

AUSTRALIAN KARATE FEDERATION INC.

NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION POLICY

1. **PURPOSES AND OBJECTS**

- 1.1 The purpose of this Policy is to provide uniform selection criteria to be applied by Athlete Selection Committee when selecting athletes for inclusion in the National Team.
- 1.2 The object of this Policy is to ensure, so far as practicable, that only those athletes who are capable of medal winning performances at international events are selected for inclusion in the National Team.

2. **DEFINITIONS**

In this Policy:

“AKF”	means the Australian Karate Federation Incorporated;
“Chair”	means Chair of the Athlete Selection Committee
“Coordinator”	means the National Coaching Coordinator;
“Elite Athlete and Talent Identification Squad”	means athletes registered for selection to a Team in accordance with the formal selection program endorsed by the National Coaches Committee and Executive Committee;
“Executive Committee”	means the Committee of Management of the AKF (also known as “the National Executive”);
“ASC”	means the applicable Athlete Selection Committee as provided for in this Policy;

“RSA”	means Recognised State Association;
“Team”	means the National Team;
“Team Doctor”	means the Team Doctor as nominated from time to time by the Executive Committee;
“Team Head”	means the head of the Team from time to time as nominated by the Executive Committee;
“WKF”	means the World Karate Federation.

3. **SELECTION PANELS**

3.1 The ASC is responsible for selecting the National kata and kumite teams.

3.2 The ASC shall comprise the following members:

Kumite

One or more of the National Kumite Coaches Sub-Committee

Kata

One or more of the National Kata Coaches Sub-Committee

Vice President (Chair)

3.4 The Vice President will chair the ASC.

4. **APPLICATION FOR SELECTION**

- 4.1 Any athlete desiring to apply for selection to a Team must be a current member of the Elite Athlete and Talent Identification Squad and by no later than twenty eight (28) days prior to the relevant selection competition, tournament, camp or event, forward to the Administration Manager of the AKF at the National Office a completed and signed *Elite Athlete and National Talent Identification Squad Nomination and Agreement* in the prescribed outline; and
- 4.2 The decision to select any athlete for inclusion in the Team shall be made by the ASC in the manner set out in this Policy.

5. **ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION**

- 5.1 To be eligible for selection to the Team, athletes must:
- (a) Be a current member of the Elite Athlete and Talent Identification Squad. The proper registration process must be followed and confirmed by the AKF
 - (b) Meet the Selection Criteria as outlined at Clause 6;
 - (c) be eligible to participate in an AKF Australian Championship as an Australian competitor pursuant to any applicable AKF regulation, rule or by-law, and be eligible to compete as an Australian Citizen;
 - (d) agree to participate in the Team preparation procedures as prescribed by the National Coaches Committee as nominated and endorsed, from time to time by the Executive Committee;
 - (e) be a member of an organization which is a financial member of the AKF and which is not be under suspension at the time of the relevant competition, tournament or event, or assembly therefore;
 - (f) have forwarded to the AKF Administration Manger a *National Team Athlete's Agreement* and Selection and Appeal Protocol as provided in paragraph 4.1.

5.2 Despite the foregoing –

- (a) the constitution of the team selected to represent Australia at any international event will be subject to the Executive Committee endorsement; and
- (b) the Executive Committee reserves the right to determine the constitution and size of the team to be selected for any international event.

6. **SELECTION CRITERIA**

6.1 ASC must apply the criteria set out hereunder in deciding upon an athlete's suitability for selection to the Team.

6.2 **Kumite**

With respect to Kumite, where practicable, selectors must take account of the athlete's –

- (i) health and well-being;
- (ii) National Team Selection Criteria as published by the National Coaches Committee on the official Australian Karate Federation Inc. website;
- (iii) potential to win and/or develop into an international champion;
- (iv) performances in AKF endorsed International Events on a rolling two (2) year historical basis to time of final team announcement;
- (v) adherence to National Coaches Committee training programs;
- (vi) results in any play-off(s) for contestant positions;
- (vii) competition results in the Australian Open on a rolling two (2) year historical basis to time of final team announcement;
- (viii) competition results in the National Championships on a rolling two (2) year historical basis to time of final team announcement;
- (ix) attendance and results from compulsory Elite Athlete and Talent Identification Squad training and/or camps.

6.3 If the ASC deem that a play-off is necessary in order to choose between athletes for selection to the Team, the procedure to be followed for such play-off will be as follows:

- (a) The play-off will be conducted under the supervision of the Chair of the National Referees' Council or his or her nominee.
- (b) The Chair of the Referees' Council shall appoint all court referees, judges and officials so as to ensure, as far as practicable, an impartial result.
- (c) The Chair of the Referees' Council may in his or her absolute discretion referee any play-off so as to ensure, as far as practicable, an impartial result.
- (d) No referee or judge may participate in a play-off if he or she has any direct or indirect interest in the result.

6.4 **Kata**

- (a) Save as follows, the selection criteria contained in paragraph 6.2 will be applied by the ASC with such necessary modifications as are dictated by the context.
- (b) When assessing an athlete's potential to win and/or develop into an international champion, the ASC must be satisfied that the athlete –
 - (i) has attained a standard of competence in *Shitei Kata*;
 - (ii) is skilled in a sufficient number of different *Kata*;so as to permit the athlete to be competitive in international events.

6.5 General

- (a) In the event of a selected athlete withdrawing from the Team, the ASC may in its absolute discretion select the next relevant athlete for inclusion in the Team.
- (b) Despite the foregoing, the Executive Committee may in its absolute discretion, select any athlete for inclusion in the Team at any stage, subject to the athlete satisfying the relevant selection criteria set out in this Policy.

6.6 Wildcards

- (a) With the exception of (g), any athlete who has failed to meet the relevant selection criteria may apply to the Chair of the ASC (Chair) for permission to participate in the National Championships as a Wildcard entry (Wildcard).
- (b) Any such application for a Wildcard must be in writing setting out the reasons for failure to meet the selection criteria, and must be supported by such other material (whether by way of medical report or otherwise) which the Chair deems relevant.
- (c) Any such application must be received by the Chair prior to the closing date for applications to participate in the National Championships.
- (d) The ASC may upon such application grant an athlete a Wildcard if satisfied that there is sufficient reason for the failure to meet the selection criteria (whether by reason of illness, injury, or other good and sufficient reason).
- (e) Any decision of the ASC to grant a Wildcard must be endorsed by the Executive Committee.
- (f) If the Executive Committee endorses the ASC's decision to grant a Wildcard, then the athlete may participate in the National Championships and have his or her results at those Championships considered by the selectors pursuant to paragraphs 6.2 or 6.4 hereof.

- (g) Any athlete who has been offered a position with the RSA in accordance with its normal selection process and does not accept the position, is not eligible to apply for a Wildcard.

7. EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- 7.1 Despite the foregoing, the ASC may select an athlete who does not meet the selection criteria set out in this Policy if satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances for doing so.

- 7.2 Without limiting the generality of paragraph 7.1, such exceptional circumstances may include the following:
 - (a) illness;
 - (b) injury;
 - (c) bereavement;
 - (d) equipment failure;
 - (e) travel delays;
 - (f) any other circumstance deemed by the ASC to be relevant.

- 7.3 An athlete who wishes the ASC to take into account any exceptional circumstances must apply in writing to the Chair, setting out details of such exceptional circumstances together with any supporting material.

- 7.4 Upon receiving an application pursuant to paragraph 7.3, the Chair must forward the same and any supporting material to the ASC for consideration.

- 7.5 If the application pursuant to paragraph 7.3 is based on medical grounds, the ASC may, before considering the application, require the athlete to provide such information and undergo such testing as is set out in paragraph 5 of the prescribed *National Team Athlete's Agreement* and Selection Appeal Protocol.

8. CONSTITUTION OF THE TEAM

8.1 Senior National Team – Kumite and Kata

The Team shall consist of such numbers of athletes for each category or division as may be laid down from time to time by the WKF for the relevant international events or by the particular WKF member for the time being responsible for the organisation or conduct of the relevant international event in which the Team is to participate.

8.2 Cadet and Junior National Team – Kumite and Kata

The Team shall consist of such numbers of athletes for each category or division as may be laid down from time to time by the WKF for the relevant international events or by the particular WKF member for the time being responsible for the organisation or conduct of the relevant international event in which the Team is to participate. Age selection criteria will be determined having regard to the date of the relevant international event.

9. EXCLUSION FROM THE TEAM

9.1 Despite having been selected for inclusion in the Team, an athlete may be excluded from the Team by the Executive Committee if the athlete:

- (a) fails to abide by this policy;
- (b) fails to abide by the provisions of the *National Team Athlete's Agreement or Selection Appeal Protocol*;
- (c) fails to abide by any AKF regulation, rule or by-law;
- (d) fails to abide by any code of conduct published from time to time by the Executive Committee;
- (e) fails to abide by any prescribed training programme or regime to the satisfaction of the National Coaches Committee or Executive Committee;

- (f) as a result of illness or injury, is unable or fails to abide by any prescribed training programme or regime to the satisfaction of the National Coaches Committee or Executive Committee;
- (g) gives an adverse analytical finding in a drug test.

10. ATHLETE COMMITMENT BOND

10.1 Within fourteen (14) days of being notified of his or her selection for the Team, the athlete must forward a Commitment Bond (“bond”) to the Executive Committee at the registered office of the AKF.

10.2 The bond provided for:

- (a) shall be in the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) or such other sum as the Executive Committee from time to time determines;
- (b) shall be applied by the Executive Committee in the payment of such necessary costs and expenses as may be incurred in order to permit the athlete to compete as a consequence of his or her selection for the Team;
- (c) shall be non-refundable in the event of the athlete failing to compete following his or her selection for the Team.

10.3 Notwithstanding the foregoing, if despite selection for the Team the athlete is unable to compete owing to the existence of exceptional circumstances (which expression shall have the same meaning as in paragraph 7 above), the athlete may apply to the Executive Committee for refund of the bond.

10.4 Any such application for refund must be in writing and accompanied by any supporting material (whether by way of certificate from a medical practitioner or otherwise) upon which the athlete seeks to rely.

10.5 Any such application for a refund must in the first place be made to the Chair.

- 10.6 Upon receipt of any such application for a refund, the Chair must forward the application to the Executive Committee with such comments or recommendations (if any) as the Chair considers appropriate.
- 10.7 The Executive Committee may, upon receipt of any application by an athlete for refund, and upon considering any comments or recommendations of the Chair, in its absolute discretion:
- (a) refuse the application;
 - (b) allow the application and refund the whole of the sum of the bond paid;
- or
- (c) allow the application and refund the such part of the sum of the bond as it determines.
- 10.8 Should an athlete fail to provide a bond within the time or manner provided for, the Executive Committee may –
- (a) direct the Chair to exclude that athlete from the Team;
 - (b) direct the Chair to include in the Team in the place of that athlete such other athlete as the Executive Committee deems appropriate.