



B.W.F.

BRITISH WADO FEDERATION

Drug and Substance Misuse Policy

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B.W.F. Drug and Substance Misuse Policy

1. Purpose of this Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe, healthy, and positive environment for all members of our karate group. We are committed to promoting the well-being of our students, coaches, and volunteers and maintaining the integrity of martial arts.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All members, students, instructors, coaches, volunteers, and visitors.
- All activities, training sessions, competitions, events, and venues organized or attended by the group.

3. Policy Statement

The BWF has a zero-tolerance approach to the use, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs and the misuse of legal substances (including alcohol, prescription medication, solvents, and performance-enhancing drugs) at any of our sessions or events.

4. Definitions

- Illegal drugs: Substances classified under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 as illegal to possess or distribute (e.g., cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy).
- Legal substances misuse: Includes misuse of alcohol, prescription drugs, over-the-counter medication, and volatile substances (e.g., aerosols, glue).
- Performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs): Substances used to unfairly enhance physical performance (e.g., anabolic steroids).

5. Expectations of Members

- Abstinence from illegal drugs always when involved in karate-related activities.
- No alcohol or substance use before or during training, teaching, coaching, or competition.
- Prescribed medication must only be used by the individual for whom it is prescribed and must be disclosed to a senior instructor if it may affect performance or behaviour.
- Reporting concerns: Members are encouraged to raise concerns if they suspect drug misuse within the club.



6. Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

- We are committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults.
- Any suspicion of drug misuse involving under-18s will be treated as a safeguarding issue and reported to the appropriate authorities (e.g., parents/guardians, social services, police).
- This policy works in conjunction with our Safeguarding Policy.

7. Enforcement and Disciplinary Action

Violation of this policy may result in:

- Immediate suspension from activities.
- Referral to police or relevant agencies, if illegal activity is suspected.
- Internal disciplinary procedures, which may include permanent exclusion from the group.

8. Support and Education

We are committed to educating members, especially youth, about the dangers of drug misuse.

Where appropriate, members struggling with substance misuse may be referred to external support services such as:

- FRANK (<https://www.talktofrank.com>)
- NHS Drug and Alcohol Services
- Local community outreach programs

9. Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed annually or as needed in line with changes to legislation or organizational priorities.

10. Policy Approval

This policy was approved by the leadership team of the BWF on: 09/04/2025