



Where Olympic Journeys Begin

## USA KARATE

### **SANCTIONED vs. NON-SANCTIONED KARATE EVENTS**

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When choosing competitions for your child, not all events are the same. Here's what changes when an event is USA Karate Sanctioned.

#### SAFETY & INSURANCE

##### **USA KARATE SANCTIONED EVENT**

- ✓ Athletes are insured as USA Karate members
- ✓ Certified medical personnel required onsite
- ✓ National safety standards enforced

##### **NON-SANCTIONED EVENT**

- ✗ Insurance coverage may be limited or unclear
  - ✗ Medical coverage varies or may not be present
  - ✗ Safety standards depend entirely on the organizer
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#### PROTECTION FOR YOUNG ATHLETES

##### **USA KARATE SANCTIONED EVENT**

- ✓ SafeSport policies in place
- ✓ Required training and screening for adults in key roles
- ✓ Clear reporting procedures if concerns arise

##### **NON-SANCTIONED EVENT**

- ✗ No national SafeSport oversight
- ✗ Policies vary by event or school
- ✗ Less accountability if issues occur



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## FAIR & CONSISTENT COMPETITION

### USA KARATE SANCTIONED EVENT

- ✓ Qualified, licensed referees
- ✓ Nationally standardized rules
- ✓ Consistent division structure

### NON-SANCTIONED EVENT

- ✗ Referee experience varies
  - ✗ Rules may change event to event
  - ✗ Inconsistent competition experience
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## MEDICAL RESPONSE

### USA KARATE SANCTIONED EVENT

- ✓ Medical staff must be present for the entire event
- ✓ Competition stops if medical coverage is unavailable

### NON-SANCTIONED EVENT

- ✗ Medical presence is not guaranteed
  - ✗ Response plans vary
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## ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

### USA KARATE SANCTIONED EVENT

- ✓ Encourages long-term growth and confidence
- ✓ Part of a nationally recognized development pathway
- ✓ Structured, age-appropriate competition



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### **NON-SANCTIONED EVENT**

- **X** Focus may be short-term or informal
  - **X** No national pathway or tracking
  - **X** Experience varies widely
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### **THE BOTTOM LINE FOR PARENTS**

Sanctioned events provide:

- Insurance protection
- Medical coverage
- National safety standards
- Fair, consistent competition
- Accountability beyond the local level

Non-sanctioned events rely entirely on the organizer.

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### **WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

When registering your child, look for the words:

“USA Karate Sanctioned Event”

That designation means the event meets national standards designed to protect your athlete