



2018 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS -INFORMATION ON RULES OF ELIGIBILITY-

1- INFORMATION ABOUT AGE ELIGIBILITY

1. KUMITE:

Athletes aged 18, 19 and 20 years old may compete in individual U21 as well as Senior individual and Senior team divisions.

Youth, Cadet, Junior and U21 athletes may compete in the age category for which they are eligible as of the first day of the 2018 National Championships, and may ALSO register to compete in an older age category provided they will be of the correct age to compete in the said category on the first day of the 2018 Cadet & Junior Pan American (PKF) Karate Championships (expected to be August 23, 2018), or, in the case of 17 year-old athletes competing in a Senior 18+) division, on the first day of the 2018 Senior World (WKF) Karate Championships (expected to be October 24, 2018). However, athletes must be aged 12 or 13 years on the first day of the competition (March 9, 2018) in order to compete in the Youth divisions at the 2018 National Championships.

Participants in all divisions must be aware that unless they are of age to compete in a specific division at key international events taking place during the 2018-2019 season (on the dates of these events, such as the 2018 Cadet & Junior Pan American (PKF) Karate Championships, the 2018 Senior Pan American (PKF) Karate Championships, the 2018 Senior World (WKF) Karate Championships, etc.), they may NOT represent Canada (in such divisions) at these competitions.

2. KATA:

Athletes aged 18, 19 and 20 years may compete in individual U21 as well as Senior individual and Senior team divisions.

Youth, Cadet, Junior and U21 athletes may compete in the age category for which they are eligible as of the first day of the 2018 National Championships, and may ALSO register to compete in an older age category provided they will be of the correct age to compete in the said category on the first day of the 2018 Junior Pan American (PKF) Karate Championships (anticipated to be August 23, 2018), or, in the case of 15 year-old athletes competing in a Senior (16+) division, on the first day of the 2018 Senior World (WKF) Karate Championships (expected to be October 24, 2018). However, in order to participate in the Youth division at the 2018 National Championships, athletes must be of age (12 or 13 years old) on first day of competition (March 9, 2018).

(AN EXTRA NOTE ABOUT KATA: Please note that the minimum age for U21 kata at international events is 18. The minimum age for Senior individual and Senior team kata at international events is 16. So it is possible that an athlete qualifies for Senior kata, but not for U21 kata.)

Participants in all divisions must be aware that unless they are of age to compete in a specific division at key international events taking place during the 2018-2019 season (on the dates of these events, such as the 2018 Cadet & Junior Pan American (PKF) Karate Championships, the 2018 Senior Pan American (PKF) Karate Championships, the 2018 Senior World (WKF) Karate Championships, etc.), they may NOT represent Canada (in such divisions) at these competitions.

2- INFORMATION ABOUT **AUTOMATIC INVITATIONS**

Please note that Karate Canada will automatically invite the following to the 2018 National Championships:

1. All gold and silver medalists from the previous (2017) National Championships (including Youth division athletes), regardless of any change in age or weight divisions within Junior divisions (Youth, Cadet, Junior and U21) and;
2. The two (2) top-ranked Junior National Team Roster athletes in each division (at end of the 2017 season), regardless of any change in age or weight divisions within Junior divisions (Youth, Cadet, Junior and U21) and;
3. All Senior athletes holding status (International A, B or C or National A), regardless of any change in weight divisions within Senior kumite divisions.

All automatically invited athletes must still meet team eligibility requirements set by their respective PTSO (in terms of participation in provincial selection tournaments and / or training sessions, etc).

An athlete may *not* be automatically invited in a Senior division on the basis of their top 2 ranking in Junior divisions (Cadet, Junior and / or U21) or the basis of gold and silver medal results from Junior divisions (Cadet, Junior, U21) from the previous (2017) National Championships.

Additionally, all automatically invited athletes (except Youth division athletes) must, at the time of registration to the 2018 National Championships, be active and current members in good standing of the National Team Roster, according to Karate Canada's National Team Head Coaches, in accordance with published National Team Criteria.

Automatically invited athletes may register (with their PTSO approval) in any and all divisions for which they are age and weight-eligible at the time of registration, with the following exceptions:

- Athletes automatically invited based on medals or ranking points earned in Cadet (kata) and /or Junior and U21 kata and kumite divisions will not be automatically invited to compete in Senior divisions (age 16+ for kata, 18+ for kumite).
- Athletes automatically invited based on medals or ranking points earned in one discipline (either kata or kumite) will not be automatically invited to

compete in the other discipline (either kumite or kata) by virtue of these medals or results. That is, athletes automatically invited to compete in kata are not automatically invited to compete in kumite, and vice versa). Obviously athletes that qualify in both kata and kumite will be automatically invited to compete in both divisions.

Note: *A provisional list of athletes who are expected to be automatically invited (pending status as members on good standing of the National Team Roster at the time of registration, except for Youth division finalists from the 2017 National Championships) will be made available on Karate Canada's website in August 2017.*

3- INFORMATION ABOUT **WILDCARDS**

WILDCARD SYSTEM FOR PROVINCIAL / TERRITORIAL TEAMS AT THE 2018 KARATE CANADA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Karate Canada member PTSOs will receive an allocation of wildcards directly related to the size of the teams that each registers for the Championships.

The Wildcard system helps to address several potential issues, such as teams from provinces with larger populations that may have three or four top performers in one division. This also allows top performing athletes who move from one province / territory to another mid-selection process, or top performing athletes who were forced to miss crucial provincial / territorial selection events due to illness, injury or due to the demands of the international calendar, to have an avenue for entry into the National Championships that may otherwise be closed to them.

This has no detrimental effect on the selection process that PTSOs adopt for the selection of their own teams leading up to the 2018 National Championships. It is simply an additional option that provides more flexibility to the PTSOs and the opportunity to register additional athletes that each PTSO feels has the skill level required to compete in the National Championships and / or might derive a benefit from participation.

ALLOCATION RATIOS:

Wildcard allocations will be as follows:

Team Size	<25 athletes	25-50 athletes	51-75 athletes	76-100 athletes	>100 athletes
Wildcards	2 entries	3 entries	4 entries	5 entries	6 entries

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Selection of athletes for registration in the 2018 National Championships through the "Wildcard" system will be left to the discretion of each PTSO (subject to Karate Canada approval); All PTSOs will however be expected to abide by the following minimum requirements for the registration of wildcard athletes.

To register one or more athletes in the 2018 National Championships as (a) wildcards, PTSOs must submit the names and divisions of the athletes up to the maximum number of athletes allowed, as per the PTSO team quota allocation above – one entry =one wildcard) to Karate Canada (by mail or email) no later than **midnight (EST), February 9th, 2018**, along with a written confirmation that each of these athletes meets **at least one of the following four criteria**:

1. The athlete has placed 3rd in the final rankings of the 2017-2018 provincial / territorial team selections in that individual kumite division (excluding automatically invited athletes); or
2. The athlete has placed 4th in the final rankings of the 2017- 2018 provincial / territorial team selections in that individual kumite division (excluding automatically invited athletes), and the 3rd place athlete in the same division has previously been offered the wild card and has declined it; or
3. The athlete has placed 4th in the final rankings of the 2017-2018 provincial / territorial team selections in that individual kata division (excluding automatically invited athletes); or
4. Or the athlete has placed 5th in the final rankings of the 2017- 2018 provincial / territorial team selections in that individual kata division (excluding automatically invited athletes), and the 4th place athlete in the same division has previously been offered the wild card and has declined it.

(Exceptional nominations of wildcards falling outside the criteria listed above may exceptionally be considered on a case-by-case basis. However, the spirit of the criteria listed above will be respected in approving or rejecting such nominations.)

Only athletes who are members of their PTSO, who meet at least one of the two criteria listed above, and whose names are submitted to Karate Canada by the appropriate PTSO authority (President, Executive Director or Team Head Coach) **no later than February 9th, 2018** will be eligible to compete at the 2018 National Championships as wildcards. Karate Canada will review all submitted wildcard nominations and will confirm approval of these nominations with the PTSOs no later **than February 16th 2018**.

***** Please note: PTSOs must also register approved wildcards online via SportData by the online event registration deadline.**

4- INFORMATION ABOUT **OPEN WEIGHT KUMITE DIVISIONS**

Karate Canada will not offer the option for PTSO Teams to register athletes in Open Weight Kumite divisions at the 2018 National Championships.

More information will be provided over the coming months with regards to possible substitute events / divisions. If and when additional events / divisions become available, participating athletes will be selected and invited based on national and / or international results, and PTSOs will therefore not be required to implement prior athlete selection or registration for such substitute events / divisions.

PTSOs may, at their entire discretion, elect to offer Open Weight kumite divisions in the context of their own PTSO internal events, for developmental purposes.

5- INFORMATION ABOUT **WEIGHT TOLERANCE AT WEIGH-INS**

1. Senior and U21 Kumite Athletes: Acceptable Weight Variance

Kumite athletes competing at the 2018 National Championships will be required to weigh within the weight limitations of the division in which they are registered. **A 0.4 kg variance above or below the weight division range is acceptable.** This will apply to all Senior and U21 athletes. (For Youth, Cadet and Junior divisions, see additional and exceptional consideration item # 3 below.)

Example:

Senior Male athletes (aged 18 years and above): -60 kg, -67 kg, -75 kg, -84 kg, +84 kg:*

- Senior Male Kumite -75kg division: Target weight range acceptable is from 66.6 kg to 75.3 kg;
- Senior Male Kumite -67kg division: Target weight range acceptable is from 59.6 kg to 67.3 kg.

2. Kumite Athletes Who Are Not In Compliance With Weight Restrictions

Athletes who exceed the upper or lower 0.4 kg variance in the weight range for a division will not be accepted. They will be permitted additional time to comply until the weigh-in process concludes at the end of the designated weigh-in day.

Weight categories must be respected with the 0.4 kg variance allowed as per item 1 above.

- a. Kumite athletes who surpass the maximal weight (including the variance) for a division may not compete in that weight division.
- b. Kumite athletes who are unable to meet the minimal weight (including allowed variance) for a division may not compete in that weight division.
- c. Weight compliance for Youth, Cadet and Junior divisions – see below.

3. Youth, Cadet And Junior Athletes: Weight Compliance

- a. Athletes weighing in within 2 kg of the lower limit of the weight division for which they are registered will be allowed to compete in that weight division at the 2018 National Championships.
- b. The acceptable weight variance for all kumite athletes is 0.4 kg above the range for each weight division.
- c. Kumite athletes who exceed 0.4 kg above or 2 kg below the weight range for a division will not be accepted. They will be permitted additional time to comply until the weigh-in process concludes at the end of the designated weigh-in day.
- d. Kumite athletes who exceed the upper weight limit including the upper variance of 0.4 kg or the lower variance of 2 kg will not be allowed to compete in any division.

(Additional information about weigh-in rules, protocols and schedule will be provided in updates to the Information Bulletin.)