

FOUNDING MANIFESTO

NATIONAL COLLEGE OF KARATE- DŌ

A CALL TO THE INTEGRAL WAY

Colégio Nacional do Karate-Dō (CNKD)

Preamble: The Dō Is Not for Those Who Lose Their Way

For decades, we have witnessed the rise of a model of Karate that, in its pursuit of sporting legitimacy and administrative efficiency, has created a profound division. On one side stands Karate-Dō—an ancestral martial art, a path for cultivating character, and an embodied philosophy that integrates technique, ethics, and the pursuit of human excellence. On the other stands sport Karate—a system of rules, scoring tactics, and the development of high-performance athletes.

This division, useful in its time, has become a fracture. The Dō—the Way—has gradually been overshadowed by the urgency of results, podium finishes, medals, and the pursuit of administrative positions within organizations. The training of competitors has taken precedence over human development. Technical discussion has become restricted to movements that are effective in *shiai*, rather than movements perfected for life. The rich philosophical, historical, and pedagogical heritage of Shotokan Karate has been relegated to footnotes, when not forgotten altogether.

What has emerged from this imbalance is a sense of emptiness. Many senior karateka, instructors, and masters feel that the art to which they have devoted their lives is being stripped of its deeper meaning. Young practitioners are introduced to only a small fraction of a vast universe. The community has become fragmented into federations that, despite their good intentions, are compelled to prioritize the sporting calendar at the expense of cultivating the art in its fullness.

This fragmentation ends today.

We present the **National College of Karate-Dō (CNKD)**.

We are not another federation. We are not a dissident group. We are a **COLLEGE** in the highest sense of the word: a sovereign body of scholars, masters, and practitioners dedicated to the study, preservation, and integral development of Shotokan Karate-Dō in Brazil.

Our purpose is not to compete with existing organizations, but to transcend their limitations by offering a space in which Karate-Dō may be lived, practiced, and contemplated in all its dimensions, across all age groups and social contexts.

1. Our Critique — The Diagnosis

We recognize the value of sport and competition as instruments of challenge, self-improvement, and promotion. However, we reject the reduction of Karate-Dō to these elements alone. We challenge:

- The abandonment of *Bushi no Michi*—the Way of the Warrior—as an ethical foundation.
- The absence of a pedagogy of the Dō capable of developing instructors who understand training methodology and educators committed to the integral development of their students.
- The widespread lack of knowledge regarding the history and lineage that connect us to Gichin Funakoshi, the Japanese masters, and the development of Karate-Dō in Brazil.

- The prioritization of results over process, medals over character, and effective movement over perfected movement.

2. Our Vision — The Integral Proposal

The CNKD is founded upon the principle that true Karate-Dō is indivisible. We propose a model based on Five Interdependent Pillars, each supported by a Permanent Chamber of Studies:

- **Technical-Philosophical Pillar (*Shin-Gi-Tai*):** Technique (*waza*) as the expression of a focused mind (*shin*) and an integrated body (*tai*). The study of *kihon* and *kata* as meditation in motion.
- **Didactic-Pedagogical Pillar:** The art of teaching the Way. The development of methodologies that cultivate not only skilled bodies, but also disciplined minds and upright character.
- **Historical-Cultural Pillar:** The living memory of the art. The research, documentation, and preservation of the Shotokan lineage, honoring our founding masters and understanding our Brazilian identity within the Dō.
- **Human Development Pillar (*Ken Zen Ichi Nyō—Body and Mind Are One*):** The study and practice of the principles of *Bushidō*, *zanshin*, and *mushin*. Karate-Dō as a means toward a fuller, more focused, and more ethical life, both within and beyond the *dōjō*.
- **Integrated Practices Pillar — Sport and Health:** *Shiai*—competition—and Karate practiced for health are expressions of training, never its sole purpose. They are fields of application and testing, governed by the higher principles of the Dō.

3. Our Call — An Invitation to Those Who Truly Seek the Way

We call upon all karateka throughout Brazil who:

- Feel that Karate has more to offer than trophies.
- Believe that a black belt must be, above all, a lifelong student—*gakusei* (学生).
- Wish to delve deeply into history, discuss philosophy, refine technique, and improve their teaching methods.
- Long for a community of peers in which intellectual debate is valued as highly as *kime*.
- Understand that “Dō” is not a decorative suffix, but the very essence of the journey.

If you recognize yourself in this description, you are already part of what we seek to build.

The CNKD is not a destination. It is a point of departure. It is an invitation to return to the source, to reunite what has been separated, and to walk together toward a Karate-Dō that is deeper, more meaningful, and more authentic.

The Way is made by walking it. And this Way must be traveled with the seriousness of a scholar, the heart of a warrior, and the spirit of a builder.

Join us. Let us rebuild the Way.

National College of Karate-Dō (CNKD)

Oss!