



***REFEREE COMMISSION RULES  
(RCR)***



## 1. **GENERAL**

The Referee Commission will consist of the Chairman and ten (10) permanent members, at least one of which will be female, all appointed by the Executive Committee. The five (5) Continental Federations will be represented in the RC and as far as possible the RC members will be qualified in both Kata and Kumite at A Level. Also a Secretary of the RC will be appointed by the EC and in addition an Assistant Secretary may be appointed by the EC, without the right to vote. Only the A level qualified members will have the right to vote in the examinations of the referee course, this considered separately for Kumite and Kata qualifications. The EC will also have the right to appoint one(1) additional member, upon the WKF President proposal, if considered necessary to assure the best balance within the RC.

## 2. **POWERS AND AUTHORITIES**

- 2.1. The Referee Commission will be responsible for the examination and certification of Referee Officials and their deployment at World Championships. It shall be the responsibility of the Referee Commission to maintain the standards of refereeing and a uniform interpretation and application of the Competition Rules.
- 2.2. The Referee Commission will monitor the performance of the Referees and Judges during the scheduled World Championships.
- 2.3. Complaints received by the Referee Commission Chairman may result in the subsequent performance of the official(s) in question being closely scrutinised 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 Referee Commission will decide whether to suspend that official in their absolute discretion.
- 2.5. The Secretary of the Referee Commission shall arrange with the WKF General Secretary for the supply of certificates, badges, stationery, examination papers, pass-books, ties, and such other items as may be required for the Referee Programme.
- 2.6. The Referee 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 Competition Rules.
- 2.7. The meetings the and the activities of the Referee Commission will be internally coordinated, minuted and circulated by the Referee Commission Secretary or Assistant Secretary as well as to the members of the EC.



### **3. THE REFEREE COURSE AND EXAMINATIONS**

#### **3.1. DATE AND VENUE**

3.1.1. The venue for the Referee courses and examinations shall be the same as for the World Championships.

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 that:

- a) The venue for the WKF Referee Course will be set by the Congress as part of the official events calendar of the WKF. 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 course must be within 60 kilometres of an international airport at a hotel with adequate accommodation. 6 (six) months before the scheduled start of the course, the host NF will send details to the WKF General Secretary, who, in turn, will circulate the hotel details, to WKF member countries and to the R.C. Secretary. These countries shall have access to the selected hotel, directly or through the travel agency appointed by the host NF.
- c) A competition must be organised after the course and will serve as the confirmation event.

3.1.2. 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.

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

#### **3.2. PREPARATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

3.2.1. The Chairman of the WKF Organisation 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 OGR). 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 Secretary or Assistant Secretary.

3.2.2. The Referee Commission will devise the questions for use in the examinations. These will be translated into English, French and Spanish and will be available from the WKF Secretariat. The question papers to be used at the examinations will be provided to the candidates by the Referee Commission Secretary or Assistant Secretary.

3.2.3. The WKF Secretariat will also circulate printed application forms for the course.



These will provide for an authorization by the mandated representative of each NF in respect of the nominated candidates.

- 3.2.4. The Secretary of the Referee Commission will confirm that he has an adequate supply of badges, certificates, pass-books, forms and the necessary documentation to operate the course.
- 3.2.5. For the Kumite course and examinations if separated from the Championships, the host NF will ensure that it can provide at least 30, high quality Kumite competitors, each day. For the Kata course and examinations, at least eight Kata exponents are required. All competitors must be black belts and at least 18 years old.
- 3.2.6. The host NF will ensure that it is able to provide adequate facilities for the Referees during the course and the competition.

### **3.3. COURSE CONTENT**

- 3.3.1. In order to standardise the worldwide level of Refereeing, the course will involve explanations and updating of the Competition Rules. At the conclusion of this lecture, there will be a theory examination.
- 3.3.2. The practical examinations will take the form of observation of a candidate whilst such attempts to work in a real bout.
- 3.3.3. A candidate's performance will be summarised by means of a pass/fail form and the result of the examination will be given to the candidate by the Referee Commission and a copy forwarded to the candidate's nominating NF.
- 3.3.4. Kumite examination procedures. First part: theory questions, candidates will pass this part by having a maximum of 6 (six) wrong answers, if more they fail, a maximum of 10% bonus will be added to the total examination evaluation by passing the theory part. Second part: practical during the competition, each Judge (all Judge position in the Tatami) and at least one time as Referee. The final examination result will be the summation of both parts and those achieving or exceeding the pass mark will receive their respective qualifications.
- 3.3.5. Kata examination procedure. First part: theory questions candidates will pass this part by having a maximum of three (3) wrong answers, if more they fail. Second part: technical part with Karate Gi, candidates have to show two Kata from the actually Shitei Kata group, one from the own style and one from a different style. Technical question concerning Shitei Kata or evaluation criteria may be asked third part; practical during the Championship as a Kata Judge and by filling up a form prepared by the RC Secretary.

The final examination result will be the summation of the three part and those achieving or exceeding the pass mark will receive their respective qualifications

- 3.3.6. Kata and Kumite Candidates evaluation will be done according paragraph 3.4.6



### **3.4. QUALIFICATIONS CONFERRED**

- 3.4.1 Licensed WKF officials may be qualified as Match Area Controllers, 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 WKF events.
- 3.4.2 All qualifications at the WKF examinations are provisional; they are confirmed as a result of a satisfactory performance at the first scheduled WKF event that they attend after the actual examination.
- 3.4.3 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) Karate Referee (Qualified in both Kata and Kumite to A level)
  - 5) Match Area Controller (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 B or Kata Judge A.

- 3.4.4. Provided that a Match Area Controller, 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 scheduled EKF or WKF 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 at the end of the pre-Championship briefing, once in two years. Licence renewal will be conducted during the World Senior Championships and the World Cadet & Junior Championships.
- 3.4.5. 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.
- 3.4.6. The practical examination for referees and judges will normally take place each year during ~~just prior to~~ the scheduled World 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 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.
- 3.4.7 The Referee Commission Chair will decide the pass mark for each examination after consultation with the EKF President. To ensure impartiality this pass mark will not be divulged to the RC before the examinations take place.
- 3.4.8 The examining panel will give a copy of the averaged evaluation form to each



candidate and the EKF RC Secretary will send another copy to the candidate's National Federation for their records.

3.4.9. The scheduled WKF events are as follows:

- a) WKF Junior & Cadet World Championships.
- b) WKF Senior World Championships.

### **3.5. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.**

3.5.1. For the theory lectures and examinations, the host NF must furnish a room with sufficient chairs and desks to accommodate 200 people. The room must be equipped with an LCD Projector and a suitable screen.

3.5.2. The area for the Kumite practical examinations must be capable of holding two full Kumite competition areas, and equipped with sufficient chairs, the two areas marked out, bells/buzzers, stop watches, approved protective mitts, red and blue belts and an adequate supply of Kumite competitors, as specified in 2.2.6. and appropriate medical cover.

3.5.3. For the practical part of the Kata course there must be an area sufficient for the practice of Kata, chairs, red and blue flags, tables and chairs for the Referee Commission, and sufficient competitors as specified in 3.2.5.

3.5.4 *During the period of the course and competition's, including Senior and Cadet & Junior competitions, the accommodation and the meals must be provided by the host NF for all members of the Referee Commission*

3.5.5. The host country will meet the cost of all these items.

## **4. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

4.1. The National Federations may nominate their country's citizens or residents (see 3.5) as candidates to the WKF Referee course provided the country is in current paid up membership of WKF. Candidates must be registered with the RC Secretary, as specified in the WKF Financial & Administrative Regulations in effect.

4.2. Kata and Kumite Candidates must be at least 30 years old and be a minimum 3rd WKF Dan Grade.

4.3. Candidates must wear the uniform detailed in point 5.

4.4. All Refereeing officials who have not attended the course and examinations and wish to officiate at the Championships must attend the lecture and briefing on the afternoon or evening before the Championships commence. They must also be present at the competition venue for final briefing and area allocation, at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start.

4.5. Referees and Judges officiating in a WKF event must in principle have



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 WKF EC.

- 4.6. Referees officiating in a WKF event cannot perform another function in that event.
- 4.7. The Referee and Judges of a kumite or kata bout must not have the nationality nor represent the NF of either of the participants.
- 4.8. 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, Match Area Controller or of the Referee Commission. Infringement of this rule may incur in penalties being taken against the offender.
- 4.9. Only WKF qualified and licensed Referees and Judges may officiate at official WKF events.
- 4.10. The Referee Commission will make each year a list of qualified officials, from which the organisers of international events will draw their Refereeing and Judging personnel. This list will be circulated no later than the end of June each year by the RC-Secretary to the WKF General Secretary.
- 4.11. Referees must renew their licences every four years. All current officials are required by their National Federations to be paid up to date with the WKF Treasury. Officials of National Federations in debt to WKF may not participate in WKF Championships or courses.
- 4.12. All refereeing officials may be required to submit their licences to the Referee Commission at all WKF official events.
- 4.13. This licence duly signed and validated will allow the official to attend all official events and Championships of the WKF.

## **5. UNIFORM**

- 5.1. Referees and Judges must wear the official uniform designated in the WKF Competition Rules. This uniform must be worn at all competitions and courses.
- 5.2. The official uniform will be as follows:
  - A single breasted, navy-blue blazer, with two silver buttons, and the WKF official badge on the pocket.
  - A short sleeved white shirt.
  - A WKF tie, worn without a pin.
  - Plain light grey trousers.
  - Un-patterned dark blue or black socks.
  - Black soft shoes for use on the match area.
  - Black slip-on shoes, for use off the match area.



5.3. For women the following additional specifications are made:

Hair must be worn off the shoulders.

A wedding ring may be worn.

Make-up must be discreet.

Heels of more than 6 cm may not be worn with the uniform.