# LUU Karate: Code of Conduct 2021-2022

## Club Statement of Intent

Leeds University Karate Club is a karate club that tries to cater for people coming from all backgrounds of karate as in ‘all-styles’. For those who have previous experience, we try to uphold previous teachings and can provide support in Shito-Ryu/Shukokai, Wado-Ryu and Shotokan styles, and allow others to carry on with their forms. For beginners to the club we carry a Shito-Ryu/Shukokai syllabus.

We are committed to being as inviting, inclusive and as encompassing to all those who wish to train with us as possible, and accept all abilities and backgrounds, with the only requirement being members should want to practice karate with us.

We try to respect all karate backgrounds and are committed to dedication and hard-work on our craft, asking members to work hard in training regardless of whether there is intent to participate in competitions or gradings within the club, whilst also enjoying karate and our club dynamic. We are committed to a friendly welcoming environment, with opportunities to develop in skill and sport.

## Competition and Grading Conduct

Members are expected to behave respectful within competitions and grading, and remember that they represent not only themselves, but the University and University sport.

Members should be prompt and on time based on any times set by event organisers and outlines given by the committee organisers.

Respect should be given to all officials at competitions, and all must hold themselves with correct etiquette and humility as taught within the dojo. Karate is an activity of respect and members are expected to behave in a respectful manner to all officials and fellow competitors. At competitive events, it is expected that all team members will show support and help any club member who needs it where possible, i.e. helping to warm up, correct etiquette of entering the arena, collecting kit for people called to areas.

Within gradings at the club, it is expected that members behave with respect and adequate composure. A grading event needs to be treated seriously. Members should remind themselves they are being assessed not just on their skillset, knowledge and personal improvement, but also on conduct, behaviour, respect, presentation, attitude and composure. Humility and respect are integral to the art of karate.

## Training Conduct

Within training sessions, we expect members to work hard on their personal development, but also enjoy their time training. We as a karate club are less formal than other external clubs and as such, we expect that members can divulge in more social activities as part of the training session if it is deemed appropriate in the activity being practiced i.e. working on own personal katas, or in groups. What we do expect however with this, is if members are asked to listen and/or watch a certain portion of the training session, they give respect and do not talk over the instructors or those relaying the information. We also ask if members are told to work hard on an activity, they will do so rather than not focus on training. We also expect members to be friendly and supportive to each other and help each other with personal development goals.

## Socials Conduct

All socials need to adhere to the guidelines as set by LUU policy, in order to be an LUU club. This means that all socials should be:

* Inclusive and welcoming
* If there is an alcohol base to socials, there is no pressure for any non-drinkers to drink if they wish to attend and should be welcomed and included regardless.
* There will be no hazing, or initiation events, ever, from the society.
* Socials should be respectful to members of the public, and also to other members.
* There is no expectation for members to attend social events as these are events outside of karate as a bonus to being part of the society.
* All members should be accepting and welcoming of new members, and with regard to socials it is welcomed that if members wish to bring friends or people who aren’t part of the karate club, they can if they wish to do so, provided those members also adhere to the Union social guidelines, and behave as we would expect members to behave.
* Members need to uphold protection of other members, and it is the responsibility of all members to make sure that people are able to get home safely, i.e. making sure members get in a taxi, or if walking they are not alone.
* Committee members on socials have an extra responsibility to safety of members, and as such need to make sure the correct numbers are in the party at all times, and make sure members are able to get home safely.
* The karate club also have the policy that not every social should be alcohol based, and we as a group should provide activities that everyone can enjoy.

## Social Media Conduct

All members are required to uphold themselves with respect and appropriate behaviour when using social media associated with the club, or with other club members.

* Bullying, abuse or disrespect to other members will not be tolerated in any respect on or off social media.
* Specific unsavoury language or views will not be tolerated on social media related to the club. Language used must be respectful and kind.
* The club use social media to organise events and as such when responses are asked for, we expect engagement from club members to aid the organising process if they have social media channels. This can be done privately if wanted or can be done in person if there are persons without social media.
* Any actions deemed to negatively affect the club or LUU will not be tolerated, and members are expected to behave in a respectful manner on social media.

## Equipment and Kit Usage

The club owns two sets of training aids – focus mitts and shields. These items are to be used correctly for impact training, and members will be shown how to hold these correctly. It is expected these items, over time will deteriorate due to repeated stresses on the fabric, but these items should only be used for this training, and not in any other way.

The club also owns, various protection equipment – sparring gloves, and shin/instep protectors. These items should only be used for sparring/impact work. With regard to these items at competitions, if they are needed, these will be assigned to various club members with receipt, so that it is their responsibility to look after kit outside of the dojo. Again, these items are expected to fail after repeated usage, and as such need to be looked after and used correctly.

Safety and usability of the kit will be assessed by the coach and the committee, to make sure the equipment has no defects that make it no longer appropriate to use. These items will be replaced when needed. The storage of kit is the responsibility of the committee.

## Discipline Procedure

Should members not adhere to the guidelines set by the club and LUU regarding behaviour, depending on the seriousness of the complaint, the committee and coach will issue them with a verbal warning in the first instance. Further misbehaviours will result in a written statement issued from the president, asking for withdrawal from the club. This pertains to instances such as bullying and harassment, purposeful injuries, disrespect and general negative behaviours. Any extremely serious complaints will result in withdrawal from the club in the first instance.

With regard to items at cost to the club, i.e. competition entries, if a member withdraws from a paid competition without good reason, they are subject to pay any incurring costs to the club, else be asked to withdraw from the club until payment is given if they refuse. Members who are open and honest about situations out of their control will not need to endure these costs. If a particularly sensitive issue is the reason for withdrawal, we do not expect to be given overly sensitive information, but more an acknowledgement that for a reason beyond the individuals control is why they can no longer participate.

With regard to members rights of appeals, all members have the right to issue a formal written appeal to the committee and coach, which will be discussed to its validity between these members, and if successful reinstatement can occur. If unsuccessful, the member is welcome to ask for this to be raised further, and in this event, mediation with the Union will occur. At this mediation, it is asked that all parties concerned present evidence to why a decision should be overturned or upheld.

Disciplinaries and withdrawals will be treated in as much confidence as possible, and as such, verbal warnings will be done without other members around, and written contact will be done via email, only concerning the parties necessary.

## Reputation

All members are reminded that as part of this club, they represent not just themselves, but the club reputation and also the reputation of the Union and University. This representation is present in training, competitions, socials and any other events that the member may attend as part of the club. As such members are reminded to uphold themselves with respect and decorum and behave as a representative of the club. Karate teaches not only physical skills, but respect and discipline, and is fundamentally about the repeated improvement of oneself. It is expected that all members uphold these traditional values as members of the club.

**President: Dario Luis Fernandez Ainaga**

**Treasurer: Oliver Martin**

**Secretary: Tobias Goldhill-Watts**

**Date: 09/09/2021**