



EKNGB Governance Guidance

Positions of Trust (Sport) – England & Wales

1. Governance Alignment

The English Karate National Governing Body (EKNGB) is committed to alignment with the Sport England Code for Sports Governance and adopts the Safeguarding Code in Martial Arts. This guidance forms part of our safeguarding and governance framework.

2. Legal Context

Legislation in England & Wales recognises certain sports roles as Positions of Trust. It may be a criminal offence for an adult (18+) who regularly coaches, trains, instructs or supervises a 16–17 year old participant to engage in sexual activity with them.

3. Roles Likely to be in a Position of Trust

- Club Coaches and Assistant Coaches
- Regional & National Squad Coaches
- Instructors and Regular Training Assistants (18+)
- Team Managers and Chaperones
- Strength & Conditioning Coaches
- Any adult with regular supervisory authority

4. EKNGB Policy Position

The EKNGB prohibits any romantic or sexual relationship between an adult in a Position of Trust and a 16–17 year old participant under their responsibility. Such conduct will be treated

as a serious safeguarding matter and may result in disciplinary action, suspension, removal from role and referral to statutory authorities.

5. Reporting & Escalation

All concerns must be reported immediately to the Club Safeguarding Officer, escalated to the Association Welfare Officer, and where appropriate to the National Governing Body Lead Safeguarding Officer in line with EKNGB Safeguarding Policy. Referrals must also be made where required to Police, Children's Social Care and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

6. Club Governance Requirements

- Update Codes of Conduct to reflect Position of Trust provisions.
- Ensure annual safeguarding training for all coaches.
- Implement robust supervision and travel policies.
- Maintain safer recruitment and DBS compliance.
- Apply interim protective measures where necessary.

Board Approval Statement

Approved by the Board of Directors of the English Karate National Governing Body (EKNGB). This guidance demonstrates our commitment to safeguarding, safe sport and the highest standards of governance in line with Sport England expectations.

Effective Date: February 2026

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