



World Karate Federation

Kata Competition

Examination questions for Kata & Para-Karate Judges

Version 1st December 2025

The answer paper is to be returned to the examiners. All answers are to be entered on the separate answer paper only. You must make sure that your name, country, number and any other information required are entered on the answer paper.

You may not have any additional papers or books on your desk while undertaking this examination. During the examination to be seen speaking to another candidate or copying another's paper will mean suspension and automatic failure of the examination. If you are not sure of the correct procedures or have any questions about any aspect of the examination, you should speak only to an examiner, the RC Secretary or Asst. Secretary.

The result of the examination both theory and practical will be sent to the candidate's National Federation on request.



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KATA & PARA-KARATE EXAMINATION

“TRUE OR FALSE”

On the answer paper put an “X” in the appropriate box. The answer to a question is true only if it can be held to be true in all situations; otherwise, it is considered to be false. Each correct answer scores one point.

1. Kata team members must all wear the same brand of Karate Gi.
2. The total time allowed for the Kata and BUNKAI demonstration combined, is six minutes.
3. In Kata competition slight variations as taught by the contestant's style (Ryu-ha) are permitted.
4. Glasses are forbidden in Kata competition.
5. Only one discreet rubber band on a single ponytail is permitted.
6. The right to seeding does down flow to lower places in the absence of Athletes eligible for seeding.
7. Kata competition can be organized in several formats.
8. In all competition format, the number of Athletes cannot exceed 8.
9. Judges should look for correct Kihon of the school being demonstrated.
10. Team matches consist of competition between teams of 3 or 4 Athletes of which 3 compete at the time.
11. Conformance is a consistency in the performance of the Kihon of the style (Ryu-ha) in the Kata.
12. Should there be any discrepancy between the number and the name of the Kata registered for performance, the name, as per the official WKF Kata list will prevail.
13. When a team has 4 Athletes, all 4 may be used for any round.
14. Giving a command to start and finish the Kata by a team member is not considered to be an external cue.
15. The mats must form a uniformed coloured surface for Kata competition.
16. Judges should look for correct Kihon of the Athlete's style (Ryu-ha) being demonstrated.



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17. The panel of Judges can be changed for any single round.
18. The total time allowed for the Kata & BUNKAI demonstration combined, is 5 minutes.
19. In Kata competition the sleeves of the Karate-gi jacket may not be rolled up.
20. It is the responsibility of the coach or Athlete to notify the name and the number of the Kata to the score table/runner prior each round.
21. The number of Judges per panel may be reduced to five for any competition.
22. A previously performed Kata may be repeated only if used as tiebreaker.
23. The Karate-Gi trousers may be slightly shorter so as to only cover half of the shin.
24. The total time allowed for the Kata performance and Bunkai demonstration, is five minutes.
25. In the event that there are 3 or less Athletes a single Kata is performed to determine 1st through 3rd place.
26. The Judges of a Kata bout may not have the same nationality as either of the contestants.
27. Although ribbons and other decorations for the hair are not allowed in kumite, they are permissible in Kata.
28. In the bouts for medals in Team Kata competition, teams will perform a demonstration of the meaning of the Kata (BUNKAI).
29. It is not possible to repeat a Kata in the Round-robin elimination system.
30. For competitions not counting for WKF World Ranking or Olympic standing, the number of judges may be reduced to 5.
31. The same Kata may never be performed twice in a row in the Round-robin system.
32. If an already qualified Team is disqualified for misconduct at the end of the Round-robin round (SHIKKAKU): The semi-final opponent will access to the final by bye.
33. Female Athletes must wear a plain white T-shirt beneath the Karate jacket.
34. Female Athletes can, if they want, wear a plain white T-shirt beneath the Karate jacket.
35. The wearing of unauthorised apparel, clothing or equipment is forbidden.
36. A discreet rubber band or ponytail retainer is permitted in Kata competition.
37. The matted Kumite areas are not suitable for Kata competition.
38. The Karate-gi jacket may be removed during the performance of Kata.
39. Audible cues are on the same level as one would penalize a temporary loss of balance.
40. Variations as taught by the contestant's style (Ryu-ha) of Karate will not be permitted.



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41. The score table must be notified of the choice of Kata prior to each round.
42. A team which does not perform the bow at the completion of the BUNKAI performance will be disqualified.
43. The number of Kata required is dependent on the number of individual Athletes or teams entered.
44. If an already qualified Athlete is disqualified for misconduct at the end of the Round-robin round (SHIKKAKU): the bronze medal will be awarded.
45. In assessing the performance of a contestant or team the Judges will evaluate the performance based on all criteria.
46. There are no specific deviations for those under 14 years of age from the standard rules, but a limitation to the Kata list to less advanced Kata may be used.
47. Causing injury by lack of controlled technique during BUNKAI is considered a foul.
48. For medal bouts, none of the Judges may have the same nationality, as the Athletes.
49. Performances are given a score using a scale from 5.0 to 10.0 in increments of 0.1.
50. Coin toss is the first choice to resolve the ties.
51. There are 6 ways to resolve a tie In Round-robin Elimination System with 4 Athletes.
52. Strength is one of the criteria of evaluation.
53. There are 6 ways to resolve a tie when having elimination system with 8 Athletes.
54. There are 10 criteria for Kata evaluation.
55. Transitional movement is one of the Criteria for evaluation for Kata Performance but not for BUNKAI.
56. In BUNKAI performance, transitional movements and control are part of the evaluation.
57. Strength, Speed and Balance are some of the criteria of evaluation for Kata and BUNKAI.
58. Simulated unconsciousness for more than 2 seconds at the time as part of the BUNKAI is considered as foul.
59. BUNKAI are to be given equal importance as the Kata itself.
60. Excessive bowing before starting the performance is considered a foul.
61. Causing injury by lack of controlled technique during BUNKAI is a disqualification.
62. Not announcing the Kata, is not considered as disqualification.
63. Performing the wrong Kata or announcing the wrong Kata leads to disqualification.



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64. Stamping the feet, slapping the chest, arms, or Karate-gi, will be taken into account by the Judges when arriving at a decision.
65. An Athlete will not be disqualified if he does a distinct pause or stop in the performance for several seconds.
66. BUNKAI is not to be given equal importance as the Kata itself.
67. Kata must start facing the Judges.
68. The use of audible cues from any other person, including other team members is considered a foul.
69. If the Athlete's belt falls off during the performance of Kata, the Athlete will be disqualified.
70. Failure to follow the instructions of the Judge nr. 1 or other misconduct is considered a foul.
71. Failure to follow the instructions of the Judge nr. 1 or other misconduct leads to disqualification.
72. Exceeding the total time limit of 5 minutes duration for Kata and BUNKAI is considered a foul.
73. In Team Kata, all three team members must start and finish the Kata facing in the same direction and towards the Judges.
74. Kata performance must be realistic in fighting terms and display concentration, power, and potential impact in its techniques.
75. Causing injury by lack of controlled technique during BUNKAI is not considered a foul.
76. Minor loss of balance must not be considered in the evaluation of the Kata performance.
77. Exceeding the total time limit of 5 minutes duration for Kata and BUNKAI leads to disqualification.
78. Kata performance must demonstrate strength, balance, and speed.
79. Minor loss of balance must be considered in the evaluation of the Kata performance.
80. Asynchronous movement, such as delivering a technique before the body transition is completed is considered a foul.
81. Inappropriate exhalation will be taken into account by the Judges when arriving at a decision.
82. In team Kata, failing to do a movement in unison is not considered a foul.
83. Performing a movement in an incorrect or incomplete manner is considered a foul.



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84. Time wasting, including prolonged marching, excessive bowing or prolonged pause before starting the performance is considered a foul.
85. Stamping the feet, slapping the chest, arms, or Karate-gi, are audible cues.
86. The use of audible cues is not considered a foul.
87. Inappropriate exhalation is not an audible cue.
88. Failure to fully execute a block or punching off target is considered a foul.
89. Causing injury by lack of controlled technique during BUNKAI is allowed.
90. The members of the team must demonstrate competence in all aspects of the Kata performance, as well as synchronisation.
91. Commands to start and stop the performance will be taken into account by the Judges when arriving at a decision.
92. It is the responsibility of the President of the National Federation to ensure that the Kata as notified to the score table is appropriate for that particular round.
93. While performing BUNKAI, after being downed the Athlete should either raise to one knee or stand up within 2 seconds.
94. Omitting or adding movements - or otherwise substantially change the performance from its original form is a disqualification.
95. Excessive celebration and political or religious demonstrations is considered as disqualification for kumite but not for Kata.
96. The Athlete must wait on the tatami for the announcement of the evaluation at the end of performance.
97. The Athletes can select any Kata from the official Kata list.
98. A team which does not perform the bow at the beginning and completion of the performance will be disqualified.
99. The use of traditional weapons, ancillary equipment or additional apparel is allowed.
100. The performance in individual Kata is evaluated from the bow starting the Kata until the bow ending the Kata.
101. Belt coming loose to the extent that it is coming off the hips during the performance is a foul.
102. Belt coming loose to the extent that it is coming off the hips during the performance is a disqualification.
103. After the bow the Athlete must clearly announce the name of the Kata that is to be performed and then start the performance.
104. There are 9 criteria in each Kata evaluation.



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105. Although performing a scissor takedown technique (KANI BASAMI) to the neck area in performing BUNKAI is prohibited, a scissor takedown to the body is permitted.
106. Performing a scissor takedown technique (KANI BASAMI) to the neck area in BUNKAI is not prohibited.
107. Audible cues must be considered very serious fouls by the judges in their evaluation of the performance of the Kata.
108. The protest can be submitted to a representative of the Appeals Jury by the coach.
109. It is the responsibility of the Tatami Manager receiving the protest to gather the Appeals Jury and deposit the protest sum with WKF for any declined protest.
110. Each of the three members of Appeal Jury is obliged to give his verdict as to the validity of the protest. Abstentions are not acceptable.
111. In Para-Karate, advertising in the wheelchairs can be placed on the backrest.
112. If the protest is accepted, the Appeals Jury will appoint one of its members who will verbally notify the protester that the protest has been accepted.
113. There are three general Categories in Para Karate competitions: Visually Impaired, Intellectually Impaired and Physically Impaired.
114. In Para-Karate, prostheses, canes, crutches, and other equipment used for physical support are allowed in Para-Karate competitions.
115. Those Athletes whose disabilities have been classified as Ineligible or who have been considered non-compliant or in violation of competition rules are non-eligible to compete in WKF Para-Karate.
116. In Para-Karate, the seven judges will give their scores based on the assessment of the Kata performance and the level of Athlete's impairment.
117. Para-Karate competitions consist of both Kata and Kumite.
118. Wheelchairs with anti-tip wheels are allowed in Para-Karate competitions.
119. Classification in Para-Karate consists of an extra point compensation depending on the influence of the particular impairment when performing the Kata.
120. In Para-Karate, Medical Diagnostic Forms prove the eligibility of the Athlete's impairment and are, together with functional testing at the competition, a tool to provide a more accurate classification of the Athlete.
121. All Para-Karate Athletes are allowed to wear white sport shoes.
122. In Para-Karate, in case of additional Classification testing, Doping Control, fire or other need for emergency evacuation, the national coaches are directly responsible for safe removal of the Athletes.
123. In Para-Karate, contestants from the Intellectually Impaired category may perform the same Kata in each round.



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124. Service animals trained and certified to detect life-threatening conditions are not allowed at the external perimeter of the competition area in Para-Karate.
125. The Appeals Jury must elaborate a simple protest incident report, describing their findings and state their reason(s) for accepting or rejecting the protest.
126. There is 100 Kata on the official Kata list.
127. Resolution for ties in Para-Karate, will follow the WKF Kata Competition Rules.
128. In Para-Karate, therapy animals or emotional-support animals are allowed in the competition area or its perimeter.
129. In Para-Karate, it is allowed for Athletes of Visually Impaired Classes to wear blindfolds with logos or markings from sponsors or manufacturers.
130. The straps to fix the legs of wheelchair Athletes in Para-Karate, must be of white color and without logos.
131. In Para-Karate, score compensation system by means of Extra Points, must be given by the judging panel to the influence of his or her particular impairment.
132. There are three Sport Classes in Individual Para-Karate Kata Competition.
133. Visually Impaired Athletes in Para-Karate competition are divided in two categories.
134. Juniors/cadets Sport Classes are recommended for Para-Karate development.
135. In Para-Karate Competitions, blindfolds are required for all Visually Impaired Athletes during the performance.
136. Intellectual impaired Athletes, in Para-Karate, will perform the Kata standing up.
137. Intellectual impaired Athletes, in Para-Karate, cannot repeat the Kata.