



## USA Karate Regional Referee Course Step by Step Registration Process

### Description

This packet will explain the step-by-step process to become eligible to participate in an **official USA Karate Regional Referee Certification Course**.

All participants must be current **USA Karate members**. Eligible members must be brown or black belt members 14 years of age or older and must complete a background (underage for under 18) check and SafeSport training.

### Step 1 USA Karate Membership

To sign up for a USA Karate membership go to <https://usankf.sport80.com/>

1. Create an account
  - a. You need an email address, and you will be prompted to set up a password
2. First screen asks you to select a communication option
3. Next screen "view profile"
  - a. Click "Add" to go to page to select Membership Type.
  - b. Most should pick Regional Official Membership unless you plan to coach or compete at the National level
4. Select an affiliated club or unaffiliated
5. Next a screen will ask about style and personal questions
6. Directed to pay membership fee
7. Once back to profile, you will see "**Background Screening**" and "**Center for SafeSport Training.**" Both links will explain how to complete these steps. **This takes time, please get on this right away.**

**If you have a current USA Karate membership**, you can access the exam under coach or Regional Official membership. If an athlete membership, you will need to go in and change your membership to coach or Regional Official membership. To do this;

1. Log into your account
2. View Profile
3. Click memberships
4. Click bottom tool bar
5. Then click “change membership type”

### **Step 2 Download Rules**

1. Go to [usankf.org](http://usankf.org)
2. Go to Resources and click Officials Resources
3. Go to Rules of Competition and download
4. Also notice the **Online Exam** and the **Referee Code of Conduct** form are here. This is where you will take the online exam. You will need to download the Referee Code of Conduct form, sign it, and submit it at the course.

### **Step 3 Take the Online Exam**

1. You must pass the online exam. 80% is required to pass the exam for those challenging for a **Regional Kata Judge B or C** and **Kumite Judge B license**.
2. See Step 2 to locate where to take the online exam
3. You can take the exam as many times as you need.
4. When you pass the exam, make a copy of the Pass document/certificate and bring it to the course. You must turn in this document to take the course.

### **Step 3 Referee Attire**

1. Officials are required to wear the correct Referee attire at tournaments, courses, and other official events. See Competition Rules to see the official attire requirements

### **Step 4 Register for USA Karate Regional Referee Course**

1. Course Fee is \$50 and requires pre-registration
2. Course fee includes both kata and kumite exams and the official patch
3. The link to register is <https://sparkpages.io/?i=MwX>
4. You can also go [smacus.com/upcoming-events/](http://smacus.com/upcoming-events/) and click the link there

### **Step 5 USA Karate Passport**

1. A passport is required to document all courses and tournaments attended
2. The cost of a passport is \$20 and can be purchased at the course.

### **Step 6 Other Requirements**

1. Three tournaments of officiating are required between Referee courses.
2. The tournament must be a USA Karate recognized competition of approximately 125 competitors or more.
3. You must get your passport signed by the Chief Referee or tournament promotor.

## **Conclusion**

It may seem overwhelming and expensive when considering becoming a USA Karate Official. The benefits greatly outweigh the initial struggle. Officiating has improved my leadership, karate, and teaching skills. I am a better martial artist for this.

I would attack this initial challenge as you attacked your karate training, one step at a time. You were not a black belt when you started training.

For those teens who want to improve their college applications, being listed as a certified USA Karate Official is excellent. USA Karate is the governing body for karate for the USOPC—a powerful connection.

One final note. Our competitors need us. They need qualified, trained officials. Martial artists give back. Officiating is a great way to do this.

Ray Hughes  
WKF Official  
Course Instructor