

WKF UPDATE

PREMIER LEAGUE & SERIES A EVENTS











ATHENS

The Karate 1-Series A, introduced in 2019, brings together elite athletes from around the world to compete in exclusive international tournaments and improve their rankings. The 2023 season features five events, starting in Athens (Greece) and continuing in Konya (Turkey), Richmond-Vancouver (Canada), Larnaca (Cyprus) and finishing in Matosinhos (Portugal). Registration is restricted to athletes ranked from position 33 onwards, however, each division is limited to a maximum of 96 competitors. The top 32 ranked athletes cannot compete.

In 2023, Athens welcomed 1,035 athletes from 73 nations, with the host nation of Greece providing an additional 81 competitors. The city last hosted a Karatel event in 2012, marking the first full year of the Karatel Premier League. Given the large pool of athletes in Series A events, the competition follows a simple knockout format to determine who takes home the gold medal.

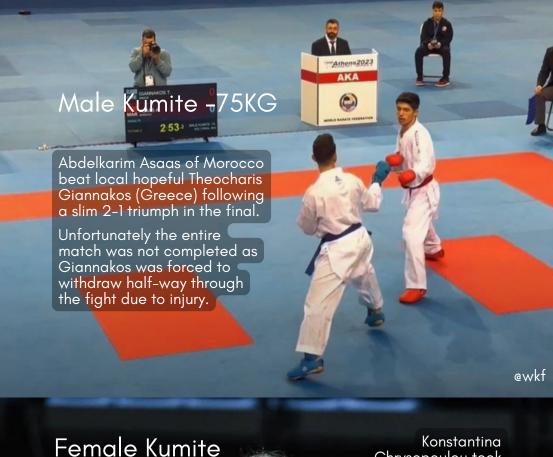




last year.















Female Kumite +68KG

Last year's European bronze medallist, Kyriaki Kydonaki (Greece), impressed once again with a convincing win over Kelara Madani (USA) in a final ending 4-0.

She started the match with the strategy of being the more aggressive fighter and maintained that approach even after earning an early lead.





CAIRO

The Karatel Premier League, launched in 2011, is the 'Best of the Best' in the world of karate comprising of four prestigious 3-day tournaments that take place globally. The 2023 season will kick off in Cairo (Egypt), followed by Rabat (Morocco), Fukuoka (Japan), and concluding in Dublin (Ireland). Only the top 32 ranked karate athletes from around the world will be eligible to participate, having earned their spots through their performance in continental championships and Series A tournaments.

This year's event marks the second time Cairo has been selected to host the Karatel Premier League, the first being in 2021. The competition saw a significant increase in participation, with 382 athletes from 58 nations competing, compared to 218 athletes from 46 nations in 2021. The tournament consisted of a pool stage, where athletes engaged in round-robin style matches, and a final elimination stage to determine the gold medal winner.

In addition to the tournament, the Grand Winner for each category for 2022 was announced, recognizing the premier league athlete with the highest achievements from the previous year (seen below).





Japan's Kiyou Shimizu added another gold to her collection in Female Kata after defeating Grace Lau Mo Sheung of Hong Kong by 44.20 to 43.70.



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Male Kata

Damian Quintero of Spain won his first Karatel Premier League gold since 2021.

The final of the category was a roller-coaster of emotions with both competitors finishing with a score of 44.10 and Quintero claiming gold due to the tiebreaking criteria.













Male Kumite +84KG

The host nation's list of gold medalists was completed by Taha Tarek Mahmoud (AKA-red), who defeated Babacar Seck Sakho of Spain (AO-blue), 7-4.

Mahmoud is the youngest current number 1 ranked athlete being only 22 years old.

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Upcoming Events

10-12 March | Karate 1-Series A, Konya (Turkey)

> 22-26 March | European Senior Championships, Guadalajara (Spain)

> > 14-16 April | Karate 1-Series A, Richmond-Vancouver (Canada)



Keep an eye out on YouTube:
World Karate Federation