

USA KARATE OFFICIALS PROFICIENCY LEVELS

➤ REGIONAL JUDGE

1. Dress properly in the USA Karate Officials' uniform and understand referee panel members' positions in the line-up for initial and final bows and know chair numbers for **KATA** and **KUMITE**.
2. Demonstrate understanding of the 6 criteria for **KUMITE** scoring.
3. Recognize 8 target areas for **KUMITE** scoring.
4. Display correct flag/hand positioning for **AKA** and **AO** while seated in all corners of the ring.
5. Understand score values and flag/hand positioning signals for **KUMITE** scores of **YUKO** (1 point), **WAZARI** (2 points) and **IPPON** (3 points).
6. Signal point(s) scored on their own initiative without hesitation using flags with correct posture.
7. Demonstrate the ability to declare the winner of a **KUMITE** match upon the referee's signal for **HANTEI** without hesitation.
8. To consult with the Referee on possible disqualifications if called by the Referee for a **SHUGO**.
9. Assist in visually monitoring the scoreboard in the absence of a **KANSA**.
10. Possess clear understanding of scoring criteria for **KATA** matches (10 Criteria) in beginner, novice and intermediate level divisions.
11. Possess clear understanding of criteria for **KATA** fouls (6) and disqualification (9).
12. Demonstrate the ability to declare a **KATA** match winner and react without hesitation to "Judge 1's" signals (**HANTEI**) for **KATA** flag score.
13. Obtain and maintain Safe Sport and Background Investigation status in accordance with Safe Sport and Background check rules and regulations. Sign and abide by the Official's Code of Conduct.



➤ REGIONAL REFEREE

1. Assist with division arrival from staging, competitor check in, and line up as needed.
2. Demonstrate understanding of Coaches' and Competitors' required attire/equipment. Assist Referee and/or **KANSA** to tactfully resolve attire/equipment correction issues.
3. Maintain a cohesive ring environment with scorekeepers and staff with a focus on safety measures and efficient ring operation.
4. Interpret and assist in managing chart(s), with understanding of the bye system and repechage, etc.
5. Assist with division conclusion and ensure competitors' proper exit from the competition area.
6. Demonstrate the ability to begin and conclude individual **KUMITE** matches.
7. Maintain effective positioning in the ring with a clear view of action and Judges' flags.
8. Observe Judges' scores and award points when appropriate based on their decisions.
9. To stop the bout when in the Referee's opinion there has been a foul committed, or to ensure the safety of the competitors.
10. Establish working knowledge of the 10 second rule and its application.
11. Understand the signals and criteria for fouls and disqualification.
12. To stop the bout when an injury, illness, or inability of a competitor to continue is noticed.
13. Obtain and maintain Safe Sport and Background Investigation status in accordance with Safe Sport and Background check rules and regulations. Sign and abide by the Official's Code of Conduct.



➤ NATIONAL JUDGE

1. Assist with competitors' arrival at ring from staging, and effectuate expedient equipment/attire check, charting, check in, and line up as needed.
2. Assist Referee and/or **KANSA** regarding coaches' attire, credentials and participation, with ability to tactfully resolve and correct inconsistencies.
3. Assist to ensure efficient operation of a ring with little or no supervision and establish rapport with table staff.
4. Demonstrate expertise in starting and suspending matches, charting, scoring, imposition of fouls and disqualification, and managing accidents or injuries.
5. Understand the application of the 10 second rule, and **SHIKKAKU**.
6. Manage **KATA** matches from "Judge 1's" chair, including competently demonstrating whistle signals and calls for **HANTEI** and disqualification.
7. Mentor Junior Officials regularly.
8. Effectuate reasonable emergency protocol as needed.
9. Re-certify annually at USA Karate Signature Events in accordance with USA Karate rules to maintain current licensing.
10. Obtain and maintain Safe Sport and Background Investigation status in accordance with Safe Sport and Background check rules and regulations.



➤ NATIONAL REFEREE

1. Demonstrate a complete working knowledge and comprehension of USA Karate and WKF Rules of **KATA** and **KUMITE** Competition.
2. Understand all aspects of tournament operations and troubleshoot problems such as charting and administrative errors.
3. Understand all duties of a **KANSA** (19) per USA Karate and WKF rulebooks, and delegate on-site Officials with responsibilities in the absence of a **KANSA** (i.e. equipment/uniform check, scoreboard monitoring, flag count).
4. Delegate Officials' positioning in the ring for each match, and rotate Officials to resolve conflicts and to maintain efficiency.
5. Manage Coaches' issues with clear understanding of Coaches' participation and access levels, with the minimal amount of ring action interruption.
6. Demonstrate knowledge and application of the protest process and **SHIKKAKU** procedures.
7. Demonstrate the ability to safely and efficiently implement the 10-second rule and take appropriate follow up action (i.e. fit to resume, disqualification, penalty imposition, etc.).
8. Establish familiarity with the members and knowledge of the responsibilities of the USA Karate Referee Committees, and the function of the "Appeals Jury".
9. Establish familiarity with the "tournament director", "medical staff", and USA Karate hierarchy and protocol for handling emergencies or serious problems.
10. Demonstrate ability to activate reasonable emergency protocol and take necessary remedial actions to ensure safety and smooth tournament operations.
11. Provide support and mentoring services to fellow Officials.
12. Recertify annually at USA Karate Signature Events to maintain current licensing.
13. Obtain and maintain Safe Sport and Background Investigation status in accordance with Safe Sport and Background check rules and regulations. Sign and abide by the Official's Code of Conduct.



➤ INTERNATIONAL OFFICIALS

1. International Officials must actively support USA Karate Signature Events, among other considerations set forth by the Referee Committees, to be considered for international travel by the USA Karate Referee Certification Committee and/or Administration.
2. Participation in the prior two signature events is required before an Official will be authorized to participate in any international events.
3. Obtain and maintain Safe Sport and Background Investigation status in accordance with Safe Sport and Background check rules and regulations. Sign and abide by the Official's Code of Conduct.

