



KATA JUDGES HANDBOOK

April 1, 2022

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1. KATA JUDGES SUBCOMMITTEE

1.1 Mission Statement

To develop and nurture an environment that all Judo Canada members are introduced to the International Judo Federation (IJF) Kata Judging rules and develop a pathway to a higher standard of Kata judging.

1.2 Activities and Responsibilities

- Establish, maintain, and enforce the policies of the National Kata Judging Subcommittee
- Establish a Kata Judging Certification across Canada
- Provide education on Kata and enforce the rules and regulations of the IJF
- Work in cooperation with the provincial, national, and international organizing Kata committees
- Liaise with the Judo Canada CEO
- Conduct various Kata seminars to certify and continually educate national and international Kata judges
- Establish criteria for selecting Kata judges for the national and international events

2. JUDGES CERTIFICATION

2.1 National Certification

There is one level of National Kata Judge Certification in Canada for each Kata:

- Nage-no-kata
- Katame-no-kata
- Kodokan Goshin-jutsu
- Ju-no-kata
- Kime-no-kata

As of April 1, 2022, National “B” and “C” certification in one or more Kata will have the opportunity to certify for the National Kata certification.

All National Kata Judge candidates must:

- Be a member in good standing with Judo Canada
- Hold a Judo Canada rank of Shodan or higher
- Have a full knowledge of the Kata they are certifying for, including a good knowledge of the *IJF Kata Competition Judges Guidelines and Kata Competition Criteria for Evaluation*
- Complete an application that can be found on the Judo Canada Web Site under "Kata" 30 days prior to the clinic

- Submit a recent new video at least 30 days prior to the certification date of the candidate performing the Kata that they are certifying for as Tori
- If a candidate cannot perform the Kata due to a physical injury, the candidate must record himself / herself teaching the kata to a Tori and an Uke

2.2 PJC / IJF Certification

To acquire eligibility to be nominated by Judo Canada in order to attend a certification examination to become a PJC judge, a candidate must:

- Be a member in good standing with Judo Canada
- Be fully certified as a national judge in all five (5) Katas
- Be active for a minimum of three (3) years as a National Certified Kata Judge
- Must have judged at least two (2) Open National Circuit A Kata Tournaments per year Championships (Open National Kata Championship, Eastern Canadian Kata Championships in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Québec and Western Canadian Kata Championships in Edmonton, Alberta)
- Hold a Judo Canada rank of Sandan or higher

To acquire eligibility to be nominated by Judo Canada in order to attend a certification examination to become an IJF judge, a candidate must:

- Be a member in good standing with Judo Canada
- Be certified as a PJC judge in all five (5) Katas
- Must be recommended by the National Kata Committee to the IJF Kata Commission
- Must be active for a minimum of three (3) years as a fully Certified PJC Kata Judge in all (5) katas
- Must have judged at least two (2) Open National Kata Championships and one (1) PJC Kata Championships
- Hold a Judo Canada rank of Yondan or higher

3. JUDGES SELECTION FOR TOURNAMENTS

3.1 General Qualifications

- Member in good standing with Judo Canada.
- Active at provincial, national and / or international tournaments
- Attendance at clinics and seminars (Held at Kata tournaments and others sanctioned by the National Kata Committee)
- Priority will be given to judges that are fully certified in all five (5) katas

3.2 Circuit A & B Kata Tournaments

Circuit A Tournament: Open Kata National Championships, Eastern Kata Canadian Championship and Western Kata Canadian Championships

Circuit B Tournament: All tournaments sanctioned by the National Kata Committee following the guidelines of Judo Canada Tournament Committee of a B sanctioned tournament

Criteria for selection:

- Kata judges will be invited by the National Kata Committee
- Judges must be certified nationally

3.3 Circuit A Tournaments

Criteria for selection, candidates must have:

- Judged at least three A or B circuit Kata events in the last two (2) years
- Attended a minimum of two (2) National level Kata seminars conducted by the National Kata Committee in the last two (2) years
- Provinces may put forward names to the National Kata Committee for consideration

3.4 International Kata Tournaments

Criteria for selection:

- A written request to attend an international Kata tournament as a judge must be submitted to the National Kata Committee at least thirty (30) days in advance.
- The following criteria define the minimum standard. A candidate who meets the minimum is not guaranteed to be selected. The National Kata Committee reserves the right to make final selection.

A candidate, within the last 12 months prior to the international event, must have:

- Minimum PJC in all five (5) Katas
 - Judged at least two (2) A Circuit Kata Tournaments
 - Attended at least two (2) nationally sanctioned seminars
- PJC Championships
 - Fully certified in all five (5) kata as a PJC judge
 - National Kata Committee will select the judges for the PJC Championships based on the national quota established by the PJC Kata Commission.
 - Minimum Criteria - to be eligible for consideration for selection, a candidate, within the last 12 months prior to the PJC Championships, must have:
 - judged at least two (2) A Circuit Kata Tournaments
 - attended at least two (2) nationally sanctioned seminars

- World Championships
 - Fully certified in all five (5) kata as an IJF judge
 - National Kata Committee will select the judges for the World Championships based on the quota established by the IJF Kata Commission
 - Minimum Criteria - to be eligible for consideration for selection, a candidate, within the last 12 months prior to the World Championships, must have:
 - judged at least two (2) Circuit Kata Tournaments
 - judged at least one international Kata tournament

4 CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS

The following is a summary only which all Kata judges are expected to abide by. Please refer to documents in reference for full explanations.

- **Judges Uniform:** A judge must wear an official uniform as defined by the Judo Canada Kata Committee:
 - Jacket: Black or Navy blue
 - Pants: Dark grey
 - Shirt: White
 - Tie: IJF, PJC or a Black Tie
 - Socks: Black
 - Shoes: Black dress shoes
- **Behavior:** A Judge must:
 - Respect the *Judo Canada Code of Conduct and Ethics*
 - Attend all meetings for the event and be on time prior to each event
 - Not have contact with competitors and coaches during the day of the Kata tournament
 - Be responsible for protecting the spirit of Judo by rendering fair and impartial decisions and remaining free of bias
 - Not look at other judges' evaluation during a presentation
 - Not compete and judge at the same event
 - Must have knowledge of any updates and changes to the kata competition criteria for the evaluation

Not following the expected behavior will result in disciplinary action according to the *Judo Canada Disciplinary and Complaints Policy*.

REFERENCES

[Kata Competition Judges Guidelines](#)

[Kata Competition Criteria for the Evaluation](#)