



# **SUMMARY** *OF* **RULES**

**WKA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - POLAND 2022**

**In ALL Categories, MEDALS will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place**

## SUMMARY OF RULES

### POLAND World Championships 2022

The following few pages are a Summary of the Rules for the Individual, Pair, Team, Bunkai Kata Categories, and for the Kumite Shobu Nihon, Sanbon, and Ippon Categories, followed by Kobudo and Para.

---

#### 1. Choice of KATA For Individual Categories - MAINSTREAM

*Categories 1 – 66 (Males) & Categories F1 – F66 (Females)*

- 1.01** The Children Individual Kata Categories (categories 1 – 21, and F1 – F21) are divided into:
- Novices – 7th Kyu;
  - 6th Kyu – 4th Kyu; and
  - 3rd Kyu – Dan Grades.
- 1.02** **Mini-cadets** Categories (Categories 22 – 33, and F22 – F33) are divided into 2:  
**Novices – 7th Kyu & 6th Kyu – Dan Grades**  
Categories are set to Kyu Grades & not belt colour due to the different Belt colour system adopted by various Organisations.
- 1.03** **Cadets A, Cadets B, Juniors, Seniors, and Veterans** are set to: **ALL BELTS**, thus, the choice of KATA for the first Round is a Shitei Kata.
- 1.04** Table 1 shows the choice of kata for each Round. Kata for each Round MAY be repeated or CANNOT be repeated as indicated in the last column. The categories where Kata CANNOT be repeated applies also in the case of a TIE, where a different Kata must be performed
- 1.05** If 1st Round is omitted, choice of kata starts from the 2nd Round. Similarly, if 1st and 2nd Rounds are omitted, choice of kata is that of the 3rd Round.
- 1.06** Flags may be used in the case of a tie in the final round.
- 1.07** Contact lenses or glasses may be worn during performance at competitor's own risk. However, if glasses fall on the tatami, this will result in disqualification.
- 1.08** If there are 30 or less competitors; in a category, the 12 highest scoring competitors will pass to the 2nd Round. The highest 6 scoring competitors will then pass to the Final round.

**In ALL Categories, MEDALS will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place**

If there are more than 30 competitors, the 18 highest scoring competitors will pass. The highest 8 scoring competitors will then pass to the Final Round.

If there are 12 or less competitors in a category, Round 1 is omitted and the event becomes a 2 round event or a 1 Round event as decided by the Refereeing Board.

**TABLE 1: Individual Kata**

Category/ Ages	1st Round	2nd Round	3rd Round	Choice of Kata
<b>Children (Up to 10 years)</b>				
Novices – 7th Kyu	Shitei	Shitei	Shitei	May Repeat Kata
6th Kyu – 4th Kyu	Shitei	Shitei	Shitei	Must <b>NOT</b> repeat Kata
3rd Kyu – DAN Grades	Shitei	Shitei or Sentei	Shitei or Sentei or Tokui	Must <b>NOT</b> repeat Kata
<b>Children (11 -12 years)</b>				
Novices – 7th Kyu	Shitei	Shitei	Shitei	May Repeat Kata
6th Kyu – 4th Kyu	Shitei	Shitei	Shitei	Must <b>NOT</b> repeat Kata
3rd Kyu – DAN Grades	Shitei	Shitei or Sentei	Shitei or Sentei or Tokui	Must <b>NOT</b> repeat Kata
<b>Mini Cadets (13 years)</b>				
Novices – 7th Kyu	Shitei	Shitei	Shitei	May Repeat Kata
6th Kyu – DAN Grades	Shitei	Shitei or Sentei	Shitei or Sentei or Tokui	Must <b>NOT</b> repeat Kata
<b>ALL BELTS</b>				
<b>Cadets A (14 - 15 years)</b>	Shitei	Shitei or Sentei	Shitei or Sentei or Tokui	Must <b>NOT</b> repeat Kata
<b>Cadets B (16 - 17 years)</b>	Shitei	Shitei or Sentei	Shitei or Sentei or Tokui	Must <b>NOT</b> repeat Kata
<b>Juniors (18 - 20 years)</b>	Shitei	Shitei or Sentei	Shitei or Sentei or Tokui	Must <b>NOT</b> repeat Kata
<b>Seniors (21 - 35 years)</b>	Shitei	Shitei or Sentei	Shitei or Sentei or Tokui	Must <b>NOT</b> repeat Kata
<b>Veterans (36 years up)</b>	Shitei	Shitei or Sentei	Shitei or Sentei or Tokui	Must <b>NOT</b> repeat Kata

## **In ALL Categories, MEDALS will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place**

- 1.09** No jewellery, no piercings, no heavy make-up. Nails must be kept short. No bandanas or headbands are allowed. Women/ girls must wear white t-shirt/ white crop top underneath karate gi jacket. Karate gi jacket sleeves and trousers must not be rolled up.
- 1.10** When 5 scores are given for the Kata performance, the lowest and highest score are crossed out (discarded). The remaining 3 scores will be added to give the total score for each round. If there is a tie in the 1st round, the lowest score is added. If tie persists, highest score is added. In the case of a continuing tie, competitors are asked to perform an extra kata – repeat kata or a different kata, depending on the age and category. If after performance of the extra kata, there is still no winner (tie persists), competitors will be asked to change their belts to red or blue, and repeat kata. Judging will be by way of Hantei, using red and blue flags.

The same procedures are adopted in the 2nd round, in the case of continuing ties. In the final round, the scores of the 1st and 2nd rounds are added up. If there is a tie in the final round, an extra kata must be performed but will be judged by way of Hantei.

(No scores are crossed out in the case of 3 scores given for Kata performance).

- 1.11** Disqualification (Lowest score within the round is given): This occurs if competitor:
- a) Announces one kata and performs another;
  - b) adds or forgets a technique in a kata;
  - c) stops or pauses a kata for more than 5 seconds;
  - d) loses balance completely and falls;
  - e) does not perform kata of style as required in the category, or objects fall from competitor during kata.

## **2. Choice of KATA For PAIRS, TEAM, and BUNKAI Categories**

*Categories 67 – 83 (Males) & Categories F67 – F83 (Females)*

- 2.01** Table 2 shows the choice of kata for all 3 Rounds. *The purpose of Coloured ink used in Table 2 is for easy reference*
- 2.02** For PAIR KATA and TEAM KATA, Kata cannot be repeated, and this applies to all Age groups. Kata may be repeated **ONLY** in the case of a TIE, in which case, flags may be used.
- 2.03** For these Championships, however, there will be **ONLY 1 round** for **Team with BUNKAI (Categories 83 & F83)**. Kata may be repeated in the case of a TIE. Choice of Kata for BUNKAI: Sentei or Tokui. Participating team members must be of the same age as shown – 3 Juniors or 3 Seniors or 3 Veterans, but not mixed. The duration of the Bunkai must **NOT** exceed 5 minutes. Time is recorded from the first Rei (Bow) towards central Referee, till final Rei.
- 2.04** Kata is not a theatrical performance or dance, so Bunkai must be realistic in fighting terms, and must display power, technique, balance, stability, kime, rhythm and all other criteria noted in both kata and kumite.



**In ALL Categories, MEDALS will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place**

- 2.05 Performance of team kata with Bunkai initiates in the same way as in Team categories. The difference is that after performance of team kata, team members proceed with the Bunkai of the same kata performed.
- 2.06 When a team member is taken down, he/ she is expected to stand up or to remain raised on one knee.
- 2.07 Each team member is expected to perform both attacking and defensive techniques during the Bunkai kata.
- 2.08 Kani Basami (scissor take downs) to the body are permitted, however, they are prohibited to the neck area.
- 2.09 As in individual Kata categories, if the 1st Round is omitted, choice of kata starts from the 2nd Round. Similarly, if 1st and 2nd Rounds are omitted, choice of kata is that of the 3rd Round.

**TABLE 2: Pairs/ Teams/ Kata with BUNKAI**

Category/ Ages	1st Round	2nd Round	3rd Round	Choice o Kata
Children A – G (up to 12 yrs)	<b>Shitei</b>	<b>Shitei</b>	<b>Shitei</b>	<b>Must NOT Repeat Kata</b>
Mini -Cadets (13 yrs)	<b>Shitei</b>	<b>Shitei</b>	<b>Shitei</b>	<b>Must NOT Repeat Kata</b>
Cadets A & B (14 – 17 yrs)	<b>Shitei</b>	<b>Shitei or Sentei</b>	<b>Shitei or Sentei or Tokui</b>	<b>Must NOT Repeat Kata</b>
Juniors (18 – 20 yrs)	<b>Shitei or Sentei</b>	<b>Shitei or Sentei</b>	<b>Shitei or Sentei or Tokui</b>	<b>Must NOT Repeat Kata</b>
Seniors (21 – 35 yrs)	<b>Shitei or Sentei</b>	<b>Shitei or Sentei</b>	<b>Shitei or Sentei or Tokui</b>	<b>Must NOT Repeat Kata</b>
Veterans (36 yrs up)	<b>Shitei or Sentei</b>	<b>Shitei or Sentei or Tokui</b>	<b>Shitei or Sentei or Tokui</b>	<b>Must NOT Repeat Kata</b>
<b>KATA with BUNKAI</b> Juniors/ Seniors/ Veterans			<b>Shitei or Sentei or Tokui</b>	<b>REPEAT KATA</b>

**In ALL Categories, MEDALS will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place**

### **3. RULES For Shobu Nihon Individual Kumite - For Children aged 12 years and under** *Categories K1 – K11, & FK1 – FK 11*

- 3.01** Each bout in Shobu Nihon is stopped when scores reach 2 Ippon or 4 waza-ari or when time is up (1 minute 30 seconds effective time). Scores reached can be a combination of both Ippon and waza-ari.
- 3.02** Compulsory equipment: white Helmet (blue or red to match blue and red belt), white chest guard, red & blue gloves, red & blue belts, red & blue shin guards with **SAME COLOUR Insteps**. (Groin guards are allowed).
- 3.03** If there is a TIE, Hantei is implemented (Panel votes for best fighter). The Mirror system will be used in all bouts. Leg sweeping techniques and grabbing opponent or other inappropriate body contact are prohibited and will be penalised. Atoshibaraku is at 15 seconds before bout ends.
- 3.04** Warnings/ Penalties are: Atenai, Kinshi, Shikkaku (disbarment from whole Championships). Penalties/ Warnings can be skipped and can be imposed directly according to the severity of the foul. Warnings/ penalties, however, do not cross-cumulate.

#### **NOTE TO COACHES**

Coaches are to wear their uniform (not in karate gi) and their name tags. If rules are not followed, they will be asked to leave. Respectful behaviour is always expected. Referees' final decisions will not be contested. Coaches are not WKA referees, so they are expected to perform the duty of a competent coach, who encourages his/ her students to give their best, be polite, view success as well deserved and view any defeat to improve, without any unnecessary shouting.

### **4. RULES For Shobu Ippon Individual Kumite - Categories K12 – K18, & FK12 – FK 18**

- 4.01** Each bout in Shobu Ippon is stopped when scores reach 1 Ippon or 2 waza-ari or when time is up (2 minutes running time).
- 4.02** Compulsory equipment: white or transparent gum shield, white chest guard for females (underneath karate gi jacket), **red & white gloves** (like sanbon gloves but white NOT blue), red & white belts, groin guards for males. Contact lenses may be worn at competitor's **own risk**. Spectacles (glass or plastic) are NOT allowed.

## **In ALL Categories, MEDALS will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place**

- 4.03** In the case of a draw, Hantei is implemented (Panel votes for best fighter with flags). If tie continues, then Sai Shiai (extra match). The 4-flag system will be used. Atoshibaraku is at 15 seconds before bout ends.
- 4.04** Warnings/ Penalties are: Atenai, mubobi, Jogai. Shikkaku is disbarment from whole Championships. Penalties/ Warnings can be skipped and can be imposed directly according to the severity of the foul.

### **NOTE TO COACHES**

Coaches are to wear their uniform (not in karate gi) and their name tags. If rules are not followed, they will be asked to leave. Respectful behaviour is always expected. Referees' final decisions will not be contested. Coaches are not WKA referees, so they are expected to perform the duty of a competent coach, who encourages his/ her students to give their best, be polite, view success as well deserved and view any defeat to improve, without any unnecessary shouting.

## **5. RULES For Shobu Ippon Team Kumite – Categories K44 – K48 & FK 44 – FK 48**

- 5.01** At the beginning of each match, only the 3 team members will line up in the match area. For team kumite winners, **only 3 medals will be awarded to each winning team.**
- 5.02** Teams which do not have 3 competitors at the start of 1st Round, will not be allowed to compete but will be declared kiken (renunciation).
- 5.03** Only 1 reserve is allowed per team and will fight if Competition Doctor declares one of the team members to be injured and unable to fight again. Injured member will be substituted from the 2nd Round onwards.
- 5.04** Prior every team match, coaches must hand in the fighting order of the team members to the table officials. Fighting order can be changed for each round, however, once notified, it cannot be amended. A team will be disqualified if coach or competitors change the fighting order without notifying the Referee.
- 5.05** If competitors tie in a bout, result is left as a draw. It is only during an extra match where competitors' bout results in a tie, that sai shiai is called for.
- 5.06** In the case of Kiken (disqualification) of a Team, the opponent's score is set to Ippon.
- 5.06** **Compulsory equipment:** same as individual Ippon kumite – Section 4.02
- Duration of each bout:** 2 minutes running time.
- Atoshibaraku:** 15 seconds before bout ends.
- Warnings/ Penalties:** same as individual Ippon Kumite – Section 4.04

## **In ALL Categories, MEDALS will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place**

### **NOTE TO COACHES**

Coaches are to wear their uniform (not in karate gi) and their name tags. If rules are not followed, they will be asked to leave. Respectful behaviour is always expected. Referees' final decisions will not be contested. Coaches are not WKA referees, so they are expected to perform the duty of a competent coach, who encourages his/ her students to give their best, be polite, view success as well deserved and view any defeat to improve, without any unnecessary shouting.

## **6. RULES For Shobu Sanbon Individual Kumite** *Categories K19 – K43, & FK19 – FK 43*

- 6.01** Each bout in Shobu Sanbon is stopped when scores reach 3 Ippon or 6 waza-ari or when time is up (2 minutes effective time for mini-cadets & cadets, or 3 minutes effective time for Juniors, Seniors, and Veterans).
- 6.02 Compulsory equipment:** white or transparent gum shield, white breast guard for females (underneath karate gi jacket), red & blue gloves, red & blue belts, groin guards for males (underneath karate gi trousers). Contact lenses may be worn at **competitor's own risk**. Spectacles (glass or plastic) are not allowed.
- 6.03** If there is a draw, Hantei is implemented, and flags are raised. If tie continues, 1-minute extra time (Enchosen) is given (warnings/ penalties carried forward). The one to score first in that extra minute wins (Sudden death).
- 6.04** The Mirror system will be used in all bouts. Atoshi baraku is at 15 seconds before bout ends.
- 6.05 Warnings/ Penalties:** Atenai, Kinshi, Shikkaku (disbarment from whole Championships). Penalties/ Warnings can be skipped and can be imposed directly according to the severity of the foul.

### **NOTE TO COACHES**

**Coaches** are to wear their uniform (not in karate gi) and their name tags. If rules are not followed, they will be asked to leave. Respectful behaviour is always expected. Referees' final decisions will not be contested. Coaches are not WKA referees, so they are expected to perform the duty of a competent coach, who encourages his/ her students to give their best, be polite, view success as well deserved and view any defeat to improve, without any unnecessary shouting.

## **7. RULES For Shobu Sanbon TEAM Kumite** *Categories K19 - K43, & FK19 – FK43*

- 7.01** At the beginning of each match, only the 3 team members will line up in the match area. For team kumite winners, **only 3 medals will be awarded to each winning team.**



## **In ALL Categories, MEDALS will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place**

- 7.02** Teams which do not have 3 competitors at the start of 1st Round, will not be allowed to compete but will be declared kiken (renunciation).
- 7.03** Only 1 reserve is allowed per team, and s/he will fight if Competition Doctor declares one of the team members to be injured and unable to fight again. Injured member will be substituted from the 2nd Round onwards.
- 7.04** Prior every team match, coaches must hand in the fighting order of the team members to the table officials. Fighting order can be changed for each round, however, once notified, it cannot be amended. A team will be disqualified if coach or competitors change the fighting order without notifying the Referee.
- 7.05** If competitors tie in a bout, result is left as a draw. It is only during an extra match where competitors' bout results in a tie, that Enchosen (extra time of 1 minute is given).
- 7.06** In the case of Kiken (disqualification) of a Team, the opponent's score is set to Sanbon.
- 7.07** The Mirror system will be used in all bouts.
- 7.08** **Compulsory equipment:** same as individual Sanbon kumite – Section 6.02  
**Duration of each bout:** 2 minutes effective time.  
**Atoshi baraku:** 15 seconds before bout ends.  
**Warnings/ Penalties:** same as individual Sanbon Kumite – Section 6.05

### **NOTE TO COACHES**

Coaches are to wear their uniform (not in karate gi) and their name tags. If rules are not followed, they will be asked to leave. Respectful behaviour is always expected. Referees' final decisions will not be contested. Coaches are not WKA referees, so they are expected to perform the duty of a competent coach, who encourages his/ her students to give their best, be polite, view success as well deserved and view any defeat to improve, without any unnecessary shouting.

## **8. RULES For Shobu Sanbon TEAM ROTATION Kumite** *Categories K55 – K59, & FK55 – FK59)*

- 8.01** Team will be composed of 3 competitors and **ONLY** one reserve. At the beginning of the match, only the 3 competitors will line up in the match area. For team kumite winners, **only 3 medals will be awarded to each winning team.** Teams which do not have 3 members at the start of the FIRST round will not be allowed to compete (will be declared Kiken).
- 8.02** Reserve competitor will fight if Competition Doctor declares one of the team members to be injured and unable to fight again. Injured team member may be substituted from the second round onwards.

## **In ALL Categories, MEDALS will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place**

- 8.03** The duration of each match is 6 minutes running time and timekeeper stops clock when Referee requests time. The Mirror system will be used and Atoshi baraku is at 15 seconds before match ends.
- 8.04** ALL 3 COMPETITORS on the Team **MUST FIGHT AT LEAST ONCE FOR 15 seconds** (minimum). If after 6 minutes, one team member has not fought, irrespective of any reason, team will be disqualified.
- 8.05** The coach must announce 'CHNAGE' to the Control Judge to substitute the fighter. CHANGE Requests by coaches will NOT be accepted during the last 20 seconds. Change requests cannot be made by both coaches at the same time.
- 8.06** It is the Referee who decides when to stop the fight for a change of competitor when requested, and this may not be immediate. The other 2 members of the team must be fully equipped and ready to be called on the tatami by the central Referee. 3 seconds are given for team members to change, otherwise team will be penalised with Kinshi.
- 8.07** Points gained by each member of the team are accumulated and carried forward till end of match. Each team may score as its team members are capable. If however, one competitor reaches an advantage of 6 points (3 Ippon or 6 waza-ari or a combination of both) ahead of the other team before the 6 minutes, his/ her team will be declared the winner, even though the other 2 team members did not fight.
- 8.08** All penalties/ warnings incurred by each competitor in the team are carried forward. If a team member is penalised with shikkaku during a team match, the whole team is disqualified or eliminated for the entire Championships.
- 8.09** After 6 minutes, the team with the most scored points will be the winner.
- 8.10** If after 6 minutes, there is a tie, the team who has most Ippon will be declared the winner. In the case of a persisting tie, the team with the least total number of warnings/ penalties, wins. If tie continues, Enchosen of 2 minutes is given and who scores first wins. Coaches choose team member to initiate the Enchosen. Requests for substitutions is allowed after 15 seconds fight. All previous penalties/ warnings are carried forward.
- 8.11** **Compulsory equipment:** same as individual Sanbon Kumite – Section 6.02
- 8.12** If a team member is substituted without the Referee's command, the team will be penalised with Kinshi.

### **NOTE TO COACHES**

**Coaches** are to wear their uniform (not in karate gi) and their name tags. If rules are not followed, they will be asked to leave. Respectful behaviour is always expected. Referees' final decisions will not be contested. Coaches are not WKA referees, so they are expected to perform the duty of a competent coach, who encourages his/ her students to give their best, be polite, view success as well deserved and view any defeat to improve, without any unnecessary shouting.

**In ALL Categories, MEDALS will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place**

## **9. GENERAL INFORMATION**

At the start of every category, competitors are called and lined up by members of the Refereeing panel. Name tags are collected and checked. These are then handed back when category finishes.

Once lined up, competitors are checked for any irregularities, i.e., jewellery, piercings, long nails, heavy make up, inadequate hair style (which obstructs vision, headbands, etc.) Coaches must ensure that their students present themselves according to rules. If competitors' presentation does not conform to the rules, they are given only 1 minute to redress. These rules apply to both Kata and Kumite. (A correct punch or closed fist cannot be performed correctly with long nails, even during kata performance).

Any competitor who is not present on the tatami area will be called twice on the microphone. If there is still no sign of the competitor towards the end of the round, competitor will be declared Kiken (renunciation).

- ✚ For Kumite, SCORING areas are head, sides of the neck, chest and Back (excluding shoulder blades), abdomen, sides from beneath arm pits downwards up till above hip bone.
- ✚ It is forbidden to attack the throat, groin, and back of the neck. Attacks to the joints will be penalised.
- ✚ Forbidden techniques include open hand techniques, hiza geri, empi uchi, atama uchi (heat butt strikes), flying/ jumping kicks, uraken uchi, kakato geri, maegeri to the face/ head, leg sweeping techniques which land high on the leg and which may cause knee injuries, dangerous throws with no safe landing.
- ✚ For Shobu Nihon Categories (12 years under), ashibarai is not allowed and will be penalised.
- ✚ For Shobu Sanbon kumite, ashibarai with no follow up technique will be penalised.

## **KOBUDO**

1. MEDALS will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place.
2. Kata for each Round CAN be repeated, and this applies to all ages. Any choice of kata for each round, ANY Style. Name of kata must be clearly pronounced before performance on tatami. The Number of rounds depends on the number of competitors in each category (8 or less competitors, only one round will be held).
3. The blades of the KAMA must be made of plastic (and not sharp).
4. Nunchaku must be wooden or soft with rope in between and not chain.
5. Sai must NOT have a pointy tip but must be flat.
6. Both BO and EKU must be wooden.
7. TIMBE must not have any stickers or writing on the shield.
8. Competitors can wear contact lenses at their own risk. Spectacles/ glasses are not allowed.
9. Piercings, jewellery, bandanas, or head bands are NOT allowed. Full uniform is expected to be worn. No fancy attire is allowed. No compliance to the rules means competitor would be disqualified.

**In ALL Categories, MEDALS will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place**

## **PARA CATEGORIES**

1. Choice of Kata may be from Shitei, Sentei, or Tokui in all rounds and ANY Style.
2. Kata or Combos can be repeated.
3. Medals will be awarded to the **1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place.**

**These rules will be implemented during WKA World Championships**

**Poland in September 2022.**

**For any queries, kindly e-mail Referee Board on:**

**[referees@wka-karate.org](mailto:referees@wka-karate.org)**

