

# USA National Karate



*Member  
United States Olympic Committee*

**Kumite Competition Examination  
for  
Kumite Referees and Judges**

January 2013

## *KUMITE EXAMINATION*

### “True or False”

1. The karate-gi trousers must cover at least two-thirds of the shin.
2. Earrings are allowed if they are covered with tape.
3. Senior Male bouts are three minutes, and Women, Cadets, and Juniors, two minutes in all rounds.
4. Category 1 and Category 2 penalties do not cross-accumulate.
5. Category 1 Keikoku is normally given when the contestant's potential for winning is slightly diminished by the opponent's foul.
6. Competitors may wear a discreet rubber band or pony tail retainer in their hair. Ribbons, beads and other decorations are prohibited.
7. Chukoku, Keikoku and Hansoku-Chui are warnings.
8. The Referee Panel will decide the limit of Shikkaku.
9. If two Judges signal Ippon for Aka, and the other two Ippon for Ao, the Referee will give both scores.
10. If a contestant is injured in an individual match the coach can enter a replacement if he notifies the Organising Commission first.
11. In Senior matches a light “glove touch” to the throat need not result in a warning or penalty provided there is no actual injury.
12. If after Yame, three Judges do not signal and the fourth Judge signals Ippon for Ao the Referee will give the score.
13. Keikoku is a warning in which Yuko (one point) is added to the opponent's score.
14. At Hantei the Referee has a casting vote.
15. If Aka scores just as Ao steps outside of the match area, both the score and a Category 2 warning or penalty can be given.
16. A contestant who scores and exits the area before the Referee calls Yame will not receive Jogai.
17. Category 1 Hansoku-Chui may be imposed directly, or following a warning, or a Keikoku.
18. In Cadet and Junior competition Jodan kicks are allowed to make the lightest touch (“skin touch”) provided there is no injury.
19. When a contestant is thrown safely and without injury the Referee should allow two to three seconds for the opponent to attempt a score.
20. If a contestant has been physically propelled from the area, Jogai will be given.
21. The Referee Panel for each match shall consist of one Referee, four Judges and one Match Supervisor.

22. When two Judges signal a score for the same competitor, the Referee may decline to stop the bout if he believes them to be mistaken.
23. When a competitor slips and falls and is immediately scored upon the opponent will be awarded Ippon.
24. When the Judges see a score they will immediately signal with the flags.
25. Awareness or Zanshin is the state of continued commitment, which endures after the technique has landed.
26. If two or more Judges signal a score for the same competitor the Referee must stop the bout.
27. Atoshi Baraku means "10 seconds of bout time remaining".
28. A contestant may be penalized for exaggeration even if there is an actual injury.
29. A well controlled elbow strike (Empi-Uchi) which has all six scoring criteria is a valid Technique.
30. In team matches there is an extra bout will take place in case of equal winning bouts and scores for both team.
31. Hansoku Chui will be given for the first instance of exaggerating an injury.
32. A competitor can be given Hansoku directly for exaggerating the effects of injury.
33. In individual match, if there are no points at the end of the bout the Referee will call for Hantei.
34. If there is an error in charting and the wrong contestants compete this cannot be changed afterwards.
35. When the Referee wants to consult the Judges about a penalty for contact he can speak to them briefly as the Doctor is tending to the injured competitor.
36. Yuko is awarded for punches on the back.
37. Excessive contact after repeated failure to block is a consideration for Mubobi.
38. If in a combination, the first technique merits a Yuko and the second merits a penalty, both shall be given.
39. In USA Karate under 11 years Male bouts are 1 & ½ minutes.
40. A contestant injured in Kumite and withdrawn under the ten-second rule may not compete in the Kata competition.
41. The Match Supervisor has a vote in cases of Shikkaku.
42. When a contestant seizes the opponent and does not perform an immediate technique or throw within two seconds the Referee will call "Yame".
43. When the Referee stops the bout because he has seen a score and the four Judges do not give any signal the Referee can give the score.
44. If two Judges signal Yuko for Aka and one Judge Waza-Ari for Ao and the Referee wants to give Waza-Ari for Ao he should ask the fourth Judge for his opinion.
45. If a competitor is thrown and lands partly outside the match area, the Referee will immediately call "Yame".
46. The contestants should be examined outside the tatami.
47. An effective technique delivered at the same time as the end of the bout is signaled by the buzzer is valid.

48. Gum-shields (mouth guards) are obligatory for all Kumite contestants.
49. When the Referee awards a point for a technique which has caused injury the Match Supervisor should signal for the match to be stopped.
50. It is not possible to score while lying on the floor.
51. When a contestant is thrown according to the rules, slips, falls, or is otherwise off their feet and is scored upon by the opponent the score will be Ippon.
52. A contestant who exits the area (Jogai) with less than ten seconds of bout time remaining will be given a minimum of Keikoku.
53. In USA Karate rules of competition, the ten second rules does not apply to 11 years old and younger.
54. Yuko means one point.
55. In Male team matches if a team wins three bouts then the match is over at that point.
56. In case of a tie referee has the casting vote power.
57. Techniques which land below the belt cannot score.
58. When time is up; the contestant who has scored the most points is declared the winner.
59. In team matches should a competitor receive Kiken their score if any, will be zeroed and the opponent's score will be set at eight points.
60. Groin Guards are mandatory in all male USA Karate divisions.
61. When an action of a contestant is considered to be dangerous and deliberately violates the rules concerning prohibited behavior, the contestant will be given Shikkaku.
62. A warning or penalty for Mubobi is only given when a competitor is hit or injured through his own fault or negligence.
63. A competitor who is hit through their own fault and exaggerates the effect should receive a warning or penalty for Mubobi or exaggeration but not both.
64. At Hantei if three Judges signal victory for Aka and the fourth Judge together with the Referee signal victory for Ao he must give victory for Aka.
65. When a competitor grabs and throws their opponent and the opponent pulls him down to the mat and is injured both should receive a warning or penalty.
66. An extra bout is used only for team matches.
67. If a competitor scores with a strong side kick and propels the opponent out of the area, the Referee should award Waza-Ari and give the opponent a Category 2 warning or penalty for Jogai.
68. When the Referee gives a competitor a Category 2 warning or penalty for Mubobi the opponent will receive a lighter Category 1 penalty than usual.
69. In all USA Karate divisions competitors may elect to use a soft foam head protector with the exception of advanced and team trail divisions.
70. The Match Supervisor will line up together with the Referee and the Judges.
71. To correct a score given to the wrong contestant the Referee should turn towards the contestant given the score in error, make the sign of Torimasen, and then give the score to the opponent.
72. In all USA Karate non team trial divisions, the result of a bout is determined by a contestant obtaining a clear lead of eight points.
73. In team matches the Panel will rotate for each bout - provided that all hold the required license.

74. The Referee can stop the bout even if the Judges do not signal.
75. The Referee can move about the entire tatami including the safety zones.
76. Female competitors must have chest protector in addition of body protector.
77. In USA Karate all Female competitors must have chest protector.
78. If a competitor makes a good Chudan kick and the opponent catches the leg a score cannot be given.
79. Contestants must wear a white karate-gi without stripes, piping or personal embroidery.
80. When the bout has been halted and the four Judges have different signals the Referee will restart the bout
81. In order to give points, warnings or/and penalties the Referee must have a minimum of two Judges showing the same signal.
82. In USA karate, the competitors may elect to use a USA Karate white foot protector for all divisions.
83. In team matches if two contestants injure each other and cannot continue and the points score is equal the Referee will announce Hikiwake.
84. If two Judges hold an opposing opinion to the two other Judges for the same competitor the Referee will decide the outcome.
85. Judges cannot indicate a score or warning before the Referee stops the bout.
86. If 2 flags for the same contestant show a different score the lower score will be applied.
87. When time is up; the contestant who has scored the most points is declared the winner.
88. Individual bouts can be declared a tie.
89. A Kumite competitor who receives Kiken cannot compete again in that tournament.
90. If 2 flags for the same contestant show a different score the Referee will give Torimasen.
91. If a contestant scores with more than one consecutive technique before Yame, the Judges must show the higher point regardless of which sequence the techniques scored.
92. Passivity is a Category 1 prohibited behavior.
93. It is the duty of the Tatami Manager to ensure before each match or bout that the competitors are wearing the approved equipment.
94. In USA Karate a Coach can protest about a judgment to the members of the Refereeing Panel.
95. Waza-Ari is awarded for Chudan Kicks.
96. Individual bouts can be declared a tie.
97. Keikoku is normally imposed where the contestant's potential for winning is seriously diminished by the opponent's foul.
98. There are four prohibited behaviors in Category 1 and eight in Category 2.
99. Judges cannot indicate a score or warning before the Referee stops the bout.
100. One of the criteria for decision is the superiority of tactics and techniques displayed by the contestants.