

EUROPEAN KARATE ORGANIZATION

GENERAL INFORMATION 2026

- March 13-15, EKO Black Belt Seminar, Stara Wie Poland
- May 7-10, European Championship Adult + J18 (inc. Kata Men and Women WC-2027 1st selection), Batumi Georgia
- October 2-4, European Championship J16 + U21 + Open (inc. Kata Men and Women WC-2027 2nd selection and Women Open WC-2027 1st selection), Latvia
- December 5, Kokoro Cup (inc. Women Open WC-2027 2nd selection), Poland

News from the EKO Board



Dear Members of the European Karate Organization,

It is with great pleasure that I address you as the coming spring brings nature back to life. I believe that this new energy we feel in the air will translate into your renewed enthusiasm for developing your national organizations.

The beginning of the year was exceptionally intense for us. In January, alongside Vice-President Michael Soderkvist, I had the honor of visiting the WKO Headquarters in Tokyo. Our discussions with President Kenji Midori, Vice-President Isao Kobayashi, and Executive Director Yasukazu Koi were incredibly fruitful. We presented our proposals regarding changes to regulations and judging, firmly believing that evolution is essential for Shinkyokushinkai to remain a leader in the rapidly changing world of sports.

I would like to inform you that the EKO Board—with the invaluable support of Shihan Martin Michel from Belgium and Shihan Øyvind Andreassen from Norway—is working intensively on a new EKO Statute. We are deeply grateful for their great commitment to the preparation of this document. Following the recently adopted EKO Strategy, this will be the next key document strengthening our structure. I sincerely hope that the new Statute will still be approved in 2026.

The year 2026 will be a time of great challenges for our Karatekas. The upcoming European Championships in Georgia and Latvia, as well as the Kokoro Cup tournament in Poland, will be decisive. It is there that our athletes will compete for prestigious spots at the 14th World Championship Open and Kata, to be held in Tokyo in 2027.

This will also be a year of exceptional meetings. President Kenji Midori will visit Europe twice, providing wonderful opportunities for discussion and joint training: in August during the Seminar in Budapest, in December during the events in Warsaw.

I already wish fruitful preparations to the organizers of our key events: the European Championships in Batumi and Riga, and the European Fullcontact Karate Cup for Clubs in Kielce.

At the same time, I warmly encourage and request all member countries to consider hosting the EKO European Championships in the coming years. Your involvement in organizing tournaments is the best possible promotion of our path.

Thank you for your dedication.

Respectfully,

Remigiusz Karpiński
EKO President

News from the Referee Committee



NEW! KUMITE RULES UPDATED 20260228

The rules for kumite have been updated. See the latest rule on EKO Homepage or Ekoreferes.eu.

2.10 ... _ approved by Referee Committee.

16.7 ... by Kansui.

16.7 ... break all the boards...

9.10 No attacks to the spine.

9.11 No attacks to the head or body standing from behind.

16.2 ... before the 1/4 Finals (8 best fighters) in European Championship, Open weight category championship.

19.9 any attack to the face or back of the head;

20.9 any attack to the face or back of the head;

COACH TEST AND PARTICIPATION FEE

All coaches must have a valid coach test. For this year a valid test must have been registered 2024, 2025 or 2026. To do the test please use this link. It can be done repeatedly until all answers are correct. Please study the competition rules and antidoping rules to be found on EKO Homepage. <https://www.european-kyokushin.org/download/>

Link to the Coach test: <https://forms.gle/iL9zBJa2oN9h8zC3A>

ATT; The Coach participation fee of 40€ must be paid before the championship through your Country Representative. Coach meeting on Friday 6 May at 18:30 and the Draw at 19:00 in Grand Bellagio Hotel.

NEW! EKO REFEREE LICENSE DIPLOMA

It is now possible for all referee to print the latest referee license diploma from www.ekoreferes.eu. Just log in to your account.

RANKING

Competitors ranking for the coming draw to European Championship in Batumi, Georgia will be announced about two weeks before the competition. It will be sent by mail to Country Representatives in firsthand, eventually on Kumite Technology. Coaches and competitors who see some errors can apply for changes according to information given together with the ranking. The draw will be done on Friday 6 May at 19:00 in Grand Bellagio Hotel.

REFEREES FOR EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP IN BATUMI, GEORGIA

All referee of categories EKO-C, B and A in both Kumite and Kata are welcome. New referees are also welcome and must have its own countries highest national license and a recommendation from its Country Representative. The championship is held in two day and on 3 tatamis.

The Referee Course is compulsory for referees who apply for new or refresh license. Participants shall bring all documents (from EKO Homepage), be in referee uniform and with whistle.

The course ends with a written test. For that you need a smart phone or a computer for internet connection, WiFi is provided. The test is in English.

All rules, regulations and license validity to study can be downloaded from <https://www.european-kyokushin.org/> or <https://ekoreferrees.eu/>

Referee application for the Referee Course and EC participation:

1. Apply at: www.ekoreferrees.eu
2. Registrate at: <https://app.kumitetechnology.com/en/tournament/268/>

After registration you will get an e-mail 2 weeks prior the EC to make a check-in confirmation of participation.

New licenses are 50€ and refresh license is 25€. This can be paid by card or cash at the registration before the course and the briefing.

Schedule

All meetings in the Official Hotel: Grand Bellagio Hotel & Casino Batumi

7 May Thursday.

13:30-14:00 Registration

14:00-20:00 Referee Course

8 May Friday

16:00-18:00 Referee briefing (compulsory in referee uniform)

18:30-19:00 Coach meeting, 19:00-19:30 Draw

REFEREE BRIEFING IN BATUMI, GEORGIA

Before the European Championship in Batumi, EKO invites to all referees to a competition briefing on Friday 8 May at 16:00-18:00.

EKO-REGION SELECTION FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2027

Selection for World Championship 2027, Women Open category and Men + Women Kata categories will be held at three occasions 2026.

KATA

- May 9-10, European Championship Adult + J18 (**inc. Kata Men and Women WC-2027 1st selection**), Batumi Georgia
- October 3-4, European Championship J16 + U21 + Open (**inc. Kata Men and Women WC-2027 2nd selection** and Women Open WC-2027 1st selection), Latvia

KUMITE

- October 3-4, European Championship J16 + U21 + Open (inc. Kata Men and Women WC-2027 2nd selection and **Women Open WC-2027 1st selection**), Latvia
- December 5, Kokoro Cup (inc **Women Open WC-2027 2nd selection**), Poland

EKO REFEREE COMMITTEE

Michael Söderkvist
Chairman

<https://www.ekoreferrees.eu/>

TECHNICAL & GRADING COMMITTEE



YOU CAN STILL APPLY!!! EKO BLACK BELT SEMINAR STARA WIESS 2026

The EKO Black Belt seminar 2024 will take place from 13th. -15th of March We hope we will be as many students as last year's 250 participants from more that 17 country members of EKO.

As mentioned in the Referee Newsletter, 2026 will be an important year for not only Woman fighters to be selected for the Woman's Open Karate World Championship 2027, but also for the Kata competitors to be selected for the World Karate Kata Championship 2027.

Stara Wiess is a great opportunity to be coached and taught by some of the leading instructors in EKO & WKO.

Join and be as prepared as possible for the first selection championship in Batumi, Georgia.

The EKO Black Belt seminar is more than preparation for qualifying to the World Championship, it is also an opportunity for everybody to train together, improve your skills and have a great time with friends from all over EKO.

Key information about the Black belt Seminar:

Date: March 13th-15th 2026

Location: Dojo Stara Wies, Poland

Schedule: The first training session starts on March 13 at 4:00 PM.

Registration: Applications are accepted exclusively via the online form: <https://shinkyokushin.org.pl/seminar>

Participation Costs (Full board included):

Participant House: € 340.00

Participant Agro-accommodation: € 310.00

Participant Dojo (standard): € 290.00

NEW! EKO DAN GRADING 2026

The EKO Black Belt grading for Shodan and up to Yondan will take place in Poland at the Stara Wiess Dojo.

The schedule for the EKO Grading will be as follows:

à 20th August arrival and registration.

à 21st August grading training and preparation.

à 22nd August technical grading and Kumite test.

Application for the EKO Dan grading is open and can be applied via [this link](#). Just fill in all needed information's and upload latest WKO dan certificate and signed recommendation letter from your Branch Chief.

The grading will take place during the Polish summer camp and more information about accommodation and airport pick up will follow soon.

Deadline for applying the EKO Dan grading is 1st. June. You will get final approval for the application not later than 15th June.

Payment must be done in advance. Payment by cash at the grading venue is not possible!
Price is 110 € to EKO. Payment to WKO for belt and certificate must be done by the national Branch Chief.

Bank information, Bank name and address IBAN:

NL78rabo0103302778

Rabobank Noordwest Friesland Stationsweg 5, 8911AG, Leeuwarden, Netherlands. BIC Code: RaboNL2u
in name of: European Karate Organization.

EKO GRADING & TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Jan Bülow

Chairman