

Policies for the USA Open and Junior International Cup

Below are the policies which the USA National Karate Federation (“USA Karate”) has put in place to ensure that the USA Open and Junior International Cup (“JIC”) Signature Event is a positive experience for all.

Conflicts of Interest

Throughout this document, conflicts of interest include: states where Officials live, organizational, dojo, athlete and athletes’ instructor conflicts that may be evident.

Eligibility of Officials

- Each US Official must be in good standing with USA Karate, meaning that they must have an active USA Karate membership and be up to date with both SafeSport training and a background check.
- Each international official must either be a member of USA Karate, or they must provide a membership of their home country’s federation. They must also be up to date with SafeSport training and a background check.

Head Referee

The Head Referee at the USA Open and JIC shall be the RC Chair, if he/she has a current WKF license.

- If the RC Chair does not have current WKF licenses or is unable to attend, the RC member with the highest current WKF license who can attend will be the Head Referee.
- If no RC member with a current WKF license can attend, the USA Karate member with the highest WKF license who can attend should be the Head Referee.

The Head Referee is responsible for the following, but may delegate to the RC Operations Chair:

- Assigning the Tatami Managers (“TMs”) and Assistant TMs
 - o TMs must:
 - possess good communication skills;
 - be able to effectively manage and mentor the Official Panel;
 - be able to provide constructive feedback;
 - be able to effectively engage with event volunteers and coaches; and
 - have the skills and knowledge to resolve situations which may arise.
 - o WKF, PKF and NKF licenses, as well as competency of the Officials will be taken into consideration when selecting.
- Assigning Officials to all tatamis
 - o Officials who were invited to the most recent Team Trials will be the first Officials selected for the JIC and USA Open Elite tatamis.
- Appointing Officials (between 3 – 6) to serve as Appeals Jury members

Selection should follow this process:

 - o Review the Officials who have committed to attend.
 - o Take into consideration licenses, experience, and any conflicts of interest.
 - o Ensure that Officials selected are willing to be on the Appeals Jury.
 - o Appeals Jury members will be numbered 1 – 6.
 - Appeals Jury member #1 should have international experience and have previous Appeals Jury experience at a USA Karate signature event.
 - Appeals Jury members 1 – 3 will sit on all appeals, unless there are Conflict of Interest which preclude any of them from participating.
 - Appeals Jury members 4 – 6 will only sit on appeals if there are any Conflict of Interest with the first 3 Appeals Jury members.

Tatami Deployment

There are 3 distinctions that require tatami deployment of Officials at the USA Open and JIC:

- 1 The JIC
- 2 USA Open Elite
- 3 USA Open non-Elite

JIC Tatami Deployment

- TM should have an international license (WKF or PKF), if possible.
- Assistant TM is required to function as TM in case of a Conflict of Interest or in the absence of the TM. The Assistant TM does not need an international license.
- If enough Officials are available, a 2nd Assistant TM is recommended.
- Remaining Officials will be assigned with consideration given to Conflicts of Interest.

USA Open Elite Tatami Deployment

- TMs and Assistant TMs must have an international license (WKF or PKF).
 - o TMs and Assistant TMs can be international (living in US or abroad) Officials.
 - o Assistant TM is required to function as TM in case of a Conflict of Interest or in the absence of the TM.
 - If enough Officials are available, a 2nd Assistant TM with an international license is recommended.
- Remaining Officials, which may include international (living in US or abroad) Officials, will be assigned with consideration given to Conflicts of Interest, including the athlete's nation of representation.
 - o Officials with higher licenses should be assigned to Elite tatamis over non-Elite tatamis. The order of selection should follow as noted here:
 - Current WKF or PKF licenses;
 - Officials who have attended international competitions in the past 12 months;
 - Expired WKF or PKF licenses; and
 - Officials with highest NKF licenses.
- Video review, if utilized, must follow the WKF video review rules, thus Officials with a current PKF Referee A or higher license must be used.

USA Open Non-Elite Tatami Deployment

- Strive to select TMs and Assistant TMs who have an international license (WKF or PKF). If not possible, select TMs and Assistant TMs who have an NKF Referee license.
 - o TMs and Assistant TMs can be international (living in US or abroad) Officials.
 - o Assistant TM is required to function as TM in case of a Conflict of Interest or in the absence of the TM.
 - If enough Officials are available, a 2nd Assistant TM is recommended.
- Remaining Officials, which may include international (living in US or abroad) Officials, will be assigned with consideration given to Conflicts of Interest.

Important Note: *Tatami Managers, Assistant Tatami Managers, and Official assignments may be modified and/or adjusted throughout the event in order meet logistical needs, provide mentorship, or to provide support to other Tatamis and/or Officials.*