



Where Olympic Journeys Begin

US JUNIOR TEAM SELECTION POLICY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This selection process represents a significant improvement in fairness, competitiveness, and transparency. By combining a single-elimination repechage bracket with a double-elimination final stage, this system ensures that the most skilled and resilient athletes earn placement on the national team. It minimizes the risk of an early exit due to an unfavorable draw while providing multiple opportunities for athletes to prove their abilities. Additionally, this structured approach aligns with international best practices, preparing athletes for the highest levels of competition. Implementing this system fosters confidence among athletes, coaches, and stakeholders by guaranteeing a merit-based pathway to success.

I. PURPOSE

This document establishes a transparent and structured process for selecting athletes for the US Junior Team. By implementing a fair and competitive system, this policy ensures that the most qualified athletes earn placement on the national team while maintaining consistency with national and international standards.

II. OVERVIEW

This policy outlines the selection process for the US Junior Team, utilizing a single-elimination repechage bracket to determine the top four athletes, who will then compete in a double-elimination bracket to establish final national team placement.

III. ELIGIBILITY

Athletes must meet the following criteria to participate:

- Be a US citizen.
- Meet the age requirements for the event qualifying for.
- Be a member in good standing of USA Karate.
- Comply with all anti-doping regulations.

IV. COMPETITION FORMAT

Phase 1: Single-Elimination Repechage Bracket

- All registered athletes will compete in a **single-elimination bracket**.



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Phase 1: Single-Elimination Repechage Bracket

- Athletes who lose to a finalist will enter the **repechage round**.
- The top **two finalists** automatically advance to Phase 2.
- The **two winners of the repechage bracket** (bronze medalists) will also advance to Phase 2.

Phase 2: Double-Elimination Bracket (Kumite)

- The **top four athletes** from Phase 1 enter a **double-elimination bracket**.
- This phase determines the final placement of athletes on the national team.
- The bracket continues until only one athlete remains undefeated or all placement spots are determined.

Seeding (Kumite)

- Matchups for the double-elimination bracket will be determined by placement from Phase 1.
- The finalist from **Pool A** will compete against the repechage winner from **Pool B**.
- The finalist from **Pool B** will compete against the repechage winner from **Pool A**.
- This structure ensures balanced competition and minimizes repeat matchups from Phase 1.

Phase 2: Group Reduction (Kata)

- The **top four athletes** from Phase 1 enter a **Group Reduction Process**.
- This phase determines the final placement of athletes on the national team.
- All four athletes from Phase 1 compete and receive scores. The top three highest scored athletes will advance to round 2.
- In round 2 the remaining three athletes will compete and receive scores.
- Should there be a tie, the WKF process for breaking a tie will be used.
- U14 athletes may only repeat kata after the 4th round of competition.
- Cadet, Junior and U21 athletes may only repeat kata after the 5th round of competition.



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Seeding (Kata)

- No seeding will be used.
- Athletes will be placed in a random order for round 1.

V. NATIONAL TEAM PLACEMENT

The final national team ranking is determined as follows:

1. The winner of the **double-elimination bracket (Kumite) or the Pool Reduction Process (Kata)** earns the **#1 team position**.
2. The runner-up earns the **#2 team position**.
3. The third-place finisher earns the **#3 team position**.
4. The fourth-place finisher earns the **#4 team position**.

VI. BENEFITS OF THIS SELECTION PROCESS

- Ensures that athletes have multiple opportunities to compete and prove their skill.
- Reduces the impact of a single loss by allowing athletes to re-enter through repechage.
- Provides a fair and structured path for team placement.
- Encourages resilience and adaptability in competitive settings.
- Aligns with international standards for team selection processes, enhancing athlete preparation for global competition.