

USA KARATE OFFICIALS

Instructor

Criteria & Certification



Introduction:

USA Karate offers seminars, instruction, and certification for Officials at our National 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, administer examinations, issue licenses, and license upgrades on behalf of USA Karate. Licensed Senior Officials who meet the requirements listed below are encouraged to apply for this **REFEREE AND JUDGE INSTRUCTOR PROGRAM** to assist USA Karate in enhancing our National Referee Corps.

USA Karate Referee and Judge Instructor Requirements:

All USA Karate Referee and Judge Instructors are required to obtain and/or maintain the following:

- Current USA Officials' license of at least National Kata Judge A and National Kumite Referee A
- Active USA Karate membership
- Safe Sport Training
- Background screening
- Attendance at an annual Instructor Seminar administered by the USA Karate Education Committee
- Participation as an official in at least one USA Karate Signature Event each year
- Attendance at a Referee Seminar at a Signature Event at least annually
- Maintain current USA Karate Officials' Code of Conduct

USA Karate Instructor Responsibilities:

USA Karate Referee and Judge Instructors are responsible for facilitating seminars in accordance with the USA Karate Officials Program.

Prior to granting an Official's License, Instructors must verify that Candidates have met all requirements for license or license upgrades which include:

- Active USA Karate membership
- Safe Sport Training
- Background screening
- Signing of the USA Karate Officials' Code of Conduct prior to the issuance of a license or license upgrade
- The passage of at least three months between licenses
- Participation in a Licensure Seminar



- Completion of USA Karate On-Line Referee Examination and obtaining of appropriate score for the Official rank being sought

Upgrades for all Regional and National levels require participation as an Official in at three (3) tournaments between licenses. One tournament event is defined as a full day with approximately 125 competitors. Multi-day events are credited separately for each Tournament day. It is the responsibility of the license candidate to ensure that their participation is recorded in their Passport by the Tournament Director or Chief Referee. The USA Karate Referee and Judge Instructor shall verify compliance with this requirement by review of the candidate's USA Karate Passport.

USA Karate Instructor Support Materials:

Once approved as a USA Karate Referee and Judge Instructor, the Instructor will gain access to the USA Karate Referee and Judge Instructors' Materials website. The instructional materials are to be utilized during seminars and they include PowerPoint presentations for kata and kumite, rule books, practice questions, forms and documents for registration and reporting purposes, study guide materials, and other support-related benefits to ensure a successful event.

USA Karate Instructor Levels:

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

- USA Karate Instructor A
- USA Karate Instructor B
- USA Karate Instructor C

Each level requires a variety of skill and experience and holds a different series of responsibilities. Applicants to this Instructor program may qualify based on their current USA Karate/PKF/WKF.



USA KARATE INSTRUCTOR “C”

Criteria for USA Karate Judge Instructor “C”:

1. Dojo owner or Senior Instructor (defined as a Nidan or higher with at least 10 teaching years’ experience).
2. Minimum USA Karate National Kata Judge A and USA Karate National Kumite Referee A.
3. Application approved by USA Karate Referee Education Committee.
4. To maintain this Instructor license, each year the USA Karate Instructor “C” should conduct at least three (3) Licensure seminars and must attend at least one in-person or Zoom Instructor Training Seminar presented by the USA Karate Referee Education Committee per year.
5. **To recertify, an Instructor C must demonstrate a proven ability to recruit or advance Officials in the program.**

USA Karate Instructor “C” is authorized to certify:

- USA Karate Regional Kata Judge C
- USA Karate Regional Kumite Judge A, B

USA KARATE INSTRUCTOR “B”

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

1. Dojo owner or Senior Instructor (defined as a Nidan or higher with at least 10 teaching years’ experience).
2. Minimum PKF Kata Judge A and PKF Kumite Referee A **OR** presentation of at least ten (10) Licensure Courses as an Instructor C.
3. Application approved by USA Karate Education Committee
4. To maintain this Instructor license, each year the USA Karate Instructor “B” should conduct at least three (3) Licensure seminars and must attend at least one in-person or Zoom Instructor Training Seminar presented by the USA Karate Referee Education Committee per year.
5. **To recertify, an Instructor B must demonstrate a proven ability to recruit or advance Officials in the program.**



USA Karate Instructor “B” is authorized to certify:

- USA Karate Regional Kata Judge B, C
- USA Karate Regional Kumite Judge A, B, and Regional Referee A, B

USA KARATE INSTRUCTOR “A”

USA Karate Referee and Judge Instructor “A” Criteria:

1. Dojo owner or Senior Instructor (defined as a Nidan or higher with at least 10 teaching years’ experience).
2. WKF Kata Judge A & WKF Kumite Referee A with extensive knowledge and proven history of tournament operations and officials’ development experience **OR** presentation of at least ten (10) Licensure, since obtaining Instructor B Level.
3. Application approved by USA Karate Education Committee.
4. To maintain this Instructor license, each year the USA Karate Instructor “A” should conduct at least three (3) Licensure seminars and must attend at least one in-person or Zoom Instructor Training Seminar presented by the USA Karate Referee Education Committee per year.
5. **To recertify, an Instructor A must demonstrate a proven ability to recruit or advance Officials in the program.**

USA Karate Instructor “A” is authorized to certify:

- USA Regional Kata Judge A, B, C
- USA Regional Kumite Judge A, B & USA Regional Kumite Referee A, B
- USA National Kumite Judge A, B



USA KARATE OFFICIALS REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LICENSING LEVELS

USA REGIONAL KATA LICENSES	USA REGIONAL KUMITE LICENSES	
USA Regional Kata Judge A, B, C	USA Regional Kumite Judge A, B	USA Regional Kumite Referee A, B
USA NATIONAL KATA LICENSES	USA NATIONAL KUMITE LICENSES	
USA National Kata Judge A, B	USA National Kumite Judge A, B	USA National Kumite Referee A, B

USA NATIONAL KATA JUDGES AND NATIONAL KUMITE REFEREES

USA Karate National Kata Judge and National Kumite Referee Licenses are only awarded at USA Karate Signature Events. Candidates for these licenses must attend a USA Karate Referee Course and pass the written and practical examinations administered by the USA Karate Referee Certification Committee.

USA Karate National Kata Judge and National Kumite Referees must attend at least one annual recertification course at USA Karate Signature Events facilitated by the USA Karate Education Committee to ensure knowledge of rule updates and must officiate throughout the event.

Eligible candidates should access the usankf.org website for instructions regarding the application process.

