



KARATE

CLUB MEMBERSHIP POLICY

V3 | MAY 1, 2026

NATIONAL OFFICE

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CLUB MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM POLICY

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2026

APPLIES TO ALL USA KARATE CLUB MEMBERS

I. PURPOSE

The USA Karate Club Membership Program establishes a nationally recognized structure for karate schools aligned with USA Karate, the National Governing Body (NGB) for karate in the United States.

The program is designed to:

- Strengthen grassroots development
 - Promote professional and ethical standards
 - Support club participation in Signature Events
 - Reinforce SafeSport compliance
 - Provide scalable, sustainable revenue structure
 - Protect the integrity of the sport
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II. DEFINITIONS

2.1 CLUB

A karate school, dojo, training center, or organized training group registered as a USA Karate Club Member.

2.2 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

The Membership Year runs on a calendar year basis (January 1 – December 31).

2.3. SIGNATURE EVENTS

Signature Events include, but are not limited to:

- USA Karate USA Open
- USA Karate National Championships
- Any additional events designated by USA Karate

III. MEMBERSHIP TIERS & PRICING

USA Karate Club Membership includes three tiers:

- Bronze Club Member
- Silver Club Member
- Gold Club Member

Membership pricing is established and published by USA Karate and may be updated periodically.

Current pricing is available in Appendix A – Membership Pricing and through official USA Karate program materials.

IV. PRO-RATED MEMBERSHIP PRICING

USA Karate Club Membership operates on a calendar year basis (January 1 – December 31).

Pro-rated membership pricing may apply to clubs joining mid-year and is established and published by USA Karate.

Current pro-rated pricing is available in Appendix A – Membership Pricing.

Pro-rated pricing does not alter eligibility for event-specific benefits, which remain subject to the applicable eligibility deadlines.

V. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS | ALL TIERS

All USA Karate Club Members must:

1. Maintain active status for the Membership Year
 2. Ensure that any athletes and coaches representing the club at USA Karate events are properly registered in accordance with USA Karate membership requirements
 3. Ensure that the Club Owner is a current USA Karate Member at Level 2 or higher, in good standing
 4. Ensure that all individuals in positions of authority over athletes—including instructors, assistant instructors, and any individual responsible for directing training or providing instruction—are registered with USA Karate in an appropriate membership category
 5. Ensure that all adult individuals (18 years of age or older) who regularly participate in training activities within the club maintain an appropriate USA Karate membership or compliance registration as designated by USA Karate
 6. Ensure that all such individuals complete all applicable SafeSport policies, training requirements, reporting obligations, and background screening mandates established by USA Karate and the U.S. Center for SafeSport
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7. Uphold USA Karate codes of conduct and ethical standards
8. Use USA Karate branding in accordance with the official Logo & Brand Policy

Failure to comply may result in suspension or revocation of membership.

VI. TIER BENEFITS

Detailed benefits for each membership tier are outlined in Appendix B – Membership Benefits.

VII. GOLD CLUB MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATION & MAINTENANCE

Gold membership is intended for clubs actively supporting USA Karate through athlete participation and leadership.

To qualify for or renew Gold status, a club must meet at least one (1) of the following during the Membership Year:

- Register at least ten (10) athletes **affiliated with the club through USA Karate during the Membership Year**
OR
- Participate in at least one (1) USA Karate Signature Event during the Membership Year

USA Karate reserves the right to verify compliance.

VIII. EVENT BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY RULE | 45-DAY RULE

To receive complimentary coach credentials, media credentials, or VIP lounge access for any Signature Event:

The club must hold the applicable Silver or Gold membership status no later than **45 days prior to the start date of the event.**

Upgrades after this deadline remain valid for general membership benefits but will not apply to that specific event.

USA Karate will publish event-specific cutoff dates annually.

VIII. COACH CREDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

Complimentary coach credentials:

- Must be assigned to coaches actively coaching athletes from the qualifying club
 - Require active USA Karate coach registration
 - Require full SafeSport and screening compliance
 - Must comply with event credential procedures
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Credential Redemption Process

Eligible clubs must:

- Email natoffice@usankf.org
- Provide club name and club number
- Specify the event

USA Karate will issue a unique coupon code for use during registration. All compliance requirements must be met for credential validation.

Credentials are non-transferable and may not be sold or reassigned.

X. MEDIA CREDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

Media credentials:

- Must be assigned to a designated club representative
- Must be used for legitimate club-related media purposes
- Must comply with event and venue policies

Credential Redemption Process

Eligible clubs must request credentials by emailing natoffice@usankf.org and providing club details and event designation.

Credentials are non-transferable and may not be used for unrelated commercial activity.

USA Karate reserves the right to limit media access based on operational or safety considerations.

XI. GOLD CLUB COUNCIL

- Each active Gold Club Member receives one (1) seat.
- The Council meets once annually.
- Members may be consulted throughout the year.
- The Council is advisory only and does not possess governance authority.

USA Karate retains sole decision-making authority.

XII. JOINT LOGO & BRAND USE

All member clubs receive a specially created joint logo.

Use of USA Karate marks is governed by the official **USA Karate Logo Usage for Member Clubs Policy**.

Logo use privileges may be revoked upon membership lapse or violation.

XIII. DAN TESTING DISCOUNTS

Dan testing discounts apply only to official USA Karate dan testing fees and do not apply to membership fees, event registration fees, or late fees.

XIV. VENDOR & INSURANCE PROGRAMS

Vendor and insurance benefits are subject to availability and provider limitations. USA Karate does not guarantee pricing, coverage, or underwriting approval.

XV. CLUB MEMBERSHIP NON-TRANSFERABILITY

Club Membership is non-transferable without written approval from USA Karate. Ownership changes may require review.

XVI. SUSPENSION & REVOCATION

USA Karate may suspend or revoke membership for:

- SafeSport violations
 - Branding misuse
 - Fraudulent activity
 - Conduct violations
 - Safety non-compliance
 - Failure to meet Gold qualification standards
 - Actions detrimental to USA Karate or the sport
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XVII. DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY & PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

USA Karate reserves the right to interpret, administer, and enforce all provisions of the Club Membership Program in its sole discretion.

USA Karate may modify or clarify benefits, eligibility requirements, or operational procedures as necessary to protect the integrity of the organization and the sport.

USA Karate may update membership pricing, benefits, and program details as reflected in official program materials, including appendices to this policy, without requiring a formal amendment to the core policy.

All determinations are final unless otherwise provided by USA Karate review procedures.

APPENDIX A | MEMBERSHIP PRICING

EFFECTIVE 2026 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PRICING

BRONZE CLUB MEMBER	\$200
SILVER CLUB MEMBER	\$500
GOLD CLUB MEMBER	\$750

PRORATED MEMBERSHIP PRICING

JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31

BRONZE \$200	SILVER \$500	GOLD \$750
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APRIL 1 – JUNE 30

BRONZE \$150	SILVER \$375	GOLD \$575
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JULY 1 – SEPTEMBER 30

BRONZE \$100	SILVER \$250	GOLD \$375
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OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 31

BRONZE \$200	SILVER \$500	GOLD \$750
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Memberships purchased October 1 – December 31 include the remainder of the current Membership Year plus the full following Membership Year.

APPENDIX B | MEMBERSHIP PRICING

EFFECTIVE 2026 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

BRONZE CLUB MEMBER

- Official alignment with USA Karate (NGB)
 - Annual USA Karate Club Certificate
 - USA Karate digital club badge
 - Standard listing in the USA Karate Club Locator
 - Custom joint logo (Club + USA Karate) for approved marketing use
 - Access to USA Karate–recognized kyu and dan grade certificates (optional use)
 - Parent and athlete education resources
 - Governance and professional standards guidance
 - Opportunity to provide structured feedback
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SILVER CLUB MEMBER

Includes all Bronze benefits, plus:

- Access to USA Karate Preferred Vendors
 - Access to discounted club liability insurance (subject to availability)
 - Access to member-only USA Karate apparel store and/or apparel discounts
 - Preferred athlete pre-registration pricing for Signature Events
 - One (1) coach credential – USA Open
 - One (1) coach credential – National Championships
 - One (1) media pass – USA Open
 - One (1) media pass – National Championships
 - 10% discount on official USA Karate dan testing fees
 - Priority access to coach education and referee certification
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GOLD CLUB MEMBER

Includes all Silver benefits, plus:

- Priority placement in the USA Karate Club Locator
- Two (2) coach credentials – USA Open
- Two (2) coach credentials – National Championships
- Two (2) media passes – USA Open
- Two (2) media passes – National Championships
- VIP lounge access for two (2) individuals at Signature Events
- 20% discount on official USA Karate dan testing fees
- One (1) seat on the Gold Club Council