



O.N.A.K.A.I.

Official National Amateur Karate Association of Ireland

National Governing Body for Karate in Ireland

ONAKAI Squad Selection Policy for EKF and WKF Events

Adopted April 2024

1. Preamble

- 1.1 This is ONAKAI's Squad Selection Policy for EKF and WKF Events which outlines the mechanism for the selection of Athletes within the sport of karate.
- 1.2 The rules, processes and mechanisms described below will lead to a nomination of Karate Athletes to the EKF and WKF Events.
- 1.3 Athletes so selected and ratified by ONAKAI will represent Ireland at the EKF and WKF Events

2. Definitions

“Candidate”	Shall mean the individual karate athlete (karateka) who has regularly attended National Squad Training sessions and is seeking nomination for the specific event.
“Coaching Panel”	Panel of coaches headed by the Performance Lead, National Kata and National Kumite Coaches
“Event”	Kata and Kumite events at the advertised EKF and WKF Competitions.
“Qualification Period”	The twelve months leading up to the selection.
“Qualifying competitions”	Shall mean the events for twelve months leading up to the selection.
“Trial competitions “	Shall mean the events for twelve months leading up to the selection, from which the Coaching Panel will make its recommendations to the Executive for ratification in accordance with these procedures.
“Trial Bouts”	bouts as per the ONAKAI Selection Criteria which will be used where necessary to decide between karateka with the similar national credentials and to preserve transparency.



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“Recommendation” Shall mean the recommendation by the Coaching Panel to the ONAKAI Executive for a candidate to compete at the event.

3. Minimum Eligibility

To be eligible for selection, a Candidate must:

- 3.1 Be an Irish citizen and hold an Irish passport.
- 3.2 Be a member of ONAKAI in good standing.
- 3.3 Be put forward for selection by their Club Instructor / Coach.
- 3.4 Sign the athlete’s agreement and abide by it.
- 3.5 Commit to Anti-Doping by completing the Sport Ireland online awareness course.
- 3.6 Possess a high level of physical fitness.

4. Fitness to Perform

- 4.1 Each Candidate must be fit to perform at the time of nomination. Athletes will be required to undergo a ‘fit to perform’ assessment with the Coaching Panel,
- 4.2 Any Candidate injured at the time of nomination must provide a report from a Medical Professional stating that they will be fit to perform by the time of Event.
- 4.3 Each Candidate must be eligible to compete within the weight categories as set by the WKF at the time of Selection.

5. Withdrawals / Removals

- 5.1 Each Candidate shall inform the Coaching panel immediately in writing should he/she wishes to withdraw from the selection process.
- 5.2 A Candidate may be removed from the selection process should they become in breach of the Athlete Agreement and/or Code of Conduct.



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- 5.3 Candidates who are injured at the time of selection and are unable to provide a report from a relevant medical expert confirming their suitability and fitness to perform by the time of the Qualifying Event will be removed from the Selection Process.
- 5.4 A Candidate who fails weight check following the selection for the relevant weight categories set by the WKF will be removed from the process.
- 5.5 A Candidate must not disclose results of any selection until after the Appeal period has lapsed. Failure to comply may lead to Candidate being removed from the process.

6. Recommendation Procedure

- 6.1 The Coaching panel shall always refer to this document to make the selection.
- 6.2 In addition to the minimum eligibility in Section 3 above, the Coaching panel will make their decision based on the criteria outlined in Section 8
- 6.3 The Coaching Panel shall submit its recommendations to the ONAKAI Executive.
- 6.4 On receipt of the Recommendation from the Coaching Panel ONAKAI Executive shall ratify the Recommendation and inform the Coaching Panel of their decision
- 6.5 The Coaching Panel shall inform the Candidates both verbally and by email on their selection or non-selection.
- 6.6 When a candidate accepts their place, they are agreeing to travel with the team as a group and are accepting travel & accommodation costs for the relevant event.
- 6.7 If a candidate subsequently does not travel after accepting the place, they are liable for the costs in full.

7. Communications

ONAKAI is responsible for the announcement of the selection of athletes for the Events. Nominated Athletes shall not announce their nomination through social media or any other media channels prior to the announcement being made by ONAKAI.

8. Selection Criteria

- 8.1 Attendance at regional and national Squad Training.



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- 8.2 Performance at regional and national Squad Training.
- 8.3 Attendance and results at the National Championships, The Irish Open and other International Opens
- 8.4 Prior performances & results at EKF & WKF sanctioned events.
- 8.5 Position in the WKF ranking.
- 8.6 Level of fitness as per Section 4.
- 8.7 Current form and previous experience.
- 8.8 Overall suitability.
- 8.9 Attendance at supplementary sessions organised by ONAKAI such as nutrition, psychology or similar.

9. Appeals

- 9.1 A Candidate may submit an Appeal following Ratification by the ONAKAI Executive of the Selections made to the Executive by the Coaching Panel.
- 9.2 A Candidate must submit any such Appeal within 24 hours of having been notified that he/she was not successful. A Candidate will have a further 48 hours to submit any supplementary documentation for consideration by the Appeal Subcommittee.
- 9.3 An Appeals Subcommittee shall be set up by the Executive to deal with any such in a timely manner.
- 9.4 A candidate will make an appeal according to the ONAKAI Selections Appeals procedure and form.

10. Amendments

- 10.1 The selection criteria in Section 8 may be amended if approved by the Executive and all parties involved will be notified in advance.
- 10.2 Any amendments to these procedures shall be published.



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