

NAKMAS coaches to benefit from new equality training module

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The National Association of Karate and Martial Art Schools (NAKMAS) has broken new ground in the teaching of the sport by rolling out its own Equality Awareness Module for its coaches as it steps up its commitment to equality and diversity in martial arts.

The new NAKMAS Equality Awareness model, part of the NAKMAS Coach Development Programme, has gone live across the United Kingdom following a pilot scheme in Kent and Cambridgeshire.

The home study module allows all NAKMAS coaches to study sport equality, NAKMAS equality policy, under-represented and key target groups, barriers to participation, disabled people, women and girls, black and minority ethnicity, sexual preferences and much more.

NAKMAS Lead Equality Manager and Director of Operations, Sandra Beale-Ellis says:

“Although this pack was initially designed for management and staff to raise awareness in their roles, following initial feedback and further to discussions with external equality groups, we have made the decision to launch the module to all our instructors and club and association staff. This is part of our continued commitment to raising awareness from grass roots sport participation upwards, and to increase diversity within our clubs across the UK.

“NAKMAS is seeking to achieve the Equality Standard: A Framework for Sport Intermediate level and consequently maintain equality and diversity as important elements of the NAKMAS learning experience in martial arts.”

The NAKMAS Equality Awareness Module is a home study format and candidates are required to send NAKMAS proof of achieved learning using objective questionnaires (which are provided by NAKMAS inside the module pack) relating the equality awareness to their particular working environment.

Two participants in the pilot scheme were Gary Smith 6th Dan and a serving member on the NAKMAS National Management Committee and chief instructor to the SEPOY Karate and Jacinta Babaian 2nd Dan instructor to the Kent Karate Schools.

Gary Smith says: “This module really made me think of my own practice, and of the language I use during my classes and in my other professional and personal roles. I shall be ensuring all my instructors take this module now.

Jacinta Babaian says: “Far from being a tick-box exercise, the module allows you to put what you learn into practice. The long term and wider benefit of the module is that NAKMAS affiliates will provide a truly accommodating learning environment that does not discriminate or exclude.”

Joe Ellis the Chair of NAKMAS says: “NAKMAS has for some time shown a strong commitment to equality and we have no intention of standing still on the issue. Sport, like the workplace and other areas of our lives, should place that commitment at the heart of all it does.”

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Notes to editors:

Find out more about NAKMAS at www.nakmas.org.uk

NAKMAS has secured the Equality Standard: A Framework for Sport. To find out more about Equality Standard: A Framework for Sport at www.equalitystandard.org

The National Association of Karate and Martial Art Schools (NAKMAS) National Governing Body is a non-funded national governing body and is a member of Sport & Recreation Alliance (formerly known as the CCPR). With its Head Office based in Kent, NAKMAS governs all forms of traditional and modern martial arts and has over 73,000 members within the UK.

NAKMAS is an approved insurance provider by ACE Europe and Hiscox and holds a National and International Quality Standard Certificate via the BSI (British Standards Institute).

For further information, please contact:

Joe Ellis, Chair of the NAKMAS National Governing Body

Tel: 01227 370055 / 07976 736404

Fax: 01227 370056

Email: joe.ellis@nakmas.org.uk

Site: www.nakmas.org.uk