



Ulster Karate-Do Federation



Refereeing Status and Structure

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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.

In the UKF, Officials can qualify at **Association Level** and at **National level**. Also, Non-UKF Officials are allowed to access this programme. All Officials must be competent in the hand and flag signals used by the Judge(s) and the Centre Referee. In addition, those qualifying as **Kansa or National Judge must obtain 80% or above in the theoretical examination. However, National Referees and National Senior Referees must obtain 90% or above in the theoretical examination. A Certificate of Award**, which will be valid for 2 years, will be presented where Officials are successful:

Association Level

Kansa (Arbitrator)
Association Judge
Association Referee
Association Senior Referee
Association Tatami Chief Referee

National Level

Kansa (Arbitrator)
National Judge
National Referee
National Senior Referee
National Tatami Chief Referee

Please Note: There is no automatic advancement from one qualification to a higher qualification. Each year, candidates **MUST** gain relevant practical experience at appropriate competitions and demonstrate their knowledge of rules in written examinations.

In order to maintain their qualification refereeing officials must complete a practical assessment and a theoretical (written) examination each year. The practical assessment will occur at a Karate Tournament that is on par with the qualification sought. That is when a National Referee wants to maintain their National Qualification they must do so by refereeing at National Championships. The theoretical (written examination) on the rules will be taken prior to the practical assessment. Qualifications

cannot be awarded 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.

All Association and National qualifications awarded will be valid for 2 years and will remain valid as long as the Official annually attends a Referee course, maintains their score in the Referee Exam and maintains their practice by refereeing at a minimum of 3 bone fide events each year. A **Certificate of Participation** will be issued to those who meet these criteria. Officials seeking a higher qualification must show evidence of additional practical experience and commitment since their last qualification.

International Referee Qualifications:

The award of a National qualification allows a person to attend and participate in International events. However, please note that European and World qualifications can only be awarded by the World body at World and European events. Also, qualifications at European and World events can only be maintained by Officiating at these events each year.