

# SENIOR NATIONAL TEAM CRITERIA FOR KATA AND KUMITE ATHLETES

2024/2025 Season

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: MAY 23, 2024

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# **PART I– SELECTION FRAMEWORK**

## **1. DEFINITIONS**

Season: For this document, the term “season” designates the period between (and including) the 2024 National Karate Championships to the start of the 2025 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: 2023 National Championships

Most recent National Championships: 2024 National Championships

Upcoming National Championships: 2025 National Championships

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

Senior National Team Roster: The list of athletes eligible to represent Canada’s Senior National Team at competitions.

Senior National Team: The list of athletes selected to represent Canada’s Senior National Team at competitions.

Developmental Competition: a competition for which no Karate Canada ranking points will be awarded yet, which would provide a 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: a 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 is an athlete 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 ordinary selection process has pulled-out or is declared unable to participate, due to injury, illness, or other circumstances.

## 2. 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 2025-2026 and apply to all Senior 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 2 of this document.

The decisional authority delegated to the Head Coach, or designate, in this document is restricted to the discipline over which the Head Coach presides.

The schedule of domestic and international events and the points that athletes can accumulate at each will be determined by the High-Performance Committee (HPC) annually. The schedule can be modified (including cancellation) during the season by giving at least eight weeks' notice before the scheduled beginning of an event.

All funding directed to athletes, as stipulated in Part II, Table 4, for specific events will be dispersed as per criteria.

There are three distinct categories of Senior National Team divisions for which athletes may be selected by the accumulation of Karate Canada ranking points: 1) individual kumite, 2) individual kata and 3) team kata. Each of these categories is broken into the gender categories of male and female. Individual kumite is broken further into discrete weight divisions.

Selection onto the male and female team kumite division teams is not achieved through the accumulation of Karate Canada ranking points. Please see Section 7.2 of this document further details.

### **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 SENIOR NATIONAL TEAM ROSTER**

#### **4.1 Entry to the Senior National Team Roster**

Within five working days of the most recent National Karate Championships, a National Team Roster of eligible athletes will be announced. The placement and ranking of athletes on the roster will be directly related to their status and ranking point total after the most recent National Championships. If the status and accumulation of performance/ranking points do not determine a single specific athlete, the tie-breaking criteria detailed in Section 6.1 of this document will be applied.

#### **4.2 Citizenship Requirements**

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

#### **4.3 National Team Competitions**

Senior National Team athletes will be invited to compete in specific competitions each season. The list of competitions targeted for the current year is contained in Part II of this document. Senior National Team Roster athletes may also choose to engage in other open registration competitions; however, no coaching staff, logistical support, nor funding may be provided by KC to athletes participating in these self-selected additional tournaments

#### **4.4 National, Regional and Inter-Regional Training Camps**

All invited Senior National Team Roster athletes residing in Ontario or Quebec must participate in all mandatory Regional or ON- QC Inter-Regional Training Camps, if they live within a 200 km radius from the training camp venue, for Regional Camps, or within a 300 km radius from the training camp venue for Inter-Regional Camps. Athletes living outside of the 300 km perimeter will be exempt from mandatory Participation in QC-ON Inter-Regional Training Camps.

Furthermore, to remain on the Senior National Team Roster, invited Senior 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 exempt from mandatory participation in Regional Training Camps.

Each camp's date(s) and location will be announced at least four weeks before the beginning of each domestic training camp, and six weeks before the beginning of each international training camp. KC has 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 Senior National Team members.

Part II of this document contains a list of Regional or Inter-Regional camp locations for the current season (dates remain subject to change). Please note that Karate Canada may add another Regional Training Centre during the season. Further, Karate Canada may institute virtual training camps if the need is determined to exist.

Other athletes may be invited to attend Regional or Inter-Regional Training Camps as training partners, but this does not mean they are on the Senior National Team Roster.

## **4.5 Mandatory Events for Carded Athletes**

All Carded athletes must participate in mandatory National or International Competitions and National/International Training Camps. Carded athletes living in either Ontario or Quebec must also attend all Ontario-Quebec Inter-Regional Training Sessions.

The dates and locations of the identified mandatory competitions and national/ international training camps may change from season to season and will be published no later than four weeks before the beginning of a domestic camp, and six weeks before the beginning of the camp or competition. The list of mandatory competitions and camps for Sport Canada carded athletes are included in Part II of this document.

Furthermore, all Carded athletes must attend all Regional Training Camps that they are invited to if they reside within a 200 km radius from the training camp venue. Carded athletes living outside of this perimeter will be exempt from mandatory participation in Regional Training Camps.

Failure to meet the requirements for Carded athletes may result in Karate Canada recommending to Sport Canada that an athlete no longer benefits from AAP support.

## **5.0 HOW TO OBTAIN A STATUS**

Athletes accumulate points for their performance at the events listed in Part II of this document. A status can be obtained according to the following point accumulation:

- International A: 600 or more points
- International B: 201 to 599 points inclusive
- International C: 131 to 200 points inclusive
- National A: 75 to 130 points inclusive

### **5.1 Rules about Status and Ranking Points**

- Points will only accumulate in individual kumite, individual kata, and team kata divisions.
- An athlete/team must win at least two bouts in a competition to be awarded 100% of the points allocated for that competition.
- An athlete/team who obtains a result, with only one win in that competition, will be awarded only 50% of the points allocated for that competition.
- If an athlete/team obtains a result with no win, he/she will not be awarded any ranking points.
- A win through a bye or absence of an opponent will not be counted as a victory and will not be counted towards point accumulation.

Points obtained in a division can only be accumulated within that same division and cannot cross-accumulate with other disciplines (i.e., kata and kumite) or divisions (i.e., kumite weight division, individual kata, and team kata).

### **5.2 Point Duration**

The table below details the duration that Karate Canada ranking points remain valid.

World Games, Senior Individual World Championships	Podium	Two years with 50% decay in 2nd year
	Top 8	One year
Pan American Games, Senior Pan American Karate Championships	Gold	Two years with 50% decay in 2nd year
	Silver and Bronze	One year
Karate Canada National Championships	Gold	*Two years with 50% decay in 2nd year
	Silver & Bronze	One year

- Athlete's ranking points are earned at the conclusion of the competition at which they achieved the result as per Part II Table 2 of this document. All earned points are subject to the duration and decay schedule above.
- When an Athlete is awarded a Status through the accumulation of points, the Athlete's Status will only last until the expiry of the earned points.
- \* Karate Canada ranking points earned from a Gold medal placement at the 2024 National Championships will contribute to the athlete selection for the 2025 Sr. PKF Championships and 2025 Sr. Individual World Championship qualification events. Any earned 2024 National Championship ranking points will expire at the start of the final 2025 Sr. Individual World Championship qualification event. These points will not contribute to 2026-27 AAP criteria.

## 6.0 SELECTION CRITERIA FOR NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION OF ATHLETES FOR SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Section 6.0 and 6.1 apply to all individual male and female kumite weight divisions, individual male and female kata and male and female team kata.

To participate in any Karate Canada targeted event or competition, eligible athletes will be selected from the National Team Roster (see possible exceptions at 4.2 , 4.2.1 & 6.3). Selection will occur in the order of priority shown below.

1. International A status-holding athletes;
2. International B status-holding athletes;
3. International C status-holding athletes;
4. National A status-holding athletes;
5. All medalists from the most recent Senior National Championships.
6. Alternate/Late Entry Selections.

Athletes must be notified of selection for these events at least eight weeks before the event start.

The team's size will be based on the number of athletes participating in each division at each event. The COC, WKF, or PKF or the respective event organizing committee may set total team size and athlete quotas in competitive divisions.

Once selected to represent Canada at an international event, athletes may be required to participate in a mandatory pre-competition National Training Camp. Public announcement and athlete notification of all mandatory pre-competition training camps will follow the guidelines presented in this document.

## **6.1 Tiebreaking Criteria for National Team Event Selection**

Event Selection: When two or more athletes hold the same status, the total number of KC ranking points obtained by each athlete at the time of selection will be compared to determine which athlete will be selected. Should a tie in points exist, the tiebreaking process for selection onto the National Team for any specific event will be as follows:

1. The athlete who obtained the best result (within top 8, in that division) at the most recent Senior World Championships
2. If the tie persists, the athlete with the highest total number of matches won at the most recent Senior Pan American (PKF) Championships will be selected.
  - a A win through a by or absence of an opponent will not be counted as a victory and will not be counted towards point accumulation.
3. If the tie persists, the athlete who obtained the best result (in that division) at the most recent Karate Canada National Championships will be selected. This criterion will only be applicable if all tied athletes in each division have competed in that division at these Championships.
4. If the tie persists, the final selection will be decided by the HPC, in consultation with the discipline-specific Head Coach.

The naming of an athlete to the National Team designated to attend a specific targeted event will be made following ranking point accumulation at the time of the selection (see section 6.0).

Unless specified otherwise in this document, selection onto the National Team for a targeted competition will occur no later than 30 days before the start of the competition or at specific dates designated in Part II of this document.

## **6.2 Athlete Selection for Team Kumite**

Selection of athletes participating in Team Kumite events, during international competitions, is at the discretion of the Senior Kumite National Team Head Coach, or designate, but selected athletes must meet one of the following criteria: They must either:

- be current National Team Roster athletes, or;
- have participated in kumite at the latest Karate Canada National Championships, or;
- have been a National Team Roster member in the previous season.

The HP Committee must approve the selection of alternates by the National Team Head Coach or designate. As soon as an athlete is named onto a team for a specific competition as an alternate or to fill a vacant spot, he /she immediately becomes a Senior National Team Roster athlete, for the remainder of the season. Please note that no Karate Canada ranking points will be allocated for performance in the Team Kumite division.

## **6.3 Alternates / Late Athlete Replacement**

If an athlete selected to attend a specific competition or camp through the process detailed in this document cannot attend or is declared unable to participate due to injury, illness or other circumstances, an alternate athlete may be selected to fill the vacant spot. Karate Canada is under no obligation to choose an alternative to either a training camp or an international competition; however, if an alternate is selected, the following process (6.4) will be followed.



## 6.4 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 KC may modify registrations in said event, have pulled out or have been declared unable to participate due to injury, illness or other circumstances, that athlete may be replaced by the highest-ranked eligible alternate in his or her division, according to the following decreasing priorities:

- International A status-holding athletes;
- International B status-holding athletes;
- International C status-holding athletes;
- National A status-holding athletes;
- Senior National Team Roster athletes;

If more than one eligible athlete holds the same status, tiebreaking for the selection of alternates in individual divisions are to follow the Tie-Breaking Criteria listed in Section 6.1 above.

- The selection of alternates after exhaustion of the priorities listed above is at the senior national team head coach's or designates discretion. However, selected athletes must either be current National Team Roster members or must have participated in the most recent National Championship. The HP Committee must also approve the selection of alternates by the National Team Head Coach or designate. Alternate athletes will be informed as soon as reasonably possible. When an athlete is named onto a team for a specific competition as an alternate or to fill a vacant spot, he /she immediately becomes a Senior National Team Roster athlete for the remainder of the season.

### 6.4.1 Team Kata

The selection of alternates (for replacement of an athlete due to injury or who has decided to retire or withdraw from the team willingly), in Team Kata divisions, can be recommended by the remaining kata team members (athletes) themselves but must be approved by the Senior National Team Kata Head Coach or designate and by the HPC. Not more than one replacement athlete may be selected per kata team.

As soon as an athlete is named onto a team for a specific competition as an alternate or to fill a vacant spot, he /she immediately becomes a Senior National Team Roster athlete, for the remainder of the season.

## 7.0 REQUIREMENTS, EXEMPTIONS AND APPEALS

### 7.1 Requirements

To remain on the 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
- Have and maintain a valid Canadian passport
- Pay the required annual Senior National Team Fee in full **within one month of being named to the roster.**
- Participate in all mandatory training camps individually required of them unless an exemption has been granted.
- Make weight for Kumite divisions. Failure to make weight at a mandatory competition will result in revocation of athlete funding, if any. For carded athletes, failure to make weight is considered a breach of their Carding agreement.
- Demonstrate appropriate maintenance of fitness and health level consistent with a high-performance athlete on a National Karate Team. The STL / NTPL may call for an independent fitness or health assessment in concerns about fitness and health.
- Always report any performance-limiting injuries or physical conditions to the STL / NTPL, no later than two weeks before the next upcoming camp or competition, or within one week of the occurrence of the illness or injury,
- Provide appropriate medical information on the injury and its treatment. This includes diagnosis and proposed treatment protocol and estimated return to full training or competition.
- Keep the STL informed on their recovery plan and progress according to that plan.
- Provide an accurate mailing address, an active email address and all phone numbers at which they can be reached. Any changes must be sent to the Karate Canada Head Office promptly.
- Remain in good standing with Karate Canada

Note: it is an athlete's responsibility to update Karate Canada of any change to all relevant addresses to communicate essential data. Karate Canada is not responsible for missed deadlines or failure to comply by an athlete if the information is sent to an incorrect or inactive address(es) if Karate Canada was not notified of such changes.

## 8.0 Exemptions from National Team Camps or Competitions

Exemptions from mandatory national team 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

Requests must be made as soon as reasonably possible after the issue arises but no later than 24 (twenty- four) hours after the start of the event/activity by notification in writing to the Karate Canada Head Office. Notification of such an event must include details of the circumstances along with any supporting evidence scanned or emailed to the Karate Canada Head Office.

In the cases of injury, 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 its final decision.

**IMPORTANT:** 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 National Team Head Coach or designate. Virtual attendance options may be considered with the approval of the STL / NTPL.

Karate Canada may withdraw an athlete whose condition persists and is unable to undergo full training during the two weeks before an event from the team representing Canada at that event.

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

## **8.1 Appeals**

Appeals regarding team selection are limited to the incorrect application of criteria or the development of new and previously unknown information relevant to the appeal. For any appeal, please refer to the Karate Canada's Appeal Policy, found on Karate Canada's website.

## **8.2 Language**

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

## PART II- EVENTS AND POINT ALLOCATION FOR 2024-2025 SEASON

**Table 1: List of Targeted Camps and Competitions for the Senior National Team Roster athletes, for the 2024-2025 Season\***

Event/Location	Date	Eligibility	Comments****
2024 National Championships Laval, Quebec	July 4-7, 2024	PTSO qualified, and KC automatically invited athletes	Mandatory for inclusion on the 2024-25 Senior National Team Roster
2024 Senior Team World Championships			Highly recommended for eligible athletes.
2024 National Training Camps	TBD	All Senior roster athletes	Mandatory for all senior roster athletes (see section 4.4)

Notes:

- As defined in this document, a season generally runs from one edition of the National Championships to the next edition of the National Championships.
- The exact dates and locations of all events subject to change will be confirmed before each event. Karate Canada reserves the right to modify targeted and mandatory events for assorted reasons, including but not limited to Canadian government-issued travel advisories.

\*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 Senior 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: Point allocation for performances during the 2024-2025 season**

Priority	Event	Team Selection Dates	Eligibility	Performance	Points	Duration / Expiry
1	2024 National Championships	July 4-7, 2024	PTSO members only	Gold	100	<b>GOLD: From event to the start of the final 2025 Sr Individual World Championship qualifier event. Points are reduced by 50% commencing at the start of the 2025 National Championships.</b>  SILVER & BRONZE: From event to event
				Silver	70	
				Bronze (3rd place)	40	
				Bronze (4th place)	30	

**NOTES:**

- Participation in the most recent National Championships will be mandatory for any athlete to be invited for possible selection into the Senior National Team Roster for the competitive season, except for the specifics in Sections 4.2 and 6.3 of this document.

**Table 3: List Regional and Inter-Regional camp locations for Senior National Team Roster athletes, for the current Season\***

Quebec-Ontario Inter-Regional (Kingston)  
 Quebec (Gatineau)  
 Ontario (Toronto Area)  
 British Columbia (Vancouver)  
 Atlantic

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

**Table 4: Funding ratios for athletes on the National Senior Team invited to compete at international competitions for the current season:**

Status	Points	Ratio
International A	600 or more	1.5: 1
International B	201 – 599	1 : 1
International C	131 – 200	None
National A	75 – 130	None

**NOTES**

When funding is available for targeted events, it will be distributed to athletes in individual divisions only. Karate Canada may distribute additional funding to athletes participating in multiple divisions.

Upgrades in athletes' status may be considered for athlete funding purposes after team selection for an event has occurred. The date on which statuses are to be considered for funding for an event will be at the discretion of Karate Canada.

When an Athlete is awarded a Status through the accumulation of points, the Athlete's Status will only last if the points are maintained to keep that athlete within the statuses' respective brackets.

## **APPENDIX A: AUTOMATIC INVITATIONS TO THE 2025 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – AUTOMATIC INVITATIONS**

Karate Canada will automatically invite athletes that meet one (1) of the following three (3) criteria to the 2025 National Championships:

1. All Senior athletes in good standing holding a status (International A, B or C or National A) as of March 1, 2025, regardless of any change in weight division within Senior kumite divisions.
2. All medallists from the 2024 National Championships regardless of any change in age/weight division, who are in good standing.
3. The two (2) top-ranked National Team Roster athletes in each division (at the end of the 2024-25 season), regardless of any change in age or weight divisions, who are in good standing.

**Automatic invitations to the 2025 National Championships, according to the above points, will only apply to the discipline in which the medal or rank was earned.**

**Automatically invited Kumite athletes may register in any eligible age &/or weight division at the 2025 National as per the age matrix, regardless of the division in which they achieved their automatic invitation status.**