



2025 USA Open Karate Championships & Junior International Cup



Frequently Asked Questions

Registration

- Where can I find my membership number? *In order to confirm your account, you will need a USA Karate Membership Account. Visit the new membership system usankf.sport80.com.*
- Can I confirm my registration? *Yes. You can confirm your registration online by going to the event in www.tournamentinabox.com and selecting “confirm registrations” on the main page. You simply search using your membership number and confirm your registration. If you have registered online, you will receive an “order confirmation” via email in addition to being taken to a confirmation screen at the conclusion of the registration process. If you do not receive the confirmation email, please check your spam or junk folder.*
- Do competitors need to take SafeSport™ Training? *All domestic athletes who will be 18 years of age or older before the end of the competition will be required to complete the annual SafeSport Training to be eligible to register for the competition.*
- What if I confirm my registration and it is incorrect? *If the registration appears to be incorrect online, simply check the box next to the athlete name and select EDIT. You can then go in and make changes to your registration. Don't forget to CHECKOUT if you made any changes affecting your balance, otherwise your registration will be marked as incomplete.*
- What if I make a mistake during registration, do I have to pay a change fee? *Yes, a late/change fee will be charged, unless the mistake is a minor clerical error or is the result of a mistake by the USA Karate Staff.*
- Can someone else pick up my competitor pass for me? *Yes, however it is strongly recommended whoever picks up the athlete pass review it carefully for mistakes. If the pass is accepted and is later found to be incorrect, a late/change fee will be assessed to make corrections.*
- What are the skill levels and how do I know which skill level I should compete in? *The skill levels are to help keep the competition a level playing field for all competitors. Here is a description of the skill levels:*
 - *Beginner – 8th kyu and under/Less than 1 year of training*
 - *Novice – 7th kyu-5th kyu/1-2 years of training*
 - *Intermediate – 4th kyu-2nd kyu/2-4 years of training*
 - *Advanced - 1st kyu and higher/4 years or more of training*
 - *Elite – US Team Trial Divisions/Recommended rank of 1st Dan or higher and 5+ years of training*





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- *All brown belts must compete in intermediate or higher divisions*
 - *All black belts must compete in advanced or higher divisions*
 - *Athletes who participate in a beginner, novice, or intermediate division must compete in that skill level for all divisions*
 - *An athlete who participates in an elite division may compete in an advanced division in another category (Exp: Athletes may compete in Elite Kumite and Advanced Kata, but may not compete in Elite Kumite and Advanced Kumite)*
 - *Athletes who compete in Elite Kata may not compete in any other Kata division*
 - *The ultimate placement of athletes in the correct skill level is the responsibility of both the athlete and their coach/instructor. We rely on the integrity of all of our participants to ensure for the safest and most fair competition. Should an athlete be found to purposefully misrepresent their skill level for the purpose of competitive advantage, appropriate actions may be taken against both the athlete and the coach/instructor*
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- If I have been training for 2 years but have a brown belt, do I have to compete as an intermediate? **Yes.**
 - What are Elite Divisions? *Elite Divisions are for the highest level of competition. These divisions are for those Advanced athletes seeking WKF level experience. Generally, if an athlete is a current or former member of their country's National Team or has earned a medal in a large international competition, they would be considered Elite. However, the Elite Divisions are not limited to National Team members or international medalists, so any Advanced athlete may register for Elite Divisions.*
 - Can I compete in Elite and Advanced Divisions? *Yes, Elite is a separate skill level division available to Advanced competitors, therefore competitors may compete in Advanced or Elite per event category (Kata or Kumite). For example, an athlete may compete in Elite Kata and Advanced Kumite or Elite Kumite and Advanced Kata, but CANNOT compete in both Advanced Kata and Elite Kata.*
 - How can I be a volunteer? *We need volunteers to help with many aspects of the event. Please register in advance online at <http://www.usakarateopen.com> and attend a volunteer course held onsite.*
 - Where do I check in as a volunteer? *Volunteers will need to check-in at the Volunteer Check-in Table in the Registration area. Volunteers will pick up the volunteer T-shirt, a credential, and get additional information about the tournament.*
 - What if I just want to watch the tournament? *Spectator tickets are on sale at the event for \$25 a day or \$55 for a 3 day pass. Children 4 and under are free. Purchase your tickets online at www.usakarateopen.com and save, \$20 a day or \$50 for a 3 day pass. Tickets can be picked up onsite.*

Schedule



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- Is the schedule of events posted somewhere? *A schedule will be posted online prior to the tournament and at various locations onsite. The schedules are tentative and subject to change.*
- Will Juniors do Kata and Kumite in the same ring or will there be a break in between? *At the Junior International Cup we will run all Kata divisions first then all Kumite divisions.*

At the USA Open for all divisions 7 years and under will do Kata divisions first then all Kumite divisions. For all divisions above 8 years, Kata will run on Saturday and Kumite will run on Sunday.

- Does everyone need to be at the tournament at 8:00am? *No, the USA Karate Staff is committed to providing a basic time structure for events and stage times. You can also sign up for our text messaging service. This service will send you a text message when your child is called to Staging, sent to a ring and completed competition. For more information about this service, sign up online during the registration process or ask in Registration onsite.*

Equipment

- Are USA NKF patches mandatory? *Yes. USA NKF patches are required for this event for all USA athletes participating in this event. Patches can be bought thru Century Martial Arts.*
- What equipment do I need to Kumite? *The following links will help to know what is required*
For NON-Elite categories, please refer to the USA NKF Rules found at usankf.org or the following
link: https://assets.contentstack.io/v3/assets/blteb7d012fc7ebef7f/blta7c79847a0f6c976/65f7a892a1e8153589d5bbce/USA_Karate_Rules_of_Competition_March_4_2024.pdf
For elite divisions, please refer to this WKF link for equipment requirements: <https://www.wkf.net/karateprotections/protections-assistance>
- Where can I buy USA NKF approved equipment? *Equipment can be purchased in advance online from Century Martial Arts at <http://www.centurymartialarts.com>*
- Will USA NKF approved equipment be on sale at the tournament? *Yes. Vendor booths will be onsite for equipment purchases; however, it is suggested you purchase in advance to ensure you have equipment for the tournament.*
- What color uniform (gi) can I wear? *Non-Elite competitors may only wear traditional cut unmarked white karate uniforms without striping or piping. Elite competitors will need the gi with red/blue piping.*
- Can I wear the Red/Blue reversible belts? *No, Competitors will need a solid red and solid blue belt.*



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Kata Competition

- Will I have to do my Kata at the same time as my opponent? *At the Junior International Cup, YES. All Kata will be simultaneous execution (same time).*

At the USA Open the following will be used:

- *All Beginner and Novice Divisions will perform Kata simultaneously.*
 - *All Intermediate Division for UNDER 18 will perform Kata simultaneously.*
 - *All Advanced Division UNDER 14 will perform Kata simultaneously.*
 - *All Advanced Divisions 14 and OLDER will perform Kata individually.*
 - *All Adult Intermediate Divisions will perform Kata individually.*
- Can I repeat Kata? *It depends. All Beginner, Novice and Intermediate Divisions may repeat Kata in all rounds. All Advanced NON-ELITE/ NON-WKF Divisions can repeat Kata UNTIL the final round. In the FINAL ROUND, Advanced non-elite/non-WKF competitors must perform a different Kata from previous rounds.*

ALL ELITE KATA DIVISIONS will follow WKF rules and must perform a different Kata each round.

Kumite Competition

- Do I have to weigh in? *Yes, if you are doing an Elite Kumite division you must weigh-in. Weigh-ins will be held for all Elite kilo categories, including 12-13, 14-15, 16-17, & 18+. All athletes must weigh-in and can be moved to the appropriate weight division if the athlete is outside the registered weight division. Athletes must bring their credentials with them in order to weigh in.*

All athletes that are required to weigh-in. Athletes must weigh-in at the designated weigh-in times. If an athlete fails to weigh-in at the designated weigh-in time, the athlete will be disqualified from competition for failure to comply with weight control regulations.

Weigh-in locations will be announced and clearly marked on-site near Registration.

- Can I wear my karate gi (uniform) when I weigh in? *No, Athletes may wear one layer of sport clothing, such as compression shorts or sports bra during weigh ins. No excessive clothing or karate uniforms allowed.*
- What equipment do I need to Kumite? *The following links will help to know what is required*
For NON-Elite categories, please refer to the USA NKF Rules found at usankf.org or the following
link: https://assets.contentstack.io/v3/assets/blteb7d012fc7ebef7f/blta7c79847a0f6c976/65f7a892a1e8153589d5bbce/USA_Karate_Rules_of_Competition_March_4_2024.pdf
For elite divisions, please refer to this WKF link for equipment requirements: <https://www.wkf.net/karateprotections/protections-assistance>



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- *If your athlete is scratching from a division, please inform the staging staff.*

Team Divisions

- Do I have to have an all male or all female team for Team Kata? *No, teams can be mixed gender or all same gender.*
- Can my competitor move up an age division to compete in Team Kata. *All Competitors on that team must meet the age requirements.*
- Can my competitor move up an age division to compete in Team Kumite. All Competitors on that team must meet the age requirements.

Coaches

- Can I coach my athlete at the ring? *It depends. All USA Coaches must be current USA NKF Coach or Official Members and must purchase coaches' credentials for the event. Only Credentialed Coaches will be allowed on the floor during Kumite and Elite Kata. Reminder that Safe Sport Compliance is a condition of membership for Coaches and Officials. Compliance includes SafeSport™ Training, Background Screening and review of the Participant Safety handbook and Minor Athlete and Officials Abuse Prevention Policies.*
- Is there coach education available? *Please check the schedule of events to see if there will be a coach's course onsite at the JIC/USA Open Event. Please go to www.usakarateopen.com to register online as a coach and for the course.*
- Can I get a copy of my athlete's chart/bracket? *Charts will only be given to Credentialed Coaches for Elite Kata and Elite Kumite divisions. Coaches must have their Coaches' credentials to receive charts/brackets. We will not give charts/brackets for any divisions at the Junior International Cup or any non-elite divisions at the USA Open. Charts will also be available online at www.usakarateopen.com.*
- How old do I have to be to be a Credentialed Coach? *18 is the minimum age for credentials.*

Parents

- Can I go with my child to the ring? *No. The competition floor is closed and only for competitors, registered coaches and officials.*
- Can I go to the Staging Area with my child? *Yes, a small section of the Staging Area will be available for parents to visit and check on their competitors; however parents will not be allowed in the "competitor only" area of Staging. The Staging Area can be a loud and busy place in the tournament and this rule will allow the USA Karate Staff to focus on the competitors to expedite the competitor to the competition floor.*



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- Will food or drinks be allowed in the Staging Area? *Yes. Competitors will be allowed to bring bottled drinks and snacks to the Staging Area. Common courtesy is appreciated, and the USA Karate Staff expects all competitors to keep a clean Staging Area.*
- How will I know when it is my child's time to compete? *Each division is assigned a number. The division number will be printed on your child's competitor pass that you will pick up at Registration. The Announcer will call the division number to Staging and that will signal your child needs to go to the Staging Area immediately and prepare for competition. Generally, once a division has been called to the Staging Area, the division will make it to the competition floor in under 30 minutes.*

You can also sign up for our text messaging service. This service will send you a text message when your child is called to Staging, sent to a ring and completed competition. For more information about this service, sign up online during the registration process or ask in Registration onsite

- When will my child compete? *A general schedule will be posted to <http://www.usakarateopen.com> prior to the tournament and posted to various locations at the tournament site, but no specific times can be given as to when a competitor will be on the competition floor. The USA Karate Staff is committed to running an efficient, fair and fun tournament for all participants, so it is the Staffs' intention to minimize wait times. Generally, the youngest age divisions start the day, and the tournament works through ascending age divisions as the day moves on.*