



**COMPETITION SYSTEM
WKF QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENT
(PHASE 1 - KARATE WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIPS)
2025**

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1. INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL OUTLINE

1.1 Introduction

The WKF Qualification Tournament (QT) is a closed tournament for National Federations (NF) that awards 6 quota places per category to attend the Karate World Championships -Individual World Championships-. NFs are not permitted to register athletes that are already qualified nor register an athlete into the corresponding category of said qualified athlete.

The Competition System (Cs) consists of two Phases, the Group Phase (Round robin-R-r) and the Elimination Phase. The composition of the Group Phase and the number of rounds in the Elimination Phase will depend on the total number of entries. The final bout of Elimination Phase is called the Qualification Bout, where the winners are awarded a Quota place to go to the Karate World Championships.

This document describes Phase 1 of the Karate World Championships. Phase 1 is a Qualification Tournament offering the possibility of entering Phase 2 of the Karate World Championships for those that have not pre-qualified through the ranking system, and where there is no candidate already qualified for the applicable country.

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

Para-karate Athletes do not participate in Phase 1 as these modalities are already open for direct registration in Phase 2 (Final Phase).

1.2 Competition Days

Phase	Days	Tatamis
Group Phase – Qualification Bouts	3 days	6 tatamis

1.3 Participation

National Federations may register 1 Athlete per category in which they do not already have a qualified athlete via another allocation criteria, specifically, the reigning World Champion, Karate World Championships Standing, Continental Championships, or NF Host.

Refugee and disadvantaged athletes will qualify for Phase 2 (Final Phase) of the World Championships via the Phase 1 (Qualification Tournament) respecting the previous criteria.

One refugee athlete will be allowed to participate in each category.

In the event of more than one refugee athlete interested in participating in the qualification tournament in the same category, the criteria for the selection will be as follow:

- Best ranked athlete in the WKF Ranking.
- In cases where it is not possible to select an athlete based on the rankings for participation in the qualification tournament, the selection will be made based on sporting criteria. Athletes will be required to submit their sporting CV for evaluation.

1.4 Modalities, Categories & Divisions

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

1.5 The Draw

Without ranking or standing criteria, the draw will randomly assign athletes to groups. There is no seeding applied to Phase 1 (Qualification Tournament).

2. GROUP PHASE (R-r)

2.1 Group Composition – Kumite & Kata

The Group Phase is conducted with round-robin competition within each group where the winners will advance to the Elimination Phase that will conclude in picking the 6 winners that will go on to Phase 2 (Final Phase).

The groups will have a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 athletes.

Phase 1 (Qualification Tournament) Competition System

- The Phase 1 (Qualification Tournament) will be in Round Robin format with 6,8,12 or 24 pools of minimum 3 and maximum 6 athletes depending on the number of participants.
- 12 athletes will compete in the 6 qualification bouts.
- The winners of these 6 qualification bouts will qualify to the Final Phase.

PARTICIPATION	NUMBER OF POOLS	QUALIFICATIONS BOUT PARTICIPANTS
120 – 73 athletes	24	First classified of each pool will compete in a one bout elimination round. The winners of these bouts will compete in the qualification bout.
72 - 36 athletes	12	First classified of each pool.
35 – 31 athletes	8	First classified of each pool and 4 best seconds with at least one win.
30 – 18 athletes	6	First and second classified of each pool.

2.2 Bout Order & Matchups – Kumite & Kata

Depending on the number of athletes within a group (3- 6) you will find the following bout order and matchups (Position vs. Position).

Bout Order	3 Athletes		4 Athletes		5 Athletes		6 Athletes	
	Matchup	Free	Matchup	Free	Matchup	Free	Matchup	Free
1	1 // 2	3	1 // 2		4 // 5	1	4 // 5	
2	2 // 3	1	3 // 4		2 // 3	1	2 // 3	
3	1 // 3	2	2 // 3		1 // 4	2	6 // 1	
4			1 // 4		3 // 5	2	3 // 5	
5			1 // 3		4 // 2	3	1 // 4	
6			2 // 4		5 // 1	3	2 // 6	
7					1 // 3	4	5 // 1	
8					5 // 2	4	4 // 2	
9					3 // 4	5	6 // 3	
10					2 // 1	5	5 // 2	
11							1 // 3	
12							4 // 6	
13							2 // 1	
14							3 // 4	
15							6 // 5	

2.3 Victory Points per Bout in Round-robin - Kumite

The athletes will receive the following number of points per bout:

- 3 victory points in the case of victory.
- 1 victory point in the case of draw with result different to 0-0.
- 0 victory points in the case of draw with result 0-0 or loss.

Victory points are points scored for obtaining victories in the round-robin group phase of the competition.

Only in the case of a group with two athletes (due to injury or the absence of an athlete) and always when the bout between them didn't already happen, Hantei will be asked in case of draw.

2.4 Victory Points per Bout in Round-robin – Kata

The athletes will receive the following number of points per bout:

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

2.5 Results & Tiebreaker for Round-robin – Kumite

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

Victory points are points scored for obtaining victories in the round-robin group phase of the competition.

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

- 1) Bout result between the two Athletes.
- 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
- 9) An additional bout with possible Hantei.

2.6 Video Review Cards - Kumite

Athletes will have one VR card for groups with 3 - 4 Athletes in the Group Phase.

Athletes will have two VR cards for groups with 5 - 6 Athletes in the Group Phase.

Athletes will have one VR card for the Elimination Phase 1st Round (24 groups).

Athletes will have one VR card for the Elimination Phase - Qualification Bout

2.7 Kata: Results and tie breakers for Round-robin – 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 received in all bouts.
- 3) Highest World Ranking
- 4) Extra bout doing a new kata.

It is possible to repeat a kata from the Round-robin in the subsequent performances, but the same kata may never be performed twice in a row.

3. ELIMINATION PHASE

3.1 Qualification to the Elimination Phase

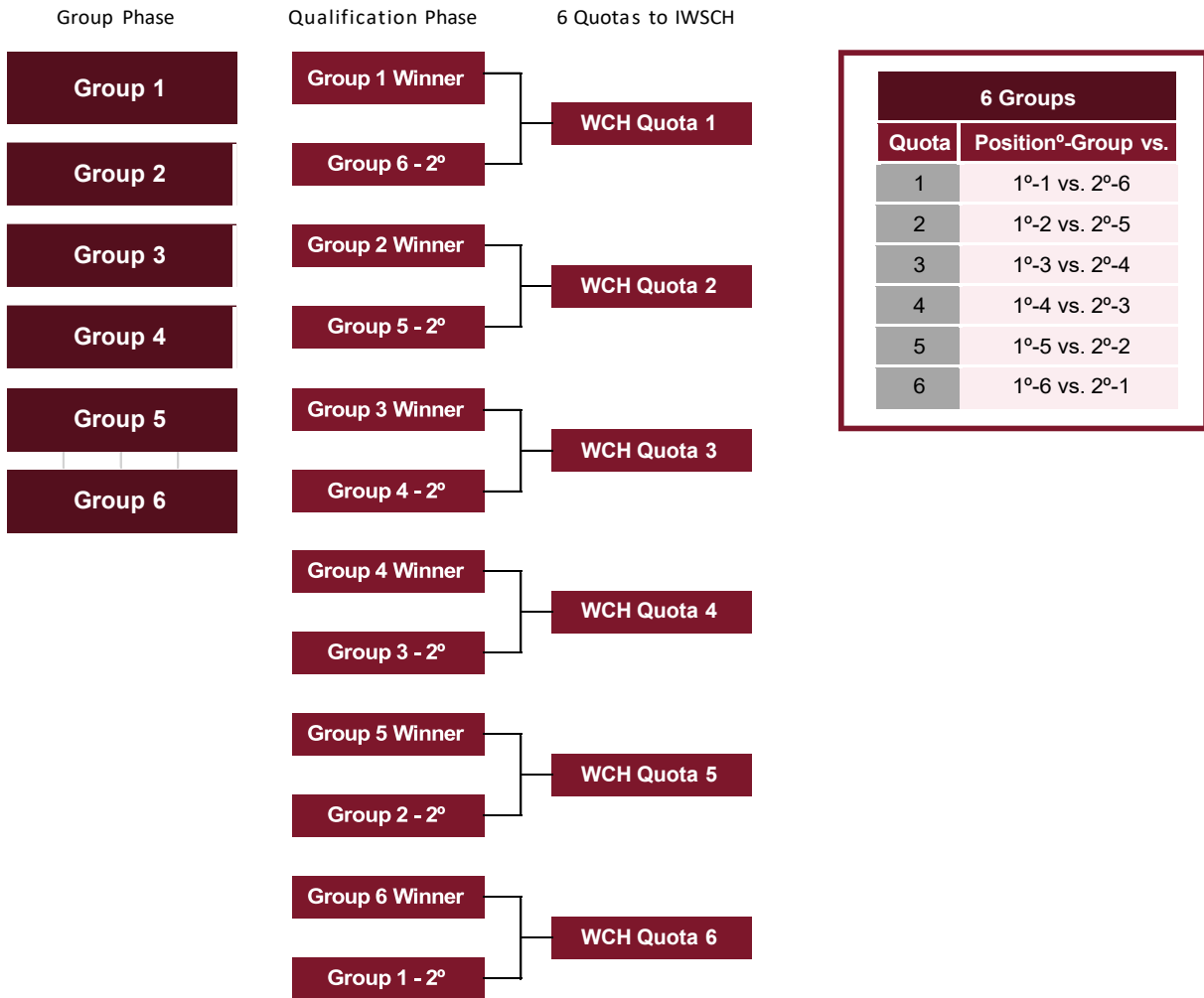
Depending on the group size, you will have either 1 round for groups 6, 8, 12, or 2 rounds for 24 groups. The final round is the qualification bout where 12 athletes compete for a quota spot to the WKF Individual World Senior Championships. The first round has predetermined matchups according to the group and the position in the group standing as can be seen in 3.2.

The following athletes will proceed to the Elimination Phase from the Group Phase:

Elimination Phase Qualification	
# Groups	Qualification
24	The group winners
12	The group winners
8	The group winners and 4 best seconds with at least one win.
6	The group winners and second classified of each group

3.2 Brackets – Kumite & Kata

6 Groups



First and second classified of each pool move to the Elimination Phase (Qualification bout).

8 Groups



8 Groups	
Quota	Position ^o -Group vs.
1	1 ^o -1 vs. 1 ^o -7
2	1 ^o -2 vs. 1 ^o -8
3	1 ^o -3 vs. 2 ^o -*
4	1 ^o -4 vs. 2 ^o -*
5	1 ^o -5 vs. 2 ^o -*
6	1 ^o -6 vs. 2 ^o -*

The group winner passes to the Elimination Phase - qualification bout) and the 4 best seconds with at least one win.

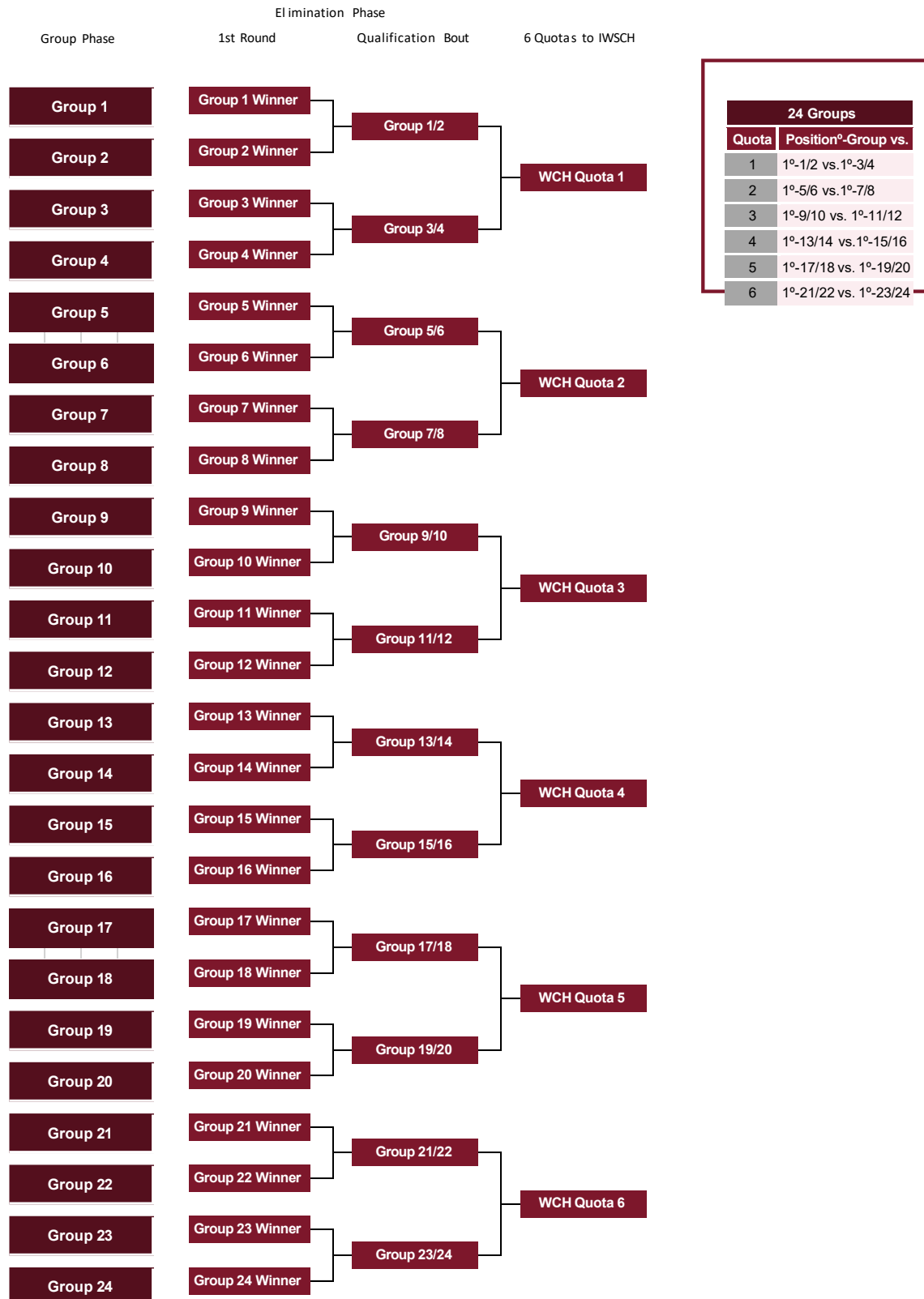
12 Groups



12 Groups	
Quota	Position ^o -Group vs.
1	1 ^o -1 vs. 1 ^o -2
2	1 ^o -3 vs. 1 ^o -4
3	1 ^o -5 vs. 1 ^o -6
4	1 ^o -7 vs. 1 ^o -8
5	1 ^o -9 vs. 1 ^o -10
6	1 ^o -11 vs. 1 ^o -12

The group winners pass to the Qualification bout.

24 Groups



The group winners pass to the 1st round of the Elimination Phase.

The winners of the 1st round passes to the 2nd round Qualification Bout.

