

USA KARATE OFFICIALS

Instructor Criteria & Certification Policy

1. Introduction:

USA Karate offers seminars, instruction, and certification for officials at our USA Karate Signature Events. In addition, throughout the year, USA Karate provides local educational and certification outreach programs by designating authorized USA Karate Referee and Judge Instructors to facilitate seminars, issue certifications, and certification upgrades on behalf of USA Karate. Accredited senior officials who meet the requirements listed below are encouraged to apply for this program to assist USA Karate in enhancing our USA Karate Referee Corps.

2. USA Karate Referee and Judge Instructor Requirements:

- a. All USA Karate Referee and Judge Instructors are required to obtain and maintain the following:
 - i. Current USA Karate official's certification of at least National Kata Judge A and National Kumite Referee A.
 - ii. Current USA Karate membership.
 - iii. Current U.S. Center for SafeSport Training compliance.
 - iv. Current background screening certification.
 - v. Attendance at an annual Instructor Seminar administered by the USA Karate Referee Committee.
- b. Attendance and participation as an official in at least two USA Karate Signature Events each year in compliance with the Referee Policy Manual "Participation and Recertification – Annual Requirements" section.
- c. Attendance at a Referee Seminar at a Signature Event at least annually.
- d. Maintain current USA Karate Officials' Code of Conduct compliance.

3. USA Karate Referee and Judge Instructor Responsibilities:

- a. USA Karate Referee and Judge Instructors are responsible for facilitating seminars in accordance with the USA Karate Officials Program. Before granting an official's certification, instructors must verify that candidates have met all requirements for certification or certification upgrades, which include:
 - i. Current USA Karate membership.
 - ii. Current U.S. Center for SafeSport Training compliance.
 - iii. Current background screening certification.
 - iv. Signing of the USA Karate Officials' Code of Conduct prior to the issuance of a certification or certification upgrade.
 - v. The passage of at least three months between certifications.
 - vi. Participation and completion of a USA Karate Referee Seminar.

- vii. Passing the USA Karate On-Line Referee Examination for the certification being sought.
 - viii. Upgrades for all USA Karate Referee certification levels require participation as an official in at least one (1) tournament between certifications.
- b. The USA Karate Referee and Judge Instructor shall verify compliance with these requirements by reviewing the USA Karate Policy Manual for Officials, the candidate's USA Karate Passport, and confirming certification levels of candidates on the USA Karate Referee Listing, under Referee Resources, on the USA Karate website: www.usankf.org/coaches-and-officials/referees-resources.
 - c. The USA Karate Referee and Judge Instructor shall work in coordination with their Region's Lead Referee as required in USA Karate Policy Manual for USA Karate Officials, the National Referee Program, and other applicable documents and guidance.

4. USA Karate Instructor Support Materials:

Once approved as a USA Karate Referee and Judge Instructor, the Instructor will gain access to the WKF and the USA Karate Rules of Competition, practice questions, forms and documents for registration and reporting purposes, study guide materials, and other support-related benefits to ensure a successful event.

5. USA Karate Instructor Levels:

USA Karate offers three (3) Instructor levels, which are:

- a. USA Karate Instructor A
- b. USA Karate Instructor B
- c. USA Karate Instructor C
- d. Each level requires a variety of skills and experience and holds a different series of responsibilities. Applicants to this Instructor program may qualify based on their current USA Karate/PKF/WKF certification status.
- e. USA Karate Referee Committee members may apply for the USA Karate Instructor level for which they qualify in accordance with this policy and as provided for below.
- f. Apart from USA Karate Referee Committee members, each certified instructor may conduct courses and issue certifications only in one of the six regions in USA. Please refer to the map below for specifications.
- g. With the prior consent of the Referee Committee, the instructor may conduct a seminar outside their primary geographic region, considering factors that may benefit the growth

of the USA Karate Referee program—an example of, but not limited to, serving areas less populated or underserved.



6. USA KARATE INSTRUCTOR “C”

- a. Criteria for USA Karate Judge Instructor “C”:
 - i. Current USA Karate Kata Judge A and USA Karate Kumite Referee A.
 - ii. One (1) year as a USA Karate Kata Judge A and USA Karate Kumite Referee A and assisting or attending one (1) non-Signature Event USA Karate Referee and Judge certification seminar taught by an accredited Instructor B or A instructor. The accredited instructor at the non-Signature Event seminar will note in the applicant's official passport the applicant’s attendance.
 - iii. Application approved by the USA Karate Referee Committee.
 - iv. Each year, the USA Karate Instructor “C” should conduct at least one (1) certification seminar and must attend at least one in-person or Zoom Instructor

Training Seminar presented by the USA Karate Referee Committee per year. This includes participation in any USA Karate signature event lecture.

- v. If a USA Karate Instructor “C” loses certification, or good standing, as a USA Karate Kata Judge A and USA Karate Kumite Referee A, they will automatically lose accreditation as a USA Karate Instructor “C” without further action by USA Karate.
- vi. To recertify, an Instructor C must demonstrate a proven ability to recruit or advance Officials in the program and to encourage and get the new judges to join the USA Karate Signature Events.

b. USA Karate Instructor “C” is authorized to certify:

- i. USA Karate Kata Judge D and E.
- ii. USA Karate Kumite Judge C and D.

7. USA KARATE INSTRUCTOR “B”

a. Criteria for USA Karate Referee and Judge Instructor “B”:

- i. A current PKF Kata Judge A and a PKF Kumite Referee A certification.
- ii. Application approved by USA Karate Referee Committee.
- iii. Each year the USA Karate Instructor “B” should conduct at least two (2) certification seminars and must attend at least one in-person or Zoom Instructor Training Seminar presented by the USA Karate Referee Committee per year. This includes participation in any USA Karate signature event lecture.
- iv. If a USA Karate Instructor “B” loses certification, or good standing, as a PKF Kata Judge or PKF Kumite Judge/Referee, they will automatically lose accreditation as a USA Karate Instructor “B” without further action by USA Karate.
 - (1) In such circumstances above, the USA Karate Instructor may be reassigned as a USA Karate Instructor “C” if they otherwise meet all of the requirements for USA Karate Instructor “C.” Reassignment is not automatic and must be reviewed by the USA Karate Referee Committee.
- v. To recertify, an Instructor B must demonstrate a proven ability to recruit or advance Officials in the program and to encourage and get the new judges to join the USA Karate Signature Events.

b. USA Karate Instructor “B” is authorized to certify:

- i. USA Karate Kata Judge D and E
- ii. USA Karate Kumite Judge A, B, C, and D

8. USA KARATE INSTRUCTOR “A”

a. Criteria for USA Karate Referee and Judge Instructor “A”:

- i. Current WKF Kata Judge A and WKF Kumite Referee A certification, or current Regional Lead Referee.
 - ii. Application approved by USA Karate Referee Committee.
 - iii. Each year, the USA Karate Instructor “A” should conduct at least two (2) certification seminars and must attend at least one in-person or Zoom Instructor Training Seminar presented by the USA Karate Referee Committee per year. This includes participation in any USA Karate signature event lecture.
 - iv. If a USA Karate Instructor “A” loses certification or good standing as a WKF Kata Judge A or WKF Kumite Judge/Referee, they will automatically lose accreditation as a USA Karate Instructor “A” based on that requirement, without further action by USA Karate. The Instructor A status will not change if they are a Regional Lead Referee.
 - (1) In such circumstances above, the USA Karate Instructor may be reassigned as a USA Karate Instructor “B” or “C” if they otherwise meet all the requirements for USA Karate Instructor “B” or “C.” Reassignment is not automatic and must be reviewed by the USA Karate Referee Committee.
 - v. To recertify, Instructor A must demonstrate a proven ability to recruit or advance Officials in the program and to encourage and get the new judges to join the USA Karate Signature Events.
- b. USA Karate Instructor “A” is authorized to certify:
- i. USA Kata Judge C, D, and E
 - ii. USA Kumite Judge A, B, C, and D
 - iii. USA Kumite Referee C and D

USA KARATE OFFICIALS’ CERTIFICATION TRANSITION LEVELS

2023 Kata Certifications	From 2024 Kata Certifications	Authorized Instructor Level to Certify
National Judge A	USA Karate Judge A	Referee Committee at Signature Event
National Judge B	USA Karate Judge B	Referee Committee at Signature Event
Regional Judge A	USA Karate Judge C	Instructor A
Regional Judge B	USA Karate Judge D	Instructor A, B, C
Regional Judge C	USA Karate Judge E	Instructor A, B, C

2023 Kumite Certifications	From 2024 Kumite Judge Certifications	Authorized Instructor Level to Certify
National Referee A	USA Karate Referee A	Referee Committee at Signature Event
National Referee B	USA Karate Referee B	Referee Committee at Signature Event
National Judge A	USA Karate Referee C	Instructor A
National Judge B	USA Karate Referee D	Instructor A

Regional Referee A	USA Karate Judge A	Instructor A, B
Regional Referee B	USA Karate Judge B	Instructor A, B
Regional Judge A	USA Karate Judge C	Instructor A, B, C
Regional Judge B	USA Karate Judge D	Instructor A, B, C