

WKF KATA RULES

ARTICLE 1: KATA COMPETITION AREA

1. The competition area must be flat and devoid of hazard.
2. The competition area must be of sufficient size to permit the uninterrupted performance of Kata.

EXPLANATION:

- I. For the proper performance of Kata a stable smooth surface is required. Usually the matted Kumite areas will be suitable.

ARTICLE 2: OFFICIAL DRESS

1. Contestants and Judges must wear the official uniform as defined in Article 2 of the Kumite Rules.
2. Any person who does not comply with this regulation may be disbarred.

EXPLANATION:

- I. The karate-gi jacket may not be removed during the performance of Kata.
- II. Contestants who present themselves incorrectly dressed will be given one minute in which to remedy matters.

ARTICLE 3: ORGANISATION OF KATA COMPETITION

1. Kata competition takes the form of Team and Individual matches. Team matches consist of competition between three person teams. Each Team is exclusively

male, or exclusively female. The Individual Kata match consists of individual performance in separate male and female divisions.

2. The elimination system with repechage will be applied.
3. The contestants will be expected to perform both compulsory (“SHITEI”) and free selection (“TOKUI”) Kata during the competition. Kata will be in accordance with the schools of Karate-do recognised by the WKF based on the Goju, Shito, Shoto, and Wado systems. A schedule of the compulsory Kata is given in Appendix 6 and a list of the free selection Kata, in Appendix 7.
4. When performing Shitei Kata no variation is permitted.
5. When performing TOKUI Kata the contestants may choose from the list in Appendix 7. Variations as taught by the contestant’s school are permitted.
6. The score table will be notified of the choice of kata prior to each round.
7. Contestants must perform a different Kata in each round. Once performed a Kata may not be repeated.
8. Contestants in the repechage may perform SHITEI or TOKUI Kata subject to paragraph 7 above.
9. In the Finals of Team Kata Competition, the two Finalist Teams will perform their chosen Kata from the Tokui list in Appendix 7 in the usual way. They will then perform a demonstration of the meaning of the Kata (BUNKAI). The time allowed for the BUNKAI demonstration is five minutes. The official timekeeper will start the countdown clock as the team members perform the bow at the completion of the KATA performance and will stop the clock at the final bow after the BUNKAI performance. A team which exceeds the five minute period allowed will be disqualified. The use of traditional weapons, ancillary equipment or additional apparel is not allowed.

EXPLANATION:

1. The number and type of kata required is dependant on the number of individual competitors or teams entered as shown in the following table. Byes are counted as competitors or teams.

Competitors or Teams	Kata Required	Tokui	Shitei
65-128 7 5 2			
33-64 6 4 2			
17-32 5 3 2			
9-16 4 3 1			
5-8 3 3 0			
4 2 2 0			

ARTICLE 4: THE JUDGING PANEL

1. The panel of three or five Judges for each match will be designated by the Referee Commission or Match Area Controller.
2. The Judges of a kata match must not have the nationality of either of the participants.
3. In addition, timekeepers, scorekeepers and caller/announcers will be appointed.

EXPLANATION:

- I. The Chief Kata Judge will sit at the perimeter of the competition area facing the contestant(s). The other two judges will sit on the left and right sides, two metres from the centreline of the area, and towards the contestant's entry point.
- II. Five Judges may be used when sufficient personnel are available to allow neutrality of nationality and karate style. If five Judges are being used the Chief Judge will sit in the centre position facing the contestant(s) and the other four will be seated at the corners of the competition area.
- III. Each Judge will have a red and a blue flag or, if electronic scoreboards are being used, an input terminal.

ARTICLE 5: CRITERIA FOR DECISION

1. The Kata must be performed with competence, and must demonstrate a clear understanding of the traditional principles it contains. In assessing the performance of a contestant or team the Judges will look for:
 - a. A realistic demonstration of the Kata meaning.
 - b. Understanding of the techniques being used (BUNKAI).
 - c. Good timing, rhythm, speed, balance, and focus of power (KIME).
 - d. Correct and proper use of breathing as an aid to KIME.
 - e. Correct focus of attention (CHAKUGAN) and concentration.
 - f. Correct stances (DACHI) with proper tension in the legs, and feet flat on the floor.
 - g. Proper tension in the abdomen (HARA) and no bobbing up and down of the hips when moving.
 - h. Correct form (KIHON) of the style being demonstrated.
 - i. The performance should also be evaluated with a view to discerning other points such as the difficulty of the kata presented.

- j. In Team Kata synchronisation without external cues is an added factor.
2. A contestant who varies the Shitei Kata will be disqualified.
3. A contestant who comes to a halt during the performance of Shitei or Tokui Kata, or who performs a Kata different from that announced or as notified to the score table will be disqualified.
4. A contestant who performs an ineligible kata or repeats a kata will be disqualified.

EXPLANATION:

- I. Kata is not a dance or theatrical performance. It must adhere to the traditional values and principles. It must be realistic in fighting terms and display concentration, power, and potential impact in its techniques. It must demonstrate strength, power, and speed — as well as grace, rhythm, and balance.
- II. In Team Kata, all three team members must start the Kata facing in the same direction and towards the Chief Judge.
- III. The members of the team must demonstrate competence in all aspects of the kata performance, as well as synchronisation.
- IV. Commands to start and stop the performance, stamping the feet, slapping the chest, arms, or karate-gi, and inappropriate exhalation, are all examples of external cues and should be taken into account by the Judges when arriving at a decision.
- V. It is the sole responsibility of the coach or the competitor to ensure that the kata as notified to the score table is appropriate for that particular round.

ARTICLE 6: OPERATION OF MATCHES

1. At the start of each bout and in answer to their names, the two contestants, one wearing a red belt (AKA), and the other wearing a blue belt (AO), will line up at the match area perimeter facing the Chief Kata Judge. Following a bow to the Judging Panel, AO will then step back out of the Match Area. After moving to the starting position and a clear announcement of the name of the Kata that is to be performed, AKA will begin. On completion of the Kata, AKA will leave the area to await the performance of AO. After AO's Kata has been completed both will return to the match area perimeter and await the decision from the Panel.
2. If the Kata does not conform to the Rules, or there is some other irregularity, the Chief Judge may call the other Judges in order to reach a verdict.

3. If a contestant is disqualified the Chief Judge will cross and uncross the flags (as in the Kumite TORIMASEN signal).
4. After completion of both Kata, the contestants will stand side by side on the perimeter. The Chief Judge will call for a decision (HANTEI) and blow a two-tone blast on the whistle whereupon the Judges will cast their votes.
5. The decision will be for AKA or AO. No ties are permitted. The competitor, who receives the majority of votes will be declared the winner by the caller/announcer.
6. The competitors will bow to each other, then to the Judging Panel, and leave the area.

EXPLANATION:

- I. The starting point for Kata performance is within the perimeter of the competition area.
- II. If flags are being used the Chief Judge will call for a decision (HANTEI) and blow a two-tone blast on the whistle. The Judges will raise the flags simultaneously. After giving sufficient time for the votes to be counted the flags will be lowered after a further short blast on the whistle.
- III. Should a competitor fail to turn up when called or withdraws (Kiken) the decision will be awarded automatically to the opponent without the need to perform the previously notified kata.

