NI REI

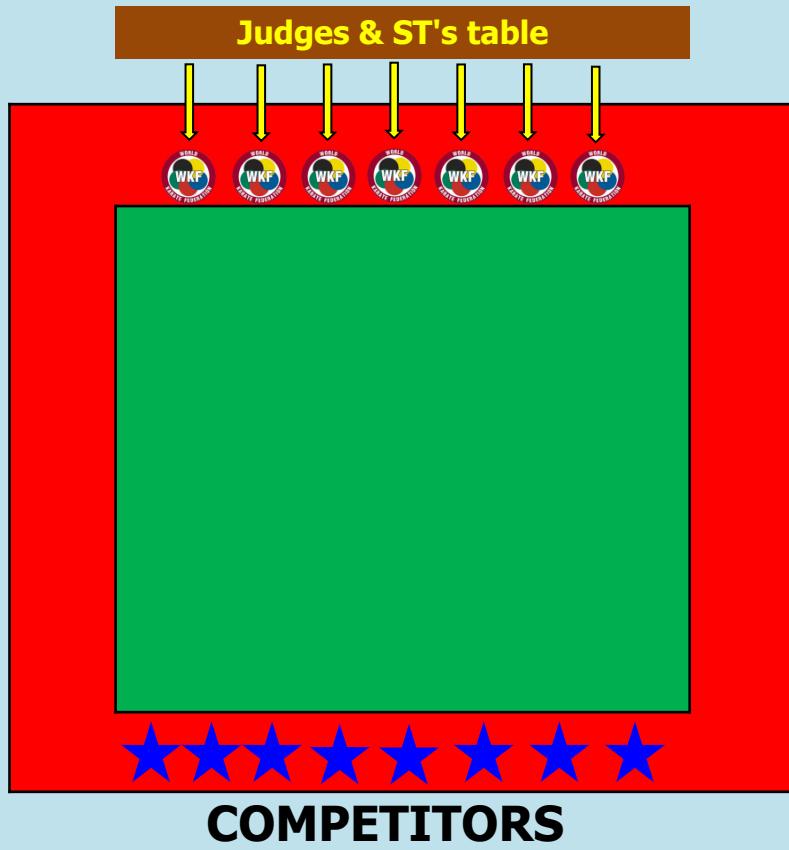


AT THE BEGINNING  
OF THE COMPETITION

WHEN CHANGING  
CATEGORY  
Individual to Team  
Male to Female



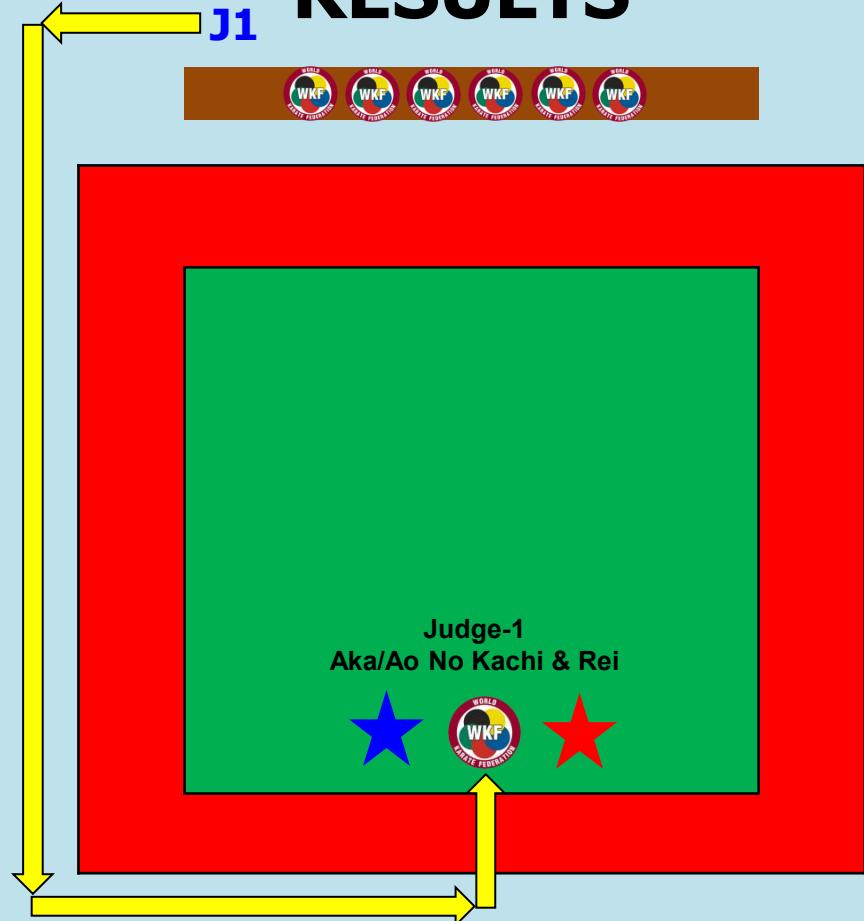
## AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH CATEGORY



## MEDAL BOUTS



## RESULTS



## AKA (AO) NO KACHI



**Individual Kata**

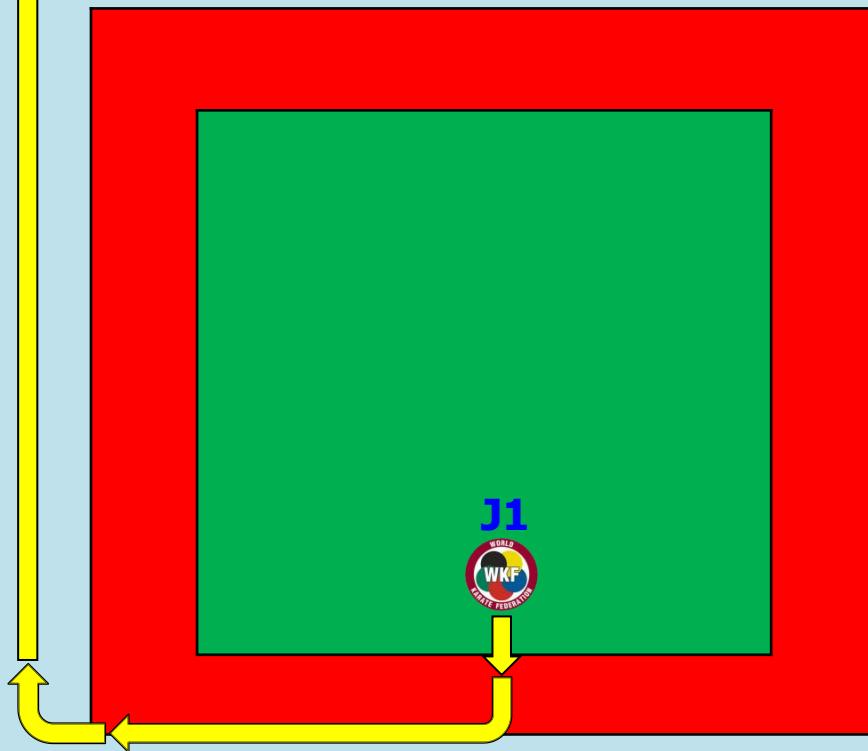


**Team Kata**

**ALL OTHER 6 JUDGES REMAIN SEATED**

## AFTER RESULTS

All 6 Judges



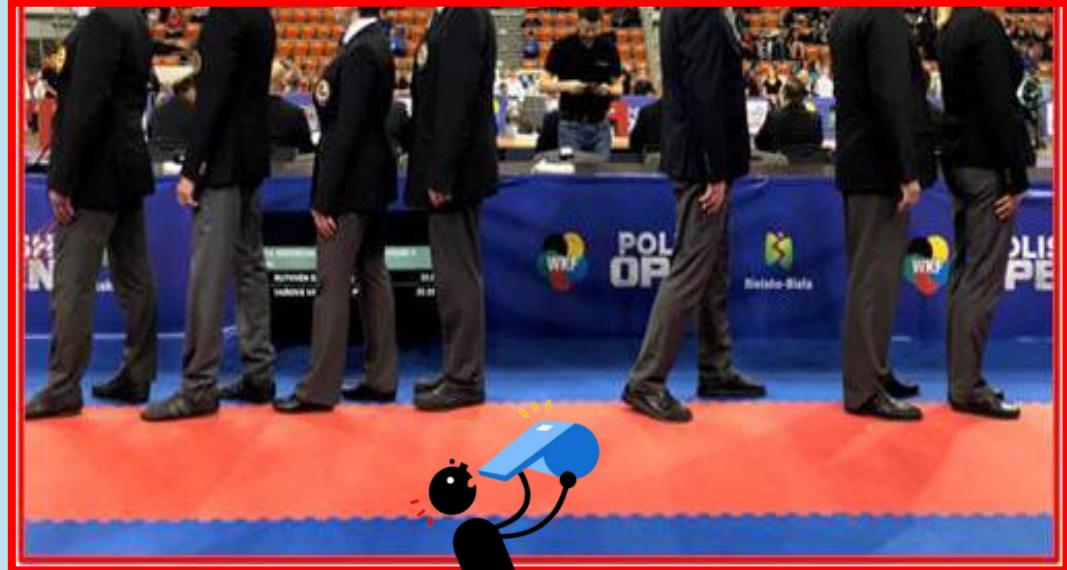
**First turn to  
the **RIGHT****

**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**

**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  
for 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**



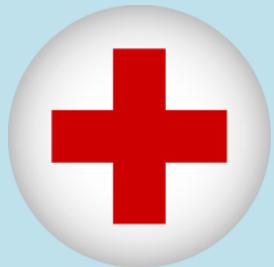
## FOULS

### 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**



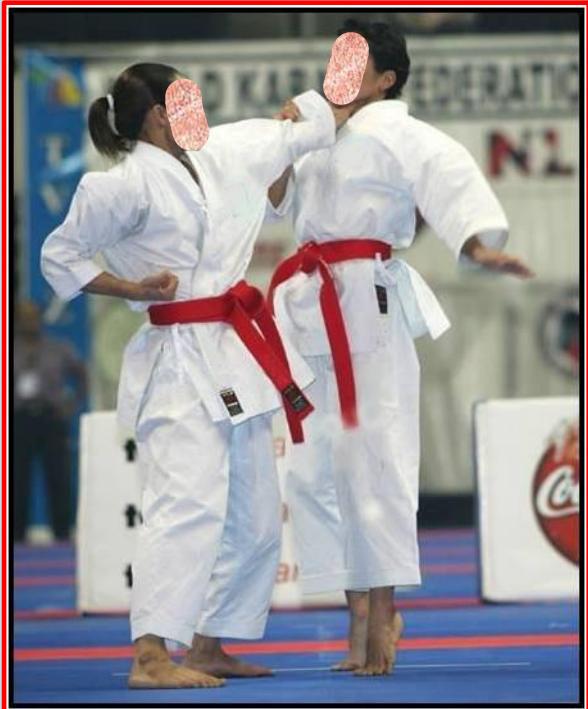
## DISQUALIFICATION

**A distinct pause or stop in the performance for several seconds**



**Interference with the function of the judges**

## 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!**



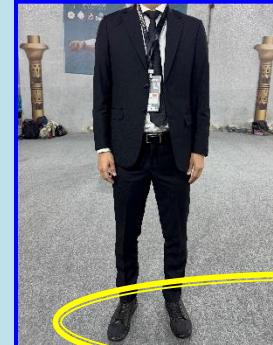
**It is the performance  
during the actual bout - nothing else!**

## 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**



## 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!**