

World Deaf Karate Open Tournament 2027

Event Regulations

Purpose

The **World Deaf Karate Open Tournament 2027** is an international open tournament organized to promote the development of karate among Deaf and Hard of Hearing athletes while fostering international friendship and cultural exchange.

The event will bring together Deaf and Hard of Hearing karate athletes from Japan and around the world to deepen mutual understanding and friendship through competition, enhance athletic performance, and support the development of the next generation of athletes.

As a legacy initiative following the **Tokyo 2025 Deaflympics**, the Tournament also aims to promote Deaf Sports, increase public awareness and understanding of Deaf Sports, encourage an inclusive society, and celebrate diversity.

Furthermore, the event will provide a **visually accessible competition environment** by incorporating communication support through **Japanese Sign Language (JSL), International Sign (IS), and other accessible communication methods**, ensuring that all participants can compete and communicate with confidence in an inclusive Deaf Sports environment.

1. Event Title

World Deaf Karate Open Tournament 2027

2. Organizer

Japan Deaf Karate-do Federation (JDKF.)

3. Organizing Committee

Organizing Committee, Japan Deaf Karate Federation (JDKF.)

4. Supported by (*Tentative*)

- Tokyo Metropolitan Government (*Tentative*)
 - Adachi City
 - Japan Karate Federation (JKF)
 - Japanese Federation of the Deaf
 - Tokyo Federation of the Deaf
 - Tokyo Sports Association for Persons with Disabilities
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5. Dates

Friday, 5 February 2027

- Official Practice
- Welcome Reception

Saturday, 6 February 2027

- World Deaf Karate Open Tournament 2027

Note:

The 10th JDKF Karate-do Tournament will be held on **Sunday, 7 February 2027**. (Please refer to the separate Event Regulations.)

6. Venue**Tokyo Budokan – Main Arena**

3-20-1 Ayase, Adachi-ku, Tokyo 120-0005, Japan

7. Eligibility

Deaf and hard of hearing athletes.

8. Competition Events

The competition shall be conducted in accordance with the World Karate Federation (WKF) Competition Rules and shall include the following events:

(1) Events

- Individual Kata
- Individual Kumite
- Team Kata
- Team Kumite

(2) Notes

Competition divisions may be combined or divided depending on the number of entries received.

9. Competition Divisions

Competition divisions may be combined or divided depending on the number of entries received.

(1) Individual Kata (Male / Female)

- U10 (8–9 years)
- U12 (10–11 years)
- U14 (12–13 years)
- Cadet (14–15 years)
- Junior (16–17 years)
- Senior (18–40 years)
- Masters (41 years and over)

(2) Individual Kumite (Male / Female)

- U10 (8–9 years)
- U12 (10–11 years)
- U14 (12–13 years)
- Cadet (14–15 years)
- Junior (16–17 years)
- Senior (18–40 years, ※weight categories)
- Masters (41 years and over)

※Senior Weight Categories

Male	Female
-60 kg	-50 kg
-67 kg	-55 kg
-75 kg	-61 kg
-84 kg	-68 kg
+84 kg	+68 kg

(3) Team Kata (Mixed Gender)

- 8 years and over

(4) Team Kumite (Male / Female)

- 18 years and over

Notes

- Athlete age shall be determined as of **6 February 2027**.
- There is **no limit** on the number of teams that each federation or organization may enter in the Team Events.

10. Competition Rules

(1) General Rules

1. The competition shall be conducted in accordance with the **World Karate Federation (WKF) Competition Rules**, except where otherwise specified in these Event Regulations.
2. All events shall be conducted under a single-elimination tournament format.
3. No bronze medal playoff matches shall be held.
4. Competition divisions may be combined, divided, or otherwise adjusted depending on the number of entries received.

(2) Individual Kata

1. Competitors shall perform kata from the official WKF Kata List.
2. The same kata may be repeated throughout the competition, from the first round to the final.
3. Competitors shall complete a **Kata Declaration Card** and submit it to the competition officials before the athlete assembly.
4. The name of the kata shall be declared either by sign language or verbally. The use of sign language is encouraged.
5. Two competitors shall perform simultaneously from the preliminary rounds through the semi-finals. In principle, the final shall be performed individually; however, depending on the competition schedule, simultaneous performance may also be used for the final.
6. Winners shall be determined by majority decision of seven referees using the red and blue flag system. If necessary, the referee panel may confer before reaching a final decision.

(3) Team Kata

1. Athletes aged **8 years and above** may form mixed teams regardless of gender or age category.
2. Each team shall consist of **three competitors**, with a maximum of **four registered athletes** per team.
3. Teams may perform any kata of their choice. **Bunkai (kata application demonstration) shall not be required.**
4. The same kata may be repeated throughout the competition, from the first round to the final.

5. Teams shall complete a **Kata Declaration Card** and submit it to the competition officials before the athlete assembly.
6. The name of the kata shall be declared either by sign language or verbally. The use of sign language is encouraged.

(4) Individual Kumite

1. Competition shall be conducted under a single-elimination tournament format.
2. No bronze medal playoff matches shall be held.
3. The duration of Senior Kumite bouts shall be three (3) minutes of full time for both male and female categories. The bout duration for all other age divisions shall be specified separately.
4. A competitor shall be declared the winner upon obtaining an **eight-point lead** during the bout or by having the higher score at the end of the regulation time. If the scores are tied, the winner shall be determined in accordance with the applicable WKF rules.
5. To enhance visual accessibility, the coaches' chairs shall be positioned diagonally opposite the respective **AKA (Red)** and **AO (Blue)** competitors.

(5) Team Kumite

1. Athletes aged **18 years and above** may form men's and women's teams separately.
2. Each team shall consist of three (3) competitors, with a minimum of two (2) competitors required to participate. Each team may register up to two (2) reserve competitors.
3. No bronze medal playoff matches shall be held.
4. Each bout shall have a duration of **three (3) minutes**.
5. A competitor shall be declared the winner upon obtaining an **eight-point lead** during the bout or by having the higher score at the end of regulation time. If the scores are tied, the winner shall be determined in accordance with the applicable WKF rules.
6. The winning team shall be determined by the number of individual bout victories. The team with the greater number of victories shall be declared the winner.

(6) Protective Equipment

1. In all Kumite events, competitors shall wear **WKF- or JKF-approved protective equipment**, including:
 - Red/Blue Gloves
 - Body Protector
 - Instep Protectors
 - Shin Guards
2. For U14 competitors (8–13 years), the use of red/blue reversible fist protectors (JKF) .
3. Male competitors aged **10 years and above** shall wear a protective groin guard (cup). For competitors under **10 years of age**, its use is optional.
4. Competitors aged 14 years and over shall wear a mouthguard at all times during Kumite competition.
5. U14 competitors (13 years of age and under) shall wear a WKF- or JKF-approved protective helmet (Menho).
6. Competitors are responsible for providing their own protective equipment. Athletes without the required equipment will not be permitted to compete. Protective equipment will **not** be available

for loan.

(7) Dress Code

1. Coaches and Team Officials

1. Coaches and team officials shall wear either:
 - a tracksuit (warm-up suit), or
 - a polo shirt with trousers.
2. Coaches, team managers, and instructors shall visibly wear their official accreditation (ID card), which will be issued at the registration desk on the day of the event.

2. Athletes

1. Competitors shall wear a **white WKF-approved or JKF-approved karate uniform (karate-gi)**. However, for this event, the shoulder stripes required under the WKF uniform regulations **will not be mandatory**.
 2. Competitors shall sew the country code patch (e.g., JPN) and the competition back number provided by the Organizer onto the designated positions of the karate gi.
 3. Metal hair accessories, including metal hairbands or hair clips, are prohibited.
 4. The use of **hearing aids, amplification devices, and the external components of cochlear implants** is prohibited within the competition area and warm-up area.
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11. Awards

The following awards shall be presented for both **Kata** and **Kumite** events:

1. Gold, Silver, and two Bronze medals shall be awarded in each competition division.
 2. All participants shall receive a commemorative participation gift.
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12. Eligibility

(1) Athletes

Competitors must be Deaf or hard of hearing, support the objectives of this tournament, and agree to comply with the Competition Rules and Regulations.

(2) Coaches

Coaches must be the official coach or an equivalent representative of the athlete's dojo, club, federation, or affiliated organization.

13. Entry Schedule

(1) Preliminary Entry

27 April – 30 May 2026

(2) Final Entry

1 August – 30 September 2026

(3) Entry Changes and Cancellations

Changes or cancellations after the Final Entry deadline will be accepted until **30 November 2026**.

(4) Entries shall be submitted by one of the following methods:

1. Team Entry (for two (2) or more competitors)

Teams with two (2) or more competitors shall submit the prescribed Entry Form (Form 1), duly completed, by e-mail.

Submission E-mail : wdko2027@jdkf.jp

2. Individual Entry

Access the URL below and complete the required information in the Individual Entry Form.

Individual Entry Form : <https://forms.gle/AMCGL1tQDPpCCpC6A>

Note:

Athletes entering individually must obtain permission from their coach or the responsible official of their club or organization before submitting their entry.

14. Entry Fee

(1) Entry Fee

Athletes and Coaches: JPY 12,000 per person

(2) The Entry Fee Includes

- Welcome Reception
- Entry fee for the WDKO Tournament2027 on 6 February 2027
- Official ID Pass (valid for three days)
- Souvenir

(3) Other Information

- Accommodation, meals, transportation, and all other personal expenses shall be borne by the participants.
- Competitors wishing to participate in the 10th JDKF Karate Tournament on 7 February 2027 shall pay a separate entry fee.

(4) Payment Deadline

30 November 2026

(5) Payment Information

Payment instructions will be provided separately to each participant or to the representative of each participating organization after the entry has been accepted.

15. Health and Safety

1. All participants are responsible for managing their own health and physical condition throughout the event.
2. In the event of an accident or injury during the competition, the Organizer will provide first aid only.
3. As further medical examination or treatment at a hospital may be required after first aid, all athletes are advised to carry their **health insurance card** or other documents necessary for receiving medical treatment.
4. The Organizer will provide accident insurance covering the official event period. The insurance coverage includes death, permanent disability, hospitalization, and outpatient medical treatment, within the limits of the insurance policy purchased by the Organizer. The Organizer shall not be

liable for any expenses or damages exceeding the insurance coverage, nor for injuries or illnesses arising from pre-existing medical conditions or from the participant's intentional acts or gross negligence.

5. Infectious disease prevention measures shall be implemented in accordance with the regulations and guidelines of the national and local governments, as well as the venue management.
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16. Participant Guidelines

(1) Spectator Seating

1. Outdoor shoes are **not permitted** in the spectator seating area. Please bring indoor shoes or slippers and remove your outdoor footwear before entering the venue.
2. Participants shall use the seating area assigned to their delegation. A seating plan will be distributed at a later date.

(2) Competition Area (Arena)

1. Only persons holding a valid Official ID Pass will be permitted to enter the Competition Area.
 2. Outdoor shoes are **not permitted** in the arena. Please bring indoor shoes or slippers and remove your outdoor footwear before entering.
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17. Miscellaneous

1. Personal information collected through the entry forms will be handled in accordance with applicable data protection laws and regulations and will be used solely for the administration and operation of this Tournament. Personal information that is no longer required will be securely disposed of under the responsibility of the Organizer.
2. The official languages of the Tournament shall be **International Sign (IS)** and **Japanese Sign Language (JSL)**.
3. The country code patch and competition back number will be prepared by the Organizer and distributed on the Official Training Day.
4. Accommodation booking services will be available only for the Official Hotel. The Organizer will not arrange accommodation at any other hotels.