

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 or retraining required.

● 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. from future events pending review.

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.
