

# JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM CRITERIA (FOR KATA AND KUMITE ATHLETES)

2025-2026 SEASON

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APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: February 9, 2025



**KARATE CANADA**  
**JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM CRITERIA (FOR KATA AND KUMITE ATHLETES)**  
**2025-2026 SEASON**

These criteria apply to the National Junior kumite and National Junior kata teams only.

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# **PART I – SELECTION FRAMEWORK**

## **1. DEFINITIONS**

**Season:** For this document, the term "season" designates the period between (and including) the 2025 National Karate Championships and the start of the 2026 Junior National Championships. In the absence of either of these events occurring, the definition of a season will be made by the individual(s) with decision-making authority in consultation with the relevant individual(s) or Committee(s)

**Previous National Championships:** 2024 National Championships

**Most recent National Championships:** 2025 National Championships

**Upcoming National Championships:** 2026 Junior National Championships

**National Team Head Coach:** The term National Team Coach in this document relates to the discipline-specific (kata or kumite) Head Coach.

**National Team Roster:** The list of athletes eligible to represent Canada's Junior National Team at a competition.

**Junior National Team:** The list of athletes selected to represent Canada's Junior National Team at competitions.

**Developmental competition:** a competition for which no Karate Canada ranking points will be awarded yet, which would provide a positive growth opportunity for a targeted athlete.

**Domestic competition:** a competition occurring within the borders of Canada and with Karate Canada being the highest sanctioning organization.

**Continental Competition:** a competition with the Pan-American Karate Federation or the Pan-American Sports Organization being the highest sanctioning body.

**International Competition:** competition with the World Karate Federation being the highest sanctioning body.

**Regional Training Camp:** a local training camp for athletes living within one of either the BC, Ontario, Quebec or Atlantic regions.

**Inter-regional Training Camp:** A joint regional camp between two or more of the existing regional training centers.

**National Training Camp:** A camp for targeted National Team athletes

**International Camp:** A multi-national camp held collaboratively with national teams from other countries.

**Alternate Athlete:** An alternate who is selected as a late replacement to fill a spot left vacant for a specific competition or training camp after an athlete originally selected through the normal selection process has pulled out or is declared unable to participate due to injury, illness or other circumstances.

## 2.0 Introduction

Karate Canada will respect these published selection criteria as written unless otherwise required by exceptional and unforeseen circumstances, including alignment with international sport governing bodies and other external agencies / partners. Any modifications will be made promptly and as often as needed following developments that directly impact the selection criteria. In such circumstances, any changes will be communicated to all affected individuals as soon as possible.

Further, situations may arise that do not allow these selection criteria to be modified or applied as written due to time constraints or other exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. In such situations, any decision, including nomination decisions, will be made by the individual(s) with decision-making authority in consultation with the relevant individual(s) or Committee (s) (as applicable), and following the stated performance objectives and selection philosophy and approach as noted herein. Should it be necessary to make any decision in this manner, Karate Canada will communicate with all affected individuals as soon as possible.

These selection criteria will be in line with the AAP Carding Criteria for 2026-2027 and apply to all Junior Kumite and Kata National Team members, considering any current ranking points and statuses earned in the current or previous seasons. Ranking points accumulation will be based on Part II, Table 1 of this document.

The criteria will be applied to all National Junior Teams considering current points earned in the current or previous season (depending on point expiration of specific events) using the point criteria in Part II of this document.

As stipulated in Part II, all funding directed to athletes will be a function of Karate Canada's budget and the athlete's status.

The Junior National Team Roster will be named after the conclusion of Karate Canada's most recent National Championships.

The top four finalists in each kata and kumite division at the most recent Canadian National Championships will automatically be named as members of the current seasons Junior National Team Roster. They will remain National Team Roster members until the beginning of the upcoming National Championships, pending compliance with requirements in Section 6.0 and other stipulations in this document.

Athletes who hold valid ranking points earned during the previous season and who take part in the most recent National Championships will also be automatically named as members of the current seasons National Team Roster and will remain National Team Roster members until the beginning of the upcoming National Championships of the following year, pending compliance with Requirements in Section 6.0, and other stipulations in this document.

The international tournaments chosen for the Junior National Team Roster can be modified during the year by giving at least four weeks' notice before the event. Karate Canada may also cancel participation in any of these events due to unforeseen circumstances, such as rescheduling or cancelling the event by its organizing committee.

### **3.0 OVERALL PHILOSOPHY AND VALUES OF CRITERIA**

To ensure that Karate Canada fields the most competitive teams as possible, and to develop future athletes in accordance with the KC High-Performance Plan, the values used by the HP Committee when developing the Selection Criteria and for decision making in selection-related matters are as follows:

- Transparency
  - Ensuring that the selection process and decisions are clearly and fully communicated to KC stakeholders.
- Performance Excellence
  - Ensuring that decisions and criteria are guided by the philosophy of always selecting the best possible team for Karate Canada within the consideration of funding and long-term performance objectives.
- Athlete Safety and Well Being
  - To ensure that athletes are not forced or coerced into over-competing or competing in inappropriate competitions, or at the wrong time of their training cycles.

#### **4.0 How to get on the Junior National Team Roster**

An athlete must participate at the most recent National Championships of the current season (as defined in Part I, Section 1).

The top four placing athletes in the Youth (12/13), Cadet (14-15), Junior (16-17) and U21 (18-20) kata and kumite divisions, as well as the Junior (14-17) team kata divisions at the National Championships will automatically be deemed to be members of the Junior National Team Roster for the current season, as will any athletes holding valid ranking points from the previous season and who have competed in the previous National Championships.

An athlete may be a member of the Junior National Team Roster in more than one division if they participated in and won a Top-4 place at the current seasons National Championships in more than one division.

Selection onto the National Team for a specific competition will occur no later than four weeks before the designated competition. Karate Canada will ensure as much notice as possible is given where possible.

#### **4.1 Citizenship Requirements**

Athletes who are Canadian citizens and passport holders are eligible to compete at the National Championships.

## 4.2 Selection of Alternates

Karate Canada is under no obligation to select an alternate for either a training camp or an international competition. See section 5.7 for the selection process and criteria for alternates.

As soon as an athlete is named onto a team for a specific competition as an alternate or to fill a vacant spot, they immediately become a Junior National Team Roster athlete for the remainder of the current season, as long as they meet all other requirements and conditions for the remainder of the season (Section 6).

## 4.3 How to Earn Points

Athletes earn points:

- 4.3.1 Through any performance as listed in Part II and according to the Rules About Points (Section 4.4 below).

## 4.4 Rules About Points

- Points may only be earned in individual kumite, individual kata and team kata categories. Results earned in the team kumite category are not rewarded with point allocations.
- To accumulate the designated points, an athlete must win at least two bouts in an approved competition (as listed in Part II). If an athlete wins only one bout, they will receive 50% of the designated points. If an athlete obtains a result with no win, they will not be awarded any ranking points.
- A win through a bye or absence of an opponent in the competitions listed in Part II will not be counted as a victory.
- Points obtained in the team kumite or kata divisions will not be applied to any athlete's individual kumite or kata division.
- Should one of the three kata team members who earned these points be replaced by another athlete (due to the replaced athlete being injured or having decided to retire or withdraw from the team willingly), the kata team will continue to benefit from these points from the date on which they were earned until the date of expiry. Should more than one of the original kata team members be replaced, retired or withdrawn, points will be lost for all the kata team members regardless of their original anticipated expiry date.
- If an athlete changes age division during a season, they will not carry their points to the new age division.
- An athlete who is a member of the Junior National Kumite Team Roster and obtained a Top-4 placement at the most recent National Championships can request to be transferred to a higher weight division, provided that:
  - it is in the same age category;
  - there is at least one vacant spot in that higher weight division, at the time of the request, among the Top-4 finalist from the most recent National Championships;
  - the request is submitted in writing by the athlete and forwarded to Karate Canada's Sport Technical Leader no later than 2 weeks prior to the registration deadline of the PKF Championships.

- If the request is accepted by the HPC, the athlete will be introduced to this new higher weight division, and they will carry with them the points he/she has previously accumulated up to the total number of points held by the lowest-ranked athlete minus 5 in this higher weight division.
- Except for previously described situations, points obtained in an individual division can only be accumulated within that same division. There cannot be cross-accumulation with other individual disciplines (i.e. kata and kumite) or age or weight divisions.
- Only the events listed in Part II, Table 1 of this document, will be considered for points.
- All athletes point totals will be updated within five working days of competitions listed in Part II, Table 1 and posted on the Karate Canada website at the URL below.  
<https://karatecanada.org/resources/national-team/>

## 4.5 Duration and Expiration of Points

Athlete's ranking points are earned at the conclusion of the competition at which they achieved the result.

Points from an event will expire:

- On the first day of the upcoming National Championships

## 5.0 Selection Criteria for Competitions

### 5.1 Mandatory Training Camps:

To maintain their status as members in good standing of the Junior National Team Roster through the current season, to be eligible for automatic invitation to the upcoming Karate Canada Junior National Championships (Appendix A), and to be eligible for participation in the current season's Cadet, Junior and U21 Pan American Championships and any other continental or international competition of the season as an official Canadian Junior National Team member, all Junior National Team Roster athletes (kata and kumite) must take part in:

- The current season's Junior National Championships
- The current season's Junior National Training Camp
- All Regional and Inter-regional Training Camps as described below.

The current season's National Training Camp's (NTC) exact date and location will be confirmed no later than four weeks before the start of the event. Karate Canada reserves the right to schedule additional National Training Camps. If more camps are scheduled, eligible athletes will be notified at least four weeks before the beginning of each camp.

The date and location of each Regional and Inter-Regional Training Camp will be announced at least four weeks before the beginning of each camp. An unofficial calendar of these Training Camps is in Part II, Table 3 of these Selection Criteria. Please note that Karate Canada also reserves the right to add additional Regional Training Camps during the season.

Karate Canada reserves the right to change the dates or location of any mandatory camps or cancel a camp,

provided at least two weeks' notice is given to invited Junior National Team Roster members. Cancellation may occur under extreme and unforeseen circumstances.

### **Regional and Inter-Regional Training Camps**

To remain on the Junior National Team Roster, all invited Junior National Team Roster athletes residing in Ontario or Quebec must participate in all mandatory ON-QC Inter-Regional Training Camps within a 300 km radius from the training camp venue. Athletes living outside of this perimeter will be exempt from mandatory participation in QC-ON Inter-Regional Training Camps.

Furthermore, to remain on the Junior National Team Roster, all invited Junior National Team Roster athletes must participate in all mandatory Regional training Camps if they reside within a 200 km radius from the training camp venue. Athletes living outside of this perimeter will be exempted from mandatory participation in Regional Training Camps.

Junior National Team Roster athletes residing in other provinces may be invited to participate in Regional and Inter-Regional Trainings throughout the season.

## **5.2 Selection onto the Junior National Team for Specific Competitions (Individual Divisions)**

To participate in Karate Canada sanctioned events listed in Table 1 as a member of the National Team in individual divisions, eligible athletes from the Junior National Team Roster will be selected based on the highest point accumulation, at the cut-off date for each specific event, according to the table of events in Part II, Table 1, and according to the number of available positions for that event.

Selection of the current seasons Cadet, Junior & U21 Pan American Championships Team within five working days of the conclusion of the most recent Junior National Championships, and Junior Worlds Team will occur within five working days of the conclusion of the most recent Cadet, Junior & U21 Pan American Championships.

## **5.3 Developmental Events**

Athletes on the Junior National Team Roster may participate in developmental International Competitions throughout the year. Such opportunities are not for KC ranking point-accumulating events. KC is under no obligation to send coaches or support teams to any events outside of the point-accumulating events listed in Section II table 1.

## **5.4 Tie-Breaking Procedure**

When two or more athletes hold the same total number of KC ranking points at the time of selection, the tie-breaking process will be as follows:

Priority 1: The athlete who obtained the best result (within top 8, in this division) at the most recent Cadet, Junior and/or U21 World Championships will be selected.

Priority 2: The athlete who obtained the highest placement (in this division, within the top 5) at the most recent Cadet, Junior and/or U21 Pan-American Championships will be selected.



Priority 3: If the tie persists, the athlete who obtained the best result (within top 4, in this division) at the most recent Karate Canada National Championships will be selected.

Priority 4: If the tie persists, the final selection will be decided by the HPC, in consultation with the discipline-specific Head Coach or designate.

## **5.5 Selection for Junior Team Kumite**

The selection of athletes participating in Team Kumite events during international competitions is at the discretion of the Junior Kumite National Team Head Coach or designate. However, selected athletes must either be current National Team Roster athletes or have participated in the most recent Junior National Championships. The Junior National Team Kumite Head Coach's or designate selection requires approval by the HP Committee.

## **5.6 Selection for Junior Team Kata**

The team that wins the Team Kata division at the most recent Karate Canada National Championships will represent Canada at targeted events.

## **5.7 Alternates / Athlete Replacement**

Karate Canada is under no obligation to select an alternate for either a training camp or an international competition.

### **5.7.1 Individual Divisions:**

Should a selected athlete, at any time between the official date of team selection for a specific competition or training camp and the latest possible date on which Karate Canada may modify registrations in said event, have pulled out or have been declared unable to participate due to unforeseen circumstances, an eligible athlete may replace that athlete following a decreasing priority:

- Priority 1: Next eligible roster athlete within the Top 4 from the KC ranking in the division where there is a vacant spot;
- Priority 2: Any athlete within the Top 4-ranked roster athletes from an adjacent division selected at the discretion of the Head Coach or designate, upon approval by the HPC. If alternates are invited from adjacent kumite divisions, the Head Coach must confirm the athlete's ability to make weight to fill the vacant spot.

### **5.7.2 Team Kumite Divisions:**

The selection of alternates in Junior Team Kumite divisions is at the discretion of the Junior National Team Kumite Head Coach or designate. However, selected athletes must either be current Junior National Team Roster members or have participated in the most recent National Championships. The HP Committee must also approve the Junior National Team Kumite Head Coach's or designate selection.

### **5.7.3 Team Kata Divisions:**

The selection of replacement athletes (for replacement of an athlete due to injury or who has decided to retire or withdraw from the team willingly) in Junior Team Kata divisions can be recommended by the remaining kata team members (athletes) themselves but must be approved by the Junior National Team Kata Head Coach or designate and by the HP Committee. No more than one alternative may be selected per the Junior kata team.

### **5.8 Calendar of Competitions for the season**

The calendar of competition events for the season is found in Part II, Table 1.

## **6.0 Requirements, Exemptions and Appeals**

### **6.0.1 Requirements**

To remain on the Karate Canada Junior National Team Roster, each athlete must:

- Sign and adhere to the Karate Canada Athlete Agreement within one month of being named to the roster.
- Complete all mandatory courses and certifications as required.
- Pay the required National Team Fee on time, as required. within one month of being named to the roster.
- Have and maintain a valid Canadian passport
- Participate in all mandatory training camps unless an exemption has been granted.
- Always report any performance-limiting injuries or physical conditions to the STL/NTPL within five days of the injury or performance-limiting change in physical condition.
  - Provide accurate medical information on the injury and its treatment.
  - Keep the STL/NTPL informed on the progress of recovery from injury or illness.
- Provide an accurate mailing address, an active email address for the athlete, parent and club coach, and all phone numbers at which they can be reached.
  - Any changes must be sent to the KC Head Office
- Remain in good standing with Karate Canada and your respective PTSO

### **6.1 Exemptions**

Exemptions from mandatory national team camps or competition activities due to exceptional circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

- A recent death in the immediate family (within one month before the start of the Camp or Competition);
- Injury limiting participation or performance.
- Pregnancy; or
- Infectious disease

Exemption requests must be submitted in writing to Karate Canada's Head Office and STL as soon as possible and no later than 24 hours after starting any National Team Training Camp/event. Notification of such an event must include details of the circumstances, and any supporting evidence scanned or emailed to the Karate Canada's Head Office and STL.

In the cases of injuries, disease or other performance-limiting physical conditions, 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 its final decision on potential exemption or consequence of the injury.

An athlete who has sustained an injury (as stated above) that precludes them attending a mandatory camp in person may be granted an exception or provided an alternative option on a case-by-case basis, as determined by the HPC. Virtual attendance options may be considered with the approval of the Head Coach.

An athlete whose condition persists and who cannot undergo full training during the two weeks before an event may be withdrawn 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 period following receipt of requests for exemptions. Such decisions will be final and without appeal.

Karate Canada reserves the right to issue exemptions from camps and competitions above and beyond the criteria listed in this section as suiting the best interests of the High-Performance program while adequately recognizing and honoring the mental health and physical well-being of the individual athlete.

## **6.2 Appeals**

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

## **6.3 Language**

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

## PART II

### Specific season-to-season Competition event and Point Scores for Selection

**Table 1 – Calendar of events for 2025-2026 season and points allocation**

Competitions	Points 1st	Points 2nd	Points 3rd	Points 4th-5th	Points Top 8	Comments
2025 National Championships Richmond, BC	60	40	30	20 (4th)		Used as the sole selection event for Team Kata Recommended for all athletes attending the current seasons Junior Pan Am Championships.
Junior National Training Camp  Richmond, BC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Strongly recommended for all athletes attending the current seasons Junior Pan Am Championships
2025 Youth, Cadet, & Junior & U21 Pan American Championships**	120	80	60	30 (5th)	N/A	The Canadian National Team representing Canada at the 2025 Jr Pan- American Championships will be named within five working days of the conclusion of the 2024 National Championships.

The exact dates and locations of all events above are to be confirmed.

\*\* Mandatory for eligible carded athletes.

\*\* Of the two athletes to be registered to participate in the Pan American Championships in each division, Karate Canada will register the highest ranked KC athlete per division, according to the KC Junior National Team Ranking Points as of the time of selection, as the athlete to earn WKF World Ranking Points at the current seasons Pan-American Championships.

**Table 2 - Funding Ratios for Athletes on the National Junior Team at International Competitions\***

Points	Ratio
170 or more	1.5:1
90 - 169	1:1

Karate Canada may distribute additional funding to athletes participating in multiple divisions based on its budgets per event.

(\* Whenever funding is available. Based on Karate Canada's available funds and overall budget for each event.)

**Table 3 – Regional and Inter-Regional Training Camp Locations**

Quebec-Ontario Inter-Regional  
Quebec  
Ontario  
British Columbia  
Atlantic

Dates to be determined. Virtual training camps may be instituted. Karate Canada reserves the right to add or remove Training Centers or Camps during the season.

## **APPENDIX A: AUTOMATIC INVITATIONS TO THE 2026 JUNIOR AND/OR SENIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Please note that Karate Canada will automatically invite athletes that meet one of the following two criteria to the 2025 Junior National Championships:**

1. All medalists from the 2025 National Championships regardless of any change in age or weight divisions and;
2. The two (2) top-ranked National Team Roster athletes in each division (at the end of the 2025-26 season), regardless of any change in age or weight divisions, who are in good standing.

According to the above three points, automatic invitations to the 2026 Junior and/or Senior National Championships will only apply to the discipline in which the medal or rank was earned. Athletes automatically invited to compete in kata are not automatically invited to compete in kumite, and vice versa.

All automatically invited athletes must still meet team eligibility requirements set by their respective PTSO (i.e. participation in provincial selection tournaments or training sessions, etc.)

Automatically invited Kumite athletes may register in any age & weight division that they qualify to compete in at the 2026 Junior or Senior National Championships regardless of the division in which they achieved their automatic invitation status.

Additionally, all automatically invited athletes must be active and current members in good standing of the National Team Roster, according to Karate Canada's STL and, following published National Team Criteria.

## **APPENDIX B: U21 CATEGORIES AND POINT ACCUMULATION**

Athletes participating in the “U21 Team Trials” category will earn ranking points towards U21 Pan-American Championships selection.

Athletes participating in the “U21 National Championships” category will not earn ranking points but be considered members of the National Team roster in order of placement after the “U21 Team Trials” roster members.