



Ulster Karate-Do Federation



Association Refereeing criteria and structure

in the Ulster Karate-Do Federation

Refereeing Status and Structure within the UKF

Refereeing officials set an example to their fellow karate-ka in all belt grades, to all competitors and coaches and also to members of the public. At any given time in any karate competition the verbal and non-verbal actions of refereeing officials are witnessed by many people such as the general public, other officials and fellow karate-ka. **It is therefore important that other officials, fellow karate-ka and members of the public see each refereeing official as being professional, competent, knowledgeable about the rules, respectful to others and fair to competitors when they are officiating at karate-do competitions.**

A full and intensive refereeing programme has taken place within the UKF since March 2007. After 4 years, the desired outcomes have been met. In order to develop further develop refereeing within the UKF, officials will be able to avail of at least 1 local Association Refereeing course each year. This course will most likely be held at the same time as the UKF Invitation Tournament.

In order to maintain their qualification or seek a higher qualification, Refereeing officials must complete a practical assessment and a theoretical (written) examination each year. The practical assessment will occur at the UKF Invitation tournament or other similar tournament (National Championships). The theoretical (written examination) on the rules will be taken either at the UKF Invitation Tournament or on a date specified by the UKF Chief Referee. Qualifications cannot be made unless both assessment parts have been completed. It is each official's responsibility to prepare for their written and practical assessments at the specified events.

Officials who demonstrate considerable improvement in their practical competence and in their theoretical knowledge and whose attitude is respectful to competitors and other refereeing and coaching officials will be considered for advancement to a higher refereeing qualification. There is no specific time limit between each qualification but all officials must gain adequate experience and be practically competent and knowledgeable about the rules before being considered for that qualification. Officials can choose either to: **a) meet the criteria and maintain their qualification or b) seek to advance to a higher qualification.** Before being considered for advancement officials must gain additional appropriate experience elsewhere in judging and in refereeing and demonstrate the characteristics of being: **i) interested in refereeing, ii) knowledgeable of the rules of kumite and kata, iii) practically competent on the Tatami for that specific qualification and iv) respectful of and to other officials and competitors.**

It is a Coaching and an Insurance requirement that all Coaches and Assistant Coaches must update their refereeing knowledge each year. **Certificates of Participation** will be issued only to attendees for these purposes and will be valid for 1 year. Each year, all Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Refereeing Officials up to and including Association Senior Referee must take a written examination. The UKF Chief Referee will present **Certificates of Award** to those officials who meet the criteria for advancement and are theoretically and practically competent for that status.

All qualifications awarded by the UKF Chief Referee at Association Level, up to and including Association Senior Referee, to UKF members and non-members, will be valid for 1 year and will remain valid as long as the Official i) remains a member of the UKF, ii) annually attends a Referee course, iii) Referees at 2 UKF events each year, and iv) meets the criteria specified for the qualification.

The UKF Chief Referee may award Association qualifications to non-UKF members. However, such awards will be made with the knowledge of the candidate's association. In order for them to maintain their qualification, they must annually meet the referee criteria of their own association.

In all cases, it is the Official's responsibility to annually maintain their Association qualification and to meet the required criteria.

UKF Referee Committee:

The UKF Chief Referee will be appointed by the UKF General Committee. In turn, the UKF Chief Referee may invite 2 other experienced UKF Referees to form a Refereeing committee with him. These people must have National and International experience and will be the highest qualified referees in the UKF. The Referee Committee will advise and assist the UKF Chief Referee in making decisions and to develop and promote Refereeing within the UKF. The UKF Chief Referee will be the chair of the UKF Refereeing Committee.

Decisions reached by the UKF Referee committee that impact on refereeing within the UKF or its members will be reported to the UKF General Committee and Club Coaches as soon as possible. If necessary, the UKF Referee Committee will report to each UKF General Committee meeting. The UKF Referee Committee will submit a report on the previous year's progress at the annual UKF AGM.

Structure of Refereeing Qualifications

1. Association Tournament Official:

This official must be at least 16 years of age and have attended UKF refereeing courses and officiated at UKF competitions. Their job is to record scores, penalties, results, manage the time keeping and assist in the organisation and running of UKF competitions. **All refereeing officials are part of the refereeing panel and are expected to perform these duties.**

2. Association Kansa (Arbitrator):

- i)** To be awarded the status of Association Kansa, the official must: **a)** be a practicing karate-ka; **b)** have been assessed in a practical examination and **c)** have achieved a score of 70% or above in 2 consecutive written examinations set by the UKF Chief Referee.
- ii)** **Each year**, to maintain their status, the Association Kansa status, the official must: **a)** attend 1 full UKF refereeing course; **b)** officiate in 2 UKF competitions; **c)** achieve an score of 70% or above in an examination set by the UKF Chief Referee.
- iii)** Before being considered for the status of Association Judge, each year the Kansa must: **a)** attend all UKF refereeing courses; **b)** gain practical experience in all UKF competitions; **c)** achieve a score of 80% or above in an examination set by the UKF Chief Referee.

3. Association Judge:

- i)** To be awarded the status of Association Judge, each year the official must: **a)** be a practicing karate-ka; **b)** have had relevant practical experience at judging in all UKF competitions; **c)** have achieved a score of 80% or above in a minimum of 2 consecutive written examinations set by the UKF Chief Referee and **d)** have been assessed as being competent in a practical examination for Association Judge status.
- ii)** **Each year**, in order to maintain their Association Judge status, the official must: **a)** attend 1 full UKF referee course; **b)** officiate and gain practical experience in 2 UKF competitions; and **c)** achieve an exam score of 80% or above in an examination set by the UKF Chief Referee.
- iii)** Before being considered for the position of Association Referee, each year the official must: **a)** be very competent at Association Judge level, **b)** have attended more than the required number of UKF referee courses; **c)** achieve a written exam score of 90% or above; **d)** have gained

appropriate practice as a referee in UKF and in other bone-fide karate-do competitions or have had relevant National experience in competing or coaching.

4. Association Referee:

- i)** To be awarded the status of Association Referee, the official must: **a)** be a practicing karate-ka; **b)** have gained appropriate practice as a referee in UKF and in other bone-fide karate-do competitions or have had relevant National experience in competing or coaching; **c)** have been assessed as being competent in a practical examination for Association Referee status; and **d)** have since their Association Judge qualification achieved a score of 90% or above in a minimum of 2 consecutive written examinations set by the UKF Chief Referee.

- ii) Each year,** to maintain their Association Referee status the official must: **a)** attend all UKF refereeing courses; **b)** referee at all UKF competitions and **c)** achieve an exam score of 90% or above in a written examination set by the UKF Chief Referee.

- iii)** Before being considered for the position of Association Senior Referee status, the candidate is encouraged to attend National, European and World competitions and since achieving their Association Referee Status they must: **a)** be very confident and practically competent as an Association Referee; **b)** actively demonstrate respect for all competitors and other officials; **c)** be very knowledgeable in the current Rules of Kumite and Kata competition and since their Association Referee Status have achieved a score of 90% or above in 2 consecutive written examinations set by the UKF Chief Referee; and **d)** have gained relevant experience at Local, National (Ireland and Great Britain) and / or in International competitions (Refereeing, Competing or Coaching).

5. Association Senior Referee:

- i)** To be awarded the status of Association Senior Referee, the official must: **a)** be a practicing karate-ka; **b)** have gained appropriate experience at Local and National, and European or World level; **c)** have achieved at least Judge status at European or World Level, **d)** have been assessed as being competent in a practical examination for Association Senior Referee status; and **e)** achieved a score of 90% or above in a minimum of 2 examinations set by the UKF Chief Referee.

- ii) Each year,** to maintain their qualification, the Association Senior Referee each year must: **a)** attend all UKF refereeing courses; **b)** referee at all UKF competitions and **c)** maintain their National, European or World Judge status; **d)** obtain a score of 90% or above in written examinations set by the UKF Chief Referee.

6. UKF Chief Referee:

- i)** The UKF Chief Referee will be the most experienced and the highest qualified Referee in the UKF. He or she must be a practicing karate-ka who has achieved a minimum of Referee status at European or World Level and who maintains that status by actively refereeing each year in Local, National, and European and / or World competitions.

- ii)** The appointment of the UKF Chief Referee will be made by the UKF General Committee on a proposal from a full member of the UKF General Committee.

- iii)** The UKF Chief Referee is responsible for the education and training of all UKF Refereeing officials The UKF Chief Referee will oversee and assess the performance of all the UKF refereeing officials and will be responsible for awarding Association Refereeing qualifications to successful officials.

- iv)** Where the UKF Chief Referee is also a member of the National Governing Body Refereeing Council, he or she will also be responsible for assessing and awarding National Referee qualifications in categories 1 – 7 above to successful officials. However, National awards will only be valid providing the official maintains their National refereeing qualification by gaining relevant refereeing experience each year at National championships.

Signed: Columba McLaughlin
Columba McLaughlin
WUKF Chief Referee
IKAB Referee Council

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