



**QUALIFICATION AND  
COMPETITION SYSTEM  
(PHASE 2 – FINAL PHASE)  
WKF INDIVIDUAL WORLD SENIOR  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
2025**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL OUTLINE

## 1.1 Purpose and Application

*WKF Individual World Senior Championships (IWSCH)* has a 2-year qualification period along with a quota allocation system with a total of 32 quotas per category. The IWSCH Competition System is composed of 2 Phases, the Group Phase (Round-robin - Rr) and Elimination Phase with no repechage. Each category will have 1 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze awarded.

This document describes the format of Phase 2 (Final Phase) of the WKF Individual World Championships where 32 Competitors are allocated for each category, but with maximum one competitor per country.

Exempt from this are competitors in Para-karate where up to 3 Competitors per country is allowed and there is no Round-robin competition before going into eliminations. In the group system of the para-karate competition, groups of eight to twelve competitors are formed. In each round, the number of competitors per group is reduced to 4, until only two groups remain. The competitors with the highest score in each of these two groups compete against each other for the first place. The competitors with the second-highest score in each of the two groups face off against the third-highest score in the other group to compete for the two third places (bronze medals).

This document is issued to summarize the format of the competition event, and do not supersede or replace the WKF Competition and Ranking Rules.

## 1.2 Competition Days – Kumite, Kata & Para-karate

Phase	Days	Tatamis
Group Phase, Quarterfinals, Semi-finals	2 days	4 tatamis
Medal bouts	1 day	1 tatami
Para-Karate World Championships	1 day	4 tatamis
<b>Total</b>	4 days	

### 1.3 Modalities, Categories & Divisions – Kumite, Kata & Para-karate

MODALITY	Kata		Kumite	
CATEGORY	Female	Male	Female	Male
WEIGHT DIVISIONS			-50 kg	-60 kg
			-55 kg	-67 kg
			-61 kg	-75 kg
			-68 kg	-84 kg
			+68 kg	+84 kg

PARAKARATE					
Visually Impaired		Intellectually Impaired		Wheelchair User	
Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
K10	K10	K21	K21	K30	K30
		K22	K22		

## 2. ALLOCATION SYSTEM

### 2.1 General

All allocations and potential substitutes for places based on results from previous World Championships, Continental Championship, IWSCH Standing, and host nation; NFs will be given an exact response-date to confirm willingness to participate with a deadline for responding that should ideally be 6 weeks or more before the event.

### 2.2 Allocation - Kumite & Kata

Allocation is done in two steps. Request for confirmation of attendance is done as one block per category according to the allocation criteria order (1 to 4).

#### Step 1:

	Allocation Criteria Order	Competitors	Description
1	<b>Current World Senior Championship</b>	1	World Champion
2	<b>IWSCH Standing</b>	8	First place
3	<b>Continental Championships</b>	14	Gold, silver, highest bronze (3 AKF/ 3 EKF/3 PKF/3 UFAK) Gold & Silver (2 OKF)
4	<b>NF Host</b>	1	Highest ranked NF host Competitor in the IWSCH Standing.

The Continental qualification is valid only if no other Competitor from the same Country at the end of the qualification period has not entered the first 8 places of the World Standing (places which give direct qualification to the World Championship after a long period of qualification PL's, Continental points through the world standing). The highest ranked Competitor in the top eight positions in the standing (from the same country) will always have priority.

#### Step 2:

	Allocation Criteria Order	Competitors	Description
5	<b>IWSCH Qualification Tournament</b>	6	6 qualified
6	<b>Universality Places</b>	2	Continental Distribution Ratio Criteria

### 2.2.1 IWSCH Standing

The standing is defined as a specific ranking indicating the position of a Competitor according to specific events within a defined period (Qualification period).

Events that are included in the IWSCH Standing are as follow:

- Karate 1 – Premier League
- Continental Championships (CCH)
- The points gained from the previous ISWCH at the beginning of qualification period

Points from both Continental Championships will be counted in IWSCH standing and the last (most recent) CCH within the qualification period will count towards the Quota distribution.

### 2.2.2 IWSCH Qualification Tournament

The WKF Qualification Tournament is a closed tournament for National Federations that awards 6 quota per category to attend the Individual World Senior Championships. National Federations may register 1 Competitor per category in which they do not already have a qualified Competitor via another allocation criteria, specifically, the current world champion, continental championships, IWSCH Standing and NF Host.

### 2.2.3 Universality Places

#### Continental Distribution Ratio Criteria

- By continent, in proportional application with respect to Continental Championships participation
- Allocation of places to Continental Federations, considering participation in the Continental Championships.
- Places distribution criteria considering the number of anticipated Countries in Continental Championships / Number of Affiliated Countries in Continental Federations proportionality ratio.
- For this ratio, the last Continental Championships prior to the Qualification Phase will be used.
- Allocation of these Continental Federations places to the Competitors with the most points in the IWSCH Standing, with independence of the continent and category.

### 2.3 Substitution – Kumite & Kata

Potential substitute Competitors will be requested to confirm their willingness to compete should their participation be required in parallel with the confirmation of the original allocations.

#### Step 1:

Allocation Criteria Order		Substitution
1	<b>Current World Senior Championship</b>	First: Silver Medalist Second: Bronze Medalist who lost against the Gold Medalist Third: Bronze Medalist who lost against the Silver Medalist Fourth: Following the event result.
2	<b>IWSCH Standing</b>	Highest qualified Competitor in the IWSCH Standing, not qualified by World Senior Championships or Continental Championships (if no other Competitor from the same country has qualified through the World Championships standing).
3	<b>Continental Championships</b>	<b>AKF EKF PKF UFAK</b> First: Bronze Medalist who lost against the Silver Medalist Second: Following the event result.
		<b>OKF</b> First: Bronze Medalist who lost against the Gold Medalist Second: Bronze Medalist who lost against the Silver Medalist. Third: Following the event result.
4	<b>NF Host</b>	Highest qualified NF host Competitor in the IWSCH Standing per category. The substitution will be the next highest qualified Competitor in the IWSCH Standing not qualified by World Senior Championships or Continental Championships. Should a competitor from the NF Host have already qualified through the First, Second or Third criteria, there will be no additional person from the NF Host qualified in addition to this Competitor, respecting the rule that a country can have only one competitor per category.

#### **Note (A):**

In case there are two or more persons are qualified with different criteria from the same NF, the selection will follow the preceding; World championship, IWSCH standing, Continental championship respectively.

#### **Example (A):**

Two persons are from the same NF in the same category, one is qualified as the one from the highest eight in the IWSCH Standing and the other is qualified as the continental medalist. The one qualified from IWSCH standing will have the priority to be selected.

**Note (B):**

In case there is a same person from the same NF is qualified by two or more criteria, the selection will follow the preceding; Continental championship, IWSCH standing, World championship respectively.

**Example (B):**

One person from the same NF is qualified as one of the highest eight in the IWSCH standing and is qualified as the continental medalist. He will be selected according to the continental medalist criteria and a substitution for his other position in the other criteria with another person who is the next highest IWSCH standing not qualified yet by any other criteria.

**Step 2:**

Allocation Criteria Order		Substitution
<b>5</b>	<b>IWSCH Qualification Tournament</b>	<p>First: Competitor who lost the final bout against the originally qualified Competitor in the Qualification Tournament.</p> <p>Second: The Competitor with more technical points during the qualification bout among all the runners-up in qualification bouts.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Universality Places</b>	<p>Next best classified Competitor, from the same Continental Federation in the IWSCH Standing, not qualified by any other criteria, only if there is no other qualified Competitor from the same country. If none, the place will be taken by the next Continental Federation by distribution ratio.</p>

**2.4 Allocation – Para-karate**

Allocation tables do not apply to para-karate where each country is permitted to register up to 3 entries per category.

**2.5 Substitution – Para-karate**

Substitution for para-karate do not need to follow this process as each country can substitute any Competitor up to the deadline given for registering for participation, as long as the number of Competitors registered by the country for that category is no more than 3 entries per category.



### 3. COMPETITION SYSTEM

#### 3.1 The Draw

For the draw, the four highest World Ranking Competitors will be seeded.

### 4. GROUP PHASE (R-R)

#### 4.1 Group Composition – Kumite & Kata

A maximum participation of 32 Competitors with the number of Groups depends on the final participation. Each group will always have maximum 4 Competitors and minimum 3 Competitors.

Competitor/ Category	Competitor / Group								Notes
<b>8 Groups</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Participation: 24-32 Competitors</b>
<b>Seed</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Number of Groups: 8 Groups</b>
32	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	The group winner passes to the Elimination Phase.
31	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	
30	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	
29	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	3	
28	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	
27	4	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	
26	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	
25	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	
24	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	

**Chart 1:** The Group Phase (Round Robin) participant composition chart showing how many participants are required for each group.

## 4.2 Bout Order – Kumite & Kata

Depending on the number of Groups, in each tatami two *Sub-Groups (Sub G)* will compete. The bouts order:

A: 4 COMPETITORS B: 4 COMPETITORS			A: 4 COMPETITORS B: 3 COMPETITORS			A: 3 COMPETITORS B: 3 COMPETITORS		
Sub G	1 <sup>st</sup> Bout	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bout	Sub G	1 <sup>st</sup> Bout	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bout	Sub G	1 <sup>st</sup> Bout	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bout
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Round</b>			<b>1<sup>st</sup> Round</b>			<b>1<sup>st</sup> Round</b>		
A	1-2	3-4	A	1-2	3-4	A	1-2	
B	1-2	3-4	B	1-2		B	1-2	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Round</b>			<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Round</b>			<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Round</b>		
A	2-3	1-4	A	2-3	1-4	A	1-3	
B	2-3	1-4	B	1-3		B	1-3	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Round</b>			<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Round</b>			<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Round</b>		
A	1-3	2-4	A	1-3	2-4	A	2-3	
B	1-3	2-4	B	2-3		B	2-3	

**Chart 2:** The Group of 8 is divided into 2 subgroups of A and B.

## 4.3 Victory Points per Bout - Kumite

The Competitors will receive the following number of points per bouts:

- 3 Points in the case of winning.
- 1 point in the case of draw with result different to 0-0.
- 0 points in the case of draw with result 0-0, or a loss

## 4.4 Result & Tiebreaker - Kumite

The Competitor with the greatest number of victory points when the Group Phase concludes will be the Group Winner.

In the case of draw between two or more Competitors, the Group Winner will be defined following the following criteria in order of precedence:

- 1) Bout result between the Competitors in tie.
- 2) Largest number of points scored in all bouts.
- 3) Least number of points against in all bouts.
- 4) Largest number of Ippon scored in all bouts.
- 5) Least number of Ippon against in all bouts.
- 6) Largest number of Waza-ari scored in all bouts.
- 7) Least number of Waza-ari against in all bouts.
- 8) The highest ranking in the WKF Ranking.
- 9) Result of an extra bout allowing Hantei.

#### 4.5 Video Review Cards - Kumite

- Competitors will have one VR card for the Group Phase.
- Competitors will have one VR card for the Quarterfinals.
- Competitors will have one VR card for the Semi-Finals.
- Competitors will have one VR card for the Medal-Bouts.

#### 4.6 Victory Points per Bout – Kata

- 3 victory points in the case of victory.
- 0 victory points in the case of a loss.

#### 4.7 Results & Tiebreaker – Kata

The Competitor with the greatest number of victory points when the Group Phase concludes will be the Group Winner.

In the case of draw between two or more Competitors, the Group Winner will be defined following the following criteria in order of precedence:

- 1) Winner of the bout between the competitors in tie.
- 2) Sum of all votes as winner (majority of judges) received in all bouts.
- 3) The highest ranking in the WKF Ranking.
- 4) Extra bout doing a new kata.

It is possible to repeat a kata from the Round-robin in the subsequent performances, but only as the sixth kata and with the restriction that the same kata can never be performed twice in a row.

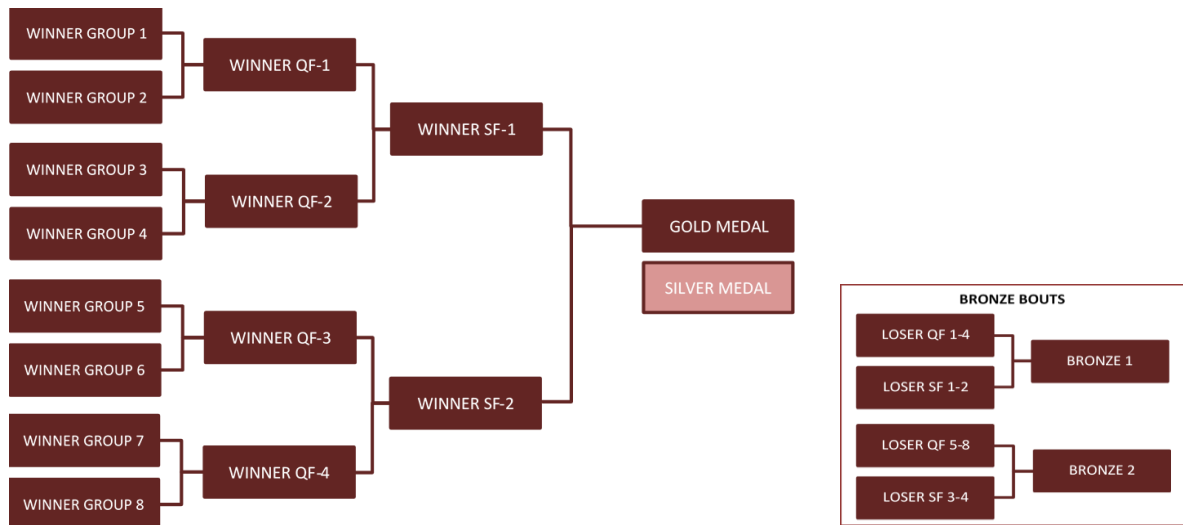
## 5. ELIMINATION PHASE

### 5.1 Qualification to Elimination Phase

After the Group Phase, the group winners pass to Elimination Phase where each Competitor has 1 bout per round, and the winners move on while the losers are eliminated. In total, there are 3 rounds, the Quarterfinals, Semi-finals, and Finals.

### 5.2 Elimination Brackets

#### 8 Groups



- **QF: Quarter-Finalist**
- **SF: Semi-Finalist**

### 5.3 Para karate competition format:

The competition will follow the eight groups formats each group consist of 8 to 12 competitors competing as described in the following chart.

