



EKNGB Karate Referees Code of Conduct

(Aligned with the UK Coaching Code of Practice and Sport England Expectations)

Purpose

This Code of Conduct sets out the standards of behaviour expected of all karate referees operating under the English Karate National Governing Body (NGB). Referees play a critical role in ensuring fairness, safety and integrity within karate competitions. This Code is aligned with the UK Coaching Code of Practice for Sports Coaches and supports Sport England's commitment to safe, inclusive and well-governed sport.

All referees are expected to uphold the highest standards of impartiality, professionalism and respect.

Personal Standards

Karate referees must:

- Act with honesty, integrity and impartiality always.
- Be a positive role model, demonstrating calmness, self-control and respect.
- Uphold the spirit, traditions and values of karate, including courtesy and discipline.
- Avoid inappropriate language, gestures or behaviour.
- Refrain from consuming alcohol, drugs or any substance that could impair judgement before or during officiating.
- Present themselves in correct attire and maintain a professional appearance.

Professional Standards

Karate referees are required to:

- Hold valid and current referee qualifications recognised by the English Karate NGB.
- Maintain competence through continuing professional development (CPD), including rule updates and refresher training.
- Officiate only at levels appropriate to their qualification and experience.
- Apply the rules of karate fairly, consistently and without bias.
- Make decisions independently and confidently, without external influence.
- Arrive punctually, prepared and fully briefed for all events.
- Work respectfully and cooperatively with other referees, officials, coaches and event staff.

Duty of Care & Safeguarding

Karate referees must:

- Place the safety, welfare and wellbeing of participants above all other considerations.
- Be familiar with and follow the safeguarding policies and procedures of the English Karate NGB.
- Take appropriate action if a participant appears injured, unwell or at risk.
- Never tolerate or condone abuse, bullying, harassment or discrimination.
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries with all participants.
- Report safeguarding concerns, poor practice or misconduct immediately using the correct reporting procedures.

Relationships & Communication

Referees should:

- Treat all competitors, coaches, officials and spectators with respect and courtesy.
- Communicate decisions clearly, calmly and respectfully.
- Avoid confrontation and manage conflict professionally.
- Refrain from engaging in arguments or inappropriate discussions during competition.
- Avoid coaching, advising or showing favouritism to any competitor during events.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Karate referees must:

- Treat all individuals fairly and without discrimination, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or background.
- Support inclusive participation and fair competition.
- Challenge and report discriminatory behaviour or language.
- Ensure reasonable adjustments are respected where applicable.

Integrity & Impartiality

Referees must:

- Remain neutral and free from conflicts of interest.
- Declare any potential conflicts (e.g. officiating family members or personal associates).
- Not accept gifts, favours or inducements that could compromise impartiality.
- Avoid behaviour that could bring the referee role or the sport of karate into disrepute.

Responsibility to the Sport

Referees have a responsibility to:

- Uphold the reputation, values and integrity of karate and the English Karate NGB.
- Comply with all rules, regulations, policies and codes set by the NGB and Sport England.
- Promote fair play, respect for officials and positive competition environments.
- Report any breaches of this Code, rule violations or unsafe practices.
- Cooperate fully with disciplinary, complaints or safeguarding investigations.

Breaches of the Code

Failure to comply with this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the English Karate NGB's disciplinary and safeguarding procedures. Sanctions may include suspension, removal of refereeing licence, or referral to statutory authorities where appropriate.

Referee Declaration

I confirm that I have read, understood and agree to abide by this Karate Referees Code of Conduct.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Referee Licence Number: _____

Affiliated Organisation: _____