

2027 National Championships and National Team Selection Program

A clear delivery model for PTSOs, coaches, athletes and parents

Purpose and Context

Karate Canada will introduce the approved National Championship and Team Selection model beginning in 2027. The model combines the national event calendar while preserving a performance-based pathway for U21 and Senior athletes. It is designed to improve calendar alignment, reduce cumulative travel and delivery costs, support athlete duty of care, and provide a transparent progression from national competition to international team selection.

Important: 2027 is a transition year

The U21 and Senior event in the third week of January 2027 will complete the existing 2026/27 selection cycle. The new two-phase model begins with the combined National Championships in May 2027 and culminates with the first Phase 2 National Championships in February 2028.

2027 Program at a Glance

Timing	Event	Participants	Primary Purpose
Third week of January 2027	U21 & Senior National Event	Full PTSO delegation of U21 and Senior athletes	Select the 2027 U21 and Senior teams to represent Canada at the "Last Chance Qualifier" for 2027 Pan-Am Games, and 2027 Pan-American Championships
Late-May 2027	Combined National Championships and Phase 1 Qualification Event	U14, Cadet, Junior, U21, Senior and Para-Karate	Select the Junior National Team and qualify U21/Senior athletes to the January 2028 Phase 2 National Championships.

Mid-May 2027 Combined National Championships

- U14, Cadet and Junior divisions will serve as the direct selection event for the 2027 Junior Pan-American Championships.
- Existing Junior National Team selection rules, eligibility requirements, citizenship requirements, commitment deadlines and replacement procedures remain in effect.
- Para-Karate divisions will be included (but optional); any National Team selection implications will be governed by the applicable Para National Team criteria.
- U21 and Senior divisions will operate as the Phase 1 Qualification Event for the early 2028 Phase 2 National Championships.
- No U21 or Senior National Champion title will be awarded at Phase 1. The first-place athlete will be recognized as the Phase 1 Winner, and all four medalists will qualify to Phase 2.

The U21 and Senior Two-Phase Model

Beginning with the May 2027 event, the U21 and Senior pathway separates qualification from final National Championship and Team Selection. Phase 1 creates broad national access through the combined event. Phase 2 brings together the strongest eligible athletes in each category for the final championship and international selection competition.

PHASE 1 May 2027 Qualification Event Top four medalists advance	QUALIFICATION WINDOW May 2027 –registration deadline Pan-Am and WKF ranking pathways added	PHASE 2 February 2028 National Championships National champions and Pan-Am roster determined
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Who Qualifies to Phase 2?

Each U21 or Senior category may include up to 10 athletes. A category may contain fewer athletes when positions overlap, remain vacant or are not claimed.

Maximum	Qualification Pathway	Requirement
4 athletes	Phase 1 medalists	The four medalists from the corresponding U21 or Senior category at the May 2027 combined National Championships.
Up to 2	2027 Senior / U21 Pan-American athletes	Athletes selected through the January 2027 U21/Senior event who represented Canada and competed in the exact U21/Senior category at the 2027 Senior & U21 Pan-American Championships.
Up to 2	WKF top-50 athletes	The top 2 highest-ranked otherwise-unqualified athletes within the WKF top 50 in the exact category. The ranking snapshot will be taken one month before the Phase 2 registration deadline.
Up to 2	2027 U21/Senior Pan-American athletes	Athletes who represented Canada and competed in the corresponding U21/Senior discipline and weight category at the 2027 Senior & U21 Pan-American Championships. Example 1: a U21 female -50 kg athlete qualifies into the Senior female -50 kg Phase 2 category. Example 2: a Senior female -50kg athlete qualifies into the U21 female -50kg Phase 2 category, if age eligible according to the age matrix of the event.

Duplicate and Vacant Positions

- A Senior or U21 Pan-American qualification position does not cascade when the athlete is already qualified as a Phase 1 medalist; the position remains vacant.
- A WKF ranking position may pass to the next highest-ranked otherwise-eligible athlete, provided that athlete is still ranked within the top 50 in the exact category.
- If an eligible U21/Senior Pan-American athlete does not register, that position remains vacant.
- Except for the top-50 ranking pathway described above, unclaimed or duplicate positions are not reallocated.

Phase 2 National Championships

The Phase 2 National Championships will aim to be late February each year and will be the final U21 and Senior National Championship and Pan-American Team Selection Event. The first event delivered fully under this model will take place in February 2028.

Competition Format

- Each category may include up to 10 qualified athletes.
- Athletes will compete in round-robin pools followed by a finals bracket, in accordance with applicable WKF competition rules.
- The Phase 2 event will determine the U21 and Senior National Champions.
- Para Karate team will be selected at this event directly, no need for Phase 1 qualification

Team Selection Outcome

- The top two athletes in each eligible category will qualify for the applicable U21 or Senior Pan-American Championships, subject to the National Team selection criteria and athlete acceptance requirements.
- Final placements from first through fourth will establish the ranked National Team roster and replacement order for the category.
- Any international event entries, funding decisions, athlete commitments and replacement processes will continue to be governed by the applicable National Team criteria.

Registration and Program Administration

- Athletes will qualify for and register in National Championship events through their Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization under the established provincial team process.
- PTSO team management, coach accreditation and athlete eligibility requirements remain in effect.
- The applicable National Team Selection Policy and annual Junior, Senior and Para selection guides remain the governing documents for eligibility, appeals, withdrawals, replacements, category changes, medical matters and other selection details.
- This overview explains the championship delivery model. Where a conflict exists, the approved National Team criteria and published event regulations will prevail.

Key Takeaways

One combined national event will be delivered in May. Junior teams will be selected directly at that event. U21 and Senior athletes will use May as Phase 1 qualification, while the following Jan/Feb Phase 2 National Championships will award national titles and finalize the Pan-American roster. The model provides a predictable, transparent pathway while allowing athletes to peak closer to their principal international competition.

Implementation Timeline

Date	Program Milestone
Third week of January 2027	Transition U21 & Senior National Event; selects the 2027 U21/Senior Pan-American teams under the existing cycle.
Mid-May 2027	Combined National Championships; Junior team selection and first U21/Senior Phase 1 Qualification Event.
February 2028	First Phase 2 U21 & Senior National Championships under the new model; national titles and 2028 Pan-American roster determined.