

AJI

OFFICIAL KARATE KATA TOURNAMENT RULES

Hosted by the AMERICAN JUJITSU INSTITUTE



Since 1939

Revised 2012.

2012 OHANA OFFICIAL KARATE KATA RULES

Purpose

The purpose of this traditional karate kata competition is to promote a competitive spirit amongst the different martial arts organizations within the Ohana Alliance. With this specific set of rules and guidelines the AJI and the Ohana Alliance furthers an atmosphere of sportsmanship, wholesome competition, and develops a safe environment in which students of all abilities can safely compete on an equal basis.

General Guidelines

In this traditional kata or forms competition, each student competes with competitors of equal skill and age. The tournament director may, at his discretion elect to break the level down further by gender. There is also team competition in which two-person teams compete against similar competitors. The kata is performed before a panel of five judges. Points are awarded based upon execution, form, general presentation, timing, and other considerations, which may be specific to the kata being performed. The highest point total wins. There shall be also an official scorer and a runner whose duties are outlined later.

Contest Area

The contest area shall be no less than twenty (20) feet square. There shall be a stripe marking near the center-front of the contest area marking the spot where the contestant shall begin their kata. There will be five chairs for the judges. The head judge shall sit at the front, directly center of the contest area. The other four judges shall be placed at the four corners of the contest area. There shall be no tables or any other obstructions between any of the judges and the competitor, except for the head judge.

Attire

All competitors shall wear complete traditional martial arts uniform, which shall consist of a jacket, pants and appropriate obi (belt). All female competitors shall wear a t-shirt under her uniform jacket. The wearing of socks and/or "kung-fu"-type slippers is optional. All martial arts uniforms shall be clean. No jewelry shall be worn during the performance or contest. Excluded are permanently attached jewelry or medic-alert bracelets.

Competitor Safety

Any injury shall immediately be brought to the attention of the head judge by the contestant, or by a representative of his/her school. The head judge shall confer with the other judges in an attempt to determine the extent of the injury. The decision to allow the competitor to continue shall be the sole responsibility of the head judge. His decision is final and there is no appeal.

Injuries that were sustained prior to the actual competition shall be brought to the attention of the tournament director prior to the beginning of the contest. If the competitor is unable to compete, the entrance fee shall be refunded in full. The tournament director's decision is final.

Approved Katas

All katas being performed shall be traditional martial arts katas and not newly created containing music, unusual gymnastics, or histrionics. All competitors should be aware of the origin of the kata they are performing, such as Chinese, Okinawan, Japanese, and Korean, etc.

Competition Category Groups

There shall be four category groups:

JUNIORS, YOUTH, ADULTS and BLACK BELTS

Age Requirements

Juniors

5 thru 7 years

8 thru 9 years

10 thru 11 years

Youth

12 thru 13 years

14 thru 15 years

16 thru 17 years

Adults

18 years and older

Divisions – Juniors and Youth

Novice	White/Yellow/Orange Belts	8 th kyu and higher
Intermediate	Purple/Blue/Green Belts	7 th , 6 th , 5 th , 4 th kyu
Advanced	Brown Belts	3 rd , 2 nd , 1 st kyu

The contestant's age shall be determined at the date of the contest. That is, the competitor shall compete at the age group level that reflects his/her age at the time of the contest.

The 2012 OHANA Karate Committee does not recognize black belt ranks for anyone under the age of 16. Thus no one under the age of 16 shall be allowed to compete in the Black Belt Division. Junior Black Belts shall compete with the Advanced Division.

Adults and Black Belts

Beginner	White/Yellow Belts	9 th kyu and higher
Novice	Orange/Purple Belts	8 th and 7 th kyu
Intermediate	Blue/Green Belts	6 th and 5 th kyu
Advanced	Brown Belts	3 rd , 2 nd , and 1 st kyu
Black Belts	By Grade	

Team Competition

Team competition shall consist of two-person teams within their respective age groups. At the present time, no distinction is made with regards to division (skill level). This means that a green belt may team up with a white belt, etc.

Duties

Scorer

The official scorer shall tabulate all scores from the judges score sheets. The tournament director shall appoint the scorer. The final score of any competitor or team shall be the total score of the five judges divided by 5, minus any penalty points. The scorer shall then compile placings for every age group and division.

Runner

The tournament director shall appoint the runner. The runner is responsible is responsible for handing out score sheets to the judges and returning them to the scorer's table upon completion of every kata. The runner shall insure that the head judge's score-sheet shall be the top-most sheet delivered to the scorer.

Head Judge

The head judge shall insure that all judges and competitors strictly adhere to proper etiquette. For each division called, the head judge shall line up the competitors towards the rear of the competition area. All judges shall assemble fronting the head judge's table. The head judge shall welcome the competitors and have them bow-in. Any last minute instructions can be made at this point. He shall have the competitor's sit, and then begin the contest. The Runner will present him with the contestant list and score sheets.

The head judge shall call out the competitors. After each competitor presents his/her self, the head judge shall give him or her the signal to begin. Upon completion of the kata, the head judge shall score the competitor then signal him/her to return to his/her seated position. This process will continue until all competitors for that division has performed. When the division is completed the head judge shall stand the competitors up, reassemble the judges at the front, then have them bow again before dismissing the competitors.

Competitors

The competitors are expected to follow etiquette outlined herein. After the bow-in, each competitor shall remain seated at the rear of the competition area until his/her name is called by the head judge. The competitor shall stand; straighten out their uniform if necessary. Then, bow before entering onto the competition area. The competitor shall then approach the head judge and bow once again before introducing him/herself. The competitor shall provide his/her name to the head judge. The competitor should also state his/her karate style, school, the name of the kata being performed and request permission to begin.

Once given the signal to begin, the competitor shall position him/herself wherever the starting point should be for that kata. Upon completion of the kata, the competitor shall await the signal to return to his/her seat from the head judge. Once the signal is received, the competitor shall once again bow to the head judge then return to his/her seating area. The competitor will then bow once again towards the mat before sitting.

Scoring

Scoring shall be based upon a ten (10) point system, that is, 10 points is the highest a competitor or team can score. Scoring below 10 points shall be by the decimal system to the tenth of a point. For example – 7.5, 9.7, 8.2, etc.

The average score shall be seven (7). This number shall be considered the starting point of all scoring. If a performance is better than average, the score may be higher. If the performance is below par, then the score may be lower. If a competitor or team completes his/her performance the score given shall not be lower than six (6). A score lower than six (6) is permitted only if the person or team fails to complete the kata.

The performer shall be judged on etiquette, total presentation, technique, style and difficulty. Scoring begins when the competitors name is called and the competitor presents him/herself to the head judge. (See competitors Requirements) Proper attire is part of the total presentation.

A competitor may request to perform the kata over again provided that the kata was not completed. The head judge shall approve the request. The performance shall be scored as normal without penalty. A notation will be made on the score sheet by the head judge denoting that the performance was re-done and a (.5) point penalty shall be applied to the final score, not by the judges, but by the scorer.

When the scoring is completed, the appointed "runner" shall pick up the score sheets from all the five judges and return them to the scorer's table. The scorer shall add the five scores, and then divide by five to obtain the averaged score. If there is a penalty assessed, it shall be deducted from the averaged score to obtain the final score. This shall be considered the final score.

In a situation where there is a tie for first place, the contestants who are tied, shall compete again and re-scored. They may or may not perform the same kata. The decision on which kata to perform shall be left up to the contestants.

Awards

Awards shall be presented for first, second and third place. There shall be no ties for first place. There may, however, be ties for second and third place.

Team/School Awards

Team or Dojo awards shall be presented from first through fourth place. Scoring for team awards shall be based upon cumulative points earned by each school; as assigned by the following schedule;

1 st place	5 points
2 nd place	4 points
3 rd place	3 points
4 th place	2 points
5 th place	1 point

Variances

The tournament director at his sole discretion herein may give any variance to any rule or regulation. The exception to this is the rule covering competitor safety. The Competitors Safety Rule guides any injury sustained after the start of the competition. Once the head judge determines that a competitor shall not continue, there shall be no recourse. The request must be made prior to the beginning of the contest. Tournament director shall notify the head judge as soon as practical. The purpose of this rule is to allow the tournament director to handle unforeseen problems, which may arise and not show favoritism or bias.

Grievances

The head of the grieved school must make grievances for which there is an appeal to the tournament director in writing within fifteen (15) days after the event. All pertinent information must be contained within. The tournament director shall conduct an immediate investigation and present the findings to the AJI Board of Directors within thirty (30) days of receipt of the grievance. The decision of the Board of Directors is final and shall be made in writing. The Board shall respond within ten (10) days after a decision is made.

Formalities

The tournament director shall open and close the contest following established protocol. He shall line students up at the rear of the contest area, facing the head judge(s), senior ranking officials and other dignitaries.

Proper protocol calls for a welcome address, recognition of officials and dignitaries and a brief thank-you to all for competing and being present. After the contest, there shall be closing remarks and MAHALOS to all.