

Club Mark Accreditation for Karate Clubs

Clubmark is the only national cross sports quality accreditation scheme for clubs with junior sections. It is built around a set of core criteria which ensure that accredited clubs operate to a set of consistent, accepted and adopted minimum operating standards.



Sport England recognises and values the commitment made by sports clubs to develop high quality, welcoming environments for young participants. The development of clubs that encourage young people to take-up sport, improve their talents and give them the option to initiate and maintain life-long participation in sport is an essential part of our work to support the sporting infrastructure in England.

The Clubmark website www.clubmark.org.uk provides everyone involved in the scheme with a dedicated, all-inclusive bank of relevant, up to date information and club databases as well as news and examples of best practice.

Clubmark is endorsed by all the main sporting, youth and education agencies involved in delivery of sporting opportunity for young people as the accreditation scheme for clubs with quality assured junior sections.

The problem for Karate

A club is accredited via either its licensed **National Governing Body** (NGB) or **County Sports Partnership** (CSP). It must, therefore, be affiliated to the relevant Sport England recognised NGB in order to be accredited.

This is where Karate falls down, at the time of writing; Sport England does not currently recognise a Governing Body for Karate in England. This is something that the English Karate Federation (EKF) is actively pursuing and working on. I believe that this is only a temporary setback and Aiwakai clubs can still work towards Clubmark accreditation by putting everything in place that's needed. This way, once Sport England recognise a Karate Governing Body, Aiwakai will be well placed to apply straight away.

What next?

To help those clubs that are interested in this, I've included a basic overview of what a club needs to be doing to achieve Clubmark.

Overview

Club mark is an award of excellence issued by Sport England via each sports recognized governing body, in our case the English Karate Federation. For a sports club to achieve club mark it has to comply with Sport England criteria on the following:

- the programme of activities
- duty of care and child protection
- sports equity and ethics
- club management

- The club provides a coaching program for a minimum number of hours and weeks in a year.
- The club uses the skills awards and other coaching resources of the Karate Governing Body to enhance its coaching and assessment program.
- The club provides suitable intra and inter club competition according to Karate Governing Body guidelines.
- The performer: coach ratio for coaching/training session is per Karate Governing Body guidelines.
- The coaches responsible for the program are suitably qualified to Karate Governing Body specified standards.
- The coaches and volunteers responsible for the program have job descriptions with clear roles and responsibilities assigned.
- The coaches responsible for the program hold professional indemnity and/or public liability insurance.
- All coaching and competition takes place at safe venues and uses safe equipment – to be specified by Karate Governing Body.

Duty of care and child protection

- The club has receipt of the Karate Governing Body child protection policy and is working towards the procedures laid down (these will cover issues like CRB checks, sports specific guidance on contact issues).
- At least two members of the club, one of whom must be a coach, have attended child protection training.
- The club has adopted codes of conduct for all coaches, officials and volunteers working with children and young people.
- The club has access to first aid equipment at all coaching and competition sessions.
- The club has emergency procedures for dealing with serious injuries/accidents, including ensuring contact through telephone/radio to emergency services.
- The club has the contact details of parents/carers and emergency/alternative contacts.
- The club has information on any medical conditions of its children and young people and informs coaches on a need to know basis.

Sports equity and ethics

- The club has an open/non-discriminatory constitution.
- The club has adopted an equal opportunities/sports equity policy.
- One member of the club has attended a Running Sport *A Club for All* workshop.
- One coach has attended a sports coach UK *Equity in your coaching* workshop.
- The club has codes of conduct for parents/carers and other supporters.
- The club has a set of rules for children and young people.

Club management

- The club is affiliated to its National Governing Body (NGB).
- The club has public liability insurance.
- The club has a specific membership category and pricing policy for children and young people.
- The club communicates regularly with parents/carers.
- The club has a junior/ volunteer coordinator to act as a liaison with Sport England, County Sports Partnerships and the NGB.
- The club has contact with at least one local school/youth organisation.
- The club is committed to further development and outreach work.