

WKC Code of Conduct and Ethics

Parents and Spectators

At the World Karate Commission (WKC), our mission is to provide events that support the personal development of each competitor. We are committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment where athletes can thrive through the spirit of competition. Parents and spectators play a vital role in creating this positive atmosphere.

As such, the following standards of conduct are expected:

Standards of Behavior

- Respect: Treat all officials, volunteers, athletes, and fellow spectators with courtesy and professionalism.
 - Encouragement: Promote positive sportsmanship and support for all competitors.
 - Self-Control: Refrain from harassment, intimidation, or interference with the competition in any form.
-

Violations & Consequences

● Level 1 – Minor Misconduct

Examples:

- Overtly loud conduct that disrupts the flow of a division
- Complaints about officiating voiced in a non-confrontational manner
- Disruptive behavior such as moving out of the designated spectator area

Consequences:

- Verbal warning from event staff or officials

- Continued behavior may result in a temporary removal from the spectator area
 - A written reminder of the Code of Conduct may be issued
-

● **Level 2 – Moderate Misconduct**

Examples:

- Confronting or openly disputing officials' decisions
- Ignoring instructions from tournament staff
- Use of disrespectful language (non-threatening but inappropriate)

Possible Consequences:

- Immediate removal from the spectator area for the remainder of the session
 - Incident report filed with WKC event administration
-

● **Level 3 – Severe Misconduct**

Examples:

- Verbal threats, physical intimidation, or aggressive confrontations
- Discriminatory, hateful, or abusive language
- Interfering with match officials, competitors, or event operations in any way

Possible Consequences:

- Immediate removal from the venue
- Disqualification of the associated competitor

- Suspension from future WKC events pending review by WKC disciplinary committee

Acknowledgment

By signing below, I confirm that I have read and understand the WKC Code of Conduct and Ethics for Parents and Spectators. I agree to conduct myself in a way that supports a respectful, safe, and inclusive environment for all. I understand that violations may result in disciplinary actions, including consequences that may affect my child's participation in the event.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

WKC Code of Conduct and Ethics

Coaches

At the World Karate Commission (WKC), our mission is to provide events that support the personal development of each competitor. We are committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment where athletes can thrive through the spirit of competition. Coaches play a critical leadership role in modeling sportsmanship, discipline, and respect throughout the event.

This Code of Conduct outlines the professional expectations and disciplinary procedures for all coaches at WKC-sanctioned events.

Standards of Behavior

Coaches are expected to:

- Treat all athletes, officials, volunteers, and fellow coaches with respect.
 - Provide technical support and encouragement to their athletes in a positive, controlled manner.
 - Follow the directions of event staff and officiating personnel at all times.
 - Refrain from any form of aggressive, disrespectful, or disruptive behavior.
-

Violation Procedures and Penalties

All coaching penalties are issued per match and result in a 1-point penalty against the coach's athlete for sparring. A coach is described as the individual who is directly sitting in the coaches chair during the sparring match. Those spectating (even if it is a coach from that school) will be handled according to the spectators/parents code of conduct. Disciplinary steps are enforced as follows.

Step 1 – Verbal Warning

Issued by the center judge for minor infractions, such as:

- Stepping or acting outside of the coaches area/chair
- Directly interfering with the flow of the division, whether this be arguing officials calls or loud behaviour. If this results in an unofficial timeout for something that is not a rule violation for the purpose of bringing order back to the match

Action: A verbal warning is given; behavior is expected to stop immediately.

● Step 2 – Penalty Point (1 Penalty Point Given to Opposing Athlete)

Issued by the center judge in collaboration with the corner judges by majority rule (2 out of 3 or 3 out of 5) when the behavior continues or escalates. Examples include

- Stepping or acting outside of the coaches area/chair for the second time after a verbal warning
- Directly interfering with the flow of the division, whether this be arguing officials calls or loud behaviour. If this results in an unofficial timeout for something that is not a rule violation for the purpose of bringing order back to the match for the second time after being given a verbal warning.

Action: One (1) point is awarded to the opponent's score. A third infraction of conduct will result in dismissal from the event. This decision will be made via majority rule as well.

● Step 3 – Coach Removal

Enforced by the event arbitrator following a penalty or in response to a serious offense. Immediate removal may occur for:

- Disrespectful or abusive remarks toward officials or staff
- Aggressive or escalating behavior after a penalty
- Threatening, discriminatory, or hostile conduct

Action: Coach is removed from the competition area for the remainder of the match or day (pending severity). The athlete may may ask for a replacement coach.

Important Notes

- All penalties are match-specific.
 - Coaches who are removed may face additional review by WKC event officials and may be suspended from future events.
 - Appeals regarding removal or conduct violations must be submitted through formal WKC channels after the event.
-

Acknowledgment

By signing below, I confirm that I have read and understand the WKC Code of Conduct and Ethics for Coaches. I agree to uphold the values of professionalism, sportsmanship, and integrity, and understand that violations may result in penalties that impact my athletes and my eligibility to coach.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Dojo/School Name: _____

Date: _____

WKC Code of Ethics and Conduct

Judges and Officials

As an official representative of the World Karate Commission (WKC), a judge holds the responsibility of upholding the highest standards of fairness, integrity, and professionalism. Judges play a critical role in maintaining the credibility of competition, and their actions directly influence the experience, performance, and safety of athletes.

This Code of Ethics and Conduct outlines the expectations and responsibilities of all judges and referees participating in WKC-sanctioned events.

Core Principles

1. Integrity

- Make impartial and unbiased decisions, free from favoritism, prejudice, or influence.
- Avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of such. A judge shall not officiate matches involving athletes with whom they have a close personal relationship.

2. Professionalism

- Conduct yourself respectfully at all times both on and off the competition floor.
- Remain composed, neutral, and confident in decision-making.
- Maintain proper uniform standards and adhere to all WKC officiating guidelines.

3. Accountability

- Accept and implement corrections or clarifications from the arbitrator or tournament director.
 - Be willing to review and learn from any contested calls or procedural issues.
 - Take full responsibility for the decisions made during officiating.
-

Standards of Conduct

Judges must:

- Adhere to all WKC rules, protocols, and tournament procedures.

- Refrain from discussing or debating scoring decisions with coaches, parents, or spectators.
 - Keep all communication with everyone (competitors, spectators and coaches) respectful when giving instructions on the rules..
 - Remain neutral in tone and body language at all times.
 - A judge should demonstrate the professionalism and etiquette of someone committed to fostering a positive experience that encourages participants to return year after year and helps grow the sport
-

Violation Procedures and Consequences

Violations of judging ethics and conduct may be reported by the center referee, arbitrator, or tournament director and may result in disciplinary action, including removal from the competition floor.

● Minor Violations

Examples:

- Arriving late to assigned ring
- Incorrect uniform or equipment
- Failing to follow minor ring protocol

Action: Verbal correction or reminder; documentation for internal review if repeated.

● Moderate Violations

Examples:

- Inconsistent or poorly explained scoring
- Failure to de-escalate or engaging in arguments with coaches or spectators

- Displaying visible bias or unprofessional behavior on the floor

Action: Temporary removal from ring duty and potentially the event; formal evaluation by arbitrator or head official.

● Severe Violations

Examples:

- Discriminatory or disrespectful remarks toward competitors, coaches, or others
- Coaching or advising athletes while serving as an official. (if an official needs to coach at an event, they must cover their official shirt with the appropriate coaches jacket. This cannot happen in the ring where the judge is working. This scenario is not encouraged, however the WKC will make the accommodation for teams with limited resources).
- Intentionally influencing match outcomes or failing to recuse from a conflict of interest

Action: Immediate removal from officiating duties, with report submitted to WKC disciplinary committee. Mandatory removal from all future events pending investigation outcome.

Ongoing Responsibility

Judges are expected to continually:

- Stay up to date on rule changes and attend required WKC training or certification events.
 - Maintain a high level of physical and mental focus while officiating.
 - Serve as examples of fairness and consistency for all participants.
-

Acknowledgment

By signing below, I confirm that I have read and understand the WKC Code of Ethics and Conduct for Judges and Officials. I agree to uphold the principles of impartiality, professionalism, and respect, and to serve the integrity of the competition above all else.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Official Role: _____

Date: _____

WKC Match Call-Contest Procedure

For Coaches and Judges

Purpose

To provide coaches with a fair, respectful process to request clarification or contest a judging decision, without disrupting the integrity or flow of the match. This protocol supports transparent communication while maintaining professionalism and authority on the competition floor.

1. Scope of Contestable Decisions

A coach may respectfully request clarification or contest a call related to:

- Scoring errors (missed or incorrect point calls)
- Procedural rule applications (e.g., penalties, time violations)
- Safety concerns (e.g., contact level, injury handling)
- Apparent conflict of interest or bias (escalated through formal review)

Non-contestable matters include judge discretion in close calls, timing judgments (unless procedural error is present), or judgment on effort/intensity.

2. Who May Initiate

- Only a designated coach may initiate a contest.
 - The request must occur immediately after the call in question, during the match break or end of the round; never mid-exchange.
 - The coach must remain in the coaching area unless invited forward.
-

3. Step-by-Step Process

● Step 1 – Signal for Clarification

- The coach raises a single hand to get the judges attention and remains seated or in the coaching zone.
- The center judge may acknowledge the coach at the end of the exchange.
- A brief (10-second) explanation from the coach is allowed (e.g., “Was the warning for contact or late hit?”)

✓ If the judges determines no error, the match continues immediately. If the judges determine an error, they can correct the mistake and communicate this to athletes and the opposing coach.

● Step 2 – Formal Contest Request

- If the coach disagrees with the explanation or believes a rule misapplication occurred, they may request arbitration.
- The center judge will pause the match and call for an event arbitrator or ring supervisor.

- The coach states the specific rule or action being contested. Arbitrators will not accept vague or emotional complaints.

⚠ Coaches must remain calm and respectful during this process. Escalation or disrespect results in a coach penalty (1 point awarded to the opponent).

● Step 3 – Arbitrator Review

- The arbitrator gathers input from the judging panel and the coach.
- No video replay will be used unless the event has designated it in advance.
- The arbitrator issues a final ruling:
 - Call stands
 - Call corrected (score or penalty adjusted)
 - Judging clarification issued for future calls

All arbitrator decisions are final. The match resumes without further discussion.

4. Post-Match Appeal

If a coach believes the situation warrants formal review beyond the match (e.g., bias, misconduct, or procedural failure):

- A written report must be submitted to the event director or disciplinary panel within 1 hour of the incident.
 - WKC officials will review and respond within a reasonable timeframe (e.g., 7 days).
 - Repeated abuse of this process may result in suspension of contest privileges.
-

Coach and Judge Responsibilities

Coaches Must:

- Use calm, respectful language at all times.
- Accept final decisions without further protest.
- Know and reference WKC rules, not general complaints.

Judges Must:

- Acknowledge valid coach requests respectfully.
 - Respond clearly and professionally.
 - Refrain from dismissive or defensive behavior.
 - Refer issues to an arbitrator when needed.
-

Disciplinary Notes

- Disrespectful behavior from either party (coach or judge) may result in warnings, penalties, or removal.
- This process exists to enhance fairness—not to challenge authority or delay events.

WKC Organizational Code of Ethics and Conduct

Organization

The World Karate Commission (WKC) is dedicated to fostering the highest standards of professionalism, fairness, and inclusivity within all its sanctioned events and activities. As an international martial arts governing body, WKC holds itself accountable to the athletes, coaches, officials, and families it serves.

This Code of Ethics outlines WKC's responsibilities and values as an organization, guiding how we operate, lead, and uphold the integrity of competition.

Our Commitment to Fairness

- WKC is committed to providing unbiased, transparent, and consistent competition standards for all participants, regardless of nationality, style, affiliation, or background.
- All decisions made by WKC leadership and appointed officials are guided by principle—not preference.

Responsibility to Train and Support Officials

- WKC will provide ongoing education, certification, and evaluation for all judges and referees to ensure accurate, consistent, and safe officiating.
- WKC will monitor official conduct during events and respond promptly to reported concerns.
- Judges are trained not only in technical rules, but also in neutrality, professionalism, and conflict-of-interest avoidance.

Responsibility to Protect Athletes

- The safety, dignity, and development of all athletes are WKC's top priority.
- WKC will enforce safety regulations related to contact, equipment, and athlete welfare.
- Harassment, abuse, bullying, or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated.
- WKC will provide a respectful competition environment where athletes can learn and grow through sport.

Responsibility to Support Coaches

- WKC views coaches as key partners in athlete development and success.
 - We will offer resources, guidance, and clear communication to help coaches navigate competition rules and procedures.
 - WKC will provide structured, respectful processes for coaches to seek clarification or contest decisions, ensuring their voices are heard without compromising event integrity.
-

Organizational Conduct and Accountability

- WKC will maintain neutrality in all decisions, including judging assignments, competition structures, and disciplinary actions.
 - We will uphold the highest standards of ethics in all organizational dealings, including sponsorships, promotions, and internal leadership conduct.
 - WKC is committed to ongoing improvement through feedback, transparency, and self-review.
-

Final Statement

As stewards of international martial arts competition, we recognize that our actions shape the tone and future of the sport. WKC will always strive to lead with honor, listen with humility, and act with fairness; putting the athletes and the integrity of the art first.

WKC Code of Ethics & Conduct

Athlete

Commitment to a Safe and Respectful Environment

The World Karate and Kickboxing Commission (WKC) is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all athletes. Every competitor is expected to uphold the highest standards of integrity, discipline, and sportsmanship; on and off the mat.

This Code outlines the behavior expected of all WKC athletes. By signing, you commit to maintaining the values of martial arts and contributing to a positive tournament experience for all.

Code of Conduct & Ethics

1. Respect & Courtesy

- Treat competitors, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect at all times.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship, whether in victory or defeat.

2. Integrity in Competition

- Compete fairly; no cheating or intentional rule violations.
- Follow all WKC and division-specific rules.
- Maintain self-control, even under pressure.

3. Athlete Responsibility

- You are responsible for your behavior, language, and conduct both in and outside competition settings.
- Avoid negative, aggressive, or inflammatory behavior.
- Set an example for others through discipline and respect.

4. Safe, Inclusive Behavior

- Do not engage in discrimination, bullying, or harassment; verbally, physically, or digitally.
 - Respect all backgrounds, cultures, identities, and individual boundaries.
 - Help maintain a safe and welcoming environment for all athletes and participants.
-

Violation Consequences

WKC takes conduct seriously. Violations of this Code may lead to disciplinary action based on severity and frequency:

Level 1 – Warning

A reminder to correct behavior.

Examples:

- Arguing with a referee during a match
- Using disrespectful language toward a competitor or coach
- Ignoring safety protocols during warm-ups or competition

Action: Verbal warning, with guidance for immediate correction.

Level 2 – Suspension

Temporary removal from match or event activities.

Examples:

- Repeated Level 1 offenses
- Refusing to comply with referee or staff instructions
- Showing aggressive behavior toward a coach, official, or peer

Action: Disqualification from the match; may require formal review or reinstatement conditions.

Level 3 – Dismissal

Serious or repeated misconduct with potential long-term consequences.

Examples:

- Physical altercations or threats
- Discriminatory, harassing, or abusive behavior
- Vandalism, theft, or gross misconduct at a WKC event

Action: Immediate removal from the tournament, suspension from future events, and possible referral to national or international sport authorities.

Athlete Agreement

I have read and understand the WKC Athlete Code of Ethics & Conduct. I agree to uphold these standards and accept the consequences if I fail to meet them. I commit to representing myself, my team, and the martial arts community with honor and respect.