



**WKF**

# **World Ranking Rules**

**(2026)**



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## **WKF WORLD RANKING RULES**

### **1. General Regulations**

1.1 These rules regulate the calculation method and administration of the WKF World Ranking and Individual World Senior Championships standing.

1.2 Modification of the WKF World Ranking Rules shall be approved by the WKF EC via a proposal from the WKF Rules and Ranking Commission to the WKF President.

### **2. WKF World Ranking**

2.1 The WKF World Ranking indicates the position of athletes according to the points obtained at WKF Official Events and is applicable only to the individual categories defined in **SECTION (WKF EVENTS) - Article 5**. The points system for each discipline is defined under **SECTION (WKF EVENTS) – Article 4** .

#### **2.2. WKF Official Events**

WKF Official Events are published on the WKF Official Sports Activities Calendar on a yearly basis; a document, which is approved by the WKF EC and available on the WKF [website](#). The different events that count for ranking purposes are specified under **SECTION (WKF EVENTS) – Article 1**.

Should a WKF Official Event (e.g. Continental Championships) decide to change its dates once the WKF Official Sports Activities Calendar has been approved by the WKF EC and the new dates enter into conflict with any other event that is already approved and published on the WKF Official Sport Activities Calendar, then the points obtained by athletes at this event will not count for ranking purposes and the Official Event may be removed from the WKF Official Sports Activities Calendar.

### **3. WKF Standings for Specific Events**

#### **3.1 Standing**

This is defined as a specific ranking indicating the position of an athlete according to specific events within a defined period (e.g., a qualification period).

#### **3.2 Karate 1 – Premier League Standing**

For the Karate 1 Premier League Standing, the applicable criteria are as follows:

- (1) All points from all Karate 1 Premier League Events count towards the Karate 1 Premier League Standing, starting from 0 at the beginning of each season.
- (2) The Karate 1 Premier League season starts each calendar year with the first event after 1<sup>st</sup> January and finishes with the last event before 31<sup>st</sup> December of the same calendar year.
- (3) After the final Karate 1 Premier League Event of a season has concluded, those competitors ranked 1<sup>st</sup> on the Karate 1 Premier League Standing, in each individual category, will be pronounced the Grand Winners providing they have met the minimum requirements as can be seen in the Karate 1 Premier League organizing rules.
- (4) Points decay will be as indicated in **SECTION (WKF EVENTS) – Article 1**.
- (5) Should there remain a tie and a position in the Karate 1 Premier League Standing is still to be determined, then the following criteria will be applicable (with reference to the current season):
  - Highest number of Karate 1 Premier Leagues won. If still tied, then:
    - Highest number of Silver Medals.
    - Highest number of Bronze Medals.
  - Total number of bouts won.
  - Greatest point difference between points scored in favor and points

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scored against.

- Highest number of points in favor
- Least number of points against.

### 3.3 Individual World Senior Championship (IWSCh) Standing

WKF Individual World Senior Championships (IWSCh) has a 2-year qualification Period. The period starts with, and includes, the previous IWSCh as the first opportunity to obtain points within the Qualification Period and ends with the last counting competition prior to the applicable IWSCh..

**The applicable criteria as follows:**

- (1) At the beginning of each cycle defined by the qualification period, the standing will start with the 50% of the points earned from the last Individual World Senior Championship at the beginning of the qualification period with no point decay.
- (2) All points earned in the Karate 1 Premier League and Continental Championships events within the qualification period will count towards the IWSCh Standing with no point decay.
- (3) If there is a tie in the IWSCh Standing, then the following criteria will be applicable counting the Karate 1 Premier League and Continental Championships:
  - Highest number of Gold Medals won. If still tied, then:
    - Highest number of Silver Medals.
    - Highest number of Bronze Medals.
  - Total number of bouts won.
  - Greatest point difference between points scored in favor and points scored against.
  - Highest number of points in favor.
  - Least number of points against.

## 4. WKF Event Ranking

The Event Ranking is defined as a static file, which reflects on the ranking on the opening day of the online registration for a given event.

## WKF EVENTS

### 1. WKF Official Events, Event Factor and Points Decay

		<u>Points</u>	
		<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Year</u>
Continental Championships	WKF Official Event	Event Factor	
	World Championships	12	100% 50%
	African Championships	6	100% 50% (*)
	Asian Championships	6	100% 50% (*)
	European Championships	6	100% 50% (*)
	Pan American Championships	6	100% 50% (*)
Karate 1	Oceania Championships	6	100% 50% (*)
	Premier League	6	100% 50%
	Series A (**)	5	100% 50%
	Youth League	4	100% 50%

**(\*)NOTE:** The points from both Continental Senior Championships within a qualification period are counted. Should any of the Continental Federations be unable to host a Continental Championships on a yearly basis, NO points decay will be applicable during the second year; that is, the year between Championships,

**(\*\*)NOTE:** The top 32 athletes in the world ranking will be allowed to participate in the last Karate 1 Series A just before the IWSCh and TWSCh every year during the qualification period without extra points in the WKF World Ranking or the World Championships standings.

#### 1.1 Addition of New Points

The addition of new points to the WKF World Ranking, from a given event, will be applicable the day after this event has taken place. The event end date is the last day of competition of the entire event.

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### 1.2 **Points Decay**

Points decay in the WKF World Ranking, from a given event, will be applicable one year after an event has taken place.

No points decay will be applicable in the WKF Individual World Senior Championships (IWSCh) standing.

### 2. **Points by Place**

The table below indicates the different positions (places) an athlete along with the corresponding awarded points.

Competition Type	Karate 1 Youth League	Karate 1 Series A	Continental Champ.	World Champ.	Karate 1 Premier League
Components	Elimination				Round Robin (R-r)
Factor	4	5	6	12	6
1 <sup>st</sup> place	100	100	100	100	100
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	70	70	70	70	70
3 <sup>rd</sup> places	40	40	40	40	40
5 <sup>th</sup> places	30	30	30	30	30
7 <sup>th</sup> places	20	20	20	20	20
9 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> place	10	10	10	10	
Quarterfinalists not in repechage *	20	20	20	20	
Bout-Rounds Won/Passed	10	10	10	10	10
Kata Qualification Medal Round	10	10	10	10	
Participation *	5	5	5	5	5
Round Robin (R-r) Group Places**	1 <sup>st</sup> Place				
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place				
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place				
	4 <sup>th</sup> Place				

### Notes

\* Participation points are only applicable once the competitor has participated in at least one bout of the competition.

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Points for byes (walk-overs) only count if the athlete wins a subsequent match in the same category in the same competition.

**For example,**

→ **1<sup>st</sup> Round - Bye:** *No bout takes place and the athlete only gets 5 participation points.*

→ **2<sup>nd</sup> Round:** *A bout takes place.*

- a. Athlete wins: *Total points assigned: 5 participation points*
  - + 10 points for 2<sup>nd</sup> Round win*
  - + 10 points for 1<sup>st</sup> Round win*
  - x place points**
- b. Athlete loses: *Total points assigned: 5 participation points*
  - x place points**

- *For a bout won by “KIKEN” (an opponent is assigned to a bout that does not take place or does not come to an end), 10 points will be awarded to the winning competitor.*

\*\* In Round robin, the first place in each group will receive a total of 30 points regardless of the number of points obtained previously. On the other hand, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> places will receive a minimum number of points, 20, 10, 5, respectively, unless the total achieved were higher.

**For example,**

*If Athlete A is in 4<sup>th</sup> place because of a win in the 1<sup>st</sup> and loses the rest, he would receive 10 points for Bouts Won. 5 points minimum is not added in addition to the 10 points.*

*If Athlete B ties in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a tie in the 1<sup>st</sup> bout, loss in the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> bout, consequently, earns 0 points, he would be awarded the minimum 10 points.*

### 3. Points Calculating System

#### 3.1 Kumite & Kata

Round Robin	
a. Participation:	5 per event
b. Round Robin Group Place	30
c. Bouts - Rounds won*	10 per win
d. Place:	As defined in "2. Points by Place"
<b>e. Total points:</b>	<b><u>(a + b + c + d) × Event Factor</u></b>

E.g. the points obtained by an athlete who achieved 1st place at the Karate 1 Premier League.

Event	(Participation)	+R-r Group Place	+Bout-Round Won	+Place)	x Event Factor	= Total Points
Karate 1 Premier League	(5	+ 30	+ (3 x 10)	+100)	x 6	= 990

Elimination	
a. Participation:	5 per event
b. Bouts-Rounds Won/Passed	10 per bout - per round
c. Qualification to Medal Round	10
d. Place:	As defined in Article 2.1
<b>e. Total points (Kata):</b>	<b><u>(a + b + c + d) × Event Factor</u></b>
<b>f. Total points (Kumite):</b>	<b><u>(a + b + d) × Event Factor</u></b>

E.g. the points obtained by an athlete who achieved 1<sup>st</sup> place in Kata at the Karate 1 Series A.

Event	(Participation)	+ Bout-Round Won/Passed	Qualification to Medal Round	+ Place)	x Event Factor	= Total Points
Karate 1 Series A	(5	+ (4 x 10)	+10	+ 100)	x 5	= 775

**NOTE:\*** A bye will not be considered as a bout won, with the exception of that stated under **SECTION (WKF EVENTS)** – Article 2 Notes.

## 4. Age and Weight Categories & Changes

An athlete's age is defined by the first day of competition of an entire event. The different weight categories across age categories are as follows:

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES							
Senior (Age: Kata+16/Kumite+18)				U21 (Age: 18/19/20)			
Individual Kata		Individual Kumite		Individual Kata		Individual Kumite	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		-60kg	-50kg			-60kg	-50kg
		-67kg	-55kg			-67kg	-55kg
		-75kg	-61kg			-75kg	-61kg
		-84kg	-68kg			-84kg	-68kg
		+84kg	+68kg			+84kg	+68kg

Junior (Age: 16/17)				Cadet (Age 14/15)			
Individual Kata		Individual Kumite		Individual Kata		Individual Kumite	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		-55kg	-48kg			-52kg	-47kg
		-61kg	-53kg			-57kg	-54kg
		-68kg	-59kg			-63kg	-61kg
		-76kg	-66kg			-70kg	+61kg
		+76kg	+66kg			+70kg	

\* Note: In 2023, the old female categories (Cadet +54kg, Junior +59kg) will be split into 2 different categories each (Cadet -61kg & +61kg, Junior -66kg & +66kg). Therefore, the points earned in the old category will be replicated in both the new categories while maintaining their respective decays.

### 4.1. Kumite

#### Junior to Senior

When an athlete changes age category from Junior Kumite to Senior Kumite, 50% of those points obtained in the Junior category of the WKF World Ranking will be dragged into the Senior category of WKF World Ranking. This will occur at the next ranking update after the athlete has turned 18 years old.

These dragged points will remain on the athlete's profile for one year, at which point all points dragged from the Junior category into the Senior category of the WKF World Ranking will be erased from the athlete's profile.

The system drags these points automatically across from Junior to Senior, reallocating them as follows:

Male Category		Female Category	
Junior	Senior	Junior	Senior
-55kg / -61kg	-60kg	-48kg	-50kg
-68kg	-67kg	-53kg	-55kg
-76kg	-75kg	-59kg	-61kg
+76kg	-84kg	-66kg	-68kg
Manual Request	+84kg	+66kg	+68kg

#### Cadet to Junior\*

When an athlete changes age category from Cadet Kumite to Junior Kumite, 50% of those points obtained in the Cadet category of the WKF World Ranking will be dragged into the Junior category of WKF World Ranking. This will occur at the next ranking update **after** the athlete has turned 16 years old.

These dragged points will remain on the athlete's profile for one year, at which point all points dragged from the Cadet category into the Junior category of the WKF World Ranking will be erased from the athlete's profile.

The system drags these points across automatically from Cadet to Junior, reallocating them as follows:

Male Category		Female Category	
Cadet	Junior	Cadet	Junior
-52kg	-55kg	-47kg	-48kg
-57kg	-61kg	-54kg	-53kg
-63kg	-68kg	-61kg	-59kg
-70kg	-76kg	+61kg	-66kg
+70kg	+76kg	Manual Request	+66kg

In either of these two cases, if an athlete has competed in two different Junior or Cadet weight categories, the transition of 50% of the points will be done category by category.

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For example:

- 500 points obtained in Male Junior -61 kg → 250 points in Male Senior -60 kg
- 250 points obtained in Male Junior -68 kg → 125 points in Male Senior -67 kg
  
- 300 points obtained in Female Cadet -47kg → 150 points in Female Junior -48 kg
- 75 points obtained in Female Cadet -54kg → 37,5 points in Female Junior -53 kg

If after the automatic transition, specific changes to weight categories are required, the National Federation to which the athlete belongs can proceed with an official request addressed to [wkf@wkf.net](mailto:wkf@wkf.net). This request may only be done once under the conditions described below and will be processed at the next ranking update after the request has been received.

### Transition Points Changes

**Condition 1:** Athlete who has not yet competed in new age category, their transition points can move to any category in the age group.

**Condition 2:** If their Transition points are in category X, and the athlete has competed in category Y, they can only move the points to category Y.

**Condition 3:** If their Transition Points are in category X and the athlete has competed in category x; the transition points cannot be moved.

## 4.2. Kata

### Junior to Senior

When an athlete changes age category from Kata Junior to Kata Senior, 50% of those points obtained in the Junior category of the WKF World Ranking will be dragged into the Senior category of the WKF World Ranking. This will occur at the next ranking update after the athlete has turned 18 years old.

These dragged points will remain on the athlete's profile for one year, at which point all points dragged from the Junior category into the Senior category of the WKF World Ranking will be erased from the athlete's profile.

### Cadet to Junior

When an athlete changes age category from Kata Cadet to Kata Junior, 50% of those points obtained in the Cadet category of the WKF World Ranking will be dragged into the Junior category of the WKF World Ranking. This will occur at the next ranking update

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after the athlete has turned 16 years old.

These dragged points will remain on the athlete's profile for one year, at which point all points dragged from the Cadet category into the Junior category of the WKF World Ranking will be erased from the athlete's profile.

## 5. Senior Weight Category Changes

Senior Weight Category Changes entails 50% of the category's points being transferred to another category for which the athlete has no ranking yet (has not yet competed) for the duration of 1 year, while the original category completely loses all its points. This change must be communicated between January 1st to 31st the athlete's details (full name, country, athletes code, and the desired weight category) to the WKF.

A competitor may change weight category directly with copy to their National Federation, or through the National Federation to the WKF.

This procedure is not to be applied to athletes whose junior categories points have automatically transitioned to the senior category at 50% for 1 year. All requests will be updated at the next ranking update.

### Restoring Original Weight Category

The athlete may restore their original senior weight category if it is communicated between the initial request in January and June 30<sup>th</sup>. In this case, the original points are restored including the corresponding point decay.

The points earned through any participation in the Karate 1 circuit in the new weight category will be eliminated. If the Continental Championships were earned in the original category, the points are transferred to the original / restored category.

Consequently, there will be points in two different weight categories.

For example, an Athlete changes from the original -55kg category to the -61kg category, competes in -61kg at the AKF Championships, and finally, requests to restore the original category -55kg. There would be one profile with original category -55kg (previous points restored, new points eliminated) and one profile with -61kg (AKF Championship).

## 6. Nationality

Nationality changes or changes to an athlete's representative NF are subject to the corresponding clauses in the WKF Organizing Rules. In the event that an athlete changes nationality or NF, according to the regulations in force, all points from the applicable WKF World Ranking category will be transferred to the athlete's new nationality.

However, if when an athlete changes nationality, this change is from one different continent to another, points will be transferred to the athlete's new nationality, with the exception of any points awarded at continental competitions of the athlete's previous nationality. These will be removed from the total number of points on the athlete's new profile.

## 7. Continental Championships

At Continental Championships, National Federations will be limited to the points of one competitor per category counting towards the WKF World Ranking and any applicable Standing in force at the time. National Federations will be required to indicate the name of this competitor during the registration phase, ***prior*** to the event, via the online registration process.

## 8. Maternity

Any athlete who becomes pregnant can request their ranking points to be frozen for a maximum period of 15 months. In order to implement this freeze, the National Federation must send written confirmation to the WKF, along with a medical certificate, confirming that the athlete will now cease competition due to pregnancy. Points will be frozen according to the WKF Ranking on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month following the date of the received request. They will be frozen for a maximum of 15 months – of which a maximum of 6 can be after the birth. If an athlete wishes to return to competition before the end of this 15-month period, the National Federation must send written confirmation of this, two months prior to the athlete's first event back. In accordance with the above, points will be unfrozen on the first of the month following their first event back or on the first of the month following the completion of this 15-month maternity period.

## 9. Other General Rules

9.1. Athletes will appear in the WKF World Ranking only when they have received points in at least one WKF Official Event.

9.2. **Continuity of competitors in the WKF World Ranking**

Athletes, who do not participate in a WKF Official Event for two consecutive years will be removed from the WKF World Ranking.

Athletes will be removed from the Cadet, Junior and U21 Rankings on the first day of the month following the applicable birthday (16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>).

In the event of an athlete needing proof of WKF World Ranking status on a specific date (within the two years preceding the request), a written request should be sent to the WKF.

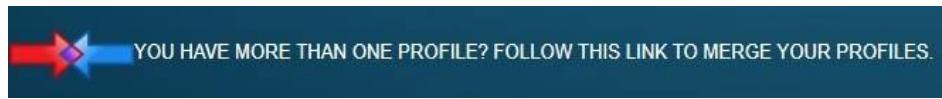
9.3. Points will be awarded to athletes **ONLY ONCE PER EVENT AND CATEGORY**, in the WKF World Ranking category in which the athlete has competed respectively. A competitor can compete in two different age categories, for example, U21 and Senior, but this athlete will have a separate WKF World Ranking for each age category. The same principle applies to weight categories.

9.4. For those U21 athletes also competing at Senior events, points obtained at any Senior event (Karate 1 as well as Continental and World Championships) will be included in the Senior WKF World Ranking of the athlete.

9.5. **Athletes with Two Different WKF IDs**

Should an athlete be registered at a competition with a different WKF ID from the one already assigned to the athlete in the WKF World Ranking, the points obtained at the given competition will be assigned to the WKF ID that the athlete has competed under according to **SECTION 2.1** above.

As a result, the athlete will have points divided under two different WKF IDs, having been obtained at different competitions. If the athlete wishes to merge the points into the same profile, an online request can be made by clicking on the following banner:



*IMPORTANT NOTE: merged profiles will not be considered for qualification purposes or event registration (e.g. the Karate 1 Premier League) until the update of the World Ranking following the merger request, providing it complies with the specific qualification or registration timelines applicable.*

## **WKF PARA-KARATE KATA COMPETITION EVENTS**

### **1. Introduction**

Para-Karate Kata refers to a modality of Karate in which competition rules have been established to accommodate fair competitions among athletes with impairments. Para-Karate Kata is focused on developing the discipline of karate for wheelchair users, the visually impaired and intellectual impaired athletes.

This section compiles the Para-Karate Kata Competition event specific rules into one section that differ from the previously mentioned rules but does not encompass other general rules. The later can be found in previous sections within the document.

### **2. WKF Official Events and Points Decay**

<u>Points</u>			
<u>WKF Official Event</u>	<u>Event Factor</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Year</u>
World Championships	12	100%	50% (*)
Continental Championships	6	100%	50% (**)

*The Continental Championship points are considered for World Ranking after January 1st, 2022 at 00:00.*

*(\*) World Championship point decay in 2<sup>nd</sup> year continues until the next world championship regardless of the month... i.e. WC Oct 2020 (year 1), Oct 2021 (Year 2) - WC 2022.*

*(\*\*) Should any of the Continental Federations be unable to host a Continental Championships on a yearly basis, NO points decay will be applicable during the second year; that is, the year between Championships.*

### **3. Points Per Place**

#### **Para-Karate Kata Competition**

A diagram of how athletes progress through a Para-Karate Kata Competition is illustrated on the next page and a table indicating the different positions an athlete can finish in, with the corresponding points awarded, can be found below.

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### 4. Points Calculation System

#### Para-Karate Kata Competition

a. Participation:	5 per event
b. Rounds Won	10 per round won
c. Group Winner next round	30
d. Place:	As defined in Article 2.1
<b>e. Total points per event:</b>	<b><math>(a+b+c+d) \times \text{Event Factor}</math></b>

For example, the points obtained by an athlete who has achieved 1<sup>st</sup> Place at the World Championships.

(Participation	Rounds Won		Group Winner	+Place)	$\times$ Event Factor	= Total Points
(5	+(3x10)		+30	+100)	$\times 12$	= 1980

#### 4. Individual Categories

An athlete's age is defined by the first day of competition of an entire event.

Para-Karate Kata Senior (Age 16+)					
Blind/Visual Impaired		Wheelchair Users		Intellectually Impaired	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female