



WORLD TRADITIONAL KARATE-DO FEDERATION

INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONAL KARATE-DO GOVERNING BODY

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# **TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION GUIDE**

## **Judge Certification**

**2026**

**WTKF TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS GUIDE**  
**FOR**  
**JUDGE CERTIFICATION**

**I. GENERAL**

WTKF Qualified Judges must judge all WTKF official competitions.

**II. TYPE, CLASS AND AUTHORITY OF QUALIFIED JUDGES**

**A. Type**

There are two types of Qualified Judges: Kumite and Kata

**B. Class**

Each type of Qualified Judge has a Class from 1-7.

**C. Authority**

1. Because of varying qualifications, a Kata judge cannot judge a Kumite event or vice versa, however, the same individual can qualify to judge both Kumite and Kata.

2. Classes Authority

**A. Class 6, 7**

Class 6 and 7 Judge can serve as Kan-sa (Arbitrator) or Shu-shin (Referee) of National and International competitions and any other judging activities.

**B. Class 5**

Judge can serve as Shu-shin of State/Intra States or as Fuku-shin (Corner Judge) of National competitions.

**C. Class 4**

Class 4 Judge can serve as Fuku-shin of State/Intra States completion and Shu-shin of National competitions.

**D. Class 3**

Class 3 Judge can serve as Shu-shin of State/Intra States competitions.

**E. Class 2**

Class 2 Judge can serve on Shu-shin of State/Intra States competition for 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu and lower.

**F. Class 1**

Class 1 Judge can serve as Shu-shin of State/Intra States competition for 3<sup>rd</sup> Kyu and lower.

### **III. JUDGES REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS (Kumite and Kata)**

**A. Class 7**

1. Two or more years of experience as Class 6 Judge.
2. After receiving Class 6 qualifications, completion of the WTKF Judges' Promotion Course and successful completion of Class 7 Judge's examination.
3. Go-Dan or higher rank registered with the WTKF.

**B. Class 6**

1. Two or more years of experience as Class 5 Judge.
2. After receiving Class 5 qualifications, completion of the WTKF Judges' Promotion Course and successful completion of Class 6 Judge's examination.
3. Yon-Dan or higher rank registered with the WTKF.

**C. Class 5**

1. Two or more years of experience as Class 4 Judge.
2. After receiving Class 4 qualifications, completion of the WTKF Judges' Promotion Course and successful completion of Class 5 Judge's examination.
3. San-Dan or higher rank registered with the WTKF.

**D. Class 4**

1. Two or more years of experience or Class 3 Judge.

2. After receiving Class 3 qualifications, completion of the WTKF Judges' Promotion Course and successful completion of Class 4 Judge's examination.
3. Ni-Dan or higher rank registered with the WTKF.

#### **E. Class 3**

1. One year or more of experience or Class 2 Judge.
2. After receiving Class 2 qualifications, completion of the WTKF Judges' Promotion Course and successful completion of Class 3 Judge's examination.
3. Sho-Dan or higher rank registered with the WTKF.

#### **F. Class 2**

1. One year or more of experience or Class 1 Judge.
2. After receiving Class 1 qualifications, completion of the WTKF Judges' Promotion Course and successful completion of Class 2 Judge's examination.
3. 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu or higher rank registered with the WTKF.

#### **G. Class 1**

1. Completion of the WTKF Judges' Promotion Course and successful completion of Class 2 Judge's examination.
2. 3<sup>rd</sup> Kyu or higher rank registered with WTKF.

### **IV. REGISTRATION OF JUDGES QUALIFICATION**

#### **A. Registration**

Through the respective WTKF National Federation Office, send the following documents and fees to the WTKF Office:

1. Completed Qualified Judge Registration Form.
2. Copy of certification of passing of Qualified Judges Examination.
3. Qualified Judge's Registration fees, as decided by the WTKF Board of Directors.

**NOTE:** Items 1, 2 can be done on WTKF online registration portal by respective President of National Federation in lieu of paper copy.

*Remark:*

- 1) Individuals must register for Kumite and Kata separately.*
- 2) In the case of attaining a higher-class rating, a new registration must be submitted; there are no refunds of fees if previous term has not expired prior to moving to a higher class.*

## **B. Diploma**

WTKF will issue the appropriate Diploma via online system.

## **V. TERMS OF RENEWAL**

**A. The Term of a Qualified Judge is for a period of two calendar years or less, beginning from the initial date of registration to the end of the following year.**

### **B. Renewal**

For renewals before the end of the current term, send the following documents and fees through the respective National Federation Office to the WTKF Office.

1. Completed WTKF Qualified Judge Renewal Application Form.
2. Copy of certification of completion of the WTKF sanctioned Judges' Seminar or Judges' Refresher Course.
3. Verification of any technical requirements as determined by the WTKF Technical Committee.
4. Renewal fees, as decided by the WTKF Board of Directors.

**NOTE:** Items 1-3 can be done on WTKF online registration portal by respective President of National Federation in lieu of paper copy.

*Remark:*

- 1) Three (3) months after a term has expired, the registrant must begin a new registration procedure for expired Class as shown in Qualified Kata & Kumite Judges Requirement Chart.*
- 2) Upon renewal, the WTKF will issue the appropriate diploma via online system.*

## QUALIFIED KATA & KUMITE JUDGES' REQUIREMENT CHART

| Class | Required Qualification | Application Required |        | Fees Required |        | Renewal Term           |        | Required Active Experience |        |
|-------|------------------------|----------------------|--------|---------------|--------|------------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|
|       | Rank                   | Kata                 | Kumite | Kata          | Kumite | Kata                   | Kumite | Kata                       | Kumite |
| 1     | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Kyu    | Yes                  | Yes    | Yes           | Yes    | Every 2 calendar years |        | None                       |        |
| 2     | 1 <sup>st</sup> Kyu    | Yes                  | Yes    | Yes           | Yes    | Every 2 calendar years |        | 1-year after Class 1       |        |
| 3     | Sho-Dan                | Yes                  | Yes    | Yes           | Yes    | Every 2 calendar years |        | 1-year after Class 2       |        |
| Class | Required Qualification | Application Required |        | Fees Required |        | Renewal Term           |        | Required Active Experience |        |
|       | Rank                   | Kata                 | Kumite | Kata          | Kumite | Kata                   | Kumite | Kata                       | Kumite |
| 4     | Ni-Dan                 | Yes                  | Yes    | Yes           | Yes    | Every 2 calendar years |        | 2-years after Class 3      |        |
| 5     | San-Dan                | Yes                  | Yes    | Yes           | Yes    | Every 2 calendar years |        | 2-years after Class 4      |        |
| 6     | Yon-Dan                | Yes                  | Yes    | Yes           | Yes    | Every 2 calendar years |        | 2-years after Class 5      |        |
| 7     | Go-Dan                 | Yes                  | Yes    | Yes           | Yes    | Every 2 calendar years |        | 2-years after Class 6      |        |