



## **North American Sport Karate Association Code of Ethics**

Updated 7/2/24

### **1. Integrity and Fairness**

1. Judging: All promoters, judges and league officials must act with integrity and impartiality. Decisions regarding points, penalties, and disqualifications must be made transparently and without bias, based on the established rules and guidelines.
2. Competitor Conduct: Competitors must adhere to the highest standards of sportsmanship, respecting fellow competitors, judges, and officials. Unsportsmanlike behavior, including protests made improperly or without proper cause, can lead to penalties or disqualification.

### **2. Safety and Well-being**

1. Center Official Responsibilities: The safety of competitors is paramount. The Center Official is responsible for ensuring that the competition ring/area is safe, rules are enforced, and fair play is maintained. This includes starting and stopping matches, making penalty decisions, and addressing any disputes regarding scoring.
2. League Officials and Directors Responsibilities: League officials and directors are responsible for overseeing the overall safety protocols and ensuring they are implemented consistently across all events. They must provide proper training for all officials, ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards, and

conduct regular reviews of safety procedures. Any negligence in these duties can lead to sanctions or removal from their positions.

3. **Medical Readiness:** Adequate medical personnel and first aid equipment must be available at all events. Competitors' health is a priority, and immediate medical attention must be provided in case of injury.
4. **Competitor Safety Gear:** Competitors must use appropriate safety gear as required by the division and event and as defined by the NASKA rule book. Officials must ensure that all safety gear is worn correctly and in good condition before allowing competitors to participate.
5. **Venue Safety Inspections:** Inspections of the competition venue are a priority to ensure a safe environment. This includes checking for hazards and ensuring the mat areas are properly secured and in good condition.

#### **4. Transparency and Accountability**

1. **Protests and Appeals:** Competitors have the right to protest infractions of the rules. Protests must be made in an orderly and sportsmanlike manner, and officials are obligated to address these protests fairly and transparently.
2. **Official Removal:** If a competitor believes an official should be removed for good reason, a formal protest can be made. The final decision rests with the Arbitrator or other designated Official. A protest to remove an official must be commended prior to the start of the division.

#### **5. Continuous Improvement**

1. **Training and Development:** Judges, officials, and competitors are encouraged to continuously improve their understanding of the rules and the execution of techniques. Regular training and updates on rule changes are essential for maintaining high standards.

#### **6. Ethical Leadership**

1. **Role Models:** All participants, including promoters, officials, judges should act as role models, demonstrating the highest standards of ethical behavior. This includes fairness, respect, integrity, and dedication to the sport of karate.

## **7. Zero Tolerance for Threats and Abuse**

1. Threats: Any form of threat, whether physical, verbal, or implied, is strictly prohibited. Competitors, coaches, and spectators who issue threats will face immediate disqualification and potential bans from future events. The safety and well-being of all participants are paramount.
2. Physical Abuse: Physical abuse, including but not limited to unnecessary roughness, intentional harm, or assault, or any action defined as an assault under prevailing law, will result in immediate disqualification and a ban from future NASKA events. Law enforcement may be involved if necessary.
3. Verbal Abuse: Verbal abuse, including derogatory remarks, insults, or any form of harassment towards competitors, officials, or spectators, will not be tolerated. Offenders will be subject to immediate removal from the event and possible bans from future events.
4. Cheating: Any form of cheating, such as falsifying age or tampering with equipment, will result in immediate disqualification and a ban from future competitions. NASKA upholds the integrity of the sport and expects all participants to do the same.

## **8. Zero Tolerance for Forgery and Falsification**

1. Forgery and Falsification: Any attempt to forge or falsify documents, records, or credentials related to participation in NASKA events is strictly prohibited. This includes falsifying age, or any other credentials. Offenders will face immediate disqualification, a ban from all NASKA events, and possible legal action.

## **9. Zero Tolerance for Corruption and Doping**

1. Corruption: Any form of corruption, including bribery, or undue influence, is strictly prohibited. Officials and competitors found engaging in corrupt practices will be banned from NASKA events and reported to the appropriate authorities for further action.
2. Doping: The use of performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs) is strictly forbidden. Any competitor found using or in possession of PEDs will face immediate disqualification, a ban from all NASKA events, and potential legal consequences.

## **10. Reporting, Deliberation, Penalties and Enforcement**

1. Reporting: Competition related items must be reported to the center official and/or the event arbitrator within the timeframes established by the NASKA rulebook. Allegations involving severe violations such as threats, abuse, cheating, forgery, falsification, corruption, or doping must be reported to the NASKA President, the arbitrator and the board of directors.
2. Deliberation: Competition related items will be reviewed, and a determination issued at the event by the event arbitrator. Arbitrator decisions are final and cannot be appealed. Allegations involving severe violation as defined above will be reviewed by the NASKA Conduct and Ethics Committee, which is composed of the NASKA President, and three NASKA world promoters. The NASKA Conduct and Ethics Committee will complete a full investigation (outside legal counsel and the authorities can be utilized as needed) and prepare a written report to include a summary of the findings and a resolution recommendation. The NASKA Board of Directors will vote on the final determination of all severe violations. The vote is determined by 50% or more as a majority is not required. The final decision as determined by the NASKA Board of Directors will be communicated to the involved parties by the NASKA Conduct and Ethics Administrator. All findings and determinations will remain confidential.
3. Penalties: The severity of penalties will depend on the nature of the infraction. Minor infractions may result in warnings or point deductions, while severe violations such as threats, abuse, cheating, forgery, falsification, corruption, or doping will lead to disqualification and bans.
4. Enforcement: The enforcement of these rules is the responsibility of all NASKA officials and judges. Any incidents should be reported immediately, and appropriate actions will be taken to maintain the integrity and safety of the event.

By adhering to this Code of Ethics, NASKA aims to foster an environment of fairness, respect, and excellence in sport karate competitions.