

World Karate Guild

Kata Tournament Rules



Amended 4th Oct. 2025
Addition to katas for black belt category 9.
Removal of compulsory kata.
Removal of combining of scores

Amended 19th Dec 2025.
Changes to Junior Kata teams.

Article 1: Competition

- 1.1 The competition area must be flat and devoid of hazard.
- 1.2 The competition area has no fixed size, though it must be large enough to permit the correct performance of kata.

Article 2: Official dress

- 2.1 Referees and judges must wear official uniform.
- 2.2 Contestants must wear a clean white karate Gi with BKG / WKG and Kyokushin badges.
- 2.3 The jacket, when tightened around the waist with the belt, must in principle be of an overall length that it covers the hips. In the case of women, a plain white T shirt maybe worn underneath the karate jacket.
- 2.4 The sleeves of the jacket must come, in principle, at least half the length down the forearm and may not be rolled up.
- 2.5 The trousers must be long enough to cover at least two thirds of the shin.
- 2.6 If a contestant is of Shodan or above the belt must be worn with the name and grade on the right-hand side.
- 2.7 Any person who does not comply with these regulations may be disbarred from the event.

Article 3: Organization of Competition

3.1 Kata competitions take the form of team and individual matches. Teams shall consist of three persons. In theory both the individual and team events may consist of exclusively male, exclusively female, or mixed competitors (juniors and/or seniors), however the categories are predetermined by the tournament organisers.

3.2 There are 15 categories in kata competition, as Follows:

- Category 1- Junior Red belts
- Category 2 - Junior Blue belts
- Category 3 - Junior Yellow belts
- Category 4 - Junior Green belts
- Category 5 - Junior Brown & Black belts

- Category 6 - Senior Red & Blue belts
- Category 7- Senior Yellow & Green belts
- Category 8 – Senior Brown belts
- Category 9 –Senior Black belts (which will usually have separate male and female sections)

- Category 10 – Low Grade Veterans (aged 45yrs & over, up to & including 3rd Kyu)
- Category 11 – High Grade Veterans (aged 45yrs & over, 2nd Kyu and above)

- Category 12 – Junior Low Grade teams
- Category 13 – Senior Low Grade teams
- Category 14 – Junior High Grade teams
- Category 15 – Senior High Grade teams

Article 4: The Judging Panel

4.1 Five judges will be appointed to judge each match.

4.2 In addition, for the purposes of facilitating the operation of kata competitions, scorekeepers and callers/announcers will be appointed.

4.3 There are three classes of judges:

- A Class—may judge all categories.
- B Class—may judge categories 1-8 (providing there are no black belt entrants in category 5), categories 10, 12 & 13.
- C Class—may judge categories 1-4, 6, 7, 10, 12, & 13.

Article 5: Procedure for Competitions

All categories

5.1 In all categories in round 1, the contestant/team chooses the kata they wish to perform from the list of available katas noted at Annex 1.

5.2 The contestant/team responds to the calling of his/her/their name by going directly to the edge of the competition area and bows. On the signal of the Centre judge, the contestant/team moves forward to the starting position and bows. The Centre judge then shouts “Kata”. The contestant/team spokesperson states the name of the kata they wish to perform. The Centre judge MUST then repeat the name of the kata and gives the command to start the kata.

5.3 The contestant/team will hold their last position until the Centre judge calls “Noare”. Upon completion of the kata, the contestant/team will return to the designated line and await an award from the panel.

5.4 The Centre judge will call for a decision “Hantei” and blow a sharp blast on the whistle. All 5 judges in unison will hold up their score cards facing towards the table officials. The table official will announce the scores and, when the scores have been registered, the Centre judge will blow a further sharp blast on the whistle. The judges will then show the scorecards to the spectators. The Centre judge will blow a third blast whereupon the scorecards will be lowered.

5.5 The table official will announce the ACTUAL score. The contestant/team will bow to the Centre judge before leaving the competition area.

5.6 The contestants who are successful in proceeding to Round 2 and any subsequent rounds will choose another kata and submit their choice of kata to the table official before the start of the round. Note that a kata cannot be repeated in any subsequent rounds.

5.7 In Round 2, the contestant will wait for their name to be called then stand on the edge of the competition area directly in front of the Centre judge. The same procedure as outlined in Articles 5.2–5.5 will be followed.

Article 6: Scoring

6.1 The result of a kata competition is determined by the summation of points accumulated by contestants/teams or by a Flag system where two students perform a kata and the best kata decided by majority flags goes through to the next round.

6.2 The scoring range for each category is as follows:

CATEGORIES 1,2,3,4,6,7,10,12 & 13 -Range from 5.0 to 7.0 points

CATEGORIES 5,8,9,11,14 &15 -Range from 6.0 to 8.0 points

6.3 The starting point when considering an appropriate score for a particular kata should be the "mean" score for the relevant scoring range (i.e., if the scoring range is 5.0-7.0 the "mean" score is 6.0, if the scoring range is 6.0-8.0 the "mean" score is 7.0).

6.4 Points should then be added or deducted after considering the following criteria:

TECHNIQUE – The kata must be performed with competence and the contestant must demonstrate a clear understanding of the principle contained within it.

SKILL – the contestant must demonstrate correct focus, use of power, speed, good balance and correct breathing.

PRESENTATION – The performance should also be evaluated with a view to discerning other points.

6.5 The full scoring range should be utilized.

6.6 The kata competition is organised into 3 rounds. The first round selects 16 or 8 contestants, the second round selects 3 contestants and the third round selects the winner and final placings. The Chief Referee, Technical Committee or Tournament Committee on the day may alter or change the number of contestants for the first round depending on the number of competitors in a particular category.

6.7 On the command of the Centre judge the judges, in unison, display the score by means of points. The card bearing the points awarded is held in the right hand.

6.8 When the scorekeeper summates the score for each contestant or team in a round, the highest and lowest scores awarded are deleted. The three remaining scores are added together to calculate the ACTUAL score

6.9 In the event of a tie the lowest score is added to the actual score. If a tie persists, the highest score is incorporated. In the event of a continuing tie, the contestants must perform a further kata of their choice from the relevant list at Annex 1. Note that a contestant or team cannot perform the same kata twice.

Article 7: Disqualification

7.1 A contestant is disqualified if they vary, interrupt, or bring a kata to a halt or if they perform a kata different from that announced.

7.2 The Centre judge will announce hansoku or shikkaku when disqualifying a contestant or team.

7.3 When hansoku is called the contestant may still take part in the individual or team event if they have entered more than one event.

7.4 When shikkaku is called the contestant or team members cannot take part in the tournament for the remainder of the event.

Article 8: Interpretation

8.1 Any situation not defined by these rules shall be resolved by the Chief Referee, Technical Committee or Tournament Committee on the day.

Annex 1-TOURNAMENT KATA

CATEGORIES 1,2 & 6 (Red & Blue belts)

Choice of Kata:

1. Taikyoku Sono Ichi
2. Taikyoku Sono Ni
3. Taikyoku Sono San
4. Pinan Sono Ichi
5. Pinan Sono Ni

NOTE A KATA CANNOT BE PERFORMED TWICE

CATEGORIES 3,4 & 7 (Yellow & Green belts)

Choice of Kata:

1. Taikyoku Sono San
2. Pinan Sono Ichi
3. Pinan Sono Ni
4. Pinan Sono San
5. Pinan Sono Yon
6. Pinan Sono Go
7. Gekisai Dai

NOTE A KATA CANNOT BE PERFORMED TWICE

CATEGORY 5 & 8 (Brown belts & junior black belts)

Choice of Kata:

1. Gekisai Dai
2. Pinan Sono Go
3. Yantsu
4. Tsuki No Kata
5. Saiha
6. Gekisai Sho
7. Kanku Dai
8. Seienchin

NOTE A KATA CANNOT BE PERFORMED TWICE

CATEGORY 9 (Senior black belts)

Choice of Kata:

- 1 Pinan Sono Go
- 2 Gekisai Dai
- 3 Yantsu
- 4 Tsuk No Kata
- 5 Tensho
- 6 Saiha
- 7 Gekisai Sho
- 8 Seienchin
- 9 Kanku Dai
- 10 Garyu
- 11 Seipai
- 12 Sushiho

NOTE A KATA CANNOT BE PERFORMED TWICE

CATEGORY 10– Veterans (Low Grade – 3rd Kyu & below)

Choice of Kata:

1. Taikyoku Sono Ichi
2. Taikyoku Sono Ni
3. Taikyoku Sono San
4. Pinan Sono Ichi
5. Pinan Sono Ni
6. Pinan Sono San
7. Pinan Sono Yon
8. Pinan Sono Go
9. Gekisai Dai
10. Sanchin No Kata

NOTE A KATA CANNOT BE PERFORMED TWICE

CATEGORY 11–Veterans (High Grade – 2nd Kyu & above)

Choice of Kata:

1. Pinan Sono Yon
2. Pinan Sono Go
3. Yantsu
4. Tsuki No Kata
5. Saiha
6. Gekisai Dai
7. Tensho
8. Gekisai Sho
9. Kanku Dai
10. Seienchin
11. Garyu
12. Seipai
13. Sushiho

NOTE A KATA CANNOT BE PERFORMED TWICE

CATEGORY 12 (Junior Low Grade teams – 10th – 5th Kyu)

Choice of Kata:

1. Taikyoku Sono Ichi
2. Taikyoku Sono Ni
3. Taikyoku Sono San
4. Pinan Sono Ichi
5. Pinan Sono Ni
6. Pinan Sono San
7. Pinan Sono Yon

NOTE A KATA CANNOT BE PERFORMED TWICE

CATEGORY 13 (Senior Low Grade Teams – 10th – 3rd Kyu)

Choice of Kata:

8. Taikyoku Sono Ichi
9. Taikyoku Sono Ni
10. Taikyoku Sono San
11. Pinan Sono Ichi
12. Pinan Sono Ni
13. Pinan Sono San
14. Pinan Sono Yon
15. Pinan Sono Go
16. Gekisai Dai
17. Tsuki No Kata

NOTE A KATA CANNOT BE PERFORMED TWICE

CATEGORY 14 (Junior High Grade Teams – 4th Kyu & above)

Choice of Kata:

1. Pinan Sono San
2. Pinan Sono Yon
3. Pinan Sono Go
4. Gekisai Dai
5. Yantsu
6. Tsuki No Kata
7. Saiha
8. Gekisai Sho
9. Kanku Dai
10. Seienchin
11. Garyu
12. Seipai
13. Sushiho

NOTE A KATA CANNOT BE PERFORMED TWICE

CATEGORIES 15 (Senior High Grade Teams – 2nd Kyu & above)

Choice of Kata:

- 14. Yantsu
- 15. Tsuki No Kata
- 16. Saiha
- 17. Gekisai Sho
- 18. Kanku Dai
- 19. Seienchin
- 20. Garyu
- 21. Seipai
- 22. Sushiho

NOTE A KATA CANNOT BE PERFORMED TWICE

Annex 2-Kata Competition Area

J	<table border="1"><tr><td>Contestant(s) XXXXXXXXXXXX</td></tr><tr><td>Chief Judge</td></tr></table>	Contestant(s) XXXXXXXXXXXX	Chief Judge	J
Contestant(s) XXXXXXXXXXXX				
Chief Judge				
Official Table				