

WKF UPDATE

PREMIER LEAGUE &
SERIES A EVENTS



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Presented by



KARATE1
SERIES A



KONYA

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.

Turkey is a powerhouse nation in the world of karate and frequently welcomes athletes for international tournaments. It was only last October, 2022, that Konya hosted the WKF Cadet, Junior and U21 World Championships. This year, Konya welcomed 803 athletes from 60 nations, with the host nation of Turkey providing 177 of those competitors. 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.





Female Kata

Marisa Ohuchi (Japan) has once again demonstrated her dominance in the Series A league by winning her second consecutive gold medal after her outstanding performance in Athens.

The final was a thrilling all-Japanese contest, with Ohuchi ultimately emerging victorious over her talented teammate, Nodoka Yamada, by a slim margin of 42.0 to 41.1.

Japan showcased their dominance in Female kata holding all four positions on the podium.



Male Kata

Japan added to their medal tally in the Male Kata division, securing three out of the four podium finishes. The final match saw Ryonosuke Kikuchi emerging as the winner over his teammate Kai Ayato, 42.5 to 41.1.

Kikuchi has now taken gold in his last three appearances at the Series A league, cementing his status as one of the top competitors in the league.



Male Kumite -60KG

It was inspiring to watch Carmine Luciano of Italy claim his first Series A gold medal after falling short in Athens earlier this year where he placed second to Japan's Hiromu Hashimoto.

Luciano, after delivering a masterful display of defensive skill, celebrated a 2-0 victory over Ömer Faruk Ateş of Turkey.

@karategallery_



Female Kumite -50KG

In the comeback of the tournament, Gabriella Izaguirre (El Salvador) overcame a 2-0 deficit to defeat Olha Vasylenko (Ukraine) 4-2.

Despite struggling to find her rhythm in the first half of the match, Izaguirre persisted and eventually found her distance, overwhelming Vasylenko with her superior attacks.

Interestingly, Izaguirre still competes at an international level in both disciplines of Karate, Kata and Kumite.



Female Kumite -55KG

Bella Samasheva of Kazakhstan emerged victorious over the recent U21 European Champion, Nejra Sipović of Bosnia, with a decisive 3-1 victory. Samasheva's success came down to her fantastic ability to read Sipovic's attacks, scoring all three of her techniques as counter-attacks.

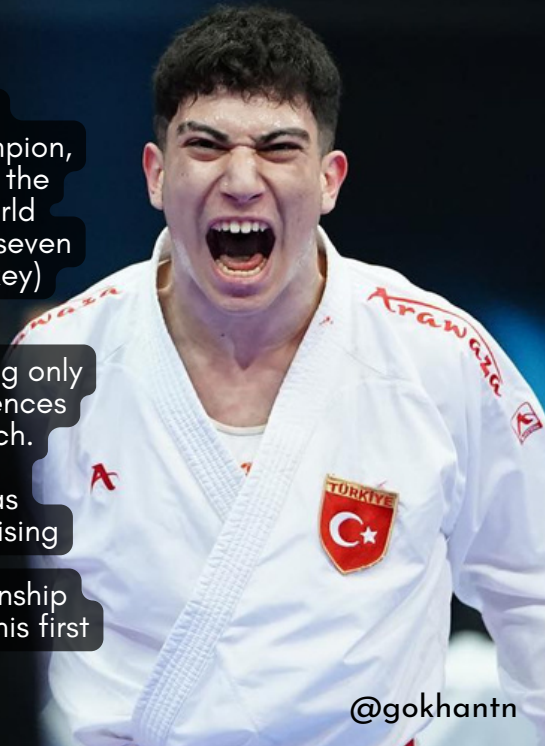
This is Samasheva's first Karate1 gold medal and marks an incredible start to the eighteen year old's competitive karate career.


Male Kumite -67KG

This final saw the return of karate legend and two-time World Champion, Amir Mehdizadeh of Iran. Despite the fact Mehdizadeh won his first world title when his opponent was only seven years of age, Enes Fatih Kurt (Turkey) did not waver in his self-belief.

Kurt dominated the match allowing only one body kick to slip past his defences in the closing seconds of the match.

At only eighteen years old, Kurt has already established himself as a rising star in the -67kg division, having claimed the junior world championship title last year and now achieving his first Series A gold medal.





Male Kumite -75KG

Eren Akkurt earned his first Series A gold medal after his hard-fought comeback against fellow Turkish teammate, Omer Faruk Yurur.

This highly tactical match saw no score from either athlete until there were only thirty seconds remaining on the clock.

Finally, Yurur's aggression paid off as he scored a long *kizami zuki* (jab punch) earning himself *senshu* (first point advantage). Despite this, Akkurt swiftly responded, attacking and scoring two *kizami zuki*s within fifteen seconds and ultimately, a 2-1 victory.

@osmn_eksi



Female Kumite -61KG

Gulbahar Gozutok secured another gold medal for Turkey with a competitive 4-2 victory over Viktoriya Vashchyshyn of Ukraine.

Early in the bout, Gozutok achieved a 3-point takedown and despite Vashchyshyn's quick response with two scoring punches to the head, she maintained her lead and in the end, proved too strong for her opponent.

Both these athletes improved upon their third-place finishes in Athens earlier this year.

@osmn_eksi




Female Kumite -68KG

Laura Alikul of Kazakhstan has achieved her second consecutive Series A gold medal with a narrow 1-0 victory over Italy's Pamela Bodei.

Alikul won the match with one perfectly executed anticipation *gyaku zuki* (reverse punch) whilst Bodei relied too heavily on trying to score one of her *jodan* (head) kicks.

@gokhantr



Male Kumite -84KG

Alireza Akbari added to Iran's medal tally in a back-and-forth battle against Chun-Wei Wu of Chinese Taipei.

Wu opened the match with two well-executed *kizami zuki*s (jab punches) before Akbari scored a controversial *jodan geri* (head kick) to bring the match back in his favour. Taking advantage of this, Akbari extended his lead to a final score of 6-4.

This is only Akbari's second Karate1 tournament, yet he has already secured his first gold medal.

@gokhantr



Male Kumite +84KG

In the final of the Male Kumite +84kg, Saudi Arabia's Sanad Sufyani faced off against the formidable Anes Bostandzic from Bosnia, who had previously claimed gold in Athens.

Despite the tough competition, Sufyani showed that he was more than capable, displaying exceptional timing and technique to dominate the match and secure an impressive 9-3 victory.

This triumph marks Sufyani's first Series A gold medal.

@karategallery_




Female Kumite +68KG

In an intense all-Iran final of the Female Kumite +68kg, Shima Alesaadi used her superior reach and expert counter-timing to emerge victorious over her teammate, Hananeh Salehi Laleh Marzi, with a score of 5-1.

Alesaadi, 29, has been a prominent competitor in Karate1 events since 2013, and her first gold medal is a testament to her unwavering persistence and dedication.

ALL MEDALISTS

Male Kata

-  Ryonosuke Kikuchi (JAP)
-  Kai Ayato (JAP)
-  Eiji Otsuki (JPN)
-  Chao-ching Chen (TPE)

Male Kumite -60KG

-  Carmine Luciano (ITA)
-  Ömer Faruk Ateş (TUR)
-  Saud Albasher (KSA)
-  Burak Ozdemir (TUR)





Male Kumite -67KG

-  Enes Fatih Kurt (TUR)
-  Amir Mehdizadeh (IRI)
-  Hamidreza Esmaili (IRI)
-  Abdollah Valadi (IRI)

Male Kumite -75KG

-  Eren Akkurt (TUR)
-  Omer Faruk Yurur (TUR)
-  Oleksandr Cherniaiev (UKR)
-  Mahdi Shahgol (IRI)

Male Kumite -84KG

-  Alireza Akbari (IRI)
-  Chun-Wei Wu (TPE)
-  Khvicha Kiparoidze (GEO)
-  Luka Vasadze (GEO)

Male Kumite +84KG

-  Sanad Sufyani (KSA)
-  Anes Bostandzic (BIH)
-  Mahmoud Sajjan (JOR)
-  Stefan Joksimovic (SLO)

Female Kata

-  Marisa Ohuchi (JAP)
-  Nodoka Yamada (JAP)
-  Kurumi Kato (JAP)
-  Keito Tano (JPN)





Female Kumite -50KG

-  Gabriella Izaguirre (ESA)
-  Olha Vasylenko (UKR)
-  Aika Okazaki (JPN)
-  Sevil Bas (TUR)

Female Kumite -55KG

-  Bella Samasheva (KAZ)
-  Nejra Sipović (BIH)
-  Gulsen Demirturk (TUR)
-  Tsui-Ping Ku (TPE)



Female Kumite -61KG

-  Gulbahar Gozuktok (TUR)
-  Viktoriya Vashchysyn (UKR)
-  Yuki Kujuro (JPN)
-  Danielle Van Wyk (RSA)

Female Kumite -68KG

-  Laura Alikul (KAZ)
-  Pamela Bodei (ITA)
-  Mayar Zeinelabdin (EGY)
-  Qiaoqiao Li (CHN)

Female Kumite +68KG

-  Shima Alesadi (IRI)
-  Hananeh Marzi (IRI)
-  Isra Ben Taieb (TUN)
-  Fatma Uygur (TUR)

MEDAL TALLY

COUNTRY



TOTAL

TURKEY (TUR)		4	2	3	7
IRAN (IRI)		2	3	2	7
JAPAN (JAP)		2	2	5	9
KAZAKHSTAN (KAZ)		2	-	-	2
ITALY (ITA)		1	1	-	2
SAUDI ARABIA (KSA)		1	-	1	2
EL SALVADOR (ESA)		1	-	-	1
UKRAINE (UKR)		-	2	1	3
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BIH)		-	2	-	2
CHINSE TAIPEI (TPE)		-	1	2	3
GEORGIA (GEO)		-	-	2	2
EGYPT (EGY)		-	-	1	1
JORDAN (JOR)		-	-	1	1
PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA (CHN)		-	-	1	1
SLOVENIA (SLO)		-	-	1	1
SOUTH AFRICA (RSA)		-	-	1	1
TUNISIA (TUN)		-	-	1	1

Photo Credits:

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Karate Gallery | @karategallery_ 

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Upcoming Events

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

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

12-15 May | Karate 1-Premier League,
Rabat (Morocco)



Keep an eye out on YouTube:
World Karate Federation