

Olympic/Sport Karate Program & Travel Team Guidelines

Firstly, engagement in sport karate training at TKC Dojo is an add-on program designed to enhance athletic preparation for competitions *IF it is desired*. This program is not a mandatory requisite for belonging to TKC Dojo or to advance in rank. Finally, participation in karate tournaments are fun, extracurricular activities that come with additional expenses such as registration and spectator fees; specified uniforms, equipment, and team gear; seasonal coaching fees; and expected travel expenses of airfare, transportation, lodging, and meals. We offer a short video on our YouTube channel (TKCDOJO) explaining each.

Olympic Karate Program

- Designed as an add-on focused on fighting training and athletic conditioning.
- Students ARE NOT REQUIRED to compete in tournaments to engage this program; however, continuous enrollment in Olympic IS MANDATORY for ALL athletes on our team.
- We may/may not accept non-TKC students who train martial arts elsewhere. TBD on a case-by-case basis.
- Costs are reasonable (like family discounts not offered elsewhere) and never negotiable
- Originally, we offered the training only ONCE each week on Saturdays. Later we added Mondays to accommodate students unable to attend Saturdays. Out of generosity on our part, we allow students to engage both days and sometimes double sessions at no extra cost. *[NOTE: Monday training hours replace Saturday hours during the months of July & August when TKC is closed on weekends.]*
- Does not include kata training for competition. *[Kata training is covered often in Karatedo classes from Samurai, Gojukan & IKGA classes. Team members receive additional, detailed hours of individual and team kata and weapons kata instruction as a benefit of their seasonal coaching fees.]*
- The training dress code may change seasonally for comfort as determined by our staff.

Coaching Fees

Coaches are absolutely necessary to guide athletes before, during and after competitions. They are not volunteers - they are compensated for their time and expertise. Fees are used for many things such as criminal background checks for annual credentials and registrations; floor passes for each event; varied travel expenses (airfare, hotel, food). Every event has costs for every coach. Coaching is extremely time intensive and exhausting. The more events our team engages in and the larger the team traveling, the higher the expenses. Finally, because competition karate is extracurricular, these costs are not dojo expenses.

- Coach fees are seasonal (Sept 1st until Aug 31st) for all competing athletes.
- Fees are not prorated, nor refundable, due to participation in fewer tournaments, or fewer divisions, or joining mid-season, or quitting, or getting expelled from our team.
- Athletes competing more extensively (regionally, nationally & internationally): our fee is \$500 for the season for one athlete; add \$250/athlete for additional family members.
- Athletes competing more exclusively within New York, New Jersey & Pennsylvania: our fee is \$250/athlete for the season. No additional discounts.
- Paid fees do not guarantee you will have one particular coach with you at all competitions or matches. ***IF YOUR ATHLETE IS CALLED UP TO FIGHT AND THERE'S NO COACH, CALL US! NO TEXTING! HAVE YOUR CHILD SAY TO THE REFEREE, "I WANT MY COACH."**
- To dissuade excessive protests at events, there are protest fees of \$350/protest which are payable only in CASH. Only coaches can officially protest - athletes and parents cannot. **Our coaching fees do not cover protest costs.** Protest fees are your responsibility.
- Karatedo is rooted in personal honor, integrity, and self-discipline. Conduct that is violent, or profane; or abusive; or disrespectful will not be tolerated towards anyone on/off team in dojo and at events. Expulsion from our team does not afford you a refund.
- Kata is not "coached" during matches. Coaches are prohibited from making remarks during kata performances. Do not complain that your athlete wasn't coached for kata.

Team Culture & Decorum

- NO TKC athlete may compete in any tournament, karate camp, or non-TKC coaching without the permission from Shihan - absolutely NO exceptions.
- There is an order of coaching priorities: (1) Kumite is first and foremost - especially Elite level; (2) Kata; (3) Weapons or Staging preparation depending on circumstances.

Everything else is a distraction if any of the above needs to be attended to. [**There is no coaching during kata; we can observe for rules compliance; however, this is seldomly an issue and many regional events discourage or decline it. We will not leave an athlete who is fighting to watch kata.*]

- Communication is key. There are many distractions during events and our team may be large. When an athlete competes without a coach ringside, it is usually because one of our coaches was not informed in a timely manner. If your child is about to get into the ring for kumite (not just lining up), call me or grab another coach immediately. *Have your child tell the referee, “I want to get my coach right now.” Note: I cannot hear texts at loud events.
- Do not disgrace our dojo, team, coaches, or athletes at any time. No in-fighting nor gossiping on our team. No arguing with officials, opposing athletes/teams, or their supporters. Screaming profanity at a tournament will not be tolerated by athletes, parents, or supporters. Do not approach officials outside of the ring either; that’s harassment. Bring all matters to Shihan or coaches.