Tournament Rules and Regulations

The tournament will be conducted in accordance with the latest rules of the Japan Karatedo Federation (JKF).

**Age Categories**

* Toddler (ages 4-6)
* Lower Elementary grades 1 through 3 (ages 7-9)
* Upper Elementary grades 4 through 6 (ages 10-12)
* Middle School (ages 13-15)
* High School (ages 16-18)
* Adult (ages 19 and above)
* High School / Adult (students must be 10th grade, age 16, or above)

\* This tournament will be categorized by age, Kyu and Dan, and will not be divided by weight class. (Exceptions being when participants cannot be grouped)

\* For this tournament, in all categories, no repechage will take place.

**Kata Tournament**

* Preferred kata can be chosen from the WKF / JKF kata list. Freestyle Kata includes Basic Kata of each Ryuha (school) or the Hayashiha Instructional Kata.
* Preliminary (best 4) contests will be judged by five referees by flag method.  
  The flag method will be used when two contestants perform at the same time.
* Final (best 4) contests will be judged by five referees by scoring method to determine ranking. Regarding the scorning method: technical performance points and athletic performance points are combined, and scoring takes place one time. Excluding the highest and lowest scores, the total of the middle three scores will be the contestants' score.

\* The finalists will draw lots at the end of the preliminary rounds to determine the order of performance in the finals.

\* For team competitions held up to the preliminary rounds (where the best 4 are chosen) teams can use the Basic Kata of each Ryuha (school) or the Hayashiha Instructional Kata. Only in the finals can Freestyle Kata be used exclusively. Additionally, there will be no disassembly performance in the medal match.

* Kata Usage Rules

1. Categories for white and colored belts

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Preliminary | Finals (Best 4) | Required Kata |
| Basic Kata of each Ryuha (school) or Hayashiha Instructional Kata (Repeat allowed) | Freestyle Kata  (may include preliminary round Kata) | 1 |

1. Elementary / Middle School Dan holders

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Preliminary | Best 8 to Finals (Best 4) | Required Kata |
| Basic Kata of each Ryuha school (Repeat allowed) | Freestyle Kata (may include preliminary round Kata / Repeat allowed) | 1 |

1. High School / Adult Dan holders

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Preliminary - Best 8 | Finals (Best 4) | Required Kata |
| Preferred Kata (Repeat allowed) | Preferred Kata (cannot repeat Kata used in preliminary or best 8) | 2 |

**Kumite Tournament**

* The tournament time and winning points are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Event | Time | Winning Points |
| Toddler / Elementary / Middle | 1 minute full time | 4 point difference |
| High School / Adult | 2 minutes full time | 6 point difference |

\* For group competitions, the time and winning points of each age group will be applied.

* Safety Equipment Regulations

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Classification | Red / Blue Mitts | Body Protection | Head Gear / Face Shields | Groin Cups (Males only) | Shin and foot protection (soft type) |
| Toddler | Mandatory | Mandatory | No head contact | Voluntary |  |
| Elementary | Mandatory | Mandatory | Mandatory | Mandatory | Mandatory |
| Middle /  High School | Mandatory | Mandatory | Mandatory | Mandatory | Mandatory |
| Adult Female | Mandatory | Mandatory | Mandatory |  | Mandatory |
| Adult Male | Mandatory | Voluntary | Mandatory | Mandatory | Mandatory |

\* Shin and foot protection is mandatory for all age groups. If you do not bring your own shin and foot protection, you will not be disqualified, but we will not be liable for any injuries. Color and shape do not matter if it is certified.

\* Since participants joining from overseas do not have their own head gear/face shield the tournament management will accommodate as much as possible. Following JKF’s guidelines head gear/face shields are mandatory.

\* Two participants or more are necessary for players to join in team competition. In the case that players are absent, the order in the match will not be changed.

**Kobudo Competition**

* The senior division is for participants over the age of 60. However, even if a player is in the senior division they can choose to participate in the high school level.
* In all events, Kenshinryu type Kata and other Ryuha (school) type Kata may be selected for the performance. You may perform the same Kata in both preliminary and final rounds (minimum number required Kata is 1).
* Any Kobudo weapon can be chosen for each round: bo, sai, tonfa and ake.
* Participants are free to wear hakama and colored dogi.
* In the preliminary round, the total score of the three referees will be the contestants’ score. The final round will be judged by 5 referees by scoring method. The highest and lowest scores will be excluded and the total of the middle three scores totaled will be the contestants' score.
* Same as Kata, the order of performance of finalists will be decided by drawing lots after preliminaries.

**Dress Code**

* In accordance with JKF rules the Hayashiha mark must be worn on the left side of the participant's chest on their dogi.
* The color of obi used in each tournament must coincide with the color of obi for the event you are entering.
* Taping is not allowed in the first match of Kumite players. (Meaning the first match for the player)