

2026 AMERICAN OPEN EAST



USA TAEKWONDO

Information Packet

MAY 29-31
OAKS, PENNSYLVANIA



WELCOME TO THE 2026 AMERICAN OPEN EAST

Welcome to the U.S. American Open Tournament Series – an innovation in taekwondo events in the United States for 2026. The U.S. American Open Series is a high quality, professionally produced series of events, at the U.S. National Level that are open to all athletes who reside in the United States.

The American Open Series will serve as a qualifying event for the 2026 U.S. National Taekwondo Championships, to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Key Points:

Any athlete who resides in the United States may participate in the 2026 American Open East. US Citizenship is not a requirement to compete.

All athletes who participate in the U.S. American Open East will be eligible for the U.S. National Taekwondo Championships.

*See Page 9 for World Class Qualification Requirements

·All World Class Sparring and Poomsae Athletes who medal at a U.S. American Open will be invited to compete at the 2026 U.S. Season Final.

·IMPORTANT: Any athletes who are unable to attend the competition after registration, please fill out the below online form to notify USATKD. This is to have the most accurate division timing for the competition.

o WITHDRAWAL FORM

Under 21 Sparring Division is a qualifying pathway exclusive to the American Open Series

HOST CITY & HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

**2026 AMERICAN OPEN EAST
GREATER PHILADELPHIA EXPO CENTER
100 STATION AVENUE
OAKS, PENNSYLVANIA 19456**

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS COMPLETED THROUGH
[LINK HERE](#)**

PROMOTER & SANCTIONED BY:

**U.S.A. TAEKWONDO
Ranking TBA**



USATKD POINTS OF CONTACT

**Christine Strong Simmons, Managing
Director of Operations
cssimmons@usatk.org**

**Katie Cleveland, Associate Director of Events
kcleveland@usatk.org**

**Michael Newman, Events and Freight
Logistics Assistant Manager
mnewman@usatk.org**

**Jakob Allison, Events and Member Services
Coordinator**

MAILING ADDRESS

**U.S.A. Taekwondo
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Colorado Springs, CO 80909**

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2026 U.S. TAEKWONDO AMERICAN OPEN - EAST

MAY 29-31, 2026 | OAKS, PENNSYLVANIA

MAY 29

SPARRING

CADET (12-14) BLACK BELTS: M
JUNIOR (15-17) COLOR BELTS: M/F
SENIOR (17+) BLACK BELTS: M/F
SENIOR (17+) COLOR BELTS: M/F
ULTRA ALL BELTS: M/F
PARA ALL BELTS - ALL DIVISIONS

POOMSAE

INDIVIDUAL

UNDER 30 COLOR BELTS: M/F
UNDER 40 COLOR BELTS: M/F
UNDER 50 ALL BELTS: M/F
UNDER 60 ALL BELTS: M/F
UNDER 65 ALL BELTS: M/F
OVER 65 ALL BELTS: M/F
OVER 70 ALL BELTS: M/F

PAIRS & TEAMS

PAIRS UNDER 30
PAIRS UNDER 50
PAIRS UNDER 60
PAIRS OVER 60
NO TEAM TODAY

FREESTYLE

NO FREESTYLE EVENTS TODAY

TRADITIONAL

CADET (12-14) ALL BELTS: M/F
YOUTH (10-11) ALL BELTS: M/F
TIGER (8-9) ALL BELTS: M/F
DRAGON (6-7) ALL BELTS: M/F

DEMO TEAMS

ALL DEMONSTRATION
TEAMS COMPETE TODAY

BREAKING

ULTRA: M/F
SENIOR (17+): M/F
JUNIOR (15-17): M/F

MAY 30

SPARRING

TIGER (8-9) ALL BELTS: M
TIGER (8-9) ALL BELTS: F
CADET (12-14) BLACK BELTS: F
JUNIOR (15-17) BLACK BELTS: M
JUNIOR (15-17) BLACK BELTS: F

POOMSAE

INDIVIDUAL

DRAGON (6-7) ALL BELTS: M/F
YOUTH (10-11) ALL BELTS: M/F
CADET (12-14) COLOR BELTS: M/F
JUNIOR (15-17) COLOR BELTS: M/F
UNDER 30 BLACK BELTS: M/F
UNDER 40 BLACK BELTS: M/F

PAIRS & TEAMS

TEAM YOUTH (10-11): M/F
TEAM CADET (12-14): M/F
TEAM JUNIOR (15-17): M/F
TEAM UNDER 30: M/F
TEAM UNDER 50: M/F
TEAM UNDER 60: M/F
TEAM OVER 60: M/F

FREESTYLE

PAIRS YOUTH (10-11)
PAIRS UNDER 17
PAIRS OVER 17
TEAMS YOUTH (10-11)
TEAMS UNDER 17
TEAMS OVER 17

TRADITIONAL

UNDER 50 ALL BELTS: M/F
OVER 50 ALL BELTS: M/F

BREAKING

DRAGON (6-7): M/F
TIGER (8-9): M/F
CADET (12-14): M/F

MAY 31

SPARRING

DRAGON (6-7) ALL BELTS: M
DRAGON (6-7) ALL BELTS: F
YOUTH (10-11) ALL BELTS: M
YOUTH (10-11) ALL BELTS: F
CADET (12-14) COLOR BELTS: M
CADETS (12-14) COLOR BELTS: F
U21 BLACK BELTS: M/F

POOMSAE

INDIVIDUAL

TIGER (8-9) ALL BELTS: M/F
CADET (12-14) BLACK BELTS: M/F
JUNIOR (15-17) BLACK BELTS: M/F
PARA ALL BELTS - ALL DIVISIONS

PAIRS & TEAMS

PAIRS YOUTH (10-11)
PAIRS CADET (12-14)
PAIRS JUNIOR (15-17)

FREESTYLE

INDIVIDUAL YOUTH (8-11)
INDIVIDUAL UNDER 17
INDIVIDUAL OVER 17

TRADITIONAL

JUNIOR (15-17) ALL BELTS: M/F
UNDER 30 ALL BELTS: M/F
UNDER 40 ALL BELTS: M/F

BREAKING

YOUTH (10-11): M/F



Athlete Registration

Registration for all athletes will be done through [USATKD Sport80](#). All registrations must be completed by the registration deadline. There will not be any onsite registration for athletes.

2026 American Open East Registration Deadline:

Registration deadline: May 7, 2026, 12:00 PM, MST

THERE WILL BE NO LATE REGISTRATION.

USATKD HAS A NO REFUND POLICY. (Add in Registration Insurance?)

All athletes must register and pay in full by the registration deadline. No exceptions will be made for not completing registration. If you are having trouble registering, please email support@usatkd.zendesk.com for assistance.

[CLICK HERE FOR STEPS ON HOW-TO-REGISTER FOR AN EVENT](#)

Tips For Successful Event Registration

Athletes must have their belt information in the belt section for their Sport80 profile. Missing belt information will prevent you from being able to select a division and register for any events.

***Black Belt Athletes:** In addition to having a black belt listed in your profile, a copy of your black belt certificate must be uploaded into your Sport80 profile.

***Athletes aged 18 and older:** Must complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport course each year.

[Click Here for Instruction Video for Center for SafeSport Training](#)

Athlete Event Credentials:

Athletes will receive an event credential via email prior to the start of the tournament from Katie Cleveland, kcleveland@usatkd.org. This virtual credential will be the athlete's credential for the event. A physical credential is available for purchase during the registration process for \$10.

Athlete Check-In:

Poomsae athletes are automatically checked in for the competition when they receive their Virtual Event Credential. If you have not received your credential, please reach out to support@usatkd.zendesk.com to resend it.

Sparring athletes are checked in when they weigh in during their scheduled weigh-in period. Any athlete who does not weigh in will be marked as "Disqualified".

ATHLETE REGISTRATION FEES

EARLY/REGULAR FEES	EVENT ENTRY FEE	CC PROCESSING	DIVISION FEE
EARLY (ENDS 12/31/2025)	\$190	\$5	\$30
REGULAR (BEGINS 1/1/2026)	\$195	\$5	\$30

Coach Registration

Registration for all coaches will be done through [USATKD Sport80](#). All registrations must be completed by the registration deadline. There will not be any onsite registration for coaches.

2026 American Open East Registration Deadline:

Registration deadline: May 7, 2026, 12:00 PM, MST

THERE WILL BE NO LATE REGISTRATION.

USATKD HAS A NO REFUND POLICY.

All coaches must register and pay in full by the registration deadline. No exceptions will be made for not completing registration. If you are having trouble registering, please email support@usatkd.zendesk.com for assistance.

[CLICK HERE FOR STEPS ON HOW-TO-REGISTER FOR AN EVENT](#)

Profile Requirements to Register as a Coach for an Event:

- Upload a profile picture on your Sport80 profile.
- Have a current U.S.A. Taekwondo Membership on Sport80.
- Have a current and valid Background Screen (valid through the final day of competition) (Ages 18+).
- Have a current and valid SafeSport Core Training (Valid through the final day of competition) (Ages 18+).
- Have either an Associate Coach or Level 1 Coach Course completion in the discipline you want to coach and have it uploaded and validated on your Sport80 profile.

Coaches must be an Associate Coach or Level 1 or higher to coach in the World Class Sparring & World Class Poomsae divisions. Your coaching certification must be in the discipline you are coaching, i.e. Kyorugi, Poomsae, or both.

Center for SafeSport and USOPC Background Screening Requirements

[Center for SafeSport Training Instruction Video](#)

[USOPC Background Screening Instruction Video](#)

Coach Credential Information:

All coach credentials must be physically picked up at the Member Services Desk at the competition. Member Services hours are 7:30 AM - the end of competition.

Coaches must be physically present and show a photo ID to receive their credential.

IMPORTANT:

COACH CREDENTIALS ARE NON-TRANSFERABLE DUE TO OUR COMPLIANCE WITH THE CENTER FOR SAFESPORT AND USOPC.

ANY COACH FOUND TO SHARE THEIR CREDENTIAL WITH ANOTHER COACH IS SUBJECT TO SANCTION.

COACH REGISTRATION FEES

EARLY/REGULAR FEES	EVENT ENTRY FEE	CC PROCESSING
EARLY (ENDS 12/31/2025)	\$80	\$5
REGULAR (BEGINS 1/1/2026)	\$90	\$5

Qualification

2026 American Open East Qualification

Athletes must have a USATKD membership to participate in a U.S. American Open tournament.

Athletes may attend any or all American Opens throughout a calendar year and earn ranking points.

Age Qualification: USATKD uses the date December 31 of the given year to determine the competition age for all athletes. EX. A 14-year-old athlete turns 15 years old on September 27th, meaning they would compete as a 15-year-old athlete for all events during the calendar year.

Belt Qualification Rules: All athletes will be eligible to compete at the 2026 U.S. American Open at the current belt in which they hold.

Weight Class Qualification Rules:

All athletes may compete in any belt color or weight category. Athletes may change weight classes prior to the registration deadline of May 7, 2026, at 12:00 PM MST. Any changes after the registration deadline must be made onsite and will be charged a \$50 weight-change fee.

2026 U.S. National Championships Qualification Information:

All athletes who participate in at least one 2026 U.S. American Open series will qualify to participate in the 2026 U.S. Taekwondo National Championships. Participation is defined as completing registration, weighing in (if sparring athlete), stepping on the mat to compete, and receiving a placement within the division.

IMPORTANT: To register & compete at the U.S. National Championships, United States citizenship documentation is required for the following divisions: World Class Cadet & Junior (Poomsae & Sparring), World Class Senior (Sparring), All Masters (Poomsae).

2026 U.S. Season Final Qualification Information:

All World Class Sparring and Poomsae athletes ranked in the Top 20 of the division will qualify for the 2026 Season Final Championships.

IMPORTANT: To register & compete at the U.S. Season Final, United States citizenship documentation is required for the following divisions: World Class Cadet & Junior (Poomsae & Sparring), World Class Senior (Sparring), All Masters (Poomsae).

2026 Dominant Athlete Pathway:

World Class Dominant Athlete

Aspiring Dominant Athlete

Kyorugi Sparring Divisions

Poomsae Divisions

Weigh In Information

All Weight Changes Must Be Made Before Stepping on The Official Scale. NO EXCEPTIONS. Athletes can change weight classes through the final registration deadline at no additional fee. After the final registration deadline, all weight changes must be made onsite at the Member Services Desk. Any weight changes at the tournament will incur a \$50.00 fee.

Belt and Division Changes:

Athletes can change their belt color or division through the final registration deadline. After the final registration deadline, athletes must compete in the division or belt color they have registered for.

Athletes will not be able to change their belt color or divisions onsite at the competition.

Athletes may only weigh in during their scheduled weigh in periods, no exceptions will be made. The weigh in window will last 2 hours for each group with a break between groups if necessary.

Weigh in times are based on the schedule below. All participants must provide a valid ID to weigh-in. There is no exception to this policy. Valid ID can be any of the following: Government Issued ID, School ID, GAL, Military ID or Passport. If the athlete is a minor and does not have a Valid ID, then they are allowed to provide a copy of the athlete's birth certificate.

[Click Here for All Weigh In Rules](#)

Date	Weigh In	Time
Thursday 5/28/2026	Cadet World Class - Male Junior Color Belt - Male/Female	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
	Senior World Class - Male/Female Senior Color Belt - Male/Female Ultra All Belts - Male/Female	3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Friday 5/29/2026	Tiger All Belts - Male/Female Cadet World Class - Female	8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
	Junior World Class - Male/Female	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Saturday 5/30/2026	Youth All Belts - Male/Female	8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
	Dragon All Belts - Male/Female Cadet Color Belts - Male/Female	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
	Under 21 Black Belts - Male/Female	12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Method of Competition & Competition Rules

Athletes must wear the appropriate uniforms for sparring and/or poomsae. [Dobok & Equipment Standards for Events](#)

The current competition rules for all divisions will be used. To view the current version, go to: <https://www.usatkd.org/usatkd-competition-rules>

Bracketing and Seeding: Seeding will be done for all sparring and poomsae divisions based off the most recently posted [U.S. National Rankings](#)

Sparring – A single elimination format will be applied to all sparring divisions.

[Sparring Weight Categories](#)

[USATKD Kyorugi Head Contact Rules](#)

Poomsae – All poomsae divisions will be drawn for the first round according to the U.S. [National Rankings](#) and the [Poomsae Rules](#)

- [Poomsae Divisions](#)
- [Compulsory Poomsae](#)

Freestyle Poomsae: Please bring a device that can connect to a speaker to play your competition music to the mat on competition day.

Estimated Report Times will be posted prior to the event after the final registration deadline has closed.

Final Report times and brackets will be posted the night before after weigh-ins have concluded on the [USATKD.org](#) website.

Designated Poomsae will be randomized at the mat for World Class Divisions
All Non-World Class divisions designated poomsae [CLICK HERE](#)

General Information

Member Services Daily Hours

Date	Member Services	Time
5/28/2026	Member Services	1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
5/29/2026	Member Services	7:30 AM - End of Competition
5/30/2026	Member Services	7:30 AM - End of Competition
5/31/2026	Member Services	7:30 AM - End of Competition

Daily Venue Hours

Date	Competition Days	Time
5/28/2026	No Competition, Only Weigh Ins No Warm Up Available	1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Weigh Ins Only
5/29/2026	Competition Day 1	Doors Open 7:30 AM 1 st Report Time 8:00 AM Competition Begins 8:30 AM
5/30/2026	Competition Day 2	Doors Open 7:30 AM 1 st Report Time 8:00 AM Competition Begins 8:30 AM
5/31/2026	Competition Day 3	Doors Open 7:30 AM 1 st Report Time 8:00 AM Competition Begins 8:30 AM

General Information

Event Spectator Tickets: Easy Event Tickets All tickets sales are now Online Only. Come to the member services desk to redeem your online purchased tickets for a colored wrist band for entry into the tournament.

TICKET PRICES

Event Ticket	Online Early Bird Ticket Price	Online Regular Ticket Price
All Weekend Adult Pass	\$56.00	\$61.00
All Weekend Child Pass	\$41.00	\$46.00
All Weekend Senior (65+)	\$47.00	\$52.00
Single Day (Adult 18+)	\$20.00	\$25.00
Single Day (Child 6-17)	\$15.00	\$20.00
Single Day (Senior 65+)	\$17.00	\$22.00
Children 5 & under	FREE	FREE

Sparring: Medals will be given out to the top 4 athletes, in the respective divisions and weight categories.

Poomsae: Medals will be given out to the top 4 individuals, pairs (co-ed), and teams in the respective divisions. For those World Class Poomsae Team divisions, where an alternate has registered, the athlete will receive a medal if they have participated in the event. USATKD defines participation as check-in, stepping on the mat, and competing in front of judges.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

1 ST PLACE	GOLD MEDAL
2 ND PLACE	SILVER MEDAL
3 RD PLACE	BRONZE MEDAL
3 RD /4 TH PLACE	BRONZE MEDAL

Sports Med Staff will be ringside and in the medical tent to provide injury and illness care for all participants. Please remember when taping ankles or instep pads, competitors must comply with the rules set forth by the WT and USATKD.

Media Release

I hereby agree to be filmed, videotaped and photographed, and to have my name, image, picture, likeness, voice and biographical information otherwise recorded, in any media, by USA Taekwondo (USATKD) and its official photographers, film crews and video crews, and by any other entity authorized by USA Taekwondo (the "Footage").

I hereby grant the USA Taekwondo and its assigns the irrevocable, perpetual, fully paid-up, worldwide right and license to use, and to authorize third parties to use, in all media, the Footage for: (1) news and information purposes, (2) promotion of me and the specific competition(s) in which I compete, (3) promotion of the USA Taekwondo Teams, and (4) promotion of USA Taekwondo (including, but not limited to in videos, blogs, episodes, shows or other promotions distributed digitally through a USA Taekwondo YouTube Channel) without the need to seek any further consent from me.

I acknowledge and agree that the programming in which the Footage is used, and the media through which the Footage is distributed, may contain advertising and sponsorships; provided that, in no event may USA Taekwondo use or authorize the commercial use of the Footage in any manner that would imply my endorsement of any company, product, or service, without my written permission. My permission will not be unreasonably withheld, delayed or conditioned provided that the proposed commercial association does not create sponsor conflicts for me.

USA Taekwondo may edit my appearance as it sees fit. USA Taekwondo shall have all right, title and interest in any and all results and proceeds from usage of the Footage. USA Taekwondo is not obliged to make any use of my performance or exercise any of the rights granted by this Release.

USA TAEKWONDO SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

At all USA Taekwondo sanctioned events, every spectator plays a vital role in creating a respectful, safe and empowering environment for our athletes. By attending, you agree to uphold the values of Taekwondo: Courtesy, Integrity, Self-Control, Perseverance, and Indomitable Spirit.



SUPPORT THE SPIRIT OF TAEKWONDO

- Applaud effort & performance for all competitors.
- Respect all athletes, coaches, referees, staff & fans.
- Enjoy the event positively & respectfully.



RESPECT ALL COACHES, REFEREES & STAFF

- Respect that referees & officials apply complex rules fairly- mistakes may happen.
- Abusive and verbal attacks of any kind will not be tolerated.
- Disputes and concerns must be raised through official channels.



CHEER, DON'T JEER

- Encourage athletes - never taunt, boo, heckle or shout at competitors.
- Harassment, discrimination, and intimidation is prohibited.
- Aggressive and threatening behavior is prohibited.



HELP KEEP THE EVENT SAFE

- Do not enter restricted event areas.
- Report misconduct & inappropriate behavior to event staff.
- Fighting, violence, and unsafe conduct is prohibited.

CONSEQUENCES OF MISCONDUCT

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Verbal/written warnings | • Removal from the event (no refund) |
| • Suspension or expulsion from USATKD events | • Referral to law enforcement |
| • Report to U.S. Center for SafeSport | • Subject to further review under USA Taekwondo disciplinary policies |

USATKD IS THE SAFEST PLACE TO PLAY