



REFEREE COMMISSION RULES

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1.1. GENERAL DISPOSITIONS

1.1.1. 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. A Secretary and a 1st Assistant Secretary will be appointed and in addition a 2nd Assistant Secretary may be appointed by the Executive Committee, 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 additional members if considered necessary to assure the best general balance within the RC.

1.1.2. There will be a Referee Commission Executive Bureau in charge to deal with the day to day affairs. The RC Executive Bureau composition will be proposed from time to time by the RC Chairman to the WKF President, who will decide; only RC members will be eligible to form part of the RC Executive Bureau. As a minimum it will comprise the RC Chairman and the RC Secretary, and will have to include RC members of at least 3 different Continental Federations.

1.2. POWERS AND AUTHORITIES

1.2.1. 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 rules.

1.2.2. The Referee Commission will monitor the performance of the Referees and Judges during the scheduled World Championships.

1.2.3. Complaints received by the Referee Commission Chair 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.

1.2.4. 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. The Referee Commission has the power to take measurements against such an official by demanding a new examination, new Referee Course and examination or suspension for up to two years depending on the seriousness of the misdemeanour or fault.

1.2.5. The Secretary of the Referee Commission shall arrange with the WKF HQ-Office for the supply of certificates, badges, stationery, examination papers, pass-books, ties, and such other items as may be required for the Referee Programme.

1.2.6. The Referee Commission shall also have the power, with the agreement of the Executive Committee, to convene meetings of its membership in order to discuss Refereeing matters such as the implications of rule changes.

1.2.7. Meetings and activities of the Referee Commission will be internally coordinated, minuted and circulated by the Referee Commission Secretary as well as to the members of the Executive Committee.

2. THE REFEREE COURSE AND EXAMINATIONS

2.1. DATE AND VENUE

2.1.1. The venue for the Referee courses and examinations shall be the same as for the World Championships for Candidates with qualification(s) and a Premier League for Candidates without qualification(s). 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, if separated from the World Championships will be set by the Congress as part of the 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, if separated from the World Championships must be within 60 kilometres of an international airport at a hotel with adequate accommodation. Six months before the scheduled start of the course, the host country 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 direct access to the selected hotel and neither the host country nor its agents may interfere in this right.

c) A competition must be organised after the course, if separated from the Word Championships and will serve as the confirmation event.

2.1.2. 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.

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

2.2. PREPARATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.2.1. The Chair of the Organising Commission or a nominee thereof shall inspect the proposed course venue and headquarters hotel during the scheduled pre-Championships visit. At this time, the organising country will receive a detailed briefing on requirements and details. A report of this meeting will be lodged with the Referee Commission Secretary.

2.2.2. The WKF rules for use at the course are available from the WKF Secretariat or from the website.

2.2.3. The Referee Commission will devise the questions for use in the examinations. These will be translated into English, French and Spanish and such other languages as may be required from time to time by the WKF President and EC 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.

2.2.4. The WKF Secretariat will also circulate printed application forms for the course. These will provide for an authorization by the mandated representative of each National Federation in respect of the nominated candidates.

2.2.5. The Secretary of the Referee Commission will confirm that he has an adequate supply of badges, ties, certificates, passbooks, forms and the necessary documentation to operate the course.

2.2.6. For the Kumite course and examinations the host country will ensure that it can provide at least 30, high quality fighters, each day. All competitors must be black belts and at least 18 years old.

2.2.7. The host country will ensure that it is able to provide adequate facilities for Referees at the competition to be staged at the conclusion of the course, if separated from the World Championships.

2.3. COURSE CONTENT

2.3.1. In order to standardise the worldwide level of Refereeing, the course will involve explanations and updating of the rules. At the conclusion of this lecture, there will be a theory examination.

2.3.2. The practical examinations will take the form of observation of a candidate whilst such attempts to work in an actual bout.

2.3.3 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 National Federation.

2.4. QUALIFICATIONS CONFERRED

2.4.1. Licensed WKF officials may be qualified as Tatami Managers, Karate Referees (both Kata and Kumite level A qualified), Kumite Referee B, Kumite Judge A or B and Kata Judge A or B. Qualification entitles the official to officiate in that capacity in all scheduled WKF events.

2.4.2. 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.

2.4.3. 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)** Tatami Managers (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 A or Kata Judge A.

2.4.4. Provided that an official keeps his/her license up to date, attends the annual WKF World Championships (providing compliance with the regulations established for that year) at least once every two years, attends the pre-championships briefing and lecture, and officiates satisfactorily then they will not be expected to undergo another practical examination, although they must sit and pass the theory paper which will be presented at the end of the pre-Championships briefing, once in every four (4) years.

2.4.5. 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.

2.4.6. The practical examination for Referees and judges will normally take place each year 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 electronically to the Ass. 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.

2.4.7. The Referee Commission Chair will decide the pass mark for each examination after consultation with the WKF President. To ensure impartiality this pass mark will not be divulged to the RC.

2.4.8. The examining panel will give a copy of the averaged evaluation form to each candidate and the WKF RC Secretary will send another copy to the candidate's National Federation for their records.

2.4.9. All qualifications at the WKF Referee course are provisional: they are confirmed as a result of a satisfactory performance at a subsequent scheduled WKF event (confirmation event).

2.4.10. The scheduled WKF events are as follows:

- a) WKF Junior & Cadet World Championships.
- b) WKF Senior World Championships.
- c) One K1, Premier League a year decided by the EC.

2.5. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

2.5.1. For the theory lectures and examinations, the host country must furnish a room with sufficient chairs and desks to accommodate 250 people. The room must be equipped with an LCD Projector and suitable screen.

2.5.2. The area for the Kumite practical examinations must be capable of holding one Kumite area, equipped with electrical connections for the examiners laptops, sufficient tables and chairs, , bells/buzzers, electronic score board, stop watches, red and blue belts and an adequate supply of fighters, as specified in 2.2.6. and appropriate medical cover. On one side of the Tatami there will be a minimum of 50 chairs for the Candidates to seat while waiting their turn.

2.5.3. For the practical examination of the Kata course there must be two areas with tables and chairs for the Referee Commission and electrical connections for the examiners laptops.

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

2.5.5. The host country is expected to provide a dinner for the participants. Course candidates should not be charged for this provision though other guests may be.

3. GENERAL REGULATIONS

3.1. The National Federations may nominate their country's citizens as candidates to the WKF Referee course provided the country is in current paid up membership of WKF. Candidates must be qualified National Kumite Referee A or National Kata Judge A. Candidates must be registered Online through the WKF software provider at least 60 days before the start or face a fine or other penalties as decided by the EC.

3.2. Kata and Kumite Candidates must be at least 25 years old and be a minimum 2nd WKF Dan Grade.

3.3. Candidates must wear the uniform detailed in 4.

3.4. All refereeing officials who have not attended the course and examinations and wishing to officiate at the Championships must attend the Referees 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, 30 minutes before the scheduled start.

3.5. 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.

3.6. Referees officiating in a WKF event cannot perform another function in that event. WKF Judges and Referees are strictly warned against having interaction with coaches and contestants during competitions in progress. Officials are not either allowed to appear in photos/videos together with coaches and contestants when wearing the official uniform. Judges and Referees violating this norm of conduct and Fair Play will face suspension from all WKF official events for up to 6 months.

3.7. The Referee and Judges of a Kumite or Kata bout must not have the nationality neither belong to the NF of the contestants. The positions of the Referees and Judges deployment and the Referees and Judges Panel must comply to these criteria.

Referees and Judges Deployment and panel allocation:

- For the eliminatory rounds the RC Secretary will facilitate to the software provider a list containing the Referees and Judges available per Tatami. This list is done by the RC Secretary once the athletes draw is finished and at the end of the Referees Briefing. This list must only contain Referees present at the Briefing and must comply with the above mentioned criteria. Then for the Referees draw the software provider will enter the list in the system and 5 Judges and Referees out of each Tatami deployment will be randomly allocated as Referee Panel for each bout.

- For medal bouts the Tatami Managers will provide the RC Chairman and Secretary with a list containing 8 officials from their own Tatami after the last bout of the eliminatory rounds is finished. Once the list is approved by the RC Chairman it will be facilitated to the software provider to enter them in the system. The system will then allocate randomly the Referee panel, which will only contain 5 out of the 8 officials from each tatami.

3.8. 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, Tatami Manager or the Referee Commission. Infringement of this rule may incur penalties being taken against the offender.

3.9. The Referee Commission will publish 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 December each year by the RC-Secretary to the WKF HQ-Office.

3.10. Referees and Judges must renew (pay) their licences (PLR) every four years. All current officials are required to be paid up to date with the WKF Treasury. Officials of countries in debt to WKF may not participate in WKF Championships or courses.

3.11. All Refereeing officials are required to submit their licences to the Referee Commission at all WKF events.

3.12. This licence duly signed and validated will allow the official to attend all international contests and championships of the WKF.

4. UNIFORM

4.1. Referees and Judges must wear the official uniform designated by the Executive Committee. This Uniform must be worn at all briefings, competitions and courses.

4.2. The official uniform will be as follows:

A single-breasted navy-blue blazer.

A white shirt with short sleeves.

An official tie, worn without tiepin.

A discreet white cord for the whistle.

Plain light-grey trousers without turn-ups. (Appendix 9).

Plain dark blue or black socks and black slip-on shoes for use on the match area.

Female Referees and Judges may wear a hairclip and religiously mandated headwear that is WKF approved and discreet earrings.

Referees and judges may wear a plain wedding band.

4.3. For women the following additional specifications are made:

Hair must be worn off the shoulders.

Make-up must be discreet.

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

4.4.

For Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games, Continental Games and other multisport events where a cross-sport uniform is provided for Referees at the cost of the LOC with the feel & look of the specific event, the official uniform for Referees might be substituted by that common uniform, provided that it is requested in writing to the WKF by the event organiser and formally approved by the WKF.