



USA National Karate Championships & Junior Team Trials



Referee Course

USA Karate will host a referee course on Wednesday, July 15, 2026 (Centennial Hotel Riverfront Ballroom A/B). Attendees will review the latest USA Karate Rules of Competition. The practice and practical session, license results, and Kata specific guidelines session (mandatory for all officials) will be in the venue. The referee briefing (mandatory for all officials) will be in Centennial Hotel Riverfront Ballroom A/B.

USA Karate Referee/Judge Certification

Domestic attendees registering to take the referee exams will be issued certifications up to USA Karate Kumite National Referee A and Kata National Judge A. More information, including schedules, will be available at [2026 National Karate Championships & Junior Team Trials | USA Karate](#)

Registration will be available online. *All candidate referees and judges testing for higher licenses are required to register online in advance at [Registration](#)*

*For USA Karate Officials, attendance and participation at this Signature Event includes the **mandatory briefing before competition, daily briefings, and officiating the entire day(s) of the event until officially dismissed at the end of each day.** Officials who fail to attend the whole event or leave the Signature Event before final dismissal **will not** have met the Signature Event attendance requirement, unless previously exempted per policies of USA Karate Officials.*

Course fees are as follows:

Referee/Judge Certification Fee (Covers both Courses): \$200

Course Audit Fee (no Certification): \$50

USA Karate, PKF, or WKF officials with Kata and Kumite A licenses may participate in the course at no cost.

Referees and judges who are not participating in the certification courses but are attending the championships are also required to register online at [Registration](#)

PLEASE NOTE: All domestic referees and judges must be current members of USA Karate and must have met the conditions of membership (SafeSport Training & background screen).

Kumite & Kata Course Schedule Wednesday, July 15, 2026

***All judges and referees must be in compliance with regulations and up to date with their membership, SafeSport, and background screen.**

***No PKF/WKF officials will be allowed to coach if they want to represent USA Karate at international competitions as an official.**

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Sign-in, Submit karate passport (Centennial Hotel Riverfront Ballroom A/B)
8:30 AM - 10:45 AM	Lecture rules of Kata and Kumite Competition
10:45 AM - 10:55 AM	10-minute break
10:55 AM - 11:55 AM	Kata and Kumite written test (only for testing candidates)
11:55 AM - 12:30 PM	Lunch Break
12:30 PM - 1:15 PM	Kata Video evaluation (for Kata testing candidates)
1:25 PM - 1:45 PM	Kumite hand and flag signals in venue
1:45 PM - 2:30 PM	Kumite Practice Matches (for Kumite testing candidates) in venue
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Kumite Practical Exam (for Kumite testing candidates) in venue
3:45 PM - 4:15 PM	Kata and Kumite examination results (venue meeting room)
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	Kata Specific Guidelines* (Mandatory for all officials) in venue.
6:00 PM	Briefing (Mandatory for all officials) – (Centennial Hotel Riverfront Ballroom A/B).

**The kata specific guidelines instruction session is mandatory for all participating as officials at Nationals as it will cover important guidelines in kata performance.*

Note: Schedule times above may be subject to adjustment.

Important:

Ongoing evaluation will continue throughout the championship; all candidates will receive the certification at the end of the championship.

USA Karate Referee A license and PKF/WKF officials are exempt from taking the written test to renew their license but must participate in the lecture of the rules of competition at one signature event annually.

For USA Karate Officials, attendance at this Signature Event includes the mandatory briefing before competition, daily briefings, and officiating the entire day until officially dismissed at the end of the day. Officials who fail to attend the whole event or leave the Signature Event before the final dismissal will not have met the Signature Event attendance requirement.