

Open Kata Competition With and without weapons With and without music.

International Competition rules

Explanation of the match rules



These competition rules supersede all previous rules. They are therefore invalid.

This new version is effective as of September 1, 2025. These rules can be viewed on the IMAF Europe website.

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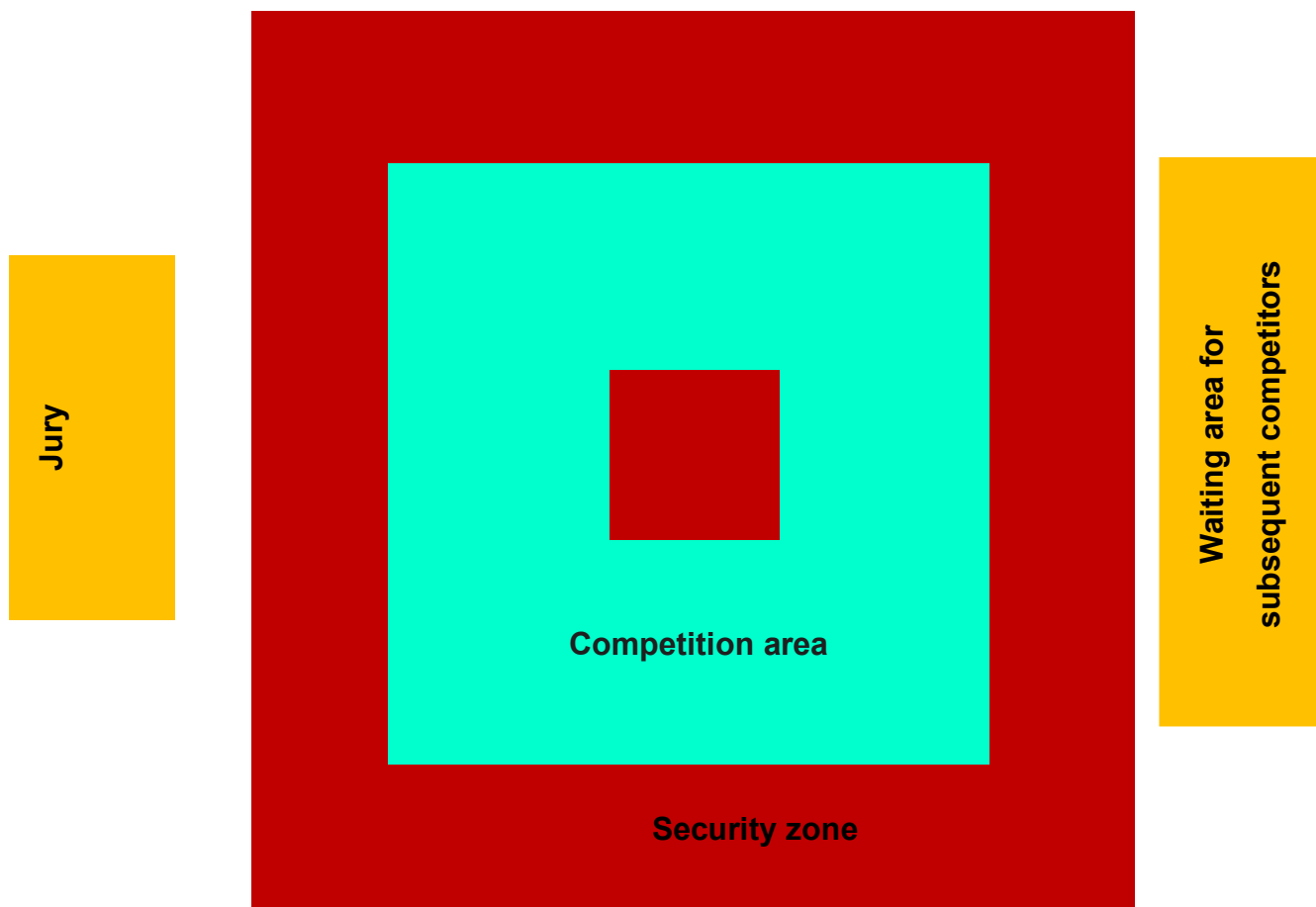
1. Conditions of Participation

Requirements for participation:

- ⇒ A medical examination, i.e., approval from a sports doctor to participate in the sport, must be completed. The examination must be completed within 12 months of the participant's registration.
- ⇒ This examination must be recorded in the passport or medical record.
- ⇒ If the information in the sports and health record is illegible, crossed out, or if dates and signatures are crossed out or corrected, the certificate is automatically invalidated.
- ⇒ Accident insurance for the participant.
- ⇒ Signed consent from a parent or guardian for minors.
- ⇒ The following IMAF Europe competition rules apply.

2. The Competition Area

The competition area must be a square measuring 10 x 10 meters. A 2-meter safety zone must be established around the competition area (risk of injury from Kobudo weapons). The competition area must be designed in such a way that any danger to the fighters is excluded.



3. Clothing

Referee:

White shirt, tie, dark blue jacket, black socks, black pants, mat shoes.

Competitors:

- ⇒ GI, appropriate for the discipline. Patch on the chest or left sleeve (federation and dojo).
- ⇒ Fingernails and toenails must be kept short.
- ⇒ Jewelry is not permitted.

4. Competition Forms

The following competition forms are available:

- ⇒ Freestyle own form with weapons and without music
- ⇒ Freestyle own form with weapons and with music
- ⇒ All Style Kata
- ⇒ Freestyle own form without weapons and without music
- ⇒ Freestyle own form without weapons and with music
- ⇒ Nihon Kobudo Kata ind.
- ⇒ Kenjutsu Kata ZNKR Seitei Iai
- ⇒ Individual Kata
- ⇒ Team Kata

5. Prohibited Forms

No traditional kata may be performed in this class.

6. Team Kata

- ⇒ The number of kata runners should be odd (3 or 5 competitors and one substitute).
- ⇒ The winning team will be determined by the number of points achieved.
- ⇒ In the event of a tie, the winning team will be determined by an additional bout between two selected contestants (one from each team).
- ⇒ In the event of another tie, an additional bout (Sai Shiai) will be contested.
- ⇒ In the event of another tie, a sudden death bout (Encho-Sen) will be contested. The winner is the contestant who scores the first point.
- ⇒ In the event of another tie, the refereeing panel will decide.
- ⇒ Victories by forbidden techniques, disqualification of the opponent, or submission will be counted as victories by full Ippon.

7. Weight Classes

- ⇒ For Kata
- ⇒ If a class is over- or under-represented, the organizer may combine or separate weight classes.

Forms / Kata All Genders can also start in one class				
Categorie	Age male	Code	Age female	Code
Freestyle own forms with weapon without music	10-12 years	IF001	10-12 years	IF037
	13-15 years	IF002	13-15 years	IF038
	16-17 years	IF003	16-17 years	IF039
	18 - 34 years	IF004	18 - 34 years	IF040
	+35 years Veterans	IF005	+35 years	IF041
	Black belt	IF006	Black belt	IF042
Freestyle own forms with weapon with music	10-12 years	IF007	10-12 years	IF043
	13-15 years	IF008	13-15 years	IF044
	16-17 years	IF009	16-17 years	IF045
	18 - 34 years	IF010	18 - 34 years	IF046
	+35 years Veterans	IF011	+35 years	IF047
	Black belt	IF012	Black belt	IF048
All Style Kata	10-12 years	IF013	10-12 years	IF049
	13-15 years	IF014	13-15 years	IF050
	16-17 years	IF015	16-17 years	IF051
	18 - 34 years	IF016	18 - 34 years	IF052
	+35 years Veterans	IF017	+35 years	IF053
	Black belt	IF018	Black belt	IF054
Freestyle own forms without weapons with music	10-12 years	IF019	10-12 years	IF055
	13-15 years	IF020	13-15 years	IF056
	16-17 years	IF021	16-17 years	IF057
	18 - 34 years	IF022	18 - 34 years	IF058
	+35 years Veterans	IF023	+35 years	IF059
	Black belt	IF024	Black belt	IF060
Nihon Kobudo Kata ind.	10 - 12 years	IF025	10 - 12 years	IF061
	13 – 15 years	IF026	13 – 15 years	IF062
	16 - 17 years	IF027	16 -17 years	IF063
	18 - 34 years	IF028	18 - 34 years	IF064
	+35 years Veterans	IF029	+35 years	IF065
	Black belt	IF030	Black belt	IF066
Kenjutsu Kata ZNKR Seitei lai	10 – 12 years	IF031	10 - 12 years	IF067
	13 – 15 years	IF032	13 – 15 years	IF068
	16 - 18 years	IF033	16 -17 years	IF069
	18 - 34 years	IF034	18 - 34 years	IF070
	+35 years Veterans	IF035	+35 years	IF071
	Black belt	IF036	Black belt	IF072

8. Assessment

1. When assessing a kata performed by a competitor or team, the following criteria must be considered:
 - ⇒ The kata must be well executed and must demonstrate a clear understanding of the principles it contains.
 - ⇒ The execution of the kata must demonstrate full attention (chakugan), correct use of force, good balance, and correct breathing.
 - ⇒ The execution of the kata should also be assessed for other aspects:
2. Correct breathing, good demonstration of power, balance, speed, timing, and kime.
3. Consistency and correctness of the stances.
 - ⇒ Correct weight distribution according to the demonstrated kihon.
 - ⇒ Smooth and smooth transitions between stances.
 - ⇒ Correct body tension in the stances.
 - ⇒ Soles of the feet firmly on the ground.
4. Demonstrate techniques:
 - ⇒ Accuracy.
 - ⇒ Correct and consistent kihon with the style demonstrated.
 - ⇒ Correct tension.
 - ⇒ Correct center of gravity.
 - ⇒ Kime - Accurate understanding of the kata (also bunkai).
5. The kata consistently demonstrates:
 - ⇒ Constant concentration.
 - ⇒ Contrast of tension.
 - ⇒ Breathing and movement.
 - ⇒ Understanding of the demonstrated techniques.
 - ⇒ Realistic, not "theatrical" demonstration of the kata.

9. The Kata Judging Commission

- ⇒ 5 judges, of which 1 must be from the discipline of the kata being demonstrated.
- ⇒ 1 judge who announces the points scored.
- ⇒ The leader of the list
- ⇒

10. Protests

- ⇒ Protests will only be accepted by the International Referee if the protest fee has been deposited and the protest form has been submitted (Appendix 1).
- ⇒ The amount of the protest fee will be determined before the tournament. It will be announced by the organizer in consultation with the International Referee.
- ⇒ Protests can only be filed by the team captain/coach.
- ⇒ The protest fee will be refunded to the team captain if the protest is upheld.
- ⇒ If the protest is not upheld, the money will be used for tournament equipment.
- ⇒ Video evidence will not be considered for judging.

11. Injuries

Should an injury occur, the injured competitor is given 5 minutes of recovery time. The paramedic or team captain/coach decides whether the injured competitor may continue fighting. If the uninjured competitor is causally (negligently) responsible for the opponent's injury, the injured competitor will be awarded the victory. The referee decides, after consultation with the head referee, whether the fighter is disqualified for the entire tournament or only for this fight.



Tournament	Combat area	List leader	Date

[illegible]



Protest sheet

Open Kata competition



Tournament and date: _____

Protest leader	
Name of team captain/coach	
Club/Association Country	
Competitor's name	

Protest opponents	
Name of team captain/coach	
Club/Association Country	
Competitor's name	

Official	
Chief referee	
Referee	
Scoring table operator/side judge	

Details of the protest. Use the back cover if necessary.

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Decision: The protest is upheld ☐ Yes ☐ No

Protest fee of _____ € has been paid.

Signature of Chief Referee _____

Signature of all involved	
Chief referee	
Referee	
Scoring table operator/side judge	
Competitor's name Protest leader	
Competitor's name Protest opponents	