IKD-Australia

(International Karate Daigaku Association Australia)

COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

Our commitment

Safety and Wellbeing of Participants

- Prioritise the physical, emotional, and psychological safety of all participants.
    - *Example: Regularly check in with athletes about their wellbeing and create opportunities for them to express concerns.*
- Recognise and respect the rights, identities, and dignity of all participants, regardless of age, race, gender, ability, cultural background, sexuality, or religion.
    - *Example: Use inclusive language, acknowledge preferred pronouns and ensure all players feel valued, regardless of their ability or skills.*
- Be aware of and adhere to sport-specific injury management and return-to-play guidelines.
    - *Example: Do not allow/encourage participants to play when injured and/or against medical advice.*
- Actively reinforce the values of safety, inclusion and fun in your interactions with sport participants.
    - *Example: Consider including an activity or brief reflection prompt before practices or games about the club values.*
- Always use respectful and supportive language when engaging with players, parents, coaches, officials, or spectators.
    - *Example: Avoid using explicit, aggressive, or discriminatory language, as your behavior sets the standard for others.*

Coaching with Care

- Support each participant's individual growth, skill development, and confidence using positive communication.
    - *Example: Instead of saying "You're doing it wrong," try "Let's work on this technique together."*

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- Ensure that drills, team discussions, and expectations are inclusive of participants with diverse abilities, communication styles, and cultural backgrounds.
    - *Example: Adapt coaching techniques to accommodate different needs rather than assuming a one-size-fits-all approach.*
- Create spaces where youth participants feel heard, valued, and included in decision-making.
    - *Example: Let players have input on team rules or training activities.*
- Commit to ongoing learning about best practices in coaching, safeguarding and inclusive practices.
    - *Example: Complete Sport Integrity Australia's Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport Induction course.*
- Comply with our state or territory requirements for working with children and young people.
- Encourage and create safe avenues for people to come forward with concerns and listen intently to any concerns they have.
    - *Example: Regardless of what they tell you, it's challenging for people to share unsafe experiences. Believe what they say, remind them they did the right thing in telling you and seek support for your next steps.*

Understanding Your Role and Influence as a Coach

- Use your position of authority responsibly.
    - *Example: Ensure all players receive equal opportunities to develop and engage in the sport, avoiding favouritism.*
- Encourage open communication by seeking feedback from youth participants about their experiences.
    - *Example: Use anonymous feedback forms or team meetings to allow youth to voice their thoughts.*
- Understand and maintain appropriate professional boundaries.
    - *Example: Communicate with players and parents in transparent and team-related contexts rather than privately.*
- Read and comply with our organisation's child safe code of behaviours/practices.
- Be aware of what physical contact is appropriate and necessary for skill development, and ensure you actively seek consent.

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- *Example: Always ask permission before making any physical correction during training.*

Uphold the Integrity of Sport

- Lead by example, upholding the values of fairness, respect, and integrity.
  - *Example: Shake hands with opposing coaches and players after each game to reinforce sportsmanship.*
- Recognise that children play sport primarily for enjoyment and social connections not for performance.
  - *Example: Celebrate small improvements and contributions, not just scoring goals.*
- Respect the decisions of officials, coaches, and administrators, modelling positive behaviour.
  - *Example: If a referee makes a call you disagree with, remain composed and discuss concerns respectfully post-game.*
- Acknowledge that there is a zero-tolerance approach regarding the consumption/use of alcohol, drugs, and substances.
  - *Example: Never consume alcohol while coaching.*
- Promote a harassment-free, discrimination-free, and culturally safe environment by proactively addressing racism (discrimination based on ethnicity), sexism (discrimination based on sex/gender), ableism (discrimination based on ability), homophobia (discrimination based on sexuality), and other forms of exclusion in sport.
  - *Example: Intervene if you witness bullying or exclusion among teammates.*
- Never advocate or condone the use of illicit drugs, performance-enhancing substances, or unethical competition practices such as match-fixing.

Breach of Code of Conduct Procedures

If you breach this code, our organisation will take the following steps:

Step 1: Educative response – you will be reminded of the expected behaviours and how your behaviours breached the code of conduct. You will be asked to review the policies and be directed towards relevant education as warranted.

Step 2: Written warning – A formal letter (warning) will be provided to the you, detailing the breach and any required corrective actions.

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Step 3: Disciplinary action – Our organisation will explore the imposition of a suspension or termination under the rules of our club constitution or related policies.

The club committee or complaints officer is responsible for managing breaches of this code of conduct.

I have read and understood this Coach Code of Conduct and commit to upholding these principles as a member of IKD-Australia (International Karate Daigaku Association Australia).

Name: _____

Signature: _____Date: _____

If under 18 years of age, parent/guardian consent:

Name: _____

Signature: _____Date: _____

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