



PILOT PROJECT: 2018 YOUTH TEAM AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

-OUTLINE AND SELECTION CRITERIA-

(Version 1.0 – March 2nd, 2018)

1. SUMMARY:

Karate Canada launched a pilot project in 2016, aimed at increased support for the development of Youth (12-13 year old) athletes.

Karate Canada has since extended this pilot project, and continues to measure the relative success of this initiative, so as to determine whether to prolong and sustain this program on an ongoing basis or to discontinue it.

2. OBJECTIVES:

This pilot program is focused around the development of athletes, and not around performance. It is to be conducted in consideration of the main principles and recommendations contained in Karate Canada's Long Term Athlete Development model, and will at all times maintain the safety and well-being of athletes as its top priority.

The key objectives of this pilot project and program are currently as follows:

- To offer support for the development and preparation of the 12-13 year-old athletes, towards gradual progression to the Junior National Team program
- To provide more training opportunities (regional and inter-regional training sessions / camps), thereby allowing athletes to:
 - acquire more skill, knowledge , experience and motivation.
 - be introduced to the standards and work ethic of Karate Canada's Junior National Team program.
- To select some Youth (12-13 year-old) athletes for participation in the 2018 Cadet & Junior Pan American Karate Championships, alongside other Canadian Junior National Team roster athletes. This portion of the pilot project will help achieve the following sub-goals:
 - To further assess the level of Karate Canada's Youth athletes in comparison to those of other PKF member nations, and to use this information for further development of the Junior National Team program.
 - To ensure better preparation of future Junior National Team Roster athletes for the level of international competition.

3. STRUCTURE (ENTRY POINTS):

- In order to become eligible to benefit from this initiative, Youth division athletes must compete in the 2018 National Championships (upon meeting their Provincial / Territorial Team selection requirements).
- All Youth division top 4-ranked athletes from the 2018 National Championships (using the new WKF-recommended Youth / U14 divisions - see Appendix A) will be invited to participate in Regional / Inter regional Training Camps and

Sessions offered throughout the 2018-2019 competitive season (March 12th 2018 to the start of the 2019 National Championships), as well as in the 208 Junior National Training Camp (JNTC, July).

- Participation in Regional and Inter Regional Training sessions will be mandatory for all invited Youth athletes in order to be eligible to take part in the JNTC (see section 5 below).
- Participation in the JNTC will be mandatory in order for Youth division athletes to be eligible for participation in the 2018 Cadet & Junior Pan American Karate Championships. The selection onto the Youth Team for participation in the 2018 Cadet & Junior Pan American Karate Championships will be considered and determined as described below (section 4):

4. SELECTION PROCESS:

2018 Cadet & Junior Pan American Championships Selection Criteria for the 12/13-Year Old Age Group

Karate Canada may select up to a maximum of 2 (two) athletes per Youth division for participation in the 2018 Cadet & Junior Pan American Karate Championships (see Appendix A for kumite divisions).

The Top 2 (two) eligible athletes in the 12/13 age category (Youth Divisions) at the Karate Canada National Championships in each appropriate division (see Appendix A for kumite divisions) will be invited to the Karate Canada Junior Pan Am Team. Selected athletes will also be required to attend mandatory camps (see section 5 below), notwithstanding exemptions related to the distance they live from the camp location (as per the same distances identified in the 2018-2019 Junior National Team Kumite and Kata Criteria).

If either of the Top 2 (two) eligible athletes from the 2018 Karate Canada National Championships decline to join the team, or do not attend the required camp(s), then the respective Kata and Junior Kumite National Team Head Coaches may select from the athletes who were 3rd and 4th (in that order) at the 2018 Karate Canada National Championships,

or from athletes within the top 4 of adjacent kumite weight divisions (discretionary selection, to be approved by Karate Canada's High Performance Committee). If these athletes decline to join the team or attend the required camps, then no other athletes will be invited.

Karate Canada is under no obligation to choose an alternate if a vacant spot exists. Selection of alternates from the 2018 Karate Canada National Championships is entirely at the discretion of Karate Canada.

5. REQUIREMENTS TO MAINTAIN STATUS:

In order to remain eligible for participation in the 2018 Cadet & Junior Pan American Karate Championships, and in order to be considered active and current members in good standing of the national Youth Team, all Youth division athletes must meet the following requirements:

- Mandatory participation in all Regional or Inter-Regional Trainings leading up to the 2018 Cadet & Junior Pan American Karate Championships (for all invited athletes residing within 200 km from the venue, or within 300 km of the venue in the case of Ontario-Quebec Inter-Regional Trainings; Invited athletes living outside of this perimeter will be exempt from mandatory participation in QC-ON Inter-Regional Training Camps.). See Table 1 below;
- Mandatory participation in the 2018 Junior National Training Camp (for all invited athletes; 3- day camp in the summer of 2018 (June or July); exact dates and location to be confirmed no later than 4 (four) weeks prior to the start of the event);

Furthermore, all selected Youth Team athletes will be required to:

- Sign and adhere to the Karate Canada Athlete Agreement
- Pay the required Junior National Team Package Fee as well as Team Management Fees for each event on time, if required.

- Have and maintain a valid Canadian passport at least 10 (ten) days before the registration deadline for the 2018 Cadet & Junior Pan American Karate Championships.
- Always report any performance-limiting injuries or physical conditions to the National Junior Head Coach(es) within 5 (five) days of the injury or performance limiting change in physical condition.
- Provide proper medical information on the injury and on its treatment.
- Keep the National Head Coach(es) informed on the progress of recovery from injury and/or illness.
- Provide an accurate mailing address, an active e-mail address and all phone numbers at which they can be reached; any changes must be sent to the Karate Canada Head Office.

Table 1 – Dates for Regional and Inter-regional Training Camps*

Inter-Regional Québec-Ontario	British Columbia	Atlantic (Kumite Only)
Camp 1	Camp 1	Camp 1
Camp 2	Camp 2	Camp 2
Camp 3	Camp 3	Camp 3
Camp 4	Camp 4	Camp 4

* = 1 to 2 day camps. Exact camp dates and locations will be announced at least 4 (four) weeks prior to the beginning of each camp.

KC has the right to change the dates and/or location of any of the mandatory camps, or cancel a camp, provided at least 2 (two) weeks notice is given to Youth National Team members.

Note that Karate Canada may add additional Regional Training Camps during the course of the season.

6. EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions from Youth National Team Camps and/or competition activities due to exceptional circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

- Recent death in the immediate family (within at least 1 month prior to the start of the Camp or Competition);
- Injury limiting participation and/or performance;
- Infectious disease (...)

Exemption requests must be submitted in writing to Karate Canada's Head Office and Junior National Team Head Coach(es) as soon as possible, and no later than 24 (twenty-four) hours after the start of any Youth National Team Training Camp / event. Notification of such an event must include details of the circumstances along with any supporting evidence scanned and/or emailed to the Karate Canada Head Office.

In the cases of injuries, disease or other performance limiting physical condition, the athlete must include a medical certificate indicating the specific problem, its severity and the estimated recovery time. Karate Canada has the right to seek its own medical opinion before rendering their final decision on potential exemption or consequence of the injury.

An athlete who has sustained an injury must be present at all mandatory training camps unless the ability to receive appropriate medical treatment for that injury precludes that athlete from attending, or unless waived by the Head Coach(es).

An athlete whose condition persists and is unable to undergo full training during the 2 (two) week period prior to an event may be withdrawn by KC from the team representing Canada at that event.

Karate Canada will accept or reject all requests for exemptions and deliver its decision within a reasonable time period following receipt of request for exemptions. Such decisions will be final and without appeal.

7. APPEALS

Appeals regarding team selection are limited to the incorrect application of criteria. For any appeal, please refer to the Karate Canada's Appeal Policy.

8.0 LANGUAGE

Where / when there is a difference in interpretation between French and English versions of this document, the English version shall prevail.

APPENDIX A –

Process for Youth Division Athlete Selection at the 2018 National Championships in Accordance with New WKF-Recommended Kumite Weight Divisions

1. Preamble & Background

Karate Canada has included Youth (12-13 year old) kata & kumite divisions in the program of its National Championships (first as an adjacent Youth Cup event, and then as fully integrated divisions) since 2015. The ongoing Youth Pilot Project was also launched in 2016, whereby Karate Canada used the results at the National Championships as part of the selection process for a group of Youth division athletes to possibly compete at yearly Cadet, Junior & U21 Pan American Championships alongside the Junior National Team. Consequently, Karate Canada had, after the launch of this Youth Team Pilot Project, reviewed and updated the breakdown of its Youth kumite weight divisions at National Championships so as to align with and match the divisions being used by the Pan American Karate Federation (PKF) at the Cadet, Junior & U21 Pan American Championships. These PKF divisions have thus been in use at National Championships since, and PTSO Teams have been selected accordingly.

The World Karate Federation (WKF) has, however, recently released a new version of its Kata and Kumite Competition Rules (effective January 1st, 2018) in which it has issued new recommendations for Youth divisions, including WKF-recommended kumite weight divisions (recommended for use at continental and national events) which are different from the divisions thus far used by the PKF and by Karate Canada. The PKF has indicated (in late January 2018) that it plans to implement the new WKF-recommended Youth (or U14) kumite weight divisions at the 2018 Cadet, Junior & U21 Pan American Championships.

Since Karate Canada had already announced the Youth kumite weight divisions for its 2018 National Championships back in October 2017, and since PTSOs have already run their respective team selections accordingly, Karate Canada

has develop and will implement a method and process allowing for athlete selection onto the Junior National Team (as part of the ongoing Youth Team Pilot Project) that will compete in the 2018 Cadet, Junior & U21 Pan American Championships in (most likely) the new WKF-recommended Youth divisions. This process has been elaborated by Karate Canada's High Performance Committee, in consultation with member Provincial / Territorial Associations..

2. Selection Process

In light of the exceptional circumstances described above, Karate Canada will proceed as follows:

Where the new WKF-recommended Youth kumite weight divisions match existing Karate Canada / old PKF Youth kumite weight divisions, no additional steps are required for ranking of athletes within their respective divisions, for the purposes of selection onto the Junior National Team (as part of the ongoing Youth Team Pilot Project) that will compete at the 2018 Cadet, Junior & U21 Pan American Championships.

Where the new WKF-recommended Youth kumite weight divisions DO NOT exactly match existing Karate Canada / old PKF Youth kumite weight divisions, please see selection process described in tables 1 & 2 below:

Table 1- Process for Selection in WKF-recommended female Youth kumite divisions at the 2018 National Championships.

Former PKF divisions (as announced for the 2018 National Championships)	-35 kg	-40 kg	-45 kg	+45 kg
Closest matching new WKF-recommended divisions	-	-42 kg	- 47 kg	+47 kg
Process	<p>KC will invite top 2 age-eligible athletes (meaning athletes who will be eligible in age to compete at the 2018 Cadet & Junior Pan American Championships) from medalists in each of the -35 kg, -40 kg, -45 kg and +45 kg former PKF divisions at 2018 Nationals to identify (immediately after conclusion of their division) which new WKF-recommended division (either -42 kg, -47 kg or +47 kg) they wish to compete in for the purposes of team selection for the 2018 Junior Pan Ams*, and those invited athletes will then face off (the same day if possible) in a <i>round robin</i> format** (or in a <i>best 2 of 3</i> format, depending on the number of participating athletes in each WKF-recommended division) in "WKF Youth Division Challenge Matches" to establish rankings (up to top 4 in each division) in the new WKF-recommended divisions.</p> <p>(*= athletes may only select, for participation in the "WKF Youth Division Challenge Matches", a new WKF-recommended division for which they are eligible based on their weight at the time of weigh-in for the 2018</p>			

	<p><i>National Championships (including weight tolerance as stipulated in Section 13.1 of the 2018 National Championships Information Bulletin).)</i></p>
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*(**= See Appendix B.)*

Table 2- Process for Selection in WKF-recommended male Youth kumite divisions at the 2018 National Championships.

Former PKF divisions (as announced for the 2018 National Championships)	-35 kg	-40 kg	-45 kg	-50 kg	+50 kg	-
New WKF-recommended divisions	-	-40 kg	-45 kg	-50 kg	-55 kg	+55 kg
Process	<p>KC will invite top 2 age-eligible athletes (meaning athletes who will be age-eligible to compete at the 2018 Cadet & Junior Pan American Championships) from medalists in each of the -35 kg and -40 kg former PKF divisions at 2018 Nationals to face off in a <i>round robin</i> format ** (or in a <i>best 2 of 3</i> format, depending on the number of participating athletes) in "WKF Youth Division Challenge Matches" (ideally held on the same day) to establish top 4 ranking in the new -40 kg WKF-recommended division, for the purposes of team selection for the 2018 Junior Pan Ams.</p> <p>(**= See Appendix B.)</p>		<p>No change in divisions. KC will use outcome of National Championships to determine team selection for the 2018 Junior Pan Ams in Youth divisions.</p>	<p>No change in divisions. KC will use outcome of National Championships to determine team selection for the 2018 Junior Pan Ams in Youth divisions.</p>	<p>KC will modify event registration in the 2018 National Championships so that PTSOs must register athletes in the new WKF-recommended -55kg and +55kg divisions (up to 2 athletes per division, plus automatically invited athletes, placed in either division).</p> <p>**** In case the PKF should (for any reason) decide NOT to proceed with implementation of the new WKF-recommended divisions at the 2018 Junior Pan Ams as announced, KC will also invite top 2 age-eligible athletes (meaning athletes who will be age-eligible to compete at the 2018 Cadet & Junior Pan American Championships) from medalists in each of the new -55 kg and +55 kg WKF-recommended divisions at the 2018 National Championships to</p>	

				<p>face off in a <i>round robin</i> format ** in "PKF Youth Division Challenge Matches" (ideally held on the same day) to establish top 4 ranking in the former +50 kg PKF division.</p> <p>(**= See Appendix B.)</p>
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APPENDIX B –

ROUND ROBIN FORMAT

Where 3 or 4 invited athletes take part in the Challenge Matches to determine placing in the new WKF-recommended Youth (U14) kumite weight divisions at the 2018 National Championships, competition will (if there are more than 2 athletes invited to take part in such matches, in any Youth division) consist of a *round-robin* system, with one pool of three to four competitors, as detailed below:

Order of Bouts	
1st bout	Athlete 1 vs. athlete 2
2nd bout	Athlete 3 vs. athlete 4
3rd bout	Athlete 2 vs. athlete 4
4th bout	Athlete 1 vs. athlete 3
5th bout	Athlete 2 vs. athlete 3
6th bout	Athlete 1 vs. athlete 4

Determination of outcomes and final respective placing of athletes at the conclusion of the *Round Robin Challenge Matches* will follow this scoring system:

Win = 1 point
Loss = 0 point

(In accordance with current WKF rules of kumite competition, there will be no tied bouts / matches.)

Tie Breaking:

In the event of a tie between athletes after all round-robin bouts, the process to break the tie will be as follows:

1. result of the bout between the tied athletes (if only two tied athletes; otherwise, please see below);
2. higher total number of points in favour;
3. lower total number of points against;
4. If, after having considered the tie-breaking elements above, two athletes remain tied, the result of the bout between the two tied athletes will break the tie; if a 3-way tie remains, the tie will be broken by a decision from the Junior National Team Kumite Head Coach. This decision must be approved by Karate Canada's HP Committee.