



## **EKNGB (English Karate National Governing Body) 2026 onwards – Document 2**

**Title; EKNGB Administration Regional and National Structure**

**Comprising,**

**EKNGB NATIONAL AND REGIONAL KUMITE, KATA, AND PARA PLAN**

**EKNGB REFEREE NATIONAL PROGRAMME**

**Implementation,**

**October 2025 onwards – Full implementation for Calendar 2026**

**Programme Directors.**

**See document 1**

### **Introduction**

The Regional and National structure will be presented in the following format for the 2026 EKNGB full calendar.

The aim is to incorporate the elements of Kumite, Kata, Para and broad-based Karate/Self-defence related seminars with relevant individuals using the regional and national structure. Whilst this programme majors on the development and distribution of competition related services, the structure will facilitate the delivery of karate training and education to the wider membership, which we refer to in the paper as 'grassroots' development.

It will also provide an income to provide services to all members regardless of age and experience and help support clubs and associations in the EKNGB.

The network established from this will allow for access by all EKNGB members in a reasonable travel time and distance.

The aim is to make weekends of the above areas based on what is in some way already in place but added to and developed to bring more to the wider EKNGB membership.



Whilst the European Karate Federation (EKF) originally designated the English regions as North, Midlands and South, for delivery of training and inter-regional competitions.

This will also allow for the development of inter-regional competitions, and this could take the form of a Championship event, or a League style competition. A 25–30-person line up.

Strengthening and resourcing this regional structure we hope will demonstrate the EKNGB Board's commitment to ensuring that all service delivery reaches, as best as possible, all members, recognising all diverse elements that is Karate.

## **Overhaul of Regional and National Delivery Structure**

### **1.0 National Kumite and Kata Squad Head Coaches**

National Head Coach Kumite: **Interim – PAUL HARRIS**

National Head Para Coach: **TBC**

National Head Coach Kata: **Interim – ADY GRAY**

### **1.1 National selection months and team attendance**

To make the administration of EKF and WKF Championships easier we need to make sure that teams are selected in the correct time frame. This helps with cheaper travel expenses for athletes, referees, and coaches. We must always consider this when planning any National trips.

#### **Official Events:**

- 1) WKF World Senior Championships & World Senior Cup/Team Championships (depending on selection)**
- 2) WKF World Qualification Senior Event**
- 3) EKF European Senior Championships**
- 4) WKF World Cadet/Junior & U21 (14-20) Karate Championships**



5) EKF European Cadet/Junior U21 (14-20) Karate Championships

6) Commonwealth Karate Championships - TBC

### **Calendar**

**EKF U21 European Championships – February of each year**

**Selection 14-20 Years**

**Month and Date: TBC**

**Region: TBC**

**ELITE REFEREES & SELECTIONS FOR EUROPEANS USED**

**WKF U21 World Championships – October/November every two years**

**Selection 14-20 Years**

**Month and Date: TBC**

**Region: TBC**

**ELITE REFEREES & SELECTIONS FOR EUROPEANS USED**

**EKF Senior European Championships – May of each year**

**Selection 18 + Senior Europeans:**

**Selection Month and Date: TBC**

**Region: TBC**



## **ELITE REFEREES & SELECTIONS FOR EUROPEANS USED**

### **WKF Senior World Championships Qualification Event**

**Selection Month and Date: TBC**

**Region: TBC**

## **ELITE REFEREES & SELECTIONS FOR WORLDS USED**

### **WKF Individual and World Cup - Team Championships – (Dependent on qualifying)**

**Selection Month and Date: TBC**

**Region: TBC**

## **ELITE REFEREES & SELECTIONS FOR WORLDS**

**All full selections with full WKF rules and layout will be performed as a 'CLOSED DOOR' policy. No Association coaches or club coaches. No parents.**

The selections for non-senior athletes will involve selected regional coaches by the Senior National Coaches. The Regional Coaches will assist National coaches in warming up and helping in coaching the athletes through the selection process on the day. Regional coaches will be dressed in England Polo tops and Gi bottoms No Association or club wear.

### **1.1.1 National Coaches cannot coach at National and Regional Championships**

The National Head Coaches for Kumite, Kata or Para cannot coach any of their students from their clubs or associations at National or Regional Championships.

Head National coach should attend National Championships to view the athletes competing and use it as a scouting and monitoring of their National Squad.

They cannot sit in the coaches' chair or be seen to warm up or cool down athletes or giving advice between rounds or sections for their own club or association.



The board feels that this way the National Head Coaches will be focused on the National squad and no bias can be seen as it will be the National Head coaches selecting the teams with oversight of the performance department.

## **1.2 Locations, spread and allocation of National Coaching Days (Kumite, Kata, and Para)**

**Locations – Northern, Midlands and Southern (TOTAL 9 DAYS)**

**9 National Training Days**

**Location: TBC**

**Grassroots Allocations National Head Coach will attend a Regional session.**

**1x North, 1x Midlands and 1x South sessions per year**

The National Coach has 3 days allocated to attend the following as grassroots sessions and Talent ID.

Northern, Midlands and Southern venue distribution – Decided by where the Regional Sessions are.

### **1.2.1 National and Regional Coaching Days (Kumite, Kata, and Para) Age Requirements**

**ALL National Squad Trainings are for 13 years old and above**

**Regional training is for 11 years old and above**

## **1.3 Regional Times, Locations, spread and Allocations.**

**Locations – North, Midlands, Southern**

**Northern Regional Kumite Days 4 Per year**

**Location: TBC**

**Northern Kumite Coaches:**



Head Coach: **TBC**

Coaches: **TBC**

**Midland Regional Kumite Days 4 per year**

**Location: TBC**

**Midland Kumite Coaches:**

Head Coach: **TBC**

Coaches: **TBC**

**Southern Regional Kumite Days 4 per year**

**Southern Kumite Coaches:**

**Location: Spread between, South-west, South-east and London**

Head Coach: **TBC**

Coaches: **TBC**

#### **1.4 Regional Competition Schedule for 2026**

*An example for a 2026 schedule would look like the following.*

February – **Regional Squad Training**

April – **Regional Squad Training**

July – **Regional Squad Training**

October – **Regional Squad Training (selections for National Inter regional Cup)**

November– **National Inter-regional Cup**



#### **1.4 .1 Regional Competition Schedule for 2026**

**Details of Inter regional cup framework - TBC.**

**Event based on 25-30 People across age groups – Kumite, Kata, and Para**

#### **1.5 Combination of Kumite, Kata, and Open courses for members offered by EKNGB.**

The wider aim of this structure is to bring more EKNGB members to attend events that cater for a wider scope of individuals for whom competitions may not be of immediate interest. The most efficient way to do this is use the structure of the sport with also traditional Karate to incorporate events for 2026 calendar.

We aim to make 4 weekends accessible to members in 2026. The following is a typical structure of a weekend.

##### **SATURDAY**

9-30am registration

10-00am – 12pm Kumite Session / 10am Kata Session 12-00pm Lunch

1-00pm Kumite Session / 1pm Kata Session

2-30pm FINISH

3-00pm Coaches meeting/ lecture/ Invited speaker 5pm Finish

##### **SUNDAY**

9-30am registration

10-00am -1pm OPEN TRAINING COURSE – Instructor – Bunkai and Kata 1-30pm Lunch

2-30pm Finish



The hope would be that some members would attend both days if Open Sessions on the Kata or Kumite on the Saturday. Members can have access for the full Weekend or a single day

DAY 1 Regional Kumite or/and Regional Kata / National Kumite or/and Kata DAY 2 Invited Instructor, coach development and First Aid.

**Note: Monies to EKNGB Ltd and Instructor paid for days teaching**

**Funds used for development of EKNGB Ltd**

## **2.0 National Kata Regional Kata**

TBC

## **2.1 National Training Day Kata format**

TBC

## **3.0 National Para and Regional Para Day format**

TBC

## **4.0 Dates for National Referee Calendar**

TBC

## **4.1 Referee Courses**

DATE

Date:

Region: SOUTH

DATE

Date:



Region: MIDLANDS

DATE

Date:

Region: NORTHERN

## **5.0 Referee Information**

### **EKNGB REFEREE PROGRAMME**

To provide courses for association and club officials in Kumite and Kata with the opportunity of training.

National qualifications, courses to be open to all EKNGB Licence holders, be it coaches, students or officials. Course fees will apply and will be open to 16 years and above. These will be structured to encourage equal opportunities.

#### **Table official**

16yrs and above

#### **Kumite :**

**Judge C - min age 16years and min grade 2<sup>nd</sup> kyu**

**Judge B -min age 18 years and min grade 1<sup>st</sup> Dan**

**Judge A -min age 18 years and min grade 1<sup>st</sup> Dan**

**Referee B - min age 18 years and min grade 1<sup>st</sup> Dan**

**Referee A -min age 21 years and min grade 1<sup>st</sup> Dan**



**Kata:**

**Judge C - min age 16 years and min grade 1<sup>st</sup> Dan**

**Judge B - min age 18 years and min grade 1st Dan**

**Judge A -min age 21 years and min grade 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan**

## **NATIONAL KUMITE**

### **Qualification Criteria for TABLE OFFICIAL & JUDGE C**

Candidates must attend one referees course and pass the Table official and Judge C qualification exam pass mark a minimum of 70% must be obtained to move to the next stage. This is an introductory qualification for Members of Associations who have no Association Referee Program who are new to the officiating experience. After attending the initial training course and basic assessment, they will gain valuable experience volunteering at National events learning what is involved in the basic roles on the Tatami (Score Supervisor/Kansa Assist). After gaining experience over a 12-month period, they are then permitted to attempt the Judge 'B' Qualification.

**Judge B;** Candidates must attend one referees course. A minimum of 80% must be obtained to move to the next stage which will be a practical examination at a Course and EKNGB or BKF competition.

**Judge A;** A minimum of two attendances at a EKNGB or BKF competition and course must have been attended before this qualification can be taken upon attendance at a referees course a minimum of 80% pass mark must be obtained in theory to move to the next stage which will be a practical examination at a EKNGB or BKF championship.

**Referee B;** A minimum of two competitions at a EKNGB or BKF level and a referees course must have been attended before this qualification can be taken upon attendance at a second referees course a minimum of 85% pass mark must be obtained in theory in order to move to the next stage which will be a practical examination at a EKNGB or BKF championship.



**Referee A;** A minimum of two competitions at a EKNGB or BKF level and a referee's course must have been attended before this qualification can be taken. Upon attendance of a second referees course a minimum of 90% pass mark must be obtained in theory to move to the next stage which will be a practical examination at a EKNGB or BKF championship

Once qualified the theory exam needs to be retaken every 2 years where an appropriate charge will be made, and all referees must attend a minimum of one course and two competitions per year

**Referee A+, Assistant Tatami Chiefs, Tatami Chiefs, European and World Officials;** A minimum of one course must be attended and two selections per year. The theory exam taken every 2 Years. European and World officials do not need to retake the theory exam.

## **NATIONAL KATA**

### **Qualification Criteria for TABLE OFFICIAL & JUDGE C**

Candidates must attend one referees course and pass the Table official and Judge C qualification exam pass mark a minimum of 70% must be obtained to move to the next stage.

This is a introductory qualification for Members of Associations who have no Association Referee Program who are new to the officiating experience. After attending the initial training course and basic assessment, they will gain valuable experience volunteering at National events learning what is involved in the basic roles on the Tatami (Score Supervisor/Kansa Assist). After gaining experience over a 12-month period, they are then permitted to attempt the Judge 'B' Qualification.

**Judge B;** Candidates must attend one referees course. A minimum of 80% must be obtained in theory and a pass at the video exam to move to the next stage and attendance at EKNGB or BKF championships over 2 years.

**Judge A:** A minimum of two competitions at a EKNGB or BKF and a referee's course must have been attended. A minimum of 90% pass mark must be obtained in theory and a pass at the video exam to move to the next stage which will be a practical examination at an EKNGB or BKF championship.



**European / World;** Assessment of kata examination must be completed before going on to international qualifications.

Once qualified referees must attend a minimum of one course and two competitions per year and the theory exam retaken every two years where an appropriate charge will be made.

#### **For all Kumite and Kata officials**

To be a national judge or referee you must hold a valid EKNGB LICENCE and must be practicing Karate. To become a tatami Manager, you must hold both Kata A and Kumite A qualifications.

To be selected to attend a European or World event, referees will also be required to attend two EKNGB and BKF competitions and year. No referee will be permitted to attend any European, World or Premier League event without prior authorisation and selection by the Chief Referee with also the approval of the performance director. International Events can be attended without permission, but they must not clash with the 4 domestic competitions, which take priority over any attendance at international competitions.

### **6.0 National Team Details, Regional Team Equipment, Sponsorship and Badges**

**(Please note: Kumite and Kata is the same team and whether National or Regional Team they wear same tracksuit)**

#### **6.1 National Team (Kumite and Kata)**

Sponsored by **TBC** for all Age group Teams (WKF ages). Provide Tracksuit, 2 Polo tops and Bag. Time: 2 years

Athletes provide their own WKF correct Fighting Equipment and provide their own Gi.

##### **6.1.1 Regional Team (Kumite and Kata)**

The Team will wear tracksuits provided by **(TBC)**



The coaches will wear England polo tops if asked by National Head Coach to assist on National Selections for European and World Championships (All ages). These will be provided by **TBC** the National Team Sponsors. No England polo tops at regional sessions.

**Please note:** When on National duty all regional coaches must wear National Team Polo tops. If just attending, then wearing Regional Tracksuits and not Association tracksuits would be advised.

On any event that is Regional linked, all coaches must wear their Regional Area Badge or tracksuit. This includes any coach that is a National Coach and Regional Coach i.e., Assistant National Coaches.

## **6.2 National and Regional Coaches**

### **6.2.1 National Kumite, Kata Para Badges**

Given to selected individuals that represent England at U16, U18, U21 and Senior Level in Individual and Team categories. For all events the National Kumite or National Kata Coach feels appropriate. These include the EKF European and WKF World Championships.

### **6.2.2 Regional Kumite and Kata**

The Regions will wear a regional badge that is the same in design, but each region will have their name on the badge.

The coaches will present the badge to selected athletes for Inter-Regional Championships/league, any international competitions.

Regional must wear badge when representing region. One per athlete unless lost or worn. Coaches has the discretion on this.



### **6.3 National Kumite Coaches and Regional Coach Development**

The National Coaches will meet with all coaches at least twice a year to share ideas and good practice. This will allow for forward progression and team development.

The Performance Department and Directors will be part of this as well as any consultants.

### **6.4 National Coaches, Sports Medicine and HOD Reports**

The National Head Coaches for Kumite and Kata (including Para) need to write a report for all major Championships. To be sent to board within seven days of championships.

WKF European, World Qualifier Event, World Championships, and any occasional event i.e., Premier league or Invited Championships

The HOD (Head of Delegation) will also report on the following.

- Overall report of Championships from a England perspective
- View on National Coaches and support staff
- Any other issues
- Conclusions

The National Coaches report must include all relevant areas, including but not only.

- Athlete report (each person on rounds and results)
- Overall code and conduct of athletes.
- Areas we can improve and areas we did correctly.
- Conclusions

The Sports Medicine Head report must include the relevant areas, including but not only.

- Serious Injuries to team
- Less serious injuries to team
- Overall assessment of Championships from Sports Medicine team
- Conclusions

The Chief Referee will also report on the following.

- Overall report of Championships from an England perspective



- View on performance of English referees at Championships
- Any other issues
- Conclusions

The report is private and confidential and only for the EKNGB board.

## **7.0 National Annual Open Training Day**

### **Open Training Day and National squad training TBC**

Venue: TBC

**10am hrs Registration - National Kumite Coaches and Regional Coach Development (Once a year)**

**Time of 10.30am – Midday Cadets / Juniors & U21 and Senior - Squad training**

### **Lunch**

**Open Selection for Non-Squad – 3 areas**

**12-30 to 2pm Cadet & Junior & Senior (Including 18-21) Kumite**

**2pm to 4-30pm Kata and Para**



## 7.0 Regional Selection Procedure

**The Regional Structure will be the direct route for all EKNGB members.**

For the EKNGB member to obtain a National Squad place they would attend their regional training and the regional coaches would select them if they felt the individual met the criteria to move forward to a designated National Squad Trial where the National Coach could consider them for the England 'A' Squad.

Any athlete who wins a medal at English or British Championships will automatically be invited to a Regional or National Squad training and/or selection via a invite given to the association unless already part of the England Squad. This will be for Kumite, Kata and Para. ***All athletes to be considered must attend one English and one of the British Championships.***

The England Team members must go to 2 out of the 4 regional sessions in their region every year. It is very important for the grassroots and regional athletes to see the current England Team members training.

This will be free of charge for England Team Members that have been selected for a major championship for England.

**NOTE: The National Coach can override this at any time and invite any EKNGB member to the National Squad Training. EKNGB members could be scouted at an open event, regional training, or National and International championships etc.**

The EKNGB grassroots process to International is through the following.

CLUB – ASSOCIATION – REGION – NATIONAL 'A' SQUAD – NATIONAL TEAM. Slight changes on this could occur depending on age group.

## 7.1 General guidelines for Regional Coaches on selection of athletes for National Trials

It must be remembered that as a EKNGB Regional coach you are aiming to progress athletes onto the National Squad.

The Regional squads are run so Association athletes can progress onto the National squad and then team and ultimately win medals for themselves, their club, their Association, region, and country.



### **8.0 National and Regional Coaches guidelines for operation regarding students and athletes from clubs and associations – No poaching or movement of them unless there are exceptional circumstances.**

As with the National Squad. The board will not accept the poaching of the athletes by coaches who are EKNGB representatives. As a representative of the National Body for the World Karate federation all clubs and associations should feel free to send their athletes and students to regional and National training, without fear that they will move associations or clubs to train with regional or National coaches. For the many reasons it can be.

The board from the outset will monitor this through the performance department.

Please adhere to this. The only time this may change is when athletes and students move, or athletes attend Universities, and they may dually train with the University club and their own. This still needs to be informed to the relevant parties (as above).

We are aware many coaches nurture these athletes and students and any parent or athlete should feel that it is not needed to move to a different club or association to gain progress.

We aim to make sure they can gain progress to the highest level while maintaining their current club and Association status. The opportunity to train and compete at regional and National level will give them enough opportunities to be in the correct environment.

One of our main aims is to support the club instructors and Association coaches from where most board members have come from. As well as the coaches and referees.

By doing this we will encourage participation and levels to improve success.

The same applies to the referee's department if it has the same issues.

Any movement of Regional or National Squad members must be reported to the EKNGB board before it happens by the coach in question. ***This does not include normal recreational training students. Just athletes and students that are currently on the regional or National squads.*** The point of contact is the director of performance or President.



Any individual that wants to move clubs and Associations who is in the regional and National Squad must contact the EKNGB board and apply through an official 'Transfer request'. Contact EKNGB performance department for the correct form.

Please note: EKNGB board will investigate if the above is not adhere to.

## **8.0 Administration**

Head of Administration: **TBC**

### **8.1 Procedure for Administration for Major Championships (National)**

Once selection of athlete confirmed, the following happens.

1. Invoice sent by administration to athlete requesting £TBC deposit; 1 week to pay with proof of payment to be sent to Administration.
2. Once final costs are confirmed the final invoice is sent to athlete and depending on when this is sent will depends on time frame allowed for payment i.e. Worlds, final invoice sent end of August/beginning September, so this allows time for payment for provider to be paid by the end of September and add any monies outstanding to final balance owed.
3. Again, the proof of payment to be sent to Administration.
4. All payments must be received before departure.



5. Referees travel arrangements liaise between Chief Referee and Board, dependant on the championships

## 8.2 Procedure for Administration for Regional and National Squad Trainings (Kumite and Kata)

For all forms registration forms (athletes only)

1. Coaches must provide training date minimum 4 weeks beforehand if changed from agreed National calendar. Other dates for any National training must be agreed with Performance Director.
2. Closing date to be one week before the training date.
3. Forms and payments to be received by 5pm (1700hrs) on the closing date  
**“No fee - no train”**  
**“No licence - no train”.**
4. We need it to say that if the correct reference is not on the form, it will be void people to train in the appropriate regions.
5. No refunds

The above is complex and detailed but lays down a well thought through structure to invigorate the regional delivery of EKNGB services, set against the broader background of the National delivery of competition Kumite, Kata and Para training and selection.

This programme has set out to address the geographic disadvantage some regions have experienced in getting to existing centres where National and regional training and selection has taken place.

The EKNGB Board fully accept that this structure will require resources and are therefore prepared to invest in kick starting the regional process again. Which, in the fullness of should be a successful, self-financing operation.

Eventually, we see inter-regional competition as having as much appeal as the National Championships.

Whilst this programme is a fully developed plan it may well be that adjustments need to be made, especially as certain training locations have not been secured, and availability established. Any changes will be broadcasted via email to HOA's and posted on the website. Any updates will also be put on social media but always also sent to associations directly.



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