

## **KARATE B.C. CODE OF CONDUCT**

This Code of Conduct is to govern the relationship between Instructors and Students; Officials and Competitors; and Coaches and Athletes.

Coaches, Officials and Instructors play a critical role in the personal as well as Athletic development of Students, Competitors and Athletes. They must understand and respect the inherent power imbalance that exists in these relationships and Instructors, Officials and Coaches must be careful not to abuse it.

Instructors, Officials and Coaches must also recognize that they are important conduits through which the values and goals of Karate B.C. are expressed and communicated. How a Student, Competitor or Athlete regards his/her sport is often dependent upon the behaviour of the Instructor, Official or Coach.

The following Code of Conduct has been developed to govern the behaviour of Instructors, Officials and Coaches to allow them to assist Students, Competitors and Athletes in becoming well-rounded, self-confident and productive human beings.

### **INSTRUCTORS, OFFICIALS AND COACHES HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO:**

- 1) Treat everyone fairly within the context of their activity, regardless of gender, place of origin, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political belief or economic status;
- 2) Direct constructive comments or criticism at the performance rather than the individual;
- 3) Consistently display standards and project a favourable image of Karate-do and:
  - a) refrain from unnecessary public criticism of other members or individuals;
  - b) abstain from the use of tobacco products while in the presence of Students, Competitors and Athletes and discourage their use by other individuals;
  - c) abstain from excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages when working with Students, Competitors and Athletes;
  - d) discourage the excessive use of alcohol in conjunction with activities;
  - e) refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language.

- 4) Ensure that any activity being undertaken is suitable for the age, experience, ability and fitness level of the Students, Competitors and Athletes and educate individuals about their responsibility in contributing to a safe practice or performance environment;
- 5) Communicate and cooperate with competent medical practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment and management of medical and psychological problems of Students, Competitors and Athletes;
- 6) Consider their future health and well being as foremost when making decisions regarding an injured Student, Competitor or Athlete's ability to continue training or competing;
- 7) Recognize and accept when to refer Students, Competitors or Athletes to other Instructors, Officials or Coaches;
- 8) Regularly seek ways of increasing personal development, self awareness and a greater understanding of Karate-do;
- 9) Treat all other members with due respect and encourage Students, Competitors and Athletes to act accordingly. Actively encourage them to uphold the principles, ethics and rules of Karate-do;
- 10) In the case of minors, communicate and cooperate with the parents or legal guardians of Students, Competitors and Athletes, and where necessary involve them in decisions pertaining to their child's development;
- 11) Be aware of academic pressures being placed upon Students, Competitors and Athletes and ensure that their activities permit them to pursue academic success;

**INSTRUCTORS, OFFICIALS AND COACHES MUST:**

- 1) Ensure the safety of Students, Competitors and Athletes;
- 2) At no time become inappropriate or intimately or sexually involved with Students, Competitors or Athletes. In particular this includes any request, directly or indirectly, for sexual favours or the threat of reprisal due to the rejection of such requests;
- 3) Respect the individual dignity of Students, Competitors and Athletes; verbal or physical behaviour which constitutes harassment or abuse of any kind being unacceptable;

- 4) Never advocate or condone the use of drugs or any other banned performance enhancing substance;
- 5) Never provide under age Students, Competitors or Athletes with alcohol;

#### **DEFINITION OF HARASSMENT:**

Harassment can take many forms but is generally defined as inappropriate behaviour including comments and/or conduct which is insulting, intimidating, humiliating, hurtful, malicious, degrading or otherwise offensive to an individual, or group of individuals, or which creates an uncomfortable environment.

Harassment may include but is not limited to:

- written or verbal abuse or threats;
- sexually oriented comments;
- racial or ethnic slurs;
- unwelcome remarks, jokes, innuendoes, or taunting about a person's body, attire, age, marital status, ethnic or racial origin, religion etc.
- displaying of sexually explicit, racist or other offensive or derogatory material;
- sexual, racial, ethnic or religious graffiti;
- practical jokes which cause awkwardness or embarrassment, endanger a person's safety, or negatively affect performance;
- unwelcome sexual remarks, invitations or requests whether indirect or explicit, or intimidation;
- leering (suggestive staring), or other obscene or offensive gestures;
- condescension, paternalism or patronizing behaviour which undermines self-respect or adversely affects performance or working conditions;
- physical conduct such as touching, kissing, patting, pinching, etc...
- vandalism;
- physical assault.

This Code of Conduct was modified for use by Karate B.C. Association on the basis of the code developed by Promotion Plus Women in Coaching Committee in conjunction with the Ministry of Government Services and the Ministry Responsible for Sport and the Commonwealth Games Coaching Advisory Committee and the Coaches Association of BC.

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## **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ATHLETES**

As a Karate-ka and a member of Karate BC, athletes are expected to adhere to the following code:

To respect and abide by the Constitution, rules and regulations of Karate BC, and the ethics and standards of Karate-Do

To demonstrate respect for, and show courtesy to fellow athletes, senior instructors, officials, volunteers and others involved with Karate BC and its activities

To be responsible for the safety of fellow karate-ka as well as your own

To accept and respect the role of officials in providing judgment to ensure that competitions are fairly conducted according to the established rules. The athlete should accept and follow both the letter and spirit of the rules that govern the sport

To act with honesty and integrity, and never seek to take unfair advantage by manipulation of the rules

To strive to be prepared to perform to the best of their abilities

To avoid theft or vandalism of any property, hotel rooms, dormitories, training facilities, and equipment; the athletes shall be held responsible for any such damage

To insure that they are medically fit to travel and participate in designated events. In the event of a change in medical status, prior to departure, inform the Team Coach.

To demonstrate respect for all participants regardless of gender, color, race, or creed.