



# KATA COMPETITION Judges guidelines

INTERNATIONAL JUDO FEDERATION  
KATA COMMISSION  
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## **Expectations for IJF kata Judges**

A judge must be well qualified, understand techniques, and know the rules of judging thoroughly.

A judge, through reasonable and prudent means, including clinics, must keep his/her judging knowledge current.

A judge must be thoroughly prepared for each judging assignment. As a member of a system, there is an obligation by every judge to maintain the highest standard of ethical conduct and personal and professional integrity.

A judge must appear in standard uniform at the competition site; on time for the judges' meeting.

A judge must be a cooperative member of the assigned judging panel.

A judge must aim towards a goal of perpetual objectivity. He\she must be completely unbiased.

A judge must be a member in good standing of a national judo federation.

## **Code of conduct and Ethics**

IJF kata judges are representatives of the International Judo Federation both on and off the contest area. It is essential that they conduct themselves in an exemplary manner at all times. The IJF kata judge is a consummate professional; neat in appearance; reports in a timely fashion for all meetings and assignments; is prepared to participate fully until the last contest; and attends all debriefing sessions prior to dismissal by the IJF kata Commission.

A judge will be attending all meetings, where he\she will get explanations about the rules and infos about the Championship. The judge will also attend the briefing and debriefing meetings. If a judge doesn't participate in the meetings, he\she will not judge in this championship.

If a judge cannot meet this commitment, he\she needs to advise the kata commission chairman or the sport director in writing prior to the event to waive off this requirement due to exceptional reasons.

The kata judge has an obligation to remain current with international judo protocols and the IJF Kata Competition rules with its newest adaptations and interpretations.

The integrity of the kata judge must not be compromised. During the competition, to remain free of any possible conflict of interest, kata judges when not working should remain seated in the section provided and avoid having conversations with any competitor or coach.

The kata judge is responsible for protecting the spirit of judo by rendering fair and unbiased decisions. To remain free of any potential bias it is best that kata judge refuse any assignment as coach or manager of a judo team that will be sent to an international kata competition.

The kata judge should refrain from looking at other judges evaluation form during the athletes performance. Only after the performance a consultation should be done in the case of a forgotten technique or major mistake.

All kata judges should contribute to the future development of upcoming judges by assuming a leadership role in national kata judges programs, providing knowledge, advice and support.

Kata evaluating, clinics and seminars requires dedication. Kata judges should avoid excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages and ensure adequate rest in the days leading up to a competition or clinic in order to be energetic and of a clear mind.

A kata judge with one or more IJF licence who wants to judge at an IJF Kata Tournament or Championship cannot be a competitor in any IJF kata events.

If an IJF kata judge participates as a competitor in an IJF kata event, he/she will lose automatically all licences and will have to do again all examinations. A kata competitor may obtain kata judging licences, but must refrain from judging while they are an active competitor in events organised by the IJF (ranking list).

## **Requirements**

For IJF events, judges must be a minimum age of 30 years old and minimally be a black belt 4<sup>th</sup> dan. He\she needs to have an IJF licence in the kata he\she is judging.

## **Uniform**

Kata judges must be in uniform:

- Jacket: navy blue
- Pants: dark grey
- Shirt: white
- Tie: IJF
- Socks: black
- Shoes: black

## **Sanction**

The IJF kata commission chairman may sanction any judge who consistently fails to arrive on time or shows an unprofessional behaviour. The judge may appeal the decision of the kata commission chairman by submitting a written explanation to the IJF kata commission members.

## The role of the kata judge supervisor

The Kata Judge Supervisor is appointed by the Tournament Director or Sport Director.

The kata judge supervisor plays an essential role in the organization of kata competitions. He or she ensures that athletes' performances are assessed fairly and consistently. As an important figure in the event, the supervisor has various responsibilities to ensure the quality and integrity of the judging.

The supervisor must be impartial and fair in his decisions. To ensure impartiality, the supervisor must be replaced when the competing pair is of his or her own nationality or federation.

### Main responsibilities

The kata judge supervisor is responsible for :

#### Coordination of judges

The supervisor coordinates the judges appointed for a given competition. He/She ensures that each judge is impartial in his judging and that there is no conflict of interest. He/She ensures that judges are replaced if necessary.

#### Ensuring compliance

The supervisor ensures that all competition rules and procedures are followed. In the event of a dispute or doubt about a decision, he or she intervenes to clarify points and take corrective action if necessary.

#### Required qualities

To fulfil this role, the kata judge supervisor must possess certain essential qualities :

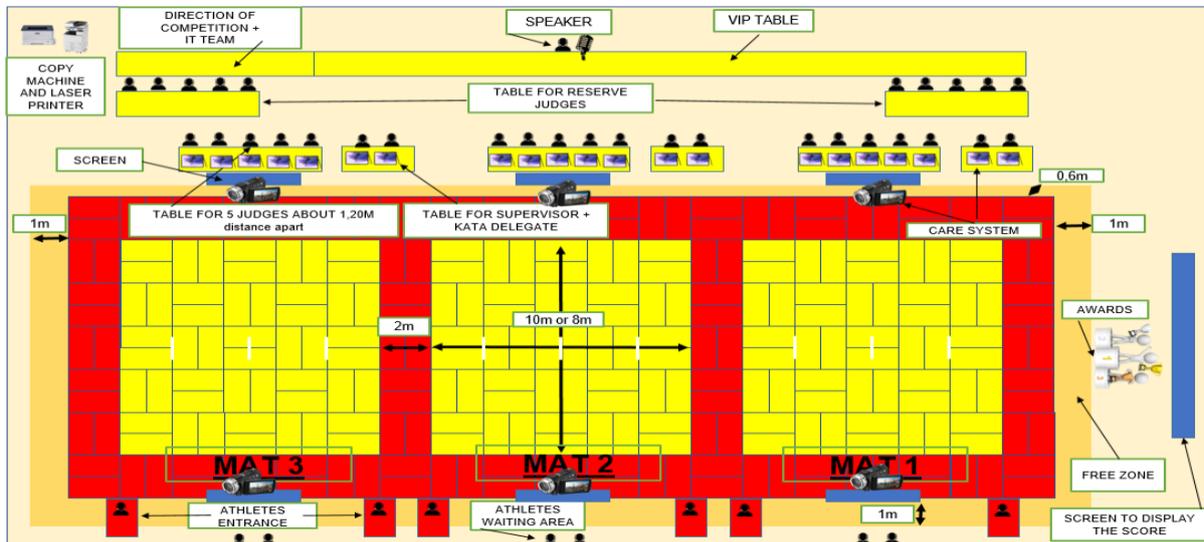
- In-depth kata knowledge: the supervisor must have in-depth kata knowledge and IJF kata judge certification in all 7 kata.
- Impartiality: The supervisor must be impartial and fair in his/her decisions.
- Leadership: The supervisor must be able to direct and motivate the judges under his/her supervision. He/She must suggest to the Competition Director any measures to ensure the smooth running of the competitors' judging.
- Communication: Communication skills are required to explain rules and handle conflicts diplomatically.
- Knowledge of the CARE system: The supervisor must have knowledge of how to use the CARE system.

#### Impact on competition

The presence of a kata judges' supervisor ensures that competitions are held within the rules and that athletes' performances are accurately assessed. Thanks to his expertise and vigilance, the supervisor plays a key role in maintaining the fairness and credibility of kata events

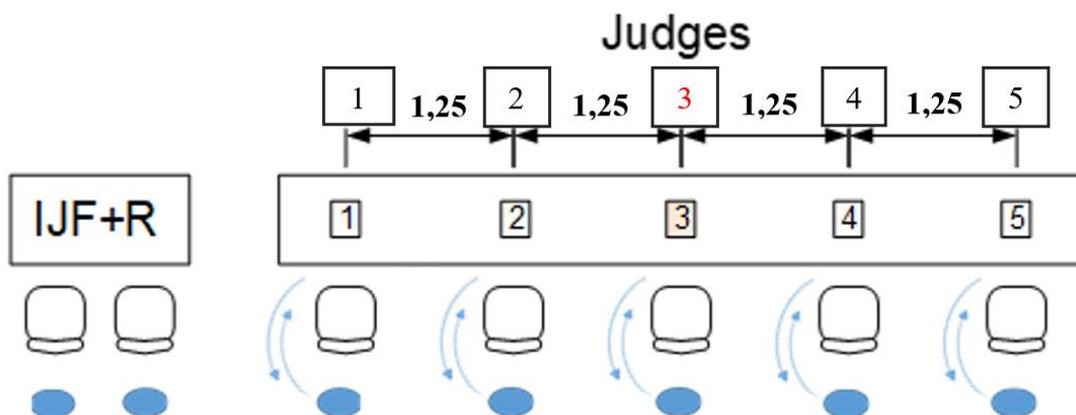
The kata judges' supervisor is a fundamental pillar of the competitive world of kata, ensuring both the quality of assessments and the impartiality of judges. His/Her role is indispensable in preserving the integrity and excellence of kata competitions.

### Presentation of the judges



- For the start of the competition or at the opening ceremony.
- One line facing the spectators, when it is possible on the edge of the mat.
- The responsible of IJF kata commission gives the REI. Same at the end.

### Opening ceremony for a kata



- Line up of the judges: IJF supervisor, 1, 2, 3 (head judge), 4, 5, 6 (reserve). They go to the table for one kata facing the public.
- By REI of the IJF supervisor or head judge (3), bow.
- The judges take place at the tables and the competitors can start.
- The competitors for the first demonstration are waiting, facing the judges, left and right, behind the mat.
- The head judge gives the start in standing position, arms opened.

## **Improvement**

Just as a kata team strives to improve performance to become a champion, so must a kata judge strive to improve performance in order to become the best that he or she can be. However, unlike contestants, there is no competitiveness amongst the kata judge and none should be tolerated. Achievement is measured by the attainment of self established goals and through peer recognition of one's abilities.

This skill needs continual reinforcement that can only be achieved through actual on mat judging. Even a top level kata judge should officiate at as many tournaments as possible regardless of the level and always invite colleagues to comment on performance in order to continue to improve.

All kata judges must continue to attend organized clinics throughout their careers to improve their knowledge and "sharpen" their judgment skills; they should seek feedback and advice from the more experienced judges on the problems they have been having to better understand the correct solutions; and they should welcome friendly, discreet, sincere discussions from colleagues on ways to improve.

The IJF Kata Competition Rules should be reviewed on a regular basis and certainly just prior to a major competition. For those who have access to a video recorder, a review of actual on mat performance is an excellent method of self analysis. There is no end to learning or improvement. Perfection can never be fully attained, but must always be pursued with great enthusiasm.