

Seitou Ryu Karate Code of Conduct

Teaching, Instructing and Coaching

The purpose of this code of conduct is to establish and maintain standards for instructors within Seitou Ryu Karate and to inform and protect members of the public using their services.

The code of conduct sets out a series of standards in respect of integrity, responsibility, competence and confidentiality. Seitou Ryu Karate instructors must be fully aware of this code and accept their responsibility to students, fellow instructors, Seitou Ryu Karate, their Governing Body, and to society.

1.0 Responsibility

1.1 Seitou Ryu Karate dojo instructors (level 4) should be a minimum of 18yrs of age, and a minimum grade of 1st Dan. They must acknowledge they are responsible for the observation of the principles embodied in this code of conduct

2.0 Humanity

2.1 Instructors must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every human being and their ultimate right to self-determination. Specifically, instructors must treat everyone equitably within the context of their activity and ability regardless of gender, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religion or political persuasion

3.0 Relationships

3.1 A good instructor will be concerned primarily with the well-being, safety, health and future of the individual student and only secondarily with the optimisation of performance

3.2 A key element in an instructor/student relationship is the development of independence. Students must be encouraged to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance in training, in competition, and in their social life

3.3 Instructors are responsible for setting and keeping the boundaries between a working relationship and friendship with their students. This is particularly important when the instructor and student are of opposite sex and/or when the student is a young person. The instructor must realise that certain situations or friendly actions could be misinterpreted, not only by the student, but by outsiders and could lead to allegations of misconduct or impropriety

3.4 The relationship between Instructor and student relies heavily on mutual trust and respect. This means that the student should be made aware of the instructor's qualifications and experience and must be given the opportunity to consent to or decline proposals for training and performance

3.5 Where physical contact between coach and student is a necessary part of the teaching process, instructors must make sure that no action on their part could be misconstrued

4.0 Commitment

4.1 Instructors should clarify in advance with students their membership level, related fees (if any) and accepted methods of payment. They should also explore with students the expectation of the outcome of training

4.2 Instructors have a responsibility to declare to their students any other current coaching commitments which may cause a conflict of interest. Instructors should also find out if any prospective student is currently receiving training in the same martial art from another teacher/coach. If so, that teacher/coach should be contacted to discuss the situation

5.0 Co-operation

5.1 Instructors should communicate and co-operate with other martial arts instructors and allied professions in the best interests of their students

5.2 Instructors must communicate and co-operate with registered medical and ancillary practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment and management of their student's medical and psychological problems

6.0 Advertising

6.1 Advertising by Instructors in respect of qualifications and/or services shall be accurate and not make any unreasonable claims. Instructors must be able to present evidence of qualifications advertised upon request

6.2 Instructors shall not display any affiliation with an organisation in a manner that falsely implies sponsorship or accreditation by that organisation

7.0 Integrity

7.1 Instructors should refrain from public criticism of fellow coaches. Differences of opinion should be dealt with on a personal basis and more serious disputes should be referred to the appropriate governing body

7.2 Instructors must not encourage students to violate the rules of their sport/art and should actively seek to discourage such action. Furthermore, coaches should encourage students to obey the spirit of such rules

7.3 Instructors must not compromise their students by advocating measures which could be deemed to constitute seeking to gain an unfair advantage. Above all, coaches must never advocate the use of prescribed drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances

7.4 Instructors must treat opponents and officials with due respect, both in victory and defeat and should encourage their students to act in a similar manner

7.5 Instructors must accept responsibility for the conduct of their students in so far as they will undertake to discourage inappropriate behaviour

8.0 Confidentiality

8.1 Instructors inevitably gather a great deal of personal information about students in the course of a working relationship. Instructors should treat this information as confidential unless otherwise agreed with the student or their parents/guardians

8.2 Confidentiality does not preclude the disclosure of information to persons who can be judged to have a 'right to know', relating to students when relevant to the following:

- a) Evaluation of the student within the sport for competitive selection purposes
- b) Recommendation concerning students for professional purposes
- c) Pursuit of disciplinary action involving students within the sport
- d) Pursuit of disciplinary action by the association, club or other relevant body involving fellow instructors in alleged breaches of this code of conduct. In all of these cases, the student must be made aware of who the information will be provided to and why
- e) Legal and medical requirements for disclosure
- f) Recommendations to parents/family where the health and safety of students may be at stake
- g) In connection with action to protect children from abuse

9.0 Abuse of Privilege

9.1 Instructors are privileged, on occasion, to have contact with students and to travel and reside with students in the course of coaching and competitive practice. A coach must not attempt to exert undue influence over the student in order to obtain personal benefit or reward

10.0 Personal Standards

10.1 Instructors must consistently display high personal standards and project a favourable image of their sport and of coaching - to students, other coaches, officials, spectators, the media and the general public

10.2 Personal appearance is a matter of individual taste, but the instructor has an obligation to project an image of health, cleanliness, and functional efficiency

10.3 Instructors should never smoke when teaching

10.4 Instructors should not drink alcohol during teaching or so soon before teaching that the smell will still be on their breath when working with students

10.5 Instructors should set an example of professional behaviour in their personal relationships with other coaches and organisations

11.0 Safety

11.1 Instructors have a responsibility to ensure the safety of the students with whom they work as far as possible within the limits of their control

11.2 All reasonable steps should be taken to establish a safe working environment

11.3 The work done and the manner in which it is done should be in keeping with regular and approved practice within the karate

11.4 The activity being undertaken should be suitable for the age, experience and ability of the students

11.5 The students should be systematically prepared for the activity being undertaken and made aware of their personal responsibilities in terms of safety

11.6 Instructors have a responsibility to protect children from abuse

12.0 Competence

12.1 Instructors shall confine themselves to practice in those fields of sport in which they have been trained/educated, and which are recognised by MASA or other relevant Body to be valid. Valid areas of expertise are those directly concerned with karate coaching. Training includes the accumulation of knowledge and skills through both formal coach education courses and by experience at a level of competence acceptable for independent coaching practice

12.2 Instructors must be able to recognise and accept when to refer students to other agencies. It is their responsibility, as far as possible, to verify the competence and integrity of the person to whom they refer a student

12.3 Instructors should continuously seek ways of increasing their professional development and self-awareness

12.4 Instructors should welcome evaluation of their work by colleagues and be able to account to students, senior instructors, employers, governing bodies and colleagues for their actions

12.5 Instructors have a responsibility to themselves and their students to maintain their own effectiveness, resilience and abilities, and to know when their personal resources are so depleted as to make it necessary for them to seek help and/or to withdraw from teaching, whether temporarily or permanently

12.6 The Shikon city and guilds level 1 coaching qualification provides the framework for assessing coaching competence. Competence to coach should normally be verified through evidence of qualifications, it cannot be inferred solely from prior experience

13. Financial Responsibilities

13.1 Proper accounts should be maintained and prepared by a qualified accountant and submitted annually to the Inland Revenue

13.2 Charges for training fees and equipment should be reasonable. The quality of equipment sold should be appropriate to the proposed use and be reflected in the price

13.3 Hire fees for the training halls should be promptly paid so as not to put the continued operation of the club at risk

13.4 Records of payments made to and by the club should be up to date and stored securely

14.0 Insurance

14.1 Anyone teaching a session or part of a session should be covered by the appropriate professional indemnity insurance (a minimum of £5m cover per incident is recommended) and any other cover appropriate to their situation i.e. club liability, errors and omissions, events cover and public liability

14.2 All participants must have completed an approved licence/insurance application form before they begin training. This will help to monitor their suitability for martial arts training and will identify the most common physical, medical or other reasons why someone should not take part

15.0 Children In The Martial Arts

15.1 Children should not be allowed to fight/spar in a freestyle or unsupervised manner. Any partnered training should be carefully monitored

15.2 All instructors should make themselves aware of techniques, practices and exercises likely to physically or mentally damage children. These should be avoided at all times

15.3 Children require more supervision than adults before, during and after sessions.

15.4 Instructors should avoid at all times any terms, gestures, behaviour or contact with children that could be interpreted as abuse. It is recommended that parents are allowed access to the Dojo at all times whilst children are being taught.

15.5 The club should have a Child Protection Policy, a copy of which must be available on request. (SRK_Safeguarding Children Policy and supporting policies can be found at seitouryukarate.com).

16.0 Health & Safety

16.1 Associations, clubs, instructors and participants have a legal requirement to protect the health and safety of people that they train (and train with). Karate has an element of contact. Participants should be made aware of the risks associated with this before they begin training. Every effort must be made to make sure that the training environment, practices and equipment will not cause serious injury to people taking part and also to other users of the training area.

17.0 Criminal Offences

17.1 Some criminal offences should prevent a person from taking part in or teaching karate. An example would be that anyone convicted of abuse of children should not be allowed to be involved in teaching children.

17.2 Instructors should act reasonably in these circumstances, ensuring that confidentiality is maintained. Instructors should seek appropriate professional advice where they feel this is necessary.

18.0 Grading Syllabus

18.1 Seitou Ryu Karate’s training and grading syllabus should be designed to develop the required competence for each grade in skills and techniques. It should match the Standards set by any Governing Body or other authority recognised by MASA (Martial Arts Standards Agency).

* Throughout this document “students” is taken to include parent(s) or guardians where appropriate

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