



USA KARATE OFFICIALS



LICENSING

January 2019





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Introduction & Objectives

The USA Karate Officials program is designed to guide aspiring and experienced officials on educational journey through a participation-based licensing system. The program offers a platform for eligible USA Karate members to serve as tournament officials and seminar instructors. The goal of USA Karate Officials program is to facilitate karate tournaments with experienced, knowledgeable and responsible officials and to promote its ongoing growth and development with its Junior and Cadet recruiting efforts. The ultimate aim is to promote tournament safety, fairness and an enjoyable competition experience for everyone.

USA Karate encourages its officials to participate regularly on tournament referee panels. Frequent participation and educational seminar attendance are the benchmarks for licensing upgrades. To ensure the continued growth and development of the USA Karate Officials program, USA Karate is proud to showcase many of its qualified officials as seminar instructors throughout the country and as always, it features our esteemed USA Karate Referee Committee members at various locations throughout the year, and exclusively at Signature Events.

Age, Affiliation and License Recognition:

USA Karate offers its licensing program to Senior (18+), Junior (16/17) and Cadet (14/15) officials. All USA Karate Officials are required to maintain current USA Karate membership, which is \$25 for USA Karate Regional Officials and \$75 for USA Karate National Officials. Upon promotion from USA Regional to USA National Official, the difference of \$50 covers the membership. All USA Karate Officials shall maintain Safe Sport training background screening. This includes members of our junior and cadet program accordingly. Active USA Karate licensed officials will be recognized and transitioned into the program according to status, by application and approval.

USA Karate Regional and National Licensing Structure:

The USA Karate Officials program is built upon **two tiers**.

- The **first tier** is the entry and intermediate level **Regional** program.
- The **second tier** is the advanced and senior level **National** program.

Tier 1: USA Karate Regional Officials Program:

The USA Karate Regional Officials program offers a total of seven (7) Regional licenses; three (3) Regional Kata license levels and four (4) Regional Kumite license levels.

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

USA Regional Kata Judge Licenses:

USA Karate Regional Kata licensing includes levels C, B, and A, with USA Karate Regional Kata Judge A as the highest level in the Regional Kata Judge category.



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USA Karate Regional **Kumite** Judge and Referee Licenses:

USA Karate Regional Kumite licensing begins with USA Karate Regional Kumite Judge levels B, and A and continues with USA Karate Regional Kumite Referee levels B, and A, with USA Karate Regional Kumite Referee A as the highest level in this category.

Completion of USA Karate Regional Kata Judge A and Kumite Referee A:

Once officials have achieved their USA Karate Regional Kata Judge A and USA Karate Regional Kumite Referee A licenses, they will be ready to pursue their USA Karate National licenses.

All USA Karate Regional license levels can be achieved through local/regional level tournament and seminar participation, with USA Karate Officials Instructor approval.

USA KARATE REGIONAL KATA LICENSES	USA KARATE REGIONAL KUMITE LICENSES	
USA Karate Regional Kata Judge C, B, A	USA Karate Regional Kumite Judge B, A	USA Regional Kumite Referee B, A

USA Karate Officials Licensing Age and Background Requirements:

Adults 18+: USA Karate authorizes licensing for officials in all levels of Regional and National categories. Safe Sport Training, NCIS background screening are required along with current USA Karate membership.

Juniors: USA Karate affords advanced Juniors ages 16 and 17, the opportunity to attend seminars, officiate in beginner/novice and intermediate youth divisions and earn their USA Karate Regional Officials licenses: **Regional Kata Judge C, B, and Regional Kumite Judge B, A.** Safe Sport Training and underage screening is required. Upon their 18th birthday, Juniors may apply to have USA Karate recognize their license level in the Adult 18+ category. Adult Safe Sport Training and NCSI screening will apply.

Cadets: USA Karate affords advanced Cadets, ages 14 and 15, the opportunity to attend seminars, officiate in beginner/novice and intermediate youth divisions and earn their USA Karate Regional Officials licenses: **Regional Kata Judge C; Regional Kumite Judge B.** Safe Sport Training and underage screening is required.

Adults 18+	USA Karate Regional Kata Judge: C, B, A USA Karate Regional Kumite Referee: B, A USA Karate National Kumite Judge: B, A	* Safe Sport Training * NCSI Background
Juniors: 16/17	USA Karate Regional Kata Judge: C, B USA Karate Regional Kumite Judge: B, A	* SafeSport Training * SafeSport Underage Screening
Cadets: 14/15	USA Karate Regional Kata Judge: C USA Karate Regional Kumite Judge: B	* SafeSport Training * SafeSport Underage Screening

Tier 2: USA Karate National Officials Program:

The USA Karate National Officials program consists of six (6) National license levels; two (2) National Kata licenses and four (4) National Kumite licenses:



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- USA Karate National Kata Judge: B, A
- USA Karate National Kumite Judge: B, A
- USA Karate National Kumite Referee: B, A

USA Karate National **Kata** Judge Licenses:

The USA Karate National Kata Judge licensing includes levels B, and A, with USA National Kata Judge A as the highest level in the National Kata Judge category.

USA Karate National **Kumite** Judge and Referee Licenses:

The USA Karate National Kumite licensing begins with USA Karate National Kumite Judge levels B, and A and continues with USA Karate National Kumite Referee levels B, and A, with USA Karate National Referee A as the highest level in this category.

USA Karate National Kata Judge A and USA Karate National Kumite Referee A:

Once Officials have achieved their USA Karate National Kata Judge A and USA Karate National Kumite Referee A licenses, they will be ready to transition to international officiating as recommended by the USA Karate Referee Committee.

USA Karate Regional Kata Judge C, B, A and USA Karate Regional Kumite Judge B, A; and Referee B, A. USA National Kumite Judge B, A

The above licenses can be awarded by a USA Karate Referee Committee Member or USA Karate Instructor "A" who will administer the requisite examinations and make upgrade recommendations as appropriate. They do not require attendance at a USA Karate Signature Event or USA Karate National Referee Seminar.

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

USA Officials License Upgrade Process

Officials seeking licensure upgrades must provide proof of tournament participation between license upgrades in their passbooks, pass any examinations that may apply to the desired license level, and obtain the recommendation of the USA Karate seminar instructor.

Participation/Experience Requirements:

USA Karate Officials license upgrades require written proof of participation with a **minimum of three (3) approved tournament events between licenses**, in addition to any required practical or written examinations. A tournament is defined as an all-day event with an approximate minimum attendance of 150 competitors. Multi-day tournaments such as USA Karate Signature Events count as one separate event per full day of participation. USA Karate Officials shall obtain an approved Tournament Director or Chief Referee's signature in their USA Karate Officials passbook for each day of participation as an Official and maintain their participation records for future upgrades and recertification.

Examinations:

Written examinations are administered by USA Karate on-line for licensing:



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- All Regional and National Kata and Kumite licenses

USA Karate National Kata Judge B, A and USA National Kumite Referee B, A licenses also **require:**

- Attendance at a USA Karate Signature Event Referee Seminar given by USA Karate Referee Committee
- Participation as an Official throughout the Signature Event
- Passing score on written and practical examinations
- Approval by the USA Karate Referee Committee

Membership:

USA Karate Officials, as members in good standing, receive direct access to the USA Karate Officials website which contains a plethora of educational materials such as the USA and WKF Rules of Competition, study guides, practice examinations, as well as the USA Karate Officials iPhone or Android mobile phone application which connects members to the rules, diagrams, tournament scoreboard and more for quick reference and convenience.

Registration:

Candidates for licensure are encouraged to obtain an application from USA Karate with a request for Safe Sport Training and NCIS Background screening, if age 10 or older. For Juniors and Cadets, the Safe Sport Training and underage screening applies. Information regarding educational seminars and USA Karate approved tournaments is available on the **usankf.org** website or by checking with the USA Karate regional organization administrators in your area.