



2026 USA Open Karate Championship & Junior International Cup

Referee Course

USA Karate will host a Referee course on Wednesday, April 1st. Attendees will review the 2026 New USA Karate Rules of Competition.

USA Karate Referee/Judge Certification

USA Karate will host a Referee/Judge certification course on Wednesday, April 1st. Domestic attendees 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 usakarateopen.com.

Registration is available online, and all participating Referees and Judges are required to register in advance.

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

Referee/Judge Certification Fee (Covers both Courses): \$200
Course Audit Fee (no Certification): \$50

On-site course registration fee \$100 in addition to the Course Fee.

Referees who choose not to participate in the certification courses, but are attending the championships, are required to register online at usakarateopen.com

PLEASE NOTE: All domestic Officials must be a current member of USA Karate and have met the conditions of membership (SafeSport Training & NCSI Background Screen).

All International Officials are required to complete SafeSport™ Training. To complete this training visit usankf.sport80.com and create an account. From that account you can click on the US Center for SafeSport Training. Training is valid for one year.



Referee Course Schedule
Wednesday April 1, 2026
Fort Worth Convention Center 103 A/B

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Sign-in, Submit karate passport (in referee course room)
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Lecture
11:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Break
11:15 AM – 12:15 PM	Kata & Kumite written exams (for testing candidates)
12:15 PM – 1:00 PM	Kumite gestures and flag signal exercises
1:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch Break
1:30 PM – 2:15 PM	Kata video evaluations (for Kata testing candidates)
2:15 PM – 3:00 PM	Kumite practice matches (for Kumite testing candidates)
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Kumite practical exam (for Kumite testing candidates)
4:15 PM – 5:00 PM	Kata and Kumite examination results
6:00 PM	BRIEFING (MANDATORY FOR ALL OFFICIALS)

**Note: Schedule times above may be subject to adjustment.*

Important:

Ongoing evaluation will continue throughout the championship; all candidates must attend **all days until officially dismissed** at the end of the championships and will receive the certification at the end of the championship.

- * USA Karate Referee A license and PKF/WKF referees/judges are exempt from taking the written test to renew their license but must participate in the lecture of the rules of competition. USA Karate Referee “A” and “B”, including Kata Judge “A” and “B”, must attend **one Signature Event referee seminar annually** and participate as an official in **at least one Signature Event yearly** to maintain their certification level.
- * **USA Karate will not allow any official to officiate if they are not in compliance with regulations and/or are not up-to-date with their membership, SafeSport™ Training, and background screen.**
- * **International officials will be required to complete SafeSport™ Training - <https://usankf.sport80.com>.**
- * Attendance at a Signature Event includes the initial briefing the day before the competition days, post competition debriefing, daily briefings, and the entire day until officials are officially dismissed at the end of the day. Officials who fail to attend the whole event or leave a Signature Event before the final dismissal will not have met the Signature Event attendance requirement, unless there are extenuating circumstances or excused by the Chief Referee.