



**QUALIFICATION AND  
COMPETITION SYSTEM  
(PHASE 2 – FINAL PHASE)  
KARATE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS  
-INDIVIDUAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS-  
2025**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL OUTLINE

### 1.1 Purpose and Application

*The Karate World Championships (Individual World Championships)* has a 2-year qualification period along with a quota allocation system with a total of 32 quotas per category. The Karate World Championships Competition System is composed of 2 Phases, the Group Phase (Round-robin - Rr) and Elimination Phase with no repechage. Each category will have 1 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze awarded.

This document describes the format of Phase 2 (Final Phase) of the Karate World Championships where 32 Athletes are allocated for each category, but with maximum one Athlete per country.

Exempt from this are Athletes in Para-karate where up to 3 Athletes per country is allowed, and there is no Round-robin competition before going into eliminations. In the group system of the para-karate competition, groups of eight to twelve Athletes are formed. In each round, the number of Athletes per group is reduced to 4, until only two groups remain. The Athletes with the highest score in each of these two groups compete against each other for the first place. The Athletes with the second-highest score in each of the two groups face off against the third-highest score in the other group to compete for the two third places (bronze medals).

This document is issued to summarize the format of the competition event, and do not supersede or replace the WKF Competition and Ranking Rules.

### 1.2 Competition Days – Kumite, Kata & Para-karate

Phase	Days	Tatamis
Group Phase, Round of 16, Quarterfinals, Semi-finals	2 days	4 tatamis
Medal bouts	1 day	1 tatami
Para-Karate World Championships	1 day	4 tatamis
<b>Total</b>	4 days	

### 1.3 Modalities, Categories & Divisions – Kumite, Kata & Para-karate

MODALITY	Kata		Kumite	
CATEGORY	Female	Male	Female	Male
WEIGHT DIVISIONS			-50 kg	-60 kg
			-55 kg	-67 kg
			-61 kg	-75 kg
			-68 kg	-84 kg
			+68 kg	+84 kg

PARAKARATE					
Visually Impaired		Intellectually Impaired		Wheelchair User	
Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
K10	K10	K21	K21	K30	K30
		K22	K22		

## 2. ALLOCATION SYSTEM

### 2.1 General

All allocations and potential substitutes for places are based on results from the previous Karate World Championships, Karate World Championships Standing, Continental Championship, and host nation.

WKF will inform all the NFs with qualified Athletes about an exact confirmation date for the participation of their Athletes that will be defined for each allocation criteria.

**All places are allocated by name and cannot be transferred to other Athletes from the same NF.**

### 2.2 Allocation - Kumite & Kata

Allocation and request for confirmation of attendance will be carried out step by step, following the order of criteria from 1 to 6 as outlined below:

	Allocation Criteria Order	Athletes	Description
1	Previous World Senior Championship	1	World Champion
2	Karate World Championships Standing	8	First places
3	Continental Championships	14	Gold, silver, highest bronze (3 AKF/ 3 EKF/3 PKF/3 UFAK) Gold & Silver (2 OKF)
4	NF Host	1	Highest ranked NF host Athlete in the Karate World Championships Standing.

The Continental qualification is valid only if no other Athlete from the same Country, at the end of the qualification period, has not entered the first 8 places of the Karate World Championships standing (places which give direct qualification to the World Championship after a long period of qualification PL's, Continental points through the World Standing). The highest ranked Athlete in the top eight positions in the Karate World Championships standing (from the same country) will always have priority.

Allocation Criteria Order		Athletes	Description
5	Karate World Championships Qualification Tournament	6	6 qualified
6	Universality Places	2	Continental Distribution Ratio Criteria

### 2.2.1 Karate World Championships Standing

The standing is defined as a specific ranking indicating the position of a Athlete according to specific events within a defined period (Qualification period).

Events that are included in the Karate World Championships Standing are as follow:

- Karate 1 – Premier Leagues
- Continental Championships (CCH)
- The points gained from the previous ISWCH at the beginning of qualification period

Points from both Continental Championships will be counted in Karate World Championships standing and the last (most recent) CCH within the qualification period will count towards the Quota distribution.

The events included in the Karate World Championships Standing are the ones celebrated before **August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025**. In the event that a Continental Championships is celebrated after this date, the one valid to allocate the Continental Championships quotas will be the last (most recent) to **August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025**.

The Karate World Championships standing final positions will be defined **on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025**. The allocation of the Karate World Championships standing quotas will be done once the final positions are defined **on August 1<sup>st</sup> 2025**.

### 2.2.2 Karate World Championships Qualification Tournament

The Karate World Championships Qualification Tournament is a closed tournament for National Federations that awards 6 named quota places per category to attend the Karate World Championships. National Federations may register 1 Athlete per category in which they do not already have a qualified Athlete via another allocation criteria, specifically, the current world champion, continental championships, Karate World Championships Standing or NF Host.

### 2.2.3 Universality Places

#### Continental Distribution Ratio Criteria

- By continent, in proportional application with respect to Continental Championships participation
- Allocation of places to Continental Federations, considering participation in the Continental Championships.
- Places distribution criteria considering the number of anticipated Countries in Continental Championships / Number of Affiliated Countries in Continental Federations proportionality ratio.
- For this ratio, the last Continental Championships prior to the Qualification Phase will be used.
- The allocation of these Continental Federations places will go to the Athletes with the most points in the Karate World Championships Standing that have also participated in the qualification tournament, with independence of the continent and category.

## 2.3 Substitution – Kumite & Kata

### Step 1:

Allocation Criteria Order		Subsequent Allocation and Substitutions
1	Previous World Senior Championship	Following the line of Event results of the last Individual World Senior Championships according to Section 2.3.1
2	Karate World Championships Standing	Highest qualified Athlete in the Karate World Championships Standing, not qualified by World Senior Championships (if no other Athlete from the same country has qualified through the World Championships standing).
3	Continental Championships	AKF EKF PKF UFAK
		OKF
4	NF Host	Highest qualified NF host Athlete in the Karate World Championships Standing per category. The substitution will be the next highest qualified Athlete in the Karate World Championships Standing not qualified by World Senior Championships or Continental Championships. Should a Athlete from the NF Host have already qualified through the First, Second or Third criteria, there will be no additional person from the NF Host qualified in addition to this Athlete, respecting the rule that a country can have only one Athleter per category.

#### **Note (A):**

In case there are two or more persons are qualified with different criteria from the same NF, the selection will follow the preceding; World championship, Karate World Championships standing, Continental championship respectively.

#### **Example (A):**

Two persons are from the same NF in the same category, one is qualified as the one from the highest eight in the Karate World Championships standing and the other is qualified as the continental medallist. The one qualified from Karate World Championships standing will have the priority to be selected.

#### **Note (B):**

In case there is a same person from the same NF qualified by two or more criteria, the selection will follow the preceding; World Championships, Karate World Championships standing, Continental Championships and Host Country.



**Example (B):**

One person from the same NF is qualified as one of the highest eight in the Karate World Championships standing and is qualified as the continental medallist. He will be selected according to the Karate World Championships standing, and the substitution criteria will be applied for the Continental Championships quota.

**Step 2:**

Allocation Criteria Order		Substitution
<b>5</b>	<b>Karate World Championships Qualification Tournament</b>	<p>First: Athlete who lost the final bout against the originally qualified Athlete in the Qualification Tournament.</p> <p>Second: The Athlete with more technical points during the qualification bout among all the runners-up in qualification bouts.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Universality Places</b>	<p>Next best classified Athlete, from the same Continental Federation in the Karate World Championships Standing, not qualified by any other criteria, only if there is no other qualified Athlete from the same country. If none, the place will be taken by the next Continental Federation by distribution ratio.</p>

**2.3.1 Subsequent Allocation and Substitutions: Line of Event Result**

The substitution of an allocation criteria in section 2.3 follows the line of the event results in accordance with the following order:

- Second Qualified: Silver Medallist
- Third Qualified: Bronze Medallist who lost against the gold medallist
- Fourth Qualified: Bronze Medallist who lost against the silver medallist
- Fifth Qualified: Fifth position\* who lost against the gold medallist
- Sixth Qualified: Fifth position\* who lost against the silver medallist
- Seventh Qualified: Seventh\* position who lost against the gold medallist
- Eighth Qualified: Seventh position\* who lost against the silver medallist
- Ninth Qualified: Ninth position\* who lost against the gold medallist
- Tenth Qualified: Ninth position\* who lost against the silver medallist
- [Subsequent Qualified:...]

Once the line of the repechage is completed following the above order of allocation of substitution, the order will follow the same criteria above allocating places to the highest

positions obtained in the line of the gold and silver medallist sequentially, allocating one place each at the time.

In case there is no Athlete in the Continental Championships or all the Athletes from the Continental Championships decline to participate, the place will be replaced following the competition line of the event result in the last Individual World Senior Championships.

\* It should be noted that the term “position” does not refer to the “place” obtained as defined in the World Ranking Rules.

#### **2.4 Allocation – Para-karate**

Allocation tables do not apply to para-karate where each country is permitted to register up to 3 entries per category.

#### **2.5 Substitution – Para-karate**

Substitution for para-karate do not need to follow this process as each country can substitute any Athlete up to the deadline given for registering for participation, as long as the number of Athletes registered by the country for that category is no more than 3 entries per category.

### 3. COMPETITION SYSTEM

#### 3.1 The Draw

A draw will define the Groups' composition. The four highest World Ranking Athletes will be seeded 1, 2, 3, 4 and assigned to a predetermined group as can be seen in Chart 1. The rest of the Athletes will be randomly seeded from 5 to 32 and randomly assigned to groups. The draw will then be conducted randomly, respecting the non-coincidence of continents whenever possible.

Seeding by Groups		
Group	Seed Number	Allocation
Group B	3	Third highest ranked Athlete in World Ranking
Group D	2	Second highest ranked Athlete in World Ranking
Group F	4	Fourth highest ranked Athlete in World Ranking
Group H	1	First highest ranked Athlete in World Ranking
Random	5 – 32	Random

**Chart 1:** The Top 4 seeded Athletes and the predetermined group

### 4. GROUP PHASE (R-R)

#### 4.1 Group Composition – Kumite & Kata

A maximum participation of 32 Athletes with the number of Groups depends on the final participation. Each group will always have maximum 4 Athletes and minimum 3 Athletes.

Athlete/ Category	Athlete/ Group								Notes
<b>8 Groups</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>Participation: 24-32 Athletes</b>
<b>Seed</b>	-	<b>3</b>	-	<b>2</b>	-	<b>4</b>	-	<b>1</b>	<b>Number of Groups: 8 Groups</b>
32	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	The group winner and runner up qualify to the Elimination Phase.
31	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	
30	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	
29	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	3	
28	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	
27	4	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	
26	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	
25	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	
24	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	

**Chart 2:** The Group Phase (Round Robin) participant composition chart showing how many participants are required for each group.

## 4.2 Bout Order – Kumite & Kata

Depending on the number of Groups, in each tatami two *Sub-Groups (Sub G)* will compete.

Athletes will be placed in each group according to their ranking positions as follows:

- 1- Second highest-ranked Athlete in the group
- 2- Highest-ranked Athlete in the group
- 3- Fourth highest-ranked Athlete in the group
- 4- Third highest-ranked Athlete in the group

Based on this order, the bouts will take place as follows:

A: 4 AthleteS B: 4 AthleteS			A: 4 AthleteS B: 3 AthleteS			A: 3 AthleteS B: 3 AthleteS		
Sub G	1 <sup>st</sup> Bout	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bout	Sub G	1 <sup>st</sup> Bout	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bout	Sub G	1 <sup>st</sup> Bout	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bout
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Round</b>			<b>1<sup>st</sup> Round</b>			<b>1<sup>st</sup> Round</b>		
A	1-2	3-4	A	1-2	3-4	A	1-2	
B	1-2	3-4	B	1-2		B	1-2	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Round</b>			<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Round</b>			<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Round</b>		
A	3-2	4-1	A	3-2	4-1	A	3-1	
B	3-2	4-1	B	3-1		B	3-1	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Round</b>			<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Round</b>			<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Round</b>		
A	3-1	4-2	A	3-1	4-2	A	3-2	
B	3-1	4-2	B	3-2		B	3-2	

The first bout in each group will always be between the two highest-ranked Athletes.

**Chart 3:** The Group of 8 is divided into 2 subgroups of A and B.

## 4.3 Victory Points per Bout - Kumite

The Athletes will receive the following number of points per bouts:

- 3 Points in the case of winning.
- 1 point in the case of draw with result different to 0-0.
- 0 points in the case of draw with result 0-0, or a loss

## 4.4 Result & Tiebreaker - Kumite

The Athlete with the greatest number of victory points when the Group Phase concludes will be the Group Winner.

In the case of draw between two or more Athletes, the Group Winner will be defined following the following criteria in order of precedence:

- 1) Bout result between the Athletes in tie.
- 2) Largest number of points scored in all bouts.
- 3) Least number of points against in all bouts.
- 4) Largest number of Ippon scored in all bouts.
- 5) Least number of Ippon against in all bouts.
- 6) Largest number of Waza-ari scored in all bouts.
- 7) Least number of Waza-ari against in all bouts.
- 8) The highest ranking in the WKF Ranking.

#### 4.5 Result of an extra bout allowing Hantei. **Video Review Cards - Kumite**

- Athletes will have **one VR card** for the Group Phase.
- Athletes will have **one VR card** for the Round of 16.
- Athletes will have **one VR card** for the Quarterfinals.
- Athletes will have **one VR card** for the Semi-Finals.
- Athletes will have **one VR card** for the Medal-Bouts.

#### 4.6 Victory Points per Bout – Kata

- 3 victory points in the case of victory.
- 0 victory points in the case of a loss.

#### 4.7 Results & Tiebreaker – Kata

The Athlete with the greatest number of victory points when the Group Phase concludes will be the Group Winner.

In the case of draw between two or more Athletes, the Group Winner will be defined following the following criteria in order of precedence:

- 1) Winner of the bout between the Athletes in tie.
- 2) Sum of all votes as winner (majority of judges) received in all bouts.
- 3) The highest ranking in the WKF Ranking.
- 4) Extra bout doing a new kata.

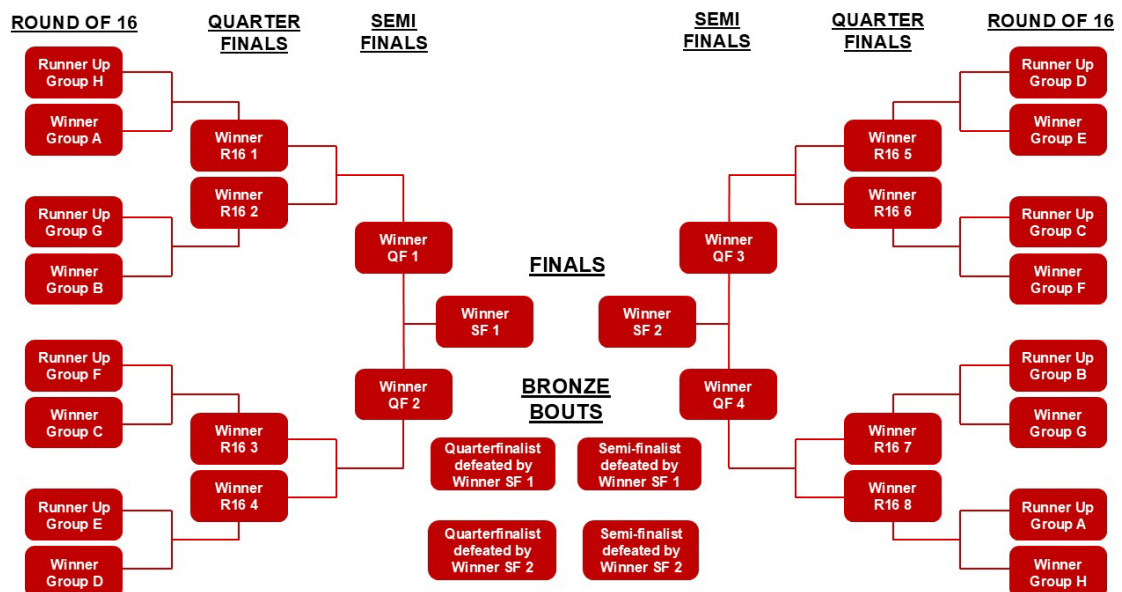
It is possible to repeat a kata from the Round-robin in the subsequent performances, but only as the sixth kata and with the restriction that the same kata can never be performed twice in a row.

## 5. ELIMINATION PHASE

### 5.1 Qualification to the Elimination Phase

After the Group Phase, the group winners and their runners-up will pass to the Elimination Phase where each Athlete has 1 bout per round and the winners move on while the losers are eliminated. In total, there are 4 elimination rounds: the first elimination round – called Round of 16, the Quarterfinals, the Semi-finals, and the Medal Bouts.

The winners of the Semi-finals will compete in the final, while the two Semi-finals losers, along with the two quarterfinalists defeated by the finalists, will compete in the bronze medal bouts, as is shown in the following brackets:



- **R16: Round of 16**
- **QF: Quarter-Finalist**
- **SF: Semi-Finalist**

### 5.2 Para karate competition format:

The competition will follow the eight groups formats each group consist of 8 to 12 Athletes competing as described in the following chart.

