

# VICTORIAN KARATE LEAGUE

## BACKGROUND

The Victorian Karate League (VKL) has been established to create a more competitive area for the development of both novice and elite Karate athletes. The VKL will create a regional competition aimed at encouraging participation and developing sporting attitude with an increasing awareness of sport karate. The VKL will allow greater competition for elite athletes as well as providing new Karate athletes with competition within their relevant level of expertise. It will provide a clearly structured pathway from local tournaments to state level competition.

The VKL will consist of 4 tournaments staged through out the year. Athlete's results will be recorded on the VKL Result Ladder in both elite and development divisions. Results will be updated after each tournament and promoted to the Karate community via the Karate Victoria website. The top 2 athletes that record the most points in each elite division during the 4 VKL events will then have the opportunity to compete at the Gala finals night for prize money. The top two athletes in the development divisions will be awarded at the last tournament of the season.

## DIVISIONS

The VKL will consist of Developing and Elite Divisions. A detailed list of divisions is at Attachment A. Individual events may include further divisions such as Gladiators at the discretion of the event organizer.

***Definition of an elite athlete for the purpose of VKL:*** An elite athlete is someone who been a member of the Victorian team in either of the previous two years. Please note this does not include reserves.

Any athlete who meets the above criteria must enter the Elite Divisions. However this only applies to the discipline in which they have achieved state team selection. Eg. If a competitor is a member of the State team in Kata but not in Kumite they are permitted to enter the development division in Kumite.

Athletes who do not meet the definition of an elite athlete may enter the Development Division's. These athletes may also choose to enter the Elite divisions however an athlete who has entered both Divisions and places 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Elite Division cannot participate in the Development division in future events..

## TOURNAMENT ENTRY

All entries into the VKL tournaments will be done via the Sportdata website.

## VICTORIAN STATE TEAM SELECTION

All athletes seeking selection in the 2014 Victorian State Team MUST have participated in the 2014 Victorian State Championships. Athletes seeking selection in the 2014 State Team to compete at the National Championships in Perth are encouraged to enter the Elite Divisions. Points accumulated over the four VKL tournaments in the elite divisions will be considered in the process of State team selection. PLEASE NOTE IT IS NOT COMPULSORY TO ENTER THE VKL FOR SELECTION INTO THE VICTORIAN STATE TEAM.

## EQUIPMENT

### **Development Divisions.**

Competitors must have approved protective equipment to enter Sparring Divisions including AKF/WKF Gloves, Shin Guards, Mouth Guard, Groin Guards for Males and Chest Guards for Females cadet and above. Please note competitors will only need either red or blue equipment NOT BOTH. WKF or AKF head protectors are compulsory. **In all developing divisions, body protectors will be enforced for all competitors (including Seniors).** Body Guards will be provided for Developing Divisions Blue and Red belts will be used throughout the Championship.

Head guards will be provided for all gladiator divisions.

### ***Elite Divisions***

All athletes entered in to the Elite Divisions are to provide all their own equipment as per AKF /WKF rules . Face Masks are compulsory for Elite Kumite 15 years and under.

Body protectors are compulsory for all competitors including seniors.

Blue and Red belts will be used throughout the Championship

## FURTHER INFORMATION

*Competitors in a **Gladiator Division cannot enter the Sparring Divisions and visa versa.***

4 & 5 Years Kata and 6 & 7 years Kata are “**Everyone Wins**” events. Competitors perform their Kata and ALL receive a medal.

KATA competitors will perform Tokui (FREE) Kata.

Competitors 45 years and over entering Kumite must supply a medical clearance (issued within the last 2 weeks) on competition day to Event Manager

**Please note:** some events may be combined due to insufficient numbers

## GALA FINALS NIGHT

The finals night for the top two competitors in the elite divisions has been booked for 2014 at the Reggio Calabria club in Parkville. This will be a night to remember with lighting, music and special effects. Prize money will be awarded on the night. As a grand finale to the night a senior team from Victoria will take on NSW. Finger food will be provided and drinks available at the bar.

## EVENT CALENDAR

23rd February 2014	Melbourne International
23rd March 2014	Shotokan Cup
4th May 2014	Kobe Osaka
1st June 2014	Shukokai Open
4th October 2014	Gala Finals night

Please note the Victorian State Championships are being held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2014.