

JION dojo rules regarding competition & loyalty to the club

Firstly, any JION member wishing to enter a karate competition, **may only do so after consulting Sensei Thorsten**. This is a matter of simple courtesy toward the instructor. Ultimately, Sensei will decide if a member is 'ready' for a competition and must give his permission. We as a dojo have a reputation to uphold and can only do so, if we attend the competition ourselves and actively observe and support our players. On certain occasions permission may be given for a member to attend a competition where we will not be in attendance.

Where there are team events, Sensei will select the team members prior to the competition – no member has a guaranteed place on a team! Sensei alone makes the decision, who should represent our dojo at any given time – several criteria will be taken into consideration when making these decisions and students should always respect Sensei's decisions.

Secondly, all JION competitors must have the correct, "approved" equipment for the competition. A list is available on request, but basically this will include blue & red sparring gloves & shin-instep protectors, a mouthguard and other items according to age/gender. Before entering any competition we need to check that all gear is available & approved.

Finally, something that we, until recently, presumed to be self-explanatory, **you can only represent one dojo.**

By this we mean that JION I.K.D.A. **will not approve** of any JION member representing another karate dojo in competition. If you are a JION member, then you are part of the JION team. JION team members are expected to uphold our dojo values and above all **be loyal to their dojo and their Sensei.** If for whatever reason you should decide to represent a different dojo in competition, then you will no longer be considered a JION member and we will ask you to leave our dojo. This does not apply to those members who are fortunate enough to be selected onto a regional team or, of course the national team. We will actively support these members, who will continue to represent our dojo individually, just as other members of such squads will represent their own dojos in individual competition.

We strongly believe that the training and support we offer all our members, whether they take part in competition or not, is of an internationally recognised high standard, however we do suggest that members look around, visit other clubs, train with other instructors occasionally and compare styles and methods. When a member trains regularly with another karate dojo (possibly of a different style) clearly a conflict of interests will arise when it comes to deciding which "Team" they belong to and which dojo they will choose to represent in competition.

At every competition we attend, Sensei observes the opposition and uses this knowledge to better prepare our own competitors against rival clubs. Obviously, other clubs will also be watching our 'players' in order to better prepare themselves to compete against us. This is the nature of all competition. It is the job of the coach, to develop methods or 'tactics' to achieve success for his/her dojo. Clearly, where a JION member opts to train simultaneously as a member of a rival club, some of these tactics and methods of countering specific attacks will become transparent to JION opponents, this can only have a detrimental effect on JION 'team' strategies.

Practising an alternative martial art alongside learning karate at JION I.K.D.A. does not pose this problem, as opposing martial arts will rarely, if ever, meet in competition. Equally, selection onto a regional or national karate team will not impact on the individual dojo, as members from several different dojos are brought together for specific training to represent their region or NZ, whilst continuing to represent their own dojo individually.

So, when you decide to become, or continue being a member of the JION I.K.D.A. team, we expect you to respect and abide by these simple rules & dojo values.