



# **SO YOU WANT TO BECOME A KARATE REFEREEING OFFICIAL - BUT DON'T KNOW HOW?**

## **Scottish Karate Governing Body (SKGB)**



EUROPEAN KARATE FEDERATION  
FEDERATION EUROPÉENNE DE KARATÉ  
MEMBER OF THE WORLD KARATE FEDERATION (WKF)

## **Aim**

The aim of this document is to provide a quick start-up guide to becoming a Karate Refereeing Official in either Kumite or Kata disciplines. This document is therefore intended as preliminary information to supplement that already provided in the full guidance document 'SKGB Guidelines for Achievement of Kumite and Kata Qualifications -Dec 2014' (Ref.<sup>1</sup>). This publication can be downloaded directly from the SKGB website (Refereeing Section).

## **Objectives**

There are 2 main objectives outlined within this guideline document.

- To provide a quick no-nonsense guide to anyone considering becoming a Kumite Judge/Referee or Kata Judge.
- To provide basic information in relation to sourcing development resources.

## **Introduction**

The SKGB are always in need of additional qualified officials. The Refereeing Commission will be happy to help in any way possible to assist those interested in becoming Kumite or Kata officials.

Becoming qualified to Judge Kata or Judge/Referee Kumite will not happen overnight. For full details of the route of progression, reference should be made to (Ref.<sup>1</sup>).

## **Getting Started**

The following bullet points outline what is needed to begin training as an official.

- Speak to a member of the SKGB Refereeing Commission who will help explain the way forward.
- Obtain a copy of the current WKF Kata and Kumite Competition Rules (Ref.<sup>2</sup>) and read it thoroughly.
- Expose yourself as much as possible to Karate competition. This can be done by watching videos as well as attending local events. Try to understand what is happening and why certain decisions are being made.
- Working as a table official i.e. scorekeeping/timekeeping at actual competitions is an excellent way to get close to the action. In this way you can also ask other officials questions if you are not sure what has happened.

**Once you are ready to begin Judging there are a few initial things required;**

- Apply for an SKGB Refereeing Officials Record Book. The application form for this can be downloaded from the SKGB website (Refereeing Section) and the book will cost you £5:00.
- Obtain a Refereeing uniform complying with the requirements outlined in Article 2 of the WKF Rules (Ref<sup>2</sup>).
- Check your need to have separate insurance cover which covers you for Refereeing, if you do not already hold an SKGB Coaching Licence.
- Check your need to have separate PVG clearance (formerly ESCRO check) which allows you to work with children, if you do not already hold an SKGB Coaching Licence.
- Attend as many Refereeing courses either Association or SKGB level as possible, to improve your understanding of the rules and procedures required. This will involve both theory practice and practical practice.

**Insurance Cover**

SKGB Refereeing Officials are covered by the SKGB's insurance at all SKGB sanctioned events only. At other non-SKGB/BKF events it is advisable therefore that Judges/Referees have arranged their own adequate insurance to cover their risk at such events. This is normally achieved through the PPI cover which accompanies Sports Coach UK membership for example, although other options are available.

**Minimum Criteria**

In order to become a qualified SKGB Judge for either Kata or Kumite there are age and grade restrictions. The candidate should be at least 18 years of age and hold the minimum of a 1<sup>st</sup> Dan grade. This does not mean that a candidate cannot start his/her training before this time in anticipation of achieving a Dan grade for example. The age restriction however needs to be achieved beforehand.

Reference should be made to the full guidance document 'SKGB Refereeing Official Guidelines-Dec 2014' (Ref.<sup>1</sup>), for all other criteria to be met prior to award of an SKGB qualification.

**Development Record and Maintaining Qualifications**

The qualification of an SKGB official will be recorded in his or her own personal Official Record Book (Ref.<sup>3</sup>), as issued by the SKGB and endorsed by an SKGB Refereeing commission official.

SKGB qualifications will remain current as long as the official continues to be active and has attended at least one SKGB event in any two year period, otherwise reassessment and possibly a theory test pass will be required.

### **Structure of the SKGB training program:**

Reference should be made to the full guidance document 'SKGB Refereeing Official Guidelines-Dec 2014' (Ref.<sup>1</sup>) for full details.

Most courses delivered by the SKGB Refereeing Commission are open to all grades of official from beginners to International level. Occasionally specific courses may be held only for beginners to encourage their participation and anyone interested in becoming an official should look out for notification of these courses on the SKGB website.

Alternatively the central point of contact for the SKGB Refereeing Commission at present is Kirsten Bonar, the SKGB Referee Commission Secretary. Kirsten can be contacted by E-mail at skgbrefcom@gmail.com.

### **Training Delivery**

Reference should be made to the full guidance document 'SKGB Refereeing Official Guidelines-Dec 2014' (Ref.<sup>1</sup>) for full details.

### **Timescales for Progression**

Reference should be made to the full guidance document 'SKGB Refereeing Official Guidelines-Dec 2014' (Ref.<sup>1</sup>) for full details.

REMEMBER - THE MOST IMPORTANT PART IS MAKING THE FIRST MOVE ALONG WITH THE COMMITMENT TO ACTIVELY START YOUR DEVELOPMENT.

THEREAFTER, REGULAR EVENT ATTENDANCE AND PRACTISE ON THE MATT UNDER THE WATCHFULL GUIDANCE (AND FEEDBACK) OF SENIOR OFFICIALS WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE BEST ROUTE FOR PROGRESS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

### **References**

1. '*SKGB Guidelines for Achievement of Kumite and Kata Qualifications – Dec 2014*'. This can be downloaded from the SKGB website (Refereeing Section).
2. '*WKF Kata and Kumite Competition Rules, Revision 9.0*' - (Effective from January 2015). These can be downloaded from the SKGB website (Refereeing Section).
3. '*SKGB Official Record Book*'. This can be ordered via the downloadable form, available on the SKGB website (Refereeing Section) at a cost of £5:00.