



## Edge Martial Arts Competition Team Frequently Asked Questions

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**What is the Competition Team?** The EMA Competition Team is an opportunity for all students interested in kata competition at the regional, national, and international level. Although karate is not so much a sport as it is a way of life, and competition with others plays a very small role in your overall training, we encourage our students to consider tournament competition as one way to grow their skills and challenge their limits.

**How do students join the Competition Team?** Spots on the Competition Team are earned through competing at Team Trials. Team Trials are run as a “round robin” tournament, where all students perform their kata multiple times. In 2021, Team Trials will be held on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. Registration for Team Trials must be completed no later than Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>; please submit the registration form and the \$20 participation fee by this date.

**Is there also sparring on the Competition Team?** Not at this time, but we hope to begin a pilot program in the near future, and students who are interested should speak with Sensei Eric and Sensei Ben.

**How is the team structured?** The team is divided into three groups, roughly by age and experience level. This provides students a peer group to train with, as well as more focused and individualized instruction.

**What is the time commitment for competition team?** The Competition Team trains on Sundays. The “Level 1” group trains from 11:00am-11:45am; the “Level 2” group trains from 12:00pm-1:00pm; and the “Level 3” group trains from 1:30pm-3:30pm.

**Is attendance required at all team trainings?** We recognize that illnesses and family obligations will come up, and that most team members will miss one or two practices over the course of the season. Please note that excessive absences will have a negative impact on a student’s readiness for competition.

**What is the cost?** The cost of participation on the team is \$399. This covers all team practices from September 2021 through June 2022. The cost of Team Training Camps is not included.



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**What are the team training camps?** Team Training Camps are intensive one-or-two day trainings designed to take a deeper dive into skill building and competition prep. We hold a Winter Training Camp around the Presidents' Week break, and Nationals Training Camp in mid-June. All team members are required to attend one of these events (and are encouraged to attend both). The Nationals Training Camp is required for those students planning to compete at US Nationals, even if they attended the Winter Training Camp.

**What equipment is required?** At all USANKF events, athletes are required to wear a plain white gi with a "WKF Approved" designation, and must have two belts: a red belt and a blue belt, which are used for scoring. We can order Punok or ProForce brand uniforms and belts for you at a discounted price, but you may purchase any brand that is WKF approved. Additionally, students will need to purchase a team jacket and training shirt.

**Where are the tournaments held?** Many USANKF-sanctioned events are held right in the local NYC area. Additionally, the team may compete at other events in the Northeast. At the national level, the team will compete at the Junior International Open and the US Open, and qualified students will have the opportunity to represent the team at US Nationals.

**Do team members have to compete at every tournament on the schedule?** No. Participation at all events is strongly encouraged; however, we expect that most team members will be unable to compete at or two events on the schedule.

**Do team members have to travel to events outside the New York area?** It is not required; however, we strongly encourage team members to plan to compete at the Junior International Open and US Open over Spring Break.

**Do team members have to compete at national events?** No. However, the goal of this program is to prepare students for that level of competition if they are so inclined, and we strongly encourage students to set the goal of competing at that level, and encourage parents to support those goals by considering making attendance at those events possible.



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**What are national events?** National events (or “Signature Events”) are hosted by the USANKF each year. There are three Signature Events: the Junior International Open and the US Open are held together in Las Vegas each year. Team members are strongly encouraged to compete at these events in 2021-2022. The third Signature Event is the US National Championships — in addition to being the culminating event of the competitive season, US Nationals are also the opportunity for athletes wishing to vie for a spot on the Junior National Team. In a normal year, at least 90% of our team qualifies for Nationals over the course of the season.

**How much do tournaments usually cost?** Registration for events is typically between \$65 and \$85 depending on the size of the event.

**What is the USANKF?** The USA National Karate Federation is the major governing body of sport karate in the United States. The USANKF is a member of the US Olympic committee, and forms the Senior National Team and Junior National Team, which represent the country in international competition, including the 2020 Olympics, the World Championships, and the Pan-American Championships. The USANKF also hosts the US Open, the Junior International Open, and US Nationals, as well as sanctioning National Qualifiers around the country.

**What is the USA Junior National Team?** The Junior National Team represents the United States in international competition, including the Junior Pan-American Championships, Junior World Championships, and WKF Youth League events. The Junior National Team is comprised of athletes in the following age divisions: 12-13, 14-15, 16-17, and 18-20. (Eligibility for the Senior National Team in kata is 16-34, so athletes from 16-20 have the opportunity to represent the USA on one or both teams). Eligibility for the Junior National Team is determined by the top four athletes in each Elite Division at US Nationals – the gold, silver, and both bronze medal winners. The top two athletes (gold and silver) represent the USA at international events, with the opportunity extending to the bronze medal winners in the event that one or both of the top two are unable to attend the event.