

EUROPEAN KARATE ORGANIZATION

GENERAL INFORMATION 2026

- 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 Referee Committee



This Newsletter includes some new information as well as some from the previous Newsletter. Read carefully.

NEW! EKO REFEREES HOMEPAGE

Referees; update your profile information as soon as possible with your grade and contact information.

NEW! KUMITE RULES UPDATED 20260228

The rules for kumite have been updated. See the latest rule on EKO Homepage or Ekoreferrees.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 for EC in Riga: <https://forms.gle/kPm3mVn2Cwg1hS597>

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.

EKO REFEREE LICENSE DIPLOMA

All referees can now log in to print the latest referee license diploma on www.ekoreferrees.eu.

RANKING

Competitors ranking for the coming draw to European Championship in Riga, Latvia 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 2 October at 19:30 in Tallink Hotel Riga.

REFEREES FOR EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP IN RIGA, LATVIA

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 3-4 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://ekorefererees.eu/>

Referee application for the Referee Course and EC participation:

1. Apply at: www.ekorefererees.eu
2. Registrare 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: Tallink Hotel Riga

1 October Thursday.

13:30-14:00 Registration

14:00-20:00 Referee Course

2 October Friday

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

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

REFEREE BRIEFING IN BATUMI, GEORGIA

Before the European Championship in Riga, EKO invites to all referees to a competition briefing on Friday 2 October 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.ekorefererees.eu/>

TECHNICAL & GRADING COMMITTEE



NEW! EKO Black Belt Grading – 21 August 2026

Stara Wieś, Poland

The EKO Technical & Grading Committee held its annual Dan Grading on 21 August in Stara Wieś, Poland. Normally, candidates from Shodan through Yondan participate in the annual EKO Dan Grading. This year, however, no fewer than 11 candidates were scheduled to test for Yondan.

All candidates arrived the day before the grading, and we immediately began preparations with Kihon, Ido Geiko and Kata, led by Shihan Remigiusz Karpiński, Shihan Anca Wallmen and myself.

We worked through the standard Kihon, followed by Ido Geiko, which is closely aligned with the Ido Geiko used by WKO during its gradings. We also covered most of the required Kata.

After two intensive training sessions, the T&G Committee felt that the candidates were well prepared for the grading.

The technical examination consisted of Kihon, Ido Geiko, Kata and stamina. The Kumite examination was held later in the evening, and all 10 candidates who successfully completed the technical part also passed the Kumite test.

Unfortunately, we were very sorry that the Ukrainian Shinkyokushin Organization was informed by the Ukrainian Ministry of Sport only a few days before the grading that they were unable to travel to Poland. We sincerely hope that the Ukrainian team will be able to participate in next year's EKO grading, or perhaps in the WKO grading in 2027 following the World Championship in October.

We would like to congratulate all the candidates on their hard work and achievements.

NEW! EKO Black Belt Seminar 2027 – 10th Anniversary

We are very pleased to announce that next year's EKO Black Belt Seminar will be held from **12–14 March 2027** in Stara Wieś, Poland.

The 2027 seminar will mark the **10th anniversary of the EKO Black Belt Seminar**, and we already have some ideas about how we can celebrate this important milestone together. More details will follow in upcoming EKO newsletters.

Please save the dates and join us for the 10th EKO Black Belt Seminar!

We look forward to welcoming you all in Stara Wieś in March 2027.

EKO GRADING & TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Jan Bülow
Chairman