

USA Karate National Office
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Where Olympic Journeys Begin

USA Karate National Team Athlete Performance Subsidy Program (NTAPS) (as of 9/9/25)

The ***National Team Athlete Performance Subsidy Program (NTAPS)*** is aimed at recognizing and rewarding our athletes' exceptional achievements on the international stage. This initiative underscores our commitment to supporting athletes who represent The United States with pride and achieve measurable success. The ***NTAPS Program*** provides a monetary subsidy for athletes who secure podium finishes in individual, and in some cases, team divisions at key international competitions. This newly expanded program includes the current ***Senior Team Athlete Funding Model*** (see below) and the OP Gold Program from the USOPC.

Allocation of Funds

The funds earned through the ***NTAPS Program*** could be applied to incurred USA Karate-related expenses related to the result obtained, such as:

- Hotel accommodations
- Event registration fees
- Team fees
- USA Karate apparel
- Other competition related costs

This approach is designed to directly support athletes in reducing the financial burdens associated with their training and competition activities to earn the international podium result.

Purpose and Goals

This program aims to:

- Motivate and reward excellence in international competition.
- Provide financial support to alleviate training and competition-related expenses.
- Highlight the accomplishments of our athletes and inspire the next generation.



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Eligibility Criteria

1. **Event Participation:** Athletes must compete in sanctioned international events under USA Karate's guidelines.
2. **Compliance:** Athletes must remain in good standing with USA Karate adhering to all codes of conduct and performance expectations.

We believe this initiative will further strengthen the competitive spirit within our community and enhance The USA's global presence in Karate.

Senior Team Athlete Funding model (in place since 2022)

Senior Team athletes in good standing receive the following funding and items:

- Registration fees paid for Senior PKF, Senior WKF, World Cup, North American Cup, SR Pan Am Games, Last Chance Qualifier, World Games and World Combat Games.
- Hotel and accommodations paid for at SR WKF and World Cup, North American Cup, SR Pan Am Games, SR PKF, Last Chance Qualifier, World Games and World Combat Games
- In the event an athlete wins a medal at a SR World Championship, SR Pan American Championship or World Cup event, the athlete may be reimbursed for their airfare (up to the designated amount, which is country dependent and varies year to year).
- The top 16 ranked athletes receive registrations paid for K-1 Competitions: Premier Leagues and Series A events (athletes must request to be registered)
- Mandatory Training Camps will at no charge for Senior Team athletes, and hotel accommodations (at double occupancy) as well as flight reimbursement (up to a designated amount per event depending on location) will be provided.
- SR Pan Am Games events provide airfare, hotel and accommodations and registration fees plus have OP Gold medal money (*see below)
- Uniforms will be provided at no charge to the athlete
- Senior Team Trials are athlete self-pay and not funded in this policy.



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Event

SR Pan Am Games Senior Team funding model, plus Op Gold program

SR WKF & World Cup Senior Team funding model, plus Op Gold program

SR PKF/Last Chance Qualifier Senior Team athlete funding model

Beginning in 2026, this program has been expanded to include the following additional incentives, for international podium finishes. The structure is outlined below:

Event	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	5th/7th Place
K-1: Premier League (PL)	\$1000	\$750	\$500	\$250
K-1: Series A	\$750	\$500	\$250	n/a
World Games	\$500	\$350	\$200	n/a
World Combat Games	\$500	\$350	\$200	n/a

Junior Team Athlete Funding Model (as of January 1, 2026)

JR Pan Am Games \$500 \$350 \$200 n/a
Plus airfare (up to designated amount), plus accommodations and registrations fees paid for.

JR WKF Gold medalists receive free registration to USA Open AND Nationals the following year

JR PKF Gold medalists receive free registration to USA Nationals the following year



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OP Gold Program of the USOPC

The Operation Gold program is a U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) initiative that provides financial grants to Team USA athletes for top finishes at major international events. Payments are awarded based on an athlete's performance in designated qualifying events, and the specific award criteria and amounts differ depending on whether it is an Olympic year. USA Karate OP Gold events are typically the Senior World Championships and/or the World Cup.



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