

SENIOR PARA-KARATE NATIONAL TEAM CRITERIA

2026/2027 SEASON



APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: FEB 1, 2026

Table of Contents

DEFINITIONS	3
PARA-KARATE NATIONAL TEAM ROSTERS– GENERAL INFORMATION	4
INTRODUCTION	6
OVERALL PHILOSOPHY AND VALUES OF SELECTION CRITERIA	6
HOW TO GET ON THE PARA-KARATE NATIONAL TEAM ROSTER	7
HOW TO OBTAIN PARA-KARATE ATHLETE STATUS	8
SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE PARA-KARATE NATIONAL TEAM ROSTER & SELECTION OF ATHLETES FOR SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS	9
REQUIREMENTS, EXEMPTIONS AND APPEALS	11
PART II – CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND POINT ALLOCATION FOR 2025-2026 SEASON	14
APPENDIX A: PARA-KARATE NATIONAL TEAM ROSTER SPORT CLASSES	17
APPENDIX B: AUTOMATIC INVITATIONS TO THE 2025 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	18

1. DEFINITIONS

Season: For this document, the term "season" designates the period between the 2025 National Championships to the next 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) following the stated performance objectives and selection philosophy and approach as noted herein.

Previous National Championships: 2025 National Championships

Most recent National Championships: 2026 National Championships

Upcoming National Championships: 2027 National Championships

National Team Head Coach: The term National Team Coach in this document relates to the discipline-specific (para) Head Coach.

National Team Roster: The list of athletes eligible to represent Canada's Senior Parate Karate National Team at competition.

Sport Class: the category associated with the disability of the athlete

Developmental Competition: a competition for which no Karate Canada ranking points will be awarded yet which would provide a positive-growth opportunity for a target 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.

Commonwealth Competition: a competition with the Commonwealth Karate Federation (CKF) being the highest sanctioning body.

International Competition: a competition with the World Karate Federation (WKF) being the highest sanctioning body.

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.

3. INTRODUCTION

Karate Canada will respect these published selection criteria as written unless otherwise required by exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. 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.

The decisional authority delegated to the Head Coach in this document is restricted to the discipline over which the Head Coach presides. Any reference to the National Team Head Coach will refer to either the individual filling that position permanently or an appointed temporary substitute if the Head Para-Karate Coach position is vacant.

The classification of development, "domestic", "continental" and "international" tournaments, and the points that athletes can accumulate at each one, will be determined by the Para-Karate Committee on an annual basis, pending approval by the High-Performance Committee.

The schedule of international tournaments or training camps for the Para-Karate National Team Roster can be modified during the season by giving at least eight weeks of notice before the scheduled beginning of an event.

Karate Canada (KC) may cancel participation in any of these events due to unforeseen circumstances. These circumstances may include rescheduling or cancelling the event, budgetary constraints or other factors present at the time that are considered detrimental to KC's performance objectives as determined by the Para-Karate Committee.

KC reserves the right to amend these Criteria after the date of their original publication. This change may be required to align with international karate sport governing bodies (WKF, PKF, CKF) and other external agencies/partners (Virtus) to achieve KC's primary objective of obtaining podium results and achieving success at certain WKF, CKF, PKF or Multisport competitions. All funding directed to athletes, as stipulated in Part II, Table 4, will be a function of Karate Canada's budget and the athlete's status at the time of selection for a targeted event.

4. OVERALL PHILOSOPHY AND VALUES OF SELECTION 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.

5. HOW TO GET ON THE PARA-KARATE NATIONAL TEAM ROSTER

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

PARA -KARATE NATIONAL: Athletes will be selected based on the WKF sport classes, K-10 Blind & Visually Impaired, K-21* Intellectually Impaired, K-22* Intellectually Impaired (Down Syndrome), and K-30 Wheelchair Users. Categories are broken into gender categories of male and female and must be age eligible for selected events.

PARA – KARATE DEVELOPMENTAL: Athletes non-age eligible in the WKF sport classes, male and female, listed above, athletes in Sport Classes K21 & K22 unconfirmed by Virtus, **and** all athletes eligible in Sport Class K23 & K40

***Virtus Sport**

[VIRTUS – World Intellectual Impairment Sport](#)

Athletes in K21 & K22 must apply and receive an international classification as II1 or II2 through Virtus. This process takes about 2-3 months and is completed in conjunction with Karate Canada through the CAII National Eligibility Officer. Once approved athletes will become part of the Senior National Para Team Roster. Prior to confirmation with Virtus athletes will remain on the developmental roster.

Developmental Athletes in K23 must apply and receive a classification as II3 through Virtus. This process takes about 2-3 months and is completed in conjunction with Karate Canada through the CAII National Eligibility Officer.

5.1 Entry to the Para-Karate National Team Rosters

Within 5 (five) working days of the conclusion of the most recent Karate Canada National 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 at the conclusion of the most recent Karate Canada National Championships. If the status and accumulation of performance/ranking points does not clearly determine a single specific athlete, the tie breaking criteria (Section 7.1) will be applied. Should an athlete decline placement on Karate Canada's athlete roster in writing, they will be removed from the roster. Their ranking points will remain valid according to all rules in this document; however, the athlete will not be notified or selected for competitions until such a time that they request reinstatement to the roster in writing.

The subsequent selection of specific athletes to represent Canada at any KC designated karate competitions during the season will:

- Occur at defined times before each competition.
- Be based on status and accumulated performance/ranking points at the time of the invitation. If the status and accumulation of performance/ranking points does not clearly determine a single specific athlete, the tie breaking criteria detailed in Section 7.1 will be applied.
- Be drawn only from the National Para-Karate Team Rosters at the time of the invitation.
- Have all WKF documentation associated with their Sport Class completed and submitted to KC.
- Depend on the total size of the Team at each event, as determined by Karate Canada's budget or by that specific tournament Organizing Committee's requirements.

5.2 Selection of Athletes to Fill Vacant Spots in the National Para-Karate Team Rosters

If a roster spot is left vacant after KC's invitations to the Para-Karate National Team Rosters process, the Para National Team Head Coach may choose another athlete to fill this spot.

In such a case, the athlete must be named to the Para-Karate National Team Roster at least 14 days before the beginning of the first event in which they will be selected to compete. The athlete will be subject to all other team requirements and must be approved by the Para-Karate National Coach and the Para Committee.

5.3 Citizenship Requirements

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

5.4 Selection of Alternates / Late Replacement athletes

Should there be a vacancy in a National Team preparing to represent Canada at a targeted event, an alternate athlete may be selected utilizing the criteria detailed in the document. Once an athlete is named onto the National Team for a specific competition as an alternate or to fill a vacant spot, he / she immediately becomes a Para-Karate National Team Roster member for the remainder of the season.

5.5 National Team Competitions

Senior and/or Developmental Para-Karate National Team athletes will be invited to compete in specific competitions each season. The list of targeted events for the current season is found in Part II of this document.

National Para-Karate 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. No ranking points will be awarded.

5.6 National Team Training Camps

All invited Para-Karate National Team Roster athletes must participate in all mandatory Training Camps. Training camp's date(s) and location will be announced at least four weeks before the beginning of each 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 National Para-Karate Team members. Part II of this document contains a list of mandatory Training camps(s) for the current season (dates and locations remain subject to change). Please note that Karate Canada may add another Training Camp during the season.

6. HOW TO OBTAIN PARA-KARATE ATHLETE STATUS

Athletes accumulate points for their performance at the events listed in Part II of this document, and in accordance with the Rules about Status and Points. A status can be obtained according to the following:

A status can be obtained according to the following point accumulation:

- International A: 600 and over points
- International B: 201 to 599 points
- International C: 131 to 200 points
- National A: 75 to 130 points

6.1 Rules about Status and Points

1. An athlete who obtains a result, in an event with 1 to 3 competitors including themselves, will be awarded only 50% of the points as listed in Part II. An athlete who obtains a result, in an event with 4 or more competitors will be awarded 100% of the points as listed in Part II.
2. Only the events listed in Part II Table 2 of this document are considered for accumulation of points.

6.2 Points Duration

The table below details the duration that Karate Canada ranking points remain valid, for para-karate divisions.

World Games, Senior Individual World Championships	Podium	Until the upcoming National Championships
	Top 8	Until the upcoming National Championships
Pan American Games, Senior Pan American Karate Championships	Gold	Until the upcoming National Championships
	Silver and Bronze	Until the upcoming National Championships
Karate Canada National Championships	Gold	Until the upcoming National Championships
	Silver & Bronze	Until the upcoming National Championships

The start date of an athlete's points is the last day of the competition at which the athlete achieved the result for which the ranking points were awarded. 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 if the points are maintained to keep that athlete within the respective brackets of statuses.

** 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 Para 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.

7. SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE PARA-KARATE NATIONAL TEAM ROSTER & SELECTION OF ATHLETES FOR SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

To become eligible for selection onto Senior Para-Karate National Team that will participate in Karate Canada sanctioned events throughout the season, athletes will be selected onto the Senior Para-Karate National Team Roster in the following order of priority:

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 Nationals Championships;
6. 'Coaches' "Discretionary Selection" athletes – are athletes who may fill open spots, if any, as selected by the Para Head Coach.

KC and the Para-Karate Head Coach are under no obligation to fill vacant spots when selecting/naming the National Para-Karate Team Roster.

7.1 Tiebreaking Criteria for Selection onto the Senior Para-Karate National Team Roster and Event Selection

The tiebreaker process will be as follows for two or more athletes who hold the same status, or the equal number of points:

1. The athlete with the higher total number of KC ranking points earned from performance at the most recent Senior World (WKF) Championships and most recent Senior Pan American (PKF) Championships will be selected.
2. If the tie persists, the athlete with the best overall result / rank at the most recent international championships will be selected. The international championships considered will be only the Senior World (WKF) Championships or the Senior Pan American (PKF) Championships
3. If the tie persists, the athlete who obtained the best result / rank (in that division) at the most recent Karate Canada National Championships will be selected.
4. If the tie persists, final selection will be decided by the Para-Karate National Team Head Coach and approved by the Para Committee.

The naming of an athlete to the Senior National Para-Karate Team designated to attend a specific targeted event will be made in accordance with ranking point accumulation at the time of the selection.

Unless specified otherwise in this document (see Part II, Table 2), selection onto the Senior National Para-Karate Team for a targeted competition will occur no later than 30 (thirty) days before the start of this competition.

7.2 Alternates / Late Athlete Replacement

Alternate – definition:

An alternate is an athlete who is selected as a replacement to fill a spot left vacant for a specific competition or training camp after an athlete originally selected through the ordinary selection process (see section 7) has pulled out or is declared unable to participate, due to injury, illness or other circumstances. Karate Canada is under no obligation to select an alternate for either a training camp or an international competition.

7.2.1 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 injury, illness or other circumstances, that athlete

may be replaced by the next highest ranked eligible alternate in his or her division, according to the following priorities in decreasing order:

1. International A status-holding athletes;
2. International B status-holding athletes;
3. International C status-holding athletes;
4. National A status-holding athletes

If more than one eligible athlete holds the same status, tie breaking for the selection of alternates in individual divisions is to follow the Tie Breaking Criteria listed in Section 8.1 above.

The selection of alternates (in individual kata divisions) after exhaustion of the priorities listed above is at the discretion of the Para-Karate National Team Head Coach; however, the selected alternate athlete(s) must either be a current Para-Karate National Team Roster member or must have participated in the most recent National Championships. Selection of alternates by the National Para-Karate Team Head Coach must also be approved by the Para Committee.

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 Para-Karate National Team Roster member for the remainder of the season.

8. REQUIREMENTS, EXEMPTIONS AND APPEALS

8.1 Requirements

To remain on the Para-Karate National Team Roster each athlete must:

- Sign and adhere to the Karate Canada Athlete Agreement within one month of being named to the roster.
- Have and maintain a valid Canadian passport
- Complete all mandatory courses and certifications as required
- Pay the required annual National Team Package Fee in full and on time 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.
- 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, no later than 2 (two) weeks prior to the next upcoming camp or competition, or within 1 (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 and/or competition.
- Keep the STL informed on the progress of their recovery plan and progress according to that plan.
- 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 in a timely manner.
- Provide an additional responsible contact for communications, parent, guardian, support worker, dojo coach, etc. This person will be carbon copied (cc) on all communications in order to assist with deadlines, transparency, language, etc.
 - Athletes in K21 & K22 divisions must provide Karate Canada (STL) the name, contact details, and confirmed event availability of a volunteer para support worker to accompany* the athlete for targeted events.
 - Para support person will be required to provide a VSC, complete Karate Canada's designated safe sport educational module, sign the UCCMS, indicate in writing that they agree to abide by and be subject to the KC Code of Conduct and all other relevant and applicable KC policies, rules and regulations, and be certified in first aid.
 - Funding related to support person will be the responsibility of the individual athlete; however, where possible, Karate Canada may provide financial support depending on the event and its available budget.
 - Up to two athletes may share the same para support person; however, KC is not responsible for any logistics or expenses (except where expressly agreed otherwise) related to sharing of para support person.
 - Karate Canada teamwear for supporter is required and is the financial responsibility of the supporter or the athlete (as applicable based on any agreement between the supporter and the athlete).
 - Remain in good standing with Karate Canada and your respective PTSO

* Accompany – includes all travel with the athlete, accommodations in same room or adjacent room, assistance with daily needs as required.

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

8.2 Exemptions from Para National Team Camps or Competitions

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

- Recent death in the immediate family (within 1 (one) month prior to the start of the Camp or Competition);
- Injury limiting participation and/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 and Para-Head Coach. 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 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 Para-Karate Head Coach. Virtual attendance options may be considered with the approval of the Head Coach.

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 Karate Canada 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 request for exemption. 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.

8.3 Appeals

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

8.4 Language

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

PART II – CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND POINT ALLOCATION FOR 2025-2026 SEASON

Table 1: List of Targeted Camps and Competitions for Senior Para-Karate National Team Roster athletes during the 2025-2026 Season

2026 National Championships Halifax, Nova Scotia	Feb 20-22, 2026	PTSO qualified, and KC automatically invited athletes	Mandatory for inclusion on the Senior Para-Karate National Team Roster
2026 Senior Pan-American & U21 Championships	May 22-24, 2026	Eligible National Team athletes	Highly recommended for eligible athletes.
2026/27 National Training Camps	TBD	All Senior roster athletes	Mandatory for all senior roster athletes (see section 4.4)

Notes:

- 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 various reasons, including but not limited to Canadian government-issued travel advisories.

Table 2: Point allocation for performances during the current season

1	Senior Pan-American Championships	Two entries per division	Gold	600	Until the upcoming National Championships
			Silver	420	
			3rd	240	
			Every match won (if not at least bronze)	10	
2	2026 National Championships	PTSO members only	Gold	100	Until the upcoming National Championships
			Silver	70	
			3rd	40	
			4th	30	

NOTES:

- Points for all events listed in the table above are contingent on number of athletes per division criterion as per Section 6.1.
- Participation in the most recent National Championships will be mandatory for any athlete to be invited for possible selection into the Senior Para-Karate National Team Roster for the competitive season, except for the specifics in Sections 5.4 and 9.2 of this document

Table 3: Funding ratios for athletes on the Senior Para National Team invited to compete at international competitions for the current Season

Status	Points	Ratio
International A	600+	1.5:1
International B	201 - 599	1:1
International C	131 - 200	None
National A	75 - 130	None

When funding is available for targeted events, it will be distributed to athletes in individual divisions only.

Upgrades in athletes' status may be considered for athlete funding purposes after team selection for an event that 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: PARA-KARATE NATIONAL TEAM ROSTER SPORT CLASSES

The Para-Karate National Team Roster will be selected according to the WKF Sport Classes
Each athlete may only be selected to compete in ONE Sport Class

https://www.wkf.net/pdf/ParaKarate_Competition_Rules.pdf
https://www.wkf.net/pdf/ParaKarate_Classification_Rules.pdf
https://www.wkf.net/pdf/Para_Karate_Info%20Sheet.pdf

The following paperwork must be submitted to Karate Canada 3 weeks prior to the upcoming National Championships for the category they will compete in at Karate Canada National Championships.

- [Medical Diagnostic Form for Wheelchair Athletes](#)
 - [Medical Diagnostic Form for Athletes with Visual Impairments](#)
 - [Medical Diagnostic Form for Athletes with Intellectual Impairments](#)
 - Athletes Eligibility Virtus Application
-
- <https://www.virtus.sport/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Reg-form-v9-Nov19.docx.pdf>
-

The following paperwork must be submitted to Karate Canada 5 weeks prior to international events.

- [Athlete Evaluation Consent Form](#)
- [WKF - Therapeutic Use Exemption \(TUE\) Application Form](#) (if applicable)

APPENDIX B: AUTOMATIC INVITATIONS TO THE 2027 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Please note that Karate Canada will automatically invite athletes that meet one of the following two criteria to the 2026 National Championships:

1. All Senior para-karate athletes holding a status (International A, B or C or National A) after the 2026 Karate Canada Championships.
2. All medalists from the 2026 National Championships regardless of any change in age divisions

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

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.