EKNGB LTD

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

Held on 27th October 2025

Time: 20-30 hrs

End: 23-30 hrs

Location – Zoom

Present: **Name** **(Initials)**

Katie Simpson (KS)
Dale Gamble (DG)
Matthew Handley (MH)
Paul Simmons - (PS)
Raj Bhardwaj (RB)

Apologies: **Name** **(Initials)**
Michael Dinsdale (MD)

No	ITEM	ACTION
1	**WELCOME & APOLOGIES**	
	Welcome to attendees by DG.	
2	**DECLARATION OF ANY INTERESTS/CONFLICTS**	
	None	
3	**MAIN MEETING / ANY MATTERS FOR ANY OTHER BUSINESS**	
	<u>Team apparel and branding decisions</u> Raj reported on team apparel progress, confirming Dino is purchasing tracksuits in various sizes to accommodate all team members. They've selected polo shirts instead of t-shirts with the blue and gold lion badge logo on the front and "England" on the back. The items will be provided at no charge to team members, and board members will also receive apparel. <u>Membership growth and tracking updates</u> The organisation has experienced significant membership growth, with Raj noting communication challenges when contacting people who had recently joined without his knowledge. The board discussed how to track memberships effectively, deciding that license slips must be obtained for	

international duties, squad trainings, and competitions. They also re affirmed that membership renewals will occur annually on November 1st, giving early adopters a grace period.

Coach selection process and payments

The board confirmed regional coach job specifications would be sent out with a November 15th application deadline. Interviews will be conducted in early December via Zoom, with appointments to begin January 1st. They agreed on compensation of £200 for head coaches and £75 for assistant coaches per session. National coach selections will occur after seniors, allowing time to assess who joins the organisation.

Competition policy for opposing bodies

The board emphasised maintaining strict boundaries to protect their WKF standing and prevent potential sanctions.

EKNGB members are urged not to participate in EKF CIC events until a full investigation has taken place into the board members conduct, when they were part of the board of the now liquidated English Karate Federation Ltd. after this investigation we will of course amend and notify members as necessary.

Referee Management

Significant discussion centered on rebuilding referee relationships following past conflicts. Dale will arrange a meeting with Peter Bibby and Gary Hoyle to secure 15 referees for December squad selections. The board did emphasize that Peter Bibby must demonstrate acceptable behaviour going forwards to be considered for the Chief referee role. They stressed the importance of creating an inclusive environment for all referees and officials that were in the dept and welcomes back officials who left due to poor treatment by the EKF.

Regional and National calendar planning

The team meticulously planned their 2026 calendar, scheduling regional training sessions across North, Midlands, and South regions on rotating Sundays. They mapped out nine national training sessions, avoiding conflicts with international events like European Championships, Premier League, and Youth League competitions. The calendar includes strategic breaks in July-August and carefully timed selection events before major championships.

Championship events scheduling decisions

The board scheduled several major events including BKF International Open (August 29-30), Children's Championships (September 26-27), and Senior Nationals (January 10, 2027). They deliberately chose venues outside Sheffield for some events to signal a fresh start. The President's Cup was scheduled for November 15 in the Midlands, envisioned as a showcase event with merchandise sales and spectator engagement.

Meet and greet planning

The board scheduled a welcome meeting via Zoom for November 9th at 7pm. Paul will prepare communication to all association heads. They decided on a controlled format where questions will be submitted in

	advance. The board also discussed potentially holding an in-person meeting at a future competition event to build relationships with members. <u>Refugee athlete support request</u> The board agreed to support Amir and Selina, refugee athletes seeking to compete internationally. Raj, who previously helped Amir with Home Office matters, will work with Katie to draft a letter of support. The board acknowledged that while they can provide official backing, the athletes would need to handle their own travel arrangements and WKF may need to assist with special travel dispensation due to their refugee status. <u>Para-athlete World Championship concerns</u> The board addressed a serious situation regarding Helen, a para-athlete registered by EKF for World Championships without providing her a coach. As para-athletes always require certified coaches during competition, this creates both a practical and safety issue. The board determined they cannot provide coaching support as Helen was registered by EKF, making it EKF's responsibility to provide and fund a coach. <u>Applications for Coaches and Chief Referee 2026</u> The board agreed that the coaching roles for kata, kumite and Para karate would go up for tender after the u21 European championships in line with the Chief referee Position these will be advertised to all members of the NGB.	

4	**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON ………**	
	N/A	
5	**ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS (NOT INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA)**	
6	**AGENDA POINT**	
	N/A	
7	**AGENDA POINT**	
	N/A	
8	**CHAIRS UPDATE**	
	As above	
9	**PRESIDENTS UPDATE**	
	As above	
10	**OPPORTUNITES**	
	As above	
11	**FINANCIAL UPDATE**	
	As above	
12	**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**	
	NONE **END OF MEETING – 23.30**	