

**BEFORE THE SPORTS TRIBUNAL  
OF NEW ZEALAND**

**ST 14/26  
ST 19/26**

**BETWEEN**                      X [REDACTED]  
  
                                         **Appellant**

**AND**                              **KARATE NEW ZEALAND**  
  
                                         **Respondent**

**BETWEEN**                      Y [REDACTED]  
  
                                         **Appellant**

**AND**                              **KARATE NEW ZEALAND**

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**RESULT DECISION OF SPORTS TRIBUNAL  
23 SEPTEMBER 2026**

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**Hearing**                      24 September 2026 – by Microsoft Teams

**Present**                      [REDACTED] (Mother of Y), representative for Appellant Y in ST19/26  
                                         Duane Monk (Coach of X), representative for Appellant X in ST14/26  
                                         [REDACTED] (Father of X)  
                                         Rebecca Dobson (Selector and General Secretary), Karate NZ  
                                         Leo Donnelly (Secretary, National Policy Council), Karate NZ

**Tribunal**                      Warwick Smith (Acting Chair)  
                                         Pippa Moore  
                                         Dan Buckingham

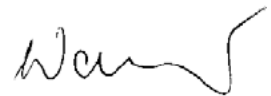
**Registrar**                      Luke Macris

1. This Result Decision relates to two appeals: X [REDACTED] v *Karate New Zealand* (ST14/26) and Y [REDACTED] v *Karate New Zealand* (ST19/26). The Acting Chair directed earlier in the proceeding that the appeals proceed together and be heard by the Tribunal concurrently as the selection process and issues are intertwined.
2. The appellants are both talented youth athletes competing for one New Zealand place only, as set by the World Karate Federation (WKF), for the Cadet Male Kata category at the WKF Cadet, Junior and Under 21 World Championships 2026 to be held in Poland from 14-18 October 2026.
3. Karate NZ made three separate decisions in issue:
  - a. An original selection decision – selecting Appellant Y [REDACTED] – on 22 June 2026;
  - b. A subsequent rescission decision (of the original selection decision) dated 6 August 2026; and
  - c. A fresh selection decision made – selecting Appellant X [REDACTED] – on 12 September 2026, following the playoff/trial (held 29 August).
4. The grounds of appeal for Appellant X related to the original selection decision and were that the selection policy was not properly followed and/or implemented by Karate NZ.
5. The grounds of appeal for Appellant Y related to the rescission decision and fresh selection decision and were:
  - a. The rescission decision of Appellant Y's original Kata selection was not properly authorised and was procedurally unfair;
  - b. Appellant Y and his parents were denied a fair opportunity to participate in an *ad hoc* replacement selection process that was developed and materially shaped without their involvement; and
  - c. The fresh selection decision may not have been made in accordance with the required selection procedure and criteria.
6. A hearing of both appeals concurrently was held on 23 September 2026 under urgency.
7. The Tribunal panel undertook to provide the parties with this result decision as soon as practicable and before 28 September 2026, as the registration date for team entry is due to WKF on 29 September 2026.

**Decision**

8. Having assessed the evidence and the oral submissions of the parties, the Tribunal determines that the fresh selection decision made by the KNZ selectors on 12 September 2026 stands.
9. Accordingly, Appellant X [REDACTED] is selected to represent New Zealand in the Cadet Male Kata category at the WKF Cadet, Junior and Under 21 World Championships 2026.
10. Costs are reserved.
11. A Reasons Decision will be provided as soon as practicable.

Dated: 24 September 2026



**Warwick Smith**  
**Acting Tribunal Chair**



**Pippa Moore**  
**Tribunal Member**



**Dan Buckingham**  
**Tribunal Member**