

Karate Manitoba, January 26, 2012

Competition and Officials Development

Karate Manitoba is recognized by the Provincial Government's Sport Manitoba as the Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) responsible for karate in the province. As the PSO, we are a member of [Karate Canada](#)¹, the National Sport Organization (NSO) for karate recognized by the Federal Government's Sport Canada and the [Canadian Olympic Committee](#)². Although karate is not yet an Olympic Sport, it is a sport in the [Pan American Games](#)³. The Pan American Games [only includes those sports](#)⁴ governed by International Sport Federations recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The IOC [Recognised International Sport Federation](#)⁵ for karate is the [World Karate Federation](#)⁶ (WKF). For these reasons, Karate Canada is the Canadian member of the WKF and uses the WKF rules of competition. And for these reasons as well, Karate Manitoba needs to use the WKF rules of competition. References for this information are provided below.

Therefore, starting with the next Karate Manitoba provincials, planned for May 12, Karate Manitoba will be using the World Karate Federation (WKF) rules of competition for its tournaments. This will align Manitoba with the other provincial members of Karate Canada all of whom already use the WKF rules of competition. The WKF rules are developed through the international collaboration of all the major styles of karate in the world in order to fairly evaluate all competitors, independent of style. The added benefit of using these rules is that our athletes will be better prepared when they move to the national and international arena of karate competition. As a point of interest, karate was among the [seven sports shortlisted](#)⁷ for the 2018 Olympics. Although golf was chosen as the new Olympic sport, karate remains on the shortlist.

Please note that this direction is not meant to detract or diminish in any way member participation in their current tournaments. We believe that all opportunities for training and competition are beneficial to the development of our members and karate as a whole.

The WKF rules of competition are available for download [from the WKF website](#)⁸. These specific rules are set for international level competition. In following with Karate Canada and other member provinces, we will be creating minor amendments to certain procedural aspects of the rules to fit our needs (e.g. attire restrictions, safety equipment required, length of bouts for kyu belts, weight classifications, and match area size). However, the overall rules and judging criteria will not be changed.

One of the critical success factors for a tournament is having well-trained and qualified officials. We estimate needing approximately 20 officials trained in the WKF rules in order to run our tournaments. To meet this objective, Karate Manitoba is launching an officials' development ramp-up program. Registration in the program will be required in order to officiate at the tournaments. We are planning multiple sessions to facilitate participation. We believe that practice is essential in improving the quality of refereeing and hope that adding more sessions will increase everyone's abilities. Only by learning the rules and practicing regularly will we be able to ensure that competitors are judged fairly and appropriately.

Four regular clinics are being planned prior to the provincial tournament. The total cost for the entire ramp-up program will be \$40. As well, individuals interested in competing at the tournaments are invited and encouraged to attend the sessions. This will help them learn the rules and also help the officials in their training by holding practice bouts to officiate with actual competitors. We officials need you to help us become better officials so that you can have the best officiating during the tournaments! There will be no cost for attending only as a competitor.

All black belts and brown belts, 16 yrs of age and older are invited to participate in the officials' development program.

We are also planning to bring in senior officials from Karate Canada on two occasions to run full referee courses. Each course would be on a weekend and run both days. The fee to attend either course will be \$60. Competitors are invited and encouraged to attend the courses as well.

Certification Process

Certification as an official will require registration in the ramp-up program and attendance at any two of the scheduled clinics, registration and attendance at one of the full courses, writing the kumite test and kata test, and receiving a practical assessment during the provincial tournament.

Calendar of Events (*Locations and times may be subject to change*)

- Ramp-up Program Clinics (\$40 total for access to all clinics)
 - Winnipeg: January 21, March 10, April 14, May 5
 - 1 pm to 5 pm, Charleswood Karate Dojo
 - Westman and Norman clinics available, subject to sufficient registrations
- Full Courses (\$60 for either one)
 - February 18-19, Sat 9 am to 5:30 pm & Sun, 9 am to 4:00 pm
 - Notre Dame Community Centre, 271 De La Cathedrale Ave, Winnipeg
 - With Marc Ward, Karate Canada Officials Committee
 - Apr/May (Tentative Date: Apr 21-22), Sat, 9 am to 5:30 pm & Sun, 9 am to 4:00 pm
 - Notre Dame Community Centre, 271 De La Cathedrale Ave, Winnipeg
 - With Norma Foster, Chair Karate Canada Officials Committee
- Practice time during provincial team training sessions (Free, Optional)
- Refresher Class (Free)
 - May 11, 6 pm to 8 pm, Taché School, 744 Langevin Street, Winnipeg
- Provincial Tournament
 - May 12, 9 am to 5 pm, Glenlawn Collegiate, 770 St. Mary's Road, Winnipeg
 - Officiating at tournament required for certification

Honorarium

As an incentive to encourage officials to continue their learning, the plan is that officials will receive an honorarium for officiating at Karate Manitoba tournaments, with the rates based on the level of certification of the official. The goal is that by holding a couple of tournaments per year, an official having reached a certain level of certification would at least recuperate their annual cost for officials' development.

We hope to see you at the officials' development sessions!

Karate Manitoba Officials Committee
Eugene Fillion and Dan Piché

References:

1. <http://www.karatecanada.org/>
2. <http://www.olympic.ca/en/sports/Karate/>
3. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pan_American_Games_sports
4. http://www.paso-odepa.org/pan_games_organization.aspx
5. <http://www.olympic.org/content/the-ioc/recognised-sport-federations/federation23/>
6. <http://www.wkf.net/>
7. http://www.olympic.org/Documents/Commissions_PDFfiles/Programme_commission/SEVEN_INTER_NATIONAL_FEDERATIONS_SHORT_LISTED_2016_GAMES.PDF
8. [http://www.wkf.net/images/stories/downloads/KATA and KUMITE COMPETITION RULES 7_1_EFFECTIVE 01.01.2012.pdf](http://www.wkf.net/images/stories/downloads/KATA_and_KUMITE_COMPETITION_RULES_7_1_EFFECTIVE_01.01.2012.pdf)