

WORLD KARATE FEDERATION TOKYO 2020 QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENT CANADIAN KARATE TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

(INTERNAL NOMINATION PROCEDURE)



REVISED - JANUARY 17, 2021

INTERNAL NOMINATION PROCEDURE (INP)

This version of Karate Canada's INP was approved on January 17, 2021 and replaces the version of the INP approved on October 31st, 2020 and any other previous version of this INP as it relates to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Karate Qualification Tournament. This INP reflects the May 8th, 2020 revision to the World Karate Federation Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Karate Qualification System document.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to outline the qualification process and selection procedures of Karate Canada (KC) for determining those athletes who will be selected to represent Canada at the World Karate Federation (WKF) Olympic Games (OG) Qualification Tournament being held on June 11-13, 2021 in Paris, France. Canadian representation may occur in the individual kumite and individual kata divisions. As per the published revised Olympic qualification criteria (<https://www.wkf.net/news-center-new/tokyo-2020-olympic-qualification-system-revised/1302>), the five (5) WKF Kumite Senior men categories and the five (5) WKF Senior women categories will be combined to form three (3) Olympic weight categories per gender.

1.2. Objectives:

This selection policy and procedure's objective is to communicate a clear and transparent selection process that defines how the current, standard WKF category-based National Team selection process will be altered to accommodate the new combined OG categories.

	Male				Female			
Standard WKF Categories	-60 kgs -67 kgs	-75 kgs	-84 kgs +84kgs	Kata	-50 kgs -55 kgs	-61kgs	-68kgs +68kgs	Kata
Olympic Categories	-67 kgs	-75 kgs	+75kgs		-55kgs	-61kgs	+61kgs	

1.3. Contact information

For any questions or clarifications on the contents of these Internal Nomination Procedures, please contact Karate Canada's High-Performance Director at kraig.devlin@karatecanada.org.

1.4. Team Size:

Karate Canada will have the opportunity to register one (1) athlete for each of the eight (8) categories, except for any category where Canada may already have an athlete qualified for Tokyo 2020 through the Olympic Standing. Athletes already qualified will not be allowed to participate, nor will Canada enter another athlete in that same division.

II. DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY:

2.1 Development and Approval of the Internal Nomination Procedure (INP)

Karate Canada's High-Performance Committee is responsible for developing and recommending to Karate Canada's Board of Directors the selection process and procedures for the athletes (team) selected to represent Canada at the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament.

2.2. Implementation of the INP

The High-Performance Director, Senior National Team Head Kumite Coach, and Head Kata Coach, in consultation with the Executive Director, are responsible for the implementation of these Board-approved procedures. The High-Performance Committee will ratify all team nominations. If a discipline-specific Head Coach position is not filled, a designated substitute may be identified.

Karate Canada is carefully following the evolution of the coronavirus pandemic on the global and domestic level and how it may impact obtaining quota spots for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games or domestic nomination/selection of athletes for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. Unless otherwise required by exceptional and unforeseen circumstances related to the coronavirus's impact, Karate Canada will respect these published Internal Nomination Procedures as written.

However, situations related to the coronavirus pandemic may arise that require this Internal Nomination Procedure to be modified. Any modifications will be made promptly and as often as needed following developments that directly impact the Internal Nomination Procedure. In such circumstances, any changes will be communicated to all affected individuals as soon as possible.

Further, situations may arise that do not allow this Internal Nomination Procedure 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, as stated in this Internal Nomination Procedure. Decisions will be made in consultation with the relevant individual(s) or committee(s) and follow the stated performance objectives and selection philosophy. Should it be necessary to make any decision in this manner, Karate Canada will communicate with all affected individuals as soon as possible.

2.3. On-site Decision-Making Authority During the Tournament

During the actual competition period onsite at the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament, all final decision-making authority will reside with the Team Leader or with a discipline-specific Senior National Team Head Coach (or designated substitute) in the absence of the Team Leader. Decisions may include but not be limited to removing an athlete from the team, managing injuries, and other related issues. Given that KC's National Team coaching structure utilizes discipline-specific Head Coaches, onsite decision-making authority, in the absence of the Team Leader, relating to discipline-specific issues will lie with the Head Coach overseeing that discipline.

III. INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC) AND WORLD KARATE FEDERATION (WKF) CRITERIA

The revised IOC and WKF Qualification System for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games can be found at <https://www.wkf.net/news-center-new/tokyo-2020-olympic-qualification-system-revised/1302>. In the event of a discrepancy, the original IOC/WKF version will prevail. In the event of changes by the IOC/WKF to the Qualification System or the selection and eligibility criteria, Karate Canada is bound by these changes and will inform the membership as soon as possible.

These Internal Nomination Procedures are based on IOC/WKF rules and regulations as presently known and understood and on the latest information available to Karate Canada. Any changes in the selection criteria and procedures necessitated by a change in IOC/WKF rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes as soon as reasonably possible. Should such a circumstance occur, Karate Canada will review and amend these INP to comply with the new regulations or conditions. Amendments to this document will be communicated directly to the affected athletes and posted on Karate Canada's website.

All athletes who participate in the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament must achieve the minimum eligibility standards set forth by the IOC and meet Karate Canada's eligibility requirements (see section IV below).

IV. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

4.1 General

To be eligible for selection to the Canadian National Karate Team representing Canada at the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament, an athlete must comply with the provisions of the Olympic Charter currently in force, including but not limited to:

1. Rule 41 (Nationality of Competitors)
2. Rule 43 (World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions)

Further, selected athletes must:

1. Have a valid Canadian passport that does not expire on or before December 31st, 2021;
 - a) Comply with all relevant WKF and IOC requirements for eligibility, which includes meeting the age eligibility requirements established by the World Karate Federation (WKF) for participation in Senior kumite and kata events (see article 4.2 below);
 - b) Be a registrant in good standing of a Provincial or Territorial Karate Organization, which is, in turn, a Member Association in good standing with Karate Canada.
 - c) Be a member in good standing of the Canadian Senior National Team Roster at the time of selection (see article 4.3 below)

- d) Have paid all outstanding invoices to Karate Canada at least seven (7) days before departure for the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament.

4.2. Age Eligibility Requirements:

As per the May 8th, 2020 IOC and WKF Qualification System for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games document, to be eligible for selection onto the Canadian National Team for this specific event, athletes must be either a minimum of 16 years old for kata or a minimum of 18 years old for kumite on the closing day of the first qualifying event. Specifically, athletes must be born on or before June 2005 (Date TBC) for the Kata events and on or before June 2003 (Date TBC) for the Kumite events.

4.3 Status as a member in good standing of the Canadian Senior National Team Roster:

To be eligible for selection to WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament, an athlete must be a member in good standing of the Senior National Team Roster at the time of appointment following the 2020-2021 Senior National Team Selection Criteria. This includes having signed and abiding by Karate Canada's 2020-2021 National Team Roster Athlete Agreement.

Even after nomination, selected athletes will be required to maintain status as members in good standing of the Senior National Team Roster from the time of selection up until and including participation in the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament.

Please note: As part of the Senior National Team Roster requirements, athletes must participate in the 2021 Karate Canada's National Championships (unless they benefit from an approved exemption request).

4.4. Dress Code & Equipment

Athletes named to compete in the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament will be required to comply with the Karate Canada Team's dress code regulations.

Athletes named to the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament will only be allowed to use competition protective equipment that meets the WKF rules and regulations.

V. SELECTION CRITERIA

5.1 Athlete Selection Process & Criteria

5.1.1 Qualification System:

Tier 1 Selection

Athletes who rank in the top 50 athletes on the Official WKF Tokyo 2020 Standings (http://setopen.sportdata.org/wkfranking/standing_tokyo2020.php) on March 1st, 2020 will be considered for direct selection to the Canadian team representing Canada at the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament.

Should two (2) or more Canadian athletes be placed in the top 50 athletes in the Official WKF Tokyo 2020 Standings, the top-ranked athlete will be selected to represent Canada at the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament.

Should two (2) or more Canadian athletes be tied for the top-ranked spot within the top 50 athletes in the Official WKF Tokyo 2020 Standings, the athlete with the most WKF Tokyo 2020 Standings points minus participation points will be selected to the Canadian team representing Canada at the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament.

Should the tie persist, a "best two out of three" challenge match elimination format shall be conducted at a domestic qualification event between the two tied athletes. The winner of the challenge match shall be ranked 1st for the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament, and the loser being ranked 2nd. Top-level officials shall officiate these matches.

Tier 2 Selection

The Tier 2 selection process will apply to athletes not selected through the Tier 1 process and will be conducted according to the following procedure.

The Tier 2 selection process for non-combined OG divisions (i.e. male kata, female kata, male -75kgs kumite and female -61kgs kumite) will utilize Karate Canada's internal ranking system as defined in the 2020/2021 Senior National Team Selection Criteria. After the domestic selection event (including ranking points earned at this event), the top-ranked athletes in each non-combined OG division will be selected to represent Canada at the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament. Elimination format TBD.

The Tier 2 selection process for combined OG divisions (i.e. male -67kg kumite, male +75 kgs kumite, female -55kgs kumite and female +61 kgs kumite) will consist of "Challenge Matches" between the top Karate Canada ranked athletes in each of the WKF standard kumite weight divisions. Challenge matches will be held at a domestic selection event (exact date to be determined) in a round-robin format consisting of the top two (2) KC ranked athletes in each of the combined WKF Olympic weight divisions.

A total of four (4) round-robin pools may be required. Specifically, the top two (2) KC ranked -50kg athletes, and the top two (2) -55kg athletes will form the first required round-robin pool. The top two (2) KC ranked -68kg, and the top two (2) KC ranked +68 kg athletes will form the second round-robin pool. The top two (2) KC ranked -60kg, and the top two (2) -67kg athletes will form the third round-robin pool. The top two (2) -84kg and the top two (2) +84 KG KC ranked athletes will form the final round-robin pool.

Round Robin	Female Kumite Standard Weight Divisions				Male Kumite Standard Weight Divisions			
	-50 kg	-55 kg	-68 kg	+68 kg	-60 kg	-67 kg	-84 kg	+84 kg
Pool 1 -55 kg OG Weight Division	Top 2	Top 2						
Pool 2 +61 kg OG Weight Division			Top 2	Top 2				
Pool 3 -67 kg OG Weight Division					Top 2	Top 2		
Pool 4 +75 kg OG Weight Division							Top 2	Top 2

Round-robin events will be conducted even in divisions where a Tier 1 athlete has been named to represent Canada at the WKF Qualification event. This will be required to rank the combined-division athletes accurately if the Tier 1 selected athlete cannot compete in the OG qualification event. Round-robin events for these divisions will include only three (3) athletes; one (1) athlete from the standard WKF division from which the Tier 1 athlete was selected (the top-ranked KC athlete when not considering the Tier 1 selected athlete) and two (2) athletes from the remaining standard WKF weight division.

In divisions where two (2) Tier 1 athletes were tied and where a "best two out of three" challenge match format is required to determine the 3rd and the 4th selected athletes, only the top-ranked KC athlete (excluding any Tier 1 selected athletes) in each standard WKF division after the domestic selection event will be required to participate in the challenge matches. The challenge match between these two (2) athletes will be conducted as a "best two out of three" elimination format. The winner will be ranked 3rd in the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament ranking and the loser will be ranked 4th.

Should a top-ranked athlete decline to compete in the Challenges Matches, the next highest ranked athlete in the division will be invited to compete. Invitations will only be extended down to the 4th ranked Karate Canada athlete in each standard WKF division.

Challenge matches will be conducted after the WKF standard weight categories have been completed and officiated by top-level officials

The Sportdata event management software round-robin elimination format will be utilized.

Should Karate Canada be unable to conduct an identified domestic selection event nor the Challenge Matches before the occurrence of the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament, the Canadian athlete in each of the Tokyo 2020 Standings categories who

possesses the highest number of WKF Tokyo 2020 Standing points (in a division / category and in the discipline where they are a current Senior National Team Roster member – or the closest equivalent when Olympic categories are different from divisions used for the Senior Team Roster), when participation points have been deducted, on February 1st 2021 will be selected to represent Canada. WKF Tokyo 2020 Standing participation points are awarded to athletes solely for their participation in a WKF event and are not related to actual performance (matches won and position) at that event. Please see pages 6 and 9 of the WKF Ranking policy for more details.
<https://setopen.sportdata.org/wkfranking/docs/WKFRanking20191001.pdf>

The WKF Tokyo 2020 Standings athlete point total (minus participation points) will also be utilized to rank-order Karate Canada's athletes in each Olympic karate category. Only WKF Tokyo 2020 Standings athlete point totals earned in a division / category and the discipline where an athlete is a current Senior National Team Roster member (or the closest equivalent when Olympic categories are different from divisions used for the Senior Team Roster) will be considered. A roster of four athletes (when possible) will be created for each category on February 1, 2021. The top-ranked athlete for each category on this roster will represent Canada at the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament. Should the top-ranked athlete be unable to attend, then the next highest ranked athlete will be selected. This decreasing-order priority athlete selection will continue as required.

If two or more athletes are tied in points, the tiebreaking criteria for National Team selection found in Section 7.1 of the January 17th, 2021 Amended Senior National Team Criteria For Kata And Kumite Athletes (https://karatecanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/KC_Sr_NatTeamCriteria_2020-2021_Revised_BOD_17Jan2021_EN.pdf) will be applied.

5.1.2 Qualification Period:

As both the Official WKF Tokyo 2020 Standing and Karate Canada's internal athlete ranking system both utilize a point accumulation and a point decay model that spans multiple years, the qualification period for the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament will end in May of 2021 (Date TBC) as stated in the revised Tokyo 2020 Qualification System document published by the WKF dated May 8th, 2020. The revised WKF Olympic Qualification System is currently in a draft form and void of confirmed dates and location. Dates and locations will be communicated by Karate Canada to all athletes as soon as they're known. This applies to all dates designated as TBC (To Be Confirmed)

5.2 Alternates

The selection of alternates for the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament in non-combined OG categories will be based upon KC's internal ranking system. Athlete point accumulations will be considered up to and including the planned domestic selection event. If the top-placing athlete selected through either the Tier 1 or Tier 2 process is unable to represent Canada at the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament, the next highest placing athlete will be selected.

The selection of alternates for the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament in combined categories will be based upon the athlete placement determined by the outcomes of the

challenge matches conducted at the domestic selection event. If the top-placing athlete selected through either the Tier 1 or Tier 2 process is unable to represent Canada at the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament, the next highest placing athlete will be selected.

Should Karate Canada be unable to conduct an identified domestic selection event nor the Challenge Matches before the occurrence of the WKF Olympic Qualification Tournament, the selection of alternates will occur based upon the WKF Tokyo 2020 Standings as per Section 5.1.1 of this INP.

5.3 Performance Readiness

All athletes selected by Karate Canada for participation in the WKF Qualification Event will be required to comply with all requirements and rules listed and described in Karate Canada's Senior National Team Criteria at the time of their selection and from the moment of that selection until their participation in the WKF Qualification Event, inclusively. This includes mandatory participation in the national, inter-regional and regional training camps for identified athletes.

Athletes selected for participation in the WKF Qualification Event must comply with the team preparation plans set forth by Karate Canada's Senior National Team Head Coaches.

5.3.1 Maintaining Weight

Kumite athletes selected by Karate Canada for participation in the WKF Qualification Event will be expected to remain within a reasonable range from the upper weight limit for their OG division. Karate Canada may weigh selected athletes between the dates of team selection (Date TBC) and departure for the WKF Qualification Event. Kumite athletes must not exceed their weight division's upper limit by more than 5% of that weight. Athletes who fail to remain within 5% of their OG weight division's upper limit will be subject to possible removal from the team at Karate Canada's discretion.

5.3.2 Injury or Illness

In the case of injury or illness, the disciple-specific Head Coach will obtain medical recommendations from either team medical staff, the athlete's doctor, or an independent doctor. These results will be used as part of the final decision related to performance readiness. Injured or ill athletes will be subject to a proof of readiness test determined by the Head Coach. This test will consist of a controlled performance such as a competition or an observed trial or test to demonstrate whether the athlete had returned to the performance level they were at when they qualified for the team. This trial will have predetermined expected outcomes and will take place in Canada.

Injured or ill athletes will not travel with the team until this requirement has been satisfied. If it is determined that an athlete is not competition-ready once onsite at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games or has not disclosed an injury or illness, he/she may be asked to return home immediately at his/her own expense.

The WKF has released a detailed list of COVID-19 guidelines.

https://www.wkf.net/pdf/WKF_Covid19_Guidelines.pdf. Karate Canada's athlete selected to compete at the 2021 Olympic Qualification Competition will be bound by these guidelines, including the completion of a COVID-19 test that must be produced 48-72 hours before travel to the competition.

5.4 Removal of an Athlete Once Selected

Qualified athletes' eligibility to represent Canada at the WKF Qualification Event will remain conditional upon said athletes meeting all Senior National Team Roster requirements from the moment of their qualification/selection and until the WKF Qualification conclusion.

Should any qualified athlete fail to meet such requirements, they may be removed from the Canadian karate team for the WKF Qualification Event.

Reasons for dismissal include, but are not limited to:

- Inability to perform due to injury, illness or for other medical reasons as determined by Karate Canada's medical staff;
- Violation of team rules or failure by the athlete to fulfill his/her duties as identified in the 2021-2022 Karate Canada Athlete Agreement;
- Violation of the Karate Canada's Code of Conduct and Ethics (http://www.karatecanada.org/pdf/KC-code_of_conduct_and_ethics_15Dec2014.pdf);
- Conduct detrimental to the team or the image of Karate Canada or its National Team program;
- Failure to adhere to all WADA, CCES, and COC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures including participation in out-of-competition testing as required by WADA, CCES, and COC Rules;
- Failure by the athlete to maintain his/her weight within an acceptable range (see article 5.3.1 above).

The decision-making authority for removing an athlete is at the discretion of the discipline-specific Senior National Team Head Coach. However, such decision-making must be made in consultation with the High-Performance Director and be approved by Karate Canada's High-Performance Committee.

5.4.1 Onsite decision-making authority to remove an athlete from the team:

As stated in section II, during the actual competition period onsite at the WKF Qualification Event, all final decision-making authority will reside with the Team Leader or with the discipline-specific Senior National Team Head Coach in the absence of the Team Leader (this includes, but is not limited to, decisions around the removal of an athlete from the team, management of injuries).

VI. TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Karate Canada will make a public announcement of its selected athletes after the completion of the domestic selection event (Date TBC)

VII. AMENDMENTS & UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

This INP is intended to apply as drafted and, specifically, where no athletes are prevented from competing because of an unforeseen injury or other unanticipated or unexpected circumstances. Situations may arise where unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond Karate Canada's control do not allow competition or nomination to take place in a fair manner or the best interests of the priorities and general principles for selection as indicated in these criteria or do not allow the procedure for nomination as described in this document to be applied.

In such unforeseen circumstances, the High-Performance Director (HPD) will, where possible, consult with the High-Performance Committee (HPC) to determine if the circumstances justify competition or nomination to take place in an alternative manner. In such cases, the HPD shall communicate the alternative selection or nomination process to all impacted individuals as soon as possible.

Karate Canada's Board of Directors reserves the right to review and modify any criteria or decision related to this selection process in the case of rule or policy changes from the WKF, COC or the IOC that affect the selection criteria set out in this document. If the INP is modified, Karate Canada will promptly post an announcement on its website announcing the changes.

VIII. APPEALS

Karate Canada nominations to the WKF Qualification Event may be appealed following the procedures set out in Karate Canada's Appeal Policy. Any dispute relating to Karate Canada's Internal Nomination Procedures for the WKF Qualification Event must be

brought according to said policy or may be brought directly to the SDRCC with the consent of all parties.

IX. PUBLICATION

Karate Canada's revised Internal Nomination Procedures for the WKF Qualification Event will be posted on Karate Canada's website and distributed by email to all members in good standing of the Senior National Team Roster no later than January 25th 2021.