

KARATE CANADA

Senior National Team Criteria

For Kata Athletes – 2016-17 Season



**KARATE
CANADA**

Version 2.0 - May 21, 2016

**These criteria apply to the National Senior Kata and Team Kata athletes only.
The following items are discussed:**

PART I – Selection Framework

1. Overall philosophy of the Selection Criteria
2. How to get on the National Senior Team;
3. How to get an Athlete's status; and
4. How to maintain a position on the National Senior Team.

PART II – Point allocation for Domestic and International events

1. Point allocation for the current season
2. Camp calendar
3. Competition calendar
4. Funding Ratios

PART 1 – SELECTION FRAMEWORK

1.0 INTRODUCTION

All funding directed to athletes, as stipulated in Part II, Table 3, will be a function of Karate Canada's budget and the athlete's status.

These criteria apply to the National Senior Team Kata athletes only.

The following items are discussed:

1. How to get on the National Senior Team;
2. How to get an Athlete's status; and
3. How to maintain a position on the National Senior Team.

These criteria will be applied to all National Senior Team members, taking into account any current points and statuses earned in the current and/or previous season (depending on point expiration) using the Senior National Team Points Criteria as identified in Part II, Table 3 of this document. For the purposes of this document, the term "season" designates the time period between (and including) one Senior National Team Camp 1 (SNTC-1) and the start of the SNTC-1 in the following year. Also, any reference to the National Team Head Coaches will refer to either the individual filling that position on a full-time basis or an appointed temporary substitute in the event that the Head Coach position(s) is/are vacant.

The classification of "official", "development", "domestic", "continental" and "international" tournaments, and the points that athletes are able to accumulate at each one, will be determined by the National Head Coaches on an annual basis, pending approval by the Joint High Performance & Coaching Committee (Joint HP&C). Please refer to Part II of this document for the point allocation for each competition for the current season.

The schedule of international tournaments and/or training camps chosen for the National Senior Team can be modified during the course of the season by giving at least eight (8) weeks notice prior to the event. Karate Canada may cancel participation in any of these events due to unforeseen circumstances, such as but not limited to, re-scheduling or cancellation of the event by its organizing committee.

Please note that Karate Canada reserves the right to amend these Criteria after the date of their original publication, in accordance with the primary objective of enhancing Karate Canada's chances of obtaining podium results

and achieving success at certain WKF and/or PKF competitions. Furthermore, final selection of the Senior National Team Roster and other key strategic high performance decisions made by the Joint HP&C Committee remain subject to final approval by Karate Canada's Board of Directors.

2.0 OVERALL PHILOSOPHY AND VALUES OF SELECTION CRITERIA

The following criteria is designed to meet 2 objectives

1. To ensure that Karate Canada fields the most competitive teams as possible in accordance with the long term objectives of the KC High Performance Plan, and
2. To develop future athletes as and when appropriate to ensure a healthy and continuous pipeline of athletes representing Karate Canada at designated events

The values used by the Joint HP&C Committee when developing the Selection Criteria and for decision making in selection related matters are as follows:

Transparency

Ensuring that the selection process and decisions are clearly and fully communicated to KC stakeholders.

Performance Excellence

Ensuring that decisions and criteria are guided by the philosophy of always selecting the best possible team for Karate Canada within consideration of funding, and of long-term performance objectives..

Athlete safety and well being

To ensure that athletes are not forced or coerced into over-competing and/or competing in inappropriate competitions, or at the wrong time of their training cycles.

3.0 HOW TO GET ON THE NATIONAL SENIOR TEAM

An athlete must be invited by the Joint HP&C Committee and must participate in the SNTC-1 (see possible exceptions in section 3.1). Athletes who achieve the following categories will receive an invitation to the SNTC 1:

- International A athletes.
- International B athletes.
- National A athletes.
- 4 medalists from Canadian National Championships
- Coaches' "Discretionary Selection" athletes – are athletes who may fill the open spots, if any.

"Discretionary Selection" athletes must be approved by the Joint HP&C Committee.

Considerations for Coaches' "Discretionary Selection" athletes are athletes who are showing exceptional potential at an early age and need some experience at higher level competition, or have missed selection due to exceptional circumstances such as illness, injury or other factors.

- Invited Athletes – are athletes showing potential and invited by the National Head Coaches, if any. Those athletes will not be named onto the National Senior Team Roster at the conclusion of the SNTC-1.

Please note that the status of the athlete at the time of issuance of the invitation is to be considered. The invitation to the SNTC-1 is to be issued to athletes at least two (2) weeks before the start of the Camp. If eligible athletes are not invited within 2 weeks of the start of the camp they may decline the invitation without future penalty.

At the conclusion of the SNTC-1, a National Team Roster of eligible athletes will be announced. The subsequent selection of specific athletes to represent Canada at major karate competitions during the season will :

- Occur at defined times prior to each competition
- Be based on status and accumulated performance/ranking points
 - If the status and accumulation of performance/ranking points does not clearly determine a specific athlete, the tie breaking criteria (Section 5.1) will be applied.
- Draw only from the National Team Roster at the time of the invitation (with the exception of situations described in 3.1 below).
- Depend on the total size of the Team at each event, as determined by Karate Canada's budget and High Performance Plan, and /or by the specific tournament Organizing Committee requirements.

3.1 Attendance at SNTC -1

For all athletes who have been issued an invitation to the SNTC-1, even in the case of injury/illness or (prescribed and active) recovery from injury/illness, the athlete will still be requested to attend the SNTC-1. Only athletes with exceptional circumstances (such as infectious disease or other exceptional medical or family circumstances) may be approved (or requested) to not to attend by Karate Canada. Please refer to the exceptional circumstances section in Section 6 below.

Athletes who have been issued an invitation to the SNTC-1 based on status or as Coaches' Discretionary Selection and who do not participate in the SNTC-1 without approval for exceptional circumstances by the Joint HP&C Committee, will not be part of the National Senior Team Roster.

3.2 Late Entry to the National Team Roster

If an athlete accumulates enough points at **Karate 1 events** throughout the year to gain status in a category listed above, they may be added to the Senior National Team Roster, at the time that their accumulated points make them eligible, without waiting until the next SNTC-1 selection period.

3.3 Selection Of Athletes To Fill Vacant Spots

Participation in the entire SNTC-1 is mandatory for all invited athletes who want to be part of the National Senior Team Roster (see possible exemptions in Section 7). However, if a certain spot or division is left vacant at the conclusion of the SNTC -1, the National Head Coaches may, in the course of the season, exceptionally choose another athlete or other athletes to fill this spot or division.

In such a case, the athlete(s) must be named to the National Team at least 15 days before the beginning of the first event in which they will be selected to compete, must have at least earned a podium result at the most recent KC National Championships (with the exception of Team Kata, for

which participation in National Championships is sufficient, regardless of placement), and will be required to participate in at least one National Team Training Camp (to be determined by National Team Head Coaches) and any Inter-Regional and Regional Training Camps occurring from the moment of their selection, in accordance with the requirements listed in section 3.5. The selection of this (these) athlete(s) must be approved by the Joint HP&C Committee.

3.4 Citizenship Requirements

Non-Canadian citizens may be named to the National Team Roster and, thereby, earn ranking points at Open tournaments if and only if they are permanent residents. Only upon the attainment of Canadian citizenship will they become eligible to be named to a National Team representing Canada at Pan American Championships or Games, official Intercontinental, or World Championships. Non-citizen athletes on the National Team Roster will receive no funding from Karate Canada, and are not eligible for Sport Canada Carding (Athlete Assistance Program).

3.5 Selection Of Alternates

Karate Canada is under no obligation to select an alternate for either a training camp or an international competition. The selection of alternates is at the discretion of the National Team Head Coaches, and must be approved by the Joint HP&C Committee. As soon as an athlete is named onto a team for a specific competition as an alternate or to fill a vacant spot, he/she immediately becomes a Senior National Team Roster athlete, for the remainder of the season.

3.6 National Team Competitions

Senior National Team Kata athletes will be invited and at times required to compete in specific competitions each season.

The list of targeted events for the current year is found in Part II of this document.

Senior National Team Roster kata athletes may also choose to engage in other Open competitions. No coaching staff, logistical support nor funding will be provided to athletes participating in these additional tournaments.

3.7 National, Regional and Inter-Regional Training Camps

In order to remain on the Senior National Team Roster, all invited Senior Kata National Team Roster athletes residing in Ontario or in Quebec must participate in all mandatory ON-QC Inter-Regional Training Camps, if they reside within a 300 km radius from the training camp venue. Athletes living outside of this perimeter will be exempt from mandatory participation in QC-ON Inter-Regional Training Camps.

Furthermore, in order to remain on the Senior National Team Roster, all invited Senior Kata National Team Roster athletes must participate in all mandatory Regional Training Camps, if they reside within a 200 km radius from the training camp venue. Athletes living outside of this perimeter will be exempt from mandatory participation in Regional Training Camps.

Other athletes may be invited to attend Regional and/or Inter-Regional Training Camps, but this does not mean that they are members of the Senior National Team Roster.

The list of camp dates and locations will be updated prior to each season at least six (6) weeks prior to the beginning of the first camp and published in Part II of the Senior Selection Criteria. KC has the right to change the dates and/or location of any of the mandatory camps, or cancel a camp, provided at least two (2) weeks notice is given to Senior National Team members.

See Part II for the list of mandatory Regional and/or Inter-Regional camps for the current season.

Please note that Karate Canada may add another Regional Training Centre during the course of the season.

Other athletes may be invited to attend Regional and/or Inter-Regional Training Camps, but this does not mean that they are members of the Senior National Team Roster.

4.0 HOW TO OBTAIN A STATUS

Athletes accumulate points for their performance at the events listed in Part II, and the Rules about Status and Points. In turn, a particular status can be obtained according to the following:

- By the accumulation of points as follows, as indicated in Part II and following the Rules About Points and Statuses:
 - a. International A: 400 or more points;
 - b. International B: between 250 and 399 points;
 - c. International C: between 120 and 249 points; and
 - d. National A: between 80 and 119 points.

4.1 Rules about Status and Points

1. An athlete must win at least 2 bouts in order to be awarded 100% of the points as listed in Part II.
2. An athlete who obtains a result, with only 1 win, will be awarded only 50% of the points as listed in Part II.
3. A win through a bye and/or absence of an opponent will not be counted as a victory and will not be counted towards point accumulation.
4. Points obtained in team kata will remain in the team kata division and will not be added to any athlete's individual division. Should one of the three members who earned these points be replaced by another athlete (due to the replaced athlete being injured or having decided to retire or withdraw from the team willingly), the team will continue to benefit from these points from the date on which they were earned until the date of expiry. Should more than one of the original team members be replaced, points will be lost regardless of their original anticipated expiry date.
5. Points obtained in an individual division can only be accumulated within that same division. Those points cannot cross-accumulate with other individual disciplines (*i.e.* kata and kumite) age and weight divisions.
6. Only the events listed in Part II Table 3 of this document are considered for accumulation of points.

4.2 Strength of Field

In order to ensure that events in which points can be accumulated are competitive the following rules will also apply for point accumulation.

- Points for all international K1 events will be reduced if the number of elite level competitors in that competition does not satisfy requirements
- In order to receive full points for K1 events athlete must be positioned on the same side of the draw/pool as at least 2 opponents from any one of the 5 “Strength of Field” categories below;
- If only 1 opponent from any one of the 5 “Strength of Field” categories below is on the same side of the pool/draw, then only 75% of designated points are awarded.
- If no opponents in the categories below are on the same side of the pool/draw, then only 50% of designated points are allocated for that event.

Strength of field categories:

(NOTE: Strength of Field categories only applies to Individual Kata competitions and NOT Team Kata competitions).

- An athlete in Top 8 at the most recent worlds
- An athlete in the Top 5 at the most recent PKF
- An athlete in the Top 5 at the most recent EKF
- An athlete in the Top 5 at the most recent AKF
- An athlete in the World Top 20 in WKF Sport Data rankings

4.3 Duration And Expiration Of Points

1. The start date of an athlete’s points is the finishing date of the event where the athlete achieved the result for which the ranking points were awarded – (see notes following Part II).
2. An athlete’s ranking points are valid:
 - From the end date of a National Championships to the start date of the following (annual) National Championships for points derived from performance at the that specific National Championships
 - From event to event, or 1 year if the event doesn’t reoccur within the following season for results obtained at the following events:
 - All WKF Karate 1 Premier League Competitions**
 - Senior Pan American Championships (except for a gold medal result – see below)
 - For 1 year for points derived from a top eight (8) finish at Senior World Championships;
 - From event to event or for two (2) years if the event doesn’t reoccur within the following two (2) seasons for points derived from a medal at the Senior World Championship;

- From event to the 2nd subsequent edition of the same event, or for two (2) years if the event doesn't reoccur within the following two (2) seasons for points derived from a gold medal at the Senior Pan American Championship;
- For all ranking point awards that carry for a two (2) year duration, a reduction of 50% will occur on the 1st anniversary of the ranking point award and continue at that reduced amount for the remainder of the second year.
- When an Athlete is awarded a Status through the accumulation of points, the impact on the Athlete's Status will only last as long as the points are maintained to keep that athlete within the respective brackets of statuses.

5.0 SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE NATIONAL TEAM ROSTER

(AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SNTC-1)

In order to become eligible for selection onto National Teams who will participate in any Karate Canada sanctioned events throughout the season, kata athletes will be selected in the following order of priority, at the conclusion of the SNTC-1:

- International A athletes;
- International B athletes;
- International C athletes;
- National A athletes;
- Medalists from most recent Canadian National Championships
- 'Coaches' "Discretionary Selection" athletes – are athletes who may fill the open spots, if any, as selected by the Head Coaches.

Karate Canada and the Head Coaches are under no obligation to fill vacant spots.

5.1 Tiebreaking Criteria for Selection onto the Senior National Team roster

The tiebreaker process will be as follows for two or more athletes who hold the same status:

1. The athlete with the higher total number of ranking points earned from performance at Senior World Championships, PKF Championships and K1 competitions will be selected; then if a tie persists;
2. A head to head competition between the 2 athletes in question with the athlete scoring the best 2 out of 3 matches being selected. Location and timing of a head to head match will be determined if this tie-breaker is necessary; however athletes will need at least 2 weeks notice to prepare for the matches;
3. If more than 2 athletes are tied a round robin competition between the tied athletes will determine selection.

The naming of an athlete to the National Team designated to attend a specific targeted event will be made in accordance with ranking point accumulation at the time of the selection.

Unless specified otherwise in this document, selection to the National Team for a targeted

competition will occur no later than (1) one month before the start of this competition. Selection of National Teams for specific events will occur at specific dates (see Part II Table 3).

6.0 SELECTION CRITERIA FOR NATIONAL TEAMS AT SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

In order to participate in any Karate Canada sanctioned events, kata athletes will be selected from the National Team Roster and onto each specific event's National Team in the following order of priority, depending on the overall pre-set size of the Team (announced by Karate Canada at least 1 month before the start of each international competition) and the number of athletes able to participate in each division at each of these events:

1. International A athletes;
2. International B athletes;
3. International C athletes;
4. National A athletes;
5. Athletes who were invited to participate in the current season's SNTC as 'Coaches' Discretionary Selections'.

The previous selection order and criteria does not necessarily apply for "development competitions" that do not carry points (as listed below in Part II below). In these competitions, athletes may be selected at the discretion of the Head Coach(es). Athletes must be notified of selection for these events at least 8 weeks prior to the event.

6.1 Tiebreaking Criteria for National Team Selection

The tiebreaker process will be as follows for two (or more) athletes who hold the same status:

1. The athlete with the higher total number of ranking points earned from performance at Senior World Championships, PKF Championships and Karate-1 competitions will be selected;
2. If the tie persists, the athlete with the highest total number of matches won at Senior World Championships, PKF Championships and Karate-1 competitions will be selected. The period during which such matches will be considered is equal to the duration of the lowest ranking points which can be awarded for the events where these matches have been won. Matches won at these international competitions will also be weighed and valued according to the "Strength of Field" criterion indicated at article 4.2. Matches will be weighted/valued at 50% if older than one year.
3. If the tie persists, the athlete who obtained the best result (in that division) at the 2016 Karate Canada National Championships will be selected.
4. If the tie persists, final selection will be decided by the Head Coach in charge of Senior Kata; this selection must be approved by the Joint HP&C Committee.

7.0 REQUIREMENTS, EXEMPTIONS AND APPEALS

7.1 Requirements

To remain on the National Team Roster each athlete must:

- Sign and adhere to the Karate Canada Athlete Agreement.
- Have and maintain a valid Canadian passport or be actively in the process of obtaining Canadian citizenship (as outlined in Section 3.2 above)
- Demonstrate an appropriate maintenance of fitness and health level consistent with a high performance athlete on a National Karate team. The Head Coach may call for an independent fitness or health assessment in cases of concern about fitness and health.
- Always report any performance limiting injuries or physical conditions to the National Head Coach, no later than two (2) weeks prior to the next upcoming camp or competition, or within 5 days of the illness or injury occurring.
- Provide appropriate medical information on the injury and on its treatment. This includes diagnosis and proposed treatment protocol and estimated return to full training and/or competition.
- Keep the respective National Senior or Junior Head Coach informed on the progress of their recovery plan and progress according to that plan.
- Provide an accurate mailing address, an active e-mail address and all phone numbers at which they can be reached. Any changes must be sent to the Karate Canada Head Office in a timely manner.

Note: it is an athlete's responsibility to update Karate Canada of any change to any and all relevant addresses for communication of important data. Karate Canada is not responsible for missed deadlines or failure to comply by an athlete if information is sent to an incorrect or inactive address(es) if Karate Canada was not notified of such changes.

7.2 Exemptions from National Team Camps or Competitions

Exemptions from national team activities due to exceptional circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

- Recent death in the immediate family (within 1 month prior to the start of the Camp or Competition);
- Injury limiting participation and/or performance;
- Pregnancy; or
- Infectious disease

Requests must be made as soon as possible after the issue arises, but no later than 3 weeks by notification in writing, to the Karate Canada Head Office.

Notification of such an event must include details of the circumstances along with any supporting evidence scanned and emailed to the Karate Canada Head Office.

In the cases of injuries, disease or other performance limiting physical condition, the athlete must include a medical certificate indicating the specific problem, its severity and the estimated recovery time. Karate Canada has the right to seek its own medical opinion before rendering their final decision.

An athlete who has sustained an injury must be present at all mandatory training camps unless the ability to receive appropriate medical treatment for that injury precludes that athlete from attending, or unless waived by the Head Coach.

An athlete whose condition persists and is unable to undergo full training during the 2-week period prior to an event may be withdrawn by KC from the team representing Canada at that event.

Karate Canada will accept or reject all exemptions requests and deliver its decision in writing. Such decisions will be final and without appeal.

7.3 Participation in domestic events

Participation at Domestic competitions (other than National Championships and Training Camps announced in this Criteria) will be mandatory only if KC, or the event organizing committee, covers the full costs of travel and accommodation, and if at least eight (8) weeks notice prior to the event is given to the athlete.

Exemptions to mandatory participation will be considered by the Joint HP&C Committee based on the same criteria contained in section 7.2 above.

7.4 Appeals

Appeals regarding team selection are limited to the incorrect application of criteria or development of new and previously unknown information relevant to the appeal. For any appeal, please refer to the Karate Canada's Appeal Policy.

PART II POINT ALLOCATION FOR 2016-2017 SEASON

Table 1

– List of Targeted Camps and Competitions for Senior National
Kata Team for the 2016-2017 Season –

Event/Location	Date *	Comments
SNTC-1 (Toronto, ON)	February 19-21, 2016	MANDATORY
Dutch Open Karate 1 (Rotterdam, Netherlands)	March 19-20, 2016	Mandatory for athletes to be eligible for selection onto the 2016 Senior World Championships Team
Senior Pan American Championships (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)	May 23-29, 2016	Mandatory for athletes to be eligible for selection onto the 2016 Senior World Championships Team
Kata National Training Camps (KNTC) (BC)	August 2016	MANDATORY for Senior Team Roster athletes, Highly Recommended for Juniors
German Open (Hamburg, Germany)	September 24-25, 2016	Highly recommended
Training Camp at Karate Canada Summit	September 30 th – October 2 nd , 2016	Highly recommended
Senior World Championships	October 20–25, 2016	
Paris Open (Karate 1)	23rd – 25th January 2017	Highly recommended
KC National Championships	February 24-26, 2017	MANDATORY

*= Exact dates subject to change and will confirmed prior to the event.

Table 2

– List of Mandatory Inter-regional and Regional Camps for Senior National
Kata Team for the 2016-2017 Season–

Inter-Regional Camp - Kingston	British Columbia
May 1 st , 2016	May 8 th , 2016
June 12 th , 2016	June 12 th , 2016
August 7 th , 2016	–
October 16, 2016	October 15, 2016

Table 3

– Points accumulated for performances in individual divisions –

Priority	Event	Team Selection Dates	Performance	Points**	Duration / Expiry
1	2016 Senior World Championships (International)	2 weeks after Senior 2016 Pan American Championships	Gold	650	From event to event or 2 years if the event does not reoccur within the following 2 seasons. Points are reduced by 50% in the 2 nd year of possession.
			Silver	600	
			Bronze	550	
			4th-5th	250	
			6th-8th	150	
2	2016 Senior Pan American Championship (International)	2 weeks after 2016 Dubai Open or Austria Open Karate 1 Championships	Gold	400	From event to event or 2 years if the event does not reoccur within the following 2 seasons. Points are reduced by 50% in the 2 nd year of possession.
			Silver	350	
			Bronze	250	
			4th – 5th	50	
3	All 2016 WKF Karate 1 Open Competitions & 2017 Paris Open Karate 1 Championship ***	At conclusion of SNTC-1	Gold	430	From event to event or 1 year if the event does not reoccur within the following season
			Silver	370	
			Bronze	300	
			4th – 5th	70	
4	2016 & 2017 KC National Championships (domestic) ****	n/a	Gold	100	From event to event or 1 year if the event does not reoccur within the following season
			Silver	80	
			Bronze	50	

*** All 2016 WKF Karate 1 Premier League Competitions and the 2017 Paris Open Karate 1 Championships will be considered for point accumulation; however, athlete ranking points will only be accumulated toward a status from their two (2) best Karate 1 performances from the list in the Table above. Senior athletes who are not named onto the Senior National Team at the conclusion of the 2016 SNTC-1 for the 2016-2017 season may still earn performance points and statuses at these international events.

It is these athletes' responsibility to provide Karate Canada with proof of the results obtained within 30 days of the completion of the event where these points were earned.

**** = Participation in the National Championships will be mandatory for any athlete to be invited for participation in the subsequent Senior National Training Camp 1 (SNTC-1), and for possible selection onto the Senior National Team Roster for the following competitive season.

Table 4

– Points accumulated for performances in team kata divisions –

Priority	Event	Performance	Points	Duration / Expiry
1	2016 Senior World Championships	Gold	600	From event to event or 1 year if the event does not reoccur within the following season
		Silver	500	
		Bronze	400	
		Top 5	200	
2	2016 Senior Pan Am Championships	Gold	400	From event to event or 1 year if the event does not reoccur within the following season
		Silver	300	
		Bronze	200	
3	2016 Karate 1 Open Championships (& 2017 Paris Open Karate 1 Championships)	Gold	400	From event to event or 1 year if the event does not reoccur within the following season
		Silver	300	
		Bronze	200	
4	2016 and 2017 KC National Championships	Gold	50	From event to event or 1 year if the event does not reoccur within the following season

Table 5

– Funding ratios for athletes on the National Senior Team invited to compete at international competitions –****

Status	Points	Ratio
International A	400 +	1.5 : 1
International B	250 – 399	1 : 1
International C	120 – 249	None
National A	80 – 119	None

Based on its budgets per event, Karate Canada may distribute additional funding to athletes participating in multiple divisions.

(**** Whenever funding is available. Based on Karate Canada's available funds and overall budget for each event.)

Upgrades in the status of athletes may be considered for athlete funding purposes after team selection for an event has occurred. The date on which statuses are to be considered for funding for an event will be at the discretion of Karate Canada.