



EKNGB LTD

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

Held on 9th January 2026

Time: 20-30 hrs

End: 23-05 hrs

Location – Zoom

Present:

Name

(Initials)

Katie Simpson (KS)

Dale Gamble (DG)

Matthew Handley (MH)

Paul Simmons - (PS)

Invited

Raj Bhardwaj (RB)

Apologies:

Name

(Initials)

Mike Dinsdale (MD)

No	ITEM	ACTION
1	WELCOME & APOLOGIES	
	Welcome Meeting to attendees by (DG).	
2	DECLARATION OF ANY INTERESTS/CONFLICTS	
	None	
3	MAIN MEETING / ANY MATTERS FOR ANY OTHER BUSINESS	

DG – Opens meeting with welcoming RB

DG - Insurance costs for single trip to European U21 Championships

Quote 1 - £1900

Quote 2 - £1792

The quote was for the full team and all staff attending.

The quotes have only come in on the same day as general meeting.

DG going to check policy and check that these are lowest quotes we can get. If so, we will go with lowest quote (quote 2) if contains all same elements at quote 1.

DG going forward we will look at multi event insurance for year for the National Team. This may or may not be possible as it may be very expensive, and we may not have cashflow at present. Once we do, we will do multi event one year insurance as it should work out cheaper.

PS, MH, KS all Agreed

RB – Update on championships.

English Children's Championships September 2026

Looking at either the Barnsley Metro dome or Ponds Forge Sheffield.

Provisional booked both. Waiting on costs for both.

RB – Update on midland Kumite centre for training and selections National A Squad.

Waiting on confirmation from Braunstone Leisure Centre for confirmation.

If cost allowable then this will be the Kumite centre for National A Squad in midlands and also one of the venues for selection for the National A Squad for midlands.

KS, PS, MH, DG all Agreed.

RB – Presidents Cup for National Regional Championships – November 2026

The venue is being considered - Braunstone Leisure Centre, Leicester.

TBC.

KS – Safeguarding Department and Safeguard Lead

Moving forward we need to get extra support for the Safeguarding lead. A pool of individuals for support.

The Safeguarding Code for Martial Arts, a Sport England-funded project, has contacted the NGB. We aim to collaborate with the Safeguarding Martial Arts Code to support clubs when SPORTS 80 launches, helping to improve safeguarding standards across all EKNGB associations and clubs.

This will provide support for clubs to improve the policies and procedures all clubs will need a club welfare officer.

MH – A Board Safeguarding lead to sit on board when Sports 80 is up and running so the DSL can feed into the board. Also set up roles from the policy SO safeguarding officer CWO club welfare officer and set up the SRP the safeguarding review panel within EKNGB.

KS – KS happy to do the DSL training and sit as the board representative on safeguarding. Will help Safeguard lead on administration and relay back to board when needed. We will all look proactively for volunteers who will help us with safeguarding roles going forwards. Anyone interested in helping should email admin@englishkaratengb.co.uk

MH –The EKNGB Will provide DSL and safeguarding training where needed as we move forwards and funds allow.

PS – EKNGB Communication – reminder of document sent to all HOA and on website.

EKNGB Admin and Performance department need to reiterate to any member or member parent if U18 that there is a line of communication that has been sent to all Head of Associations and is also on the EKNGB website. This is the EKNGB protocol for communication for all departments.

This is so all parties understand contact point and have been informed of what is going on.

One of the roles of HOA's is to manage their association and all clubs. This being instructors, coaches, admin, referees, students, athletes, and parents. This is not an exhaustive list. First point of contact for issues or questions is always CLUB – ASSOCIATION – then EKNGB as governing body.

Most issues across all EKNGB departments can normally been dealt with in the Association.

Any large questions or issues can then be fed through EKNGB admin, and the Performance Department point of contact when needed.

The EKNGB does not have the capacity to answer multiple questions from individuals when information has already been sent and/or posted on social media and website and sent directly to all HOA's.

It is the HOA's of all associations to feed information down to all parties that sit within the Associations. The HOA's pass information from EKNGB to these members and their staff, paid or voluntary.

The EKNGB feel that this the most professional and direct route to providing correct governance and accountability as a not-for-profit modern organisation.

KS/MH – Update from Police investigation from Northern and Southern police departments/divisions and National Crime Agency.

Southern county police – Interviews have taken place; primary evidence has been taken and further evidence is being collected.

Communication has come back from police in south county police with next stages.

Waiting on communication from Northern police division on follow up.

Also still waiting on feedback and next actions from the National Crime Agency.

DG – Referee Course

Good numbers from all regions for the EKNGB first referee course and exams to be held in the Northern Region by PB and GH.

KS – Update on Regional numbers for first EKNGB Regional Training Sessions

Good numbers coming in from all regions. For kata and kumite.

PS/KS – EKNGB National 'A' Squad Training and 1st Senior National Selection

Timings of day have been done and agreed by performance department and National Head Coaches.

Starting at 9am to 6pm (selected times for each age group and division)

Venue; Northern Region, Ponds Forge International Arena, Sheffield

For: Kata, Kumite and Para National 'A' Squad

There will be training for all National 'A' Squad, selection for seniors for European Senior Championships and selections to find KPI (key performance indicators) for all senior categories including teams. For

senior this will be the start of selecting for the two-year cycle leading to WKF World Senior Championships qualifiers and championships at the end of 2027.

Third party observers and consultants will be in attendance as performance department expands and broadens its support for Tier 1 senior athletes and National 'A' Squad.

EKNGB code of conduct policy will be given and need to be signed. This will be for all athletes at training for all athletes that want to represent England and be eligible to be part of National 'A' Squad. As in line with all National sporting teams in England.

We aim the EKNGB National A Squad and England Team from 14-Senior to be one of the most professional and focused squads in WKF World Karate.

At every step of an athlete's journey we expect world class performance in all areas. This will help the EKNGB and its members meet its KPI and macro and micro goals in all aspects of the NGB.

DG, MH Agreed

EKNGB Technical Commission

DG and MH – The paper has been put together by EKNGB board members and new EKNGB technical commission.

This will include the following but not as an exhaustive list. Final draft TBC in coming days.

- DAN GRADES for relevant members. Recognition and pathway to Dan grades where needed.
- To include rectifying Dan grades if wanted or needed.
- Members to be awarded the highest Dan grades. Procedures for members and Associations. To be done by EKNGB Technical Committee.
- EKNGB Dan Gradings if wanted or needed by members. EKNGB grading panels if requested by associations.
- New Association protocols
- Changing of Associations and procedures if associations leave membership and then want to reapply for membership.

PS/KS/DG/MH Agreed

KS/PS – National Jobs for EKNGB

Advertisement of the National jobs for will go out from week starting 12th January 2026.

Job description has been written and terms agreed by EKNGB Board.

Head National Kata Coach

Head National Kumite Coach

Head National Chief Referee

Head National Para Kata Coach

Assistant National Kata Coach x 2

Assistant National Kumite Coach x 2

Assistant National Chief Referee

Assistant Regional Kumite Coach North

Assistant Regional Kumite Coach Midlands

Please send your CV's and a covering letter stating which role you are. Applying for to admin@englishkaratengb.co.uk

A job description is available on request.

Closing date, Thursday 12th February 2026, 5pm

DG/MH/KS/PS Agreed

DG/PS – Update on meeting with Coventry University department for physical exercise and sport and exercise science

Meeting held at Coventry University on Monday 5th January with head of departments and DG and PS.

All parties agreed this will move forwards from spring 2026.

PS will be writing the initial paper and official content for this in January 2026. This will be sent to Coventry University, as agreed.

Extra to what has been agreed already by all parties.

The initial partnership will be for TIER 1 Senior athletes and para seniors where relevant.

Also, areas of sports medicine and sports therapy to be discussed with DI EKNGB Sports Medicine Head.

Possibilities of areas of Biomechanics, Physiology, S&C and Psychology.

The initial contact will be a Laboratory physiology testing day at Coventry University for all TIER 1 National 'A' Squad. Spring 2026

All testing and support will be compulsory for all selected athletes and part of your eligibility to represent EKNGB at International Championships.

This will be part of the support package that the EKNGB provide to its National 'A' Squad.

The partnership will also start with EKNGB National and Regional coaches having access to performance coaching support for operating in elite sport by their coaching department and staff.

This will start to bring sport Karate and EKNGB in line with other Olympic sports.

This will also be compulsory for all EKNGB coaches that have roles within the EKNGB.

The first session/day will be at Coventry University in Spring/early summer 2026.

This will be the support the EKNGB will be providing for member athletes.

All through the EKNGB Performance department, coaches and thus their athletes in the EKNGB programme.

Coventry university will also be supporting the EKNGB with further professional advice in working with EKNGB to help gain recognition and endorsement of third parties of England Sport and Governance departments.

Further information will be communicated to HOA's and National 'A' Squad as it comes through, and decisions are made.

PS – EKNGB Performance Department will be bringing in outside professional consultants to work with department an athletes.
Update on Pre-train for European U21 Championships, Cyprus

EKNGB will be working with Michael Sailsman MSc, Cognitive Performance consultant, counsellor, and coach. He is present a PhD candidate. Former Multiple World and European Champion.

This will be from Spring 2026 and will work alongside the support by all coaches, sport science and performance department to push the EKNGB into a programme that deliver at levels of other England Olympic sports but without the funding. When we access funding then this will only enhance the programme.

PRE-TRAIN kumite and kata European U21 Championships

All England Team members will be taking part in pre-train. Kata is a residential pre-train. Kumite is days only.

All been arranged by National Head Coach in consultation with EKNGB Performance department.

DG/MH/KS/PS Agreed

MH – WKF initiative with German organisational committee of European Senior Championships 2026.

A member of the WKF organising committee have Contacted the NGB about possibility of travelling to Germany by train as a green initiative by WKF.

The LOC initiative between the German karate federation will improve countries England, France, Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland and Austria. 2026 will start of the United Nations decade of sustainable travel.

DG and MH looking into it and this may be subsidised by the LOC committee of championship in some capacity.

KS – Regional Tracksuits for all regions

- Set up with KICKING clothing for National Team Hoodies and extra t-shirts that can be ordered by the England Team members for European U21 Championships
- KICKING clothing setting up regional tracksuit so regional athletes can purchase these in due course. Each region tracksuit will have a different badge, but this will be a centralised ordering system.

PS/DG/MH/KS Agreed

DG – EKNGB General Meeting for HOA's – October/November 2026

There will be a face-to-face meeting for all HOA's to allow for EKNGB to explain progress of governing body and all partnerships and collaborations.

This will allow for Q&A and a follow on from the zoom meetings already run for HOA's. This will also allow new member associations to have the same meeting but face to face.

We will also have other elements of the EKNGB staff and coaches to be there to answer questions and allow HOA's to see what the following year plans will bring.

Venue will be the EKNGB Headquarter hotel for events Leicester Marriott, Leicester. Smith Way, Grove Park, LE19 1SW.

This will be the EKNGB National central venue for meetings and events for EKNGB.

DATE TBC

DG/PS/MH/KS Agreed

DG – EKNGB Sporting Licence

As previously discussed in 2025. 2026 will see the start of the sporting licence for all EKNGB members that take part in WKF sporting events and championships. The licence will be for all the following.

- Coaches
- Referees
- Athletes of all ages

This licence will be an addition to the Association licence that you purchase through your Association licencing officer.

All members must have an EKNGB Association licence to purchase a EKNGB Sporting Licence.

The Sporting licence will be started when SPORTS 80 Platform has been finished and is rolled out across the EKNGB. This platform will bring us in line with all professional and Olympic Sports Internationally.

The platform is multi-dimensional and will be the central hub and control system to run alongside EKNGB ADMIN and the current website and social media.

Weekly meetings between EKNGB designated leads and SPORTS 80 are starting and the structure is being built now. SPORTS 80 is used by many Olympic sports across UK, EUROPE, and USA.

The Sporting licence will be £30 per year per area per person.

EKNGB members will need to purchase a licence for each individual part of their competition journey.

This will need to be purchased to compete in any EKNGB Championships, BKF Championships, regional or National squad training and any European Karate Federation and World Karate Federation Event or Championships. A Sporting Licence is not required for Association Championships

EXAMPLE

***If you are Coach and Athlete, you will need two licences –
A coach sporting licence and athlete sporting licence***

***If you are a referee and coach, you will need two licences.
A referee sporting licence and a coach sporting licence***

***If you are a 12-year-old competitor and want to compete in EKNGB
National Children's Championships, you will need one licence.
One Athlete Sporting licence***

***If you are a Coach, Athlete and Referee you will need three licences.
A Sporting Coach, Athletes and Referee Licence***

This will be brought directly through the EKNGB and not the Association licensing officer. So, this will not cause extra work and administration to associations.

Associations will run as they are now, but it will be a lot easier to purchase licence slips for members and make administration overall a lot quicker once each association is set up within SPORTS 80 platform.

Training will be available for all Association licence officers on this and SPORTS 80.

The member of EKNGB who wants a or multiple sporting licences will purchase this directly through the EKNGB SPORT 80 platform.

Every EKNGB member will have their own profile. All their information will be centrally held and all courses, squad trainings, grade etc will be held there.

The sporting licence fees will help to fund the National Sporting Programme. This will provide revenue to we can provide better support for our competition programme within the WKF for England Karate.

The Association licence fee will be able to be used to help support the overall structure of the EKNGB for clubs and associations that do not compete but need the broader support of a governing body for their martial art.

The funds will help build these services and bring all members a federation that can support itself financially and uses its revenue to bring more services to its members.

Once we provide correct governance and accountability we can be in a position where government will look at us favourable for recognition and

	support like most other governing bodies whether that be in the arts or sport. This will be the legacy of the EKNGB and provide an avenue for all current EKNGB members and the thousands of Karateka that want to join in the future. MH/PS/KS/DG Agreed <u>PS – National EKNGB Sponsorship</u> EKNGB have been approached by a third party that may be able to help gain some sort of sponsorship for the governing body. The company is a UK company who already sponsors professional sport and enterprises. It was agreed that the board will give the green light to the third party to set up talks and see if both parties maybe interested. If so, a meeting will take place. Details to follow. AGREEED DG/MH/PS/KS <u>PS – Sporting event in collaboration with outside company and EKNGB</u> PS was approached by Joe Long (JL) Former-English Karate International and Paul Alderson (PL) Former WKF World Karate Champion. The very experienced partnership is looking to put on an event in late 2026 and would like to collaborate on it with the EKNGB. Set up a meeting to initially discuss and steps forward. Meeting Spring 2026. Date and venue TBC. With DG and PS. AGREED KS/MH/DG/PS	
4	MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON	
	All ok – follow ups to be given on certain aspects in meeting.	
5	ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS (NOT INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA)	
	None other than follow up of previous meeting minutes.	

6	AGENDA POINT	
	N/A	
7	AGENDA POINT	
	N/A	
8	CHAIRS UPDATE	
	As above	
9	PRESIDENTS UPDATE	
	As above	
10	OPPORTUNITIES	
	As above	
11	FINANCIAL UPDATE	
	On one drive by EKNGB Treasurer.	
12	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	NONE	
	END OF MEETING – 23:05 hrs	