



BRITISH TAEKWONDO

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

Date	Version	Author	Board Approved	Review Date	Published
April 2020	4	Rachel Smith		April 2023	Yes
June 2022	5	Rachel Smith	30/06/2022	June 2023	Yes
March 2024	6	Sarah Howard	22/03/2024	March 2025	Yes
March 2025	7	Sarah Howard	28/03/2025	March 2027	Yes

Introduction

Everyone at British Taekwondo is dedicated to making our sports accessible, inclusive and safe for people of all ages and backgrounds. We recognise we must continuously strive to improve in order to foster a positive culture and deliver for the people who are the lifeblood of our sport.

All those who work or volunteer directly with children must ensure that:

Members are treated with dignity and respect;

Good practice is promoted, in order to reduce the possibility of abusive situations occurring;

They continually reflect upon their own coaching, supervisory style, philosophy and practices to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Members at all times, and encourage others to do the same;

They know and understand British Taekwondo's Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

They always work appropriately and openly with children in the Organisation;

They are an excellent role model, which includes not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of children;

They always put the wellbeing, health and safety of a Member before all other considerations, including the development of performance;

They build a balanced relationship based on mutual trust, which empowers Members, including children to share in the decision-making process; and

They refer and address safeguarding concerns appropriately.

CONTENTS

SECTION 1: Background

SECTION 2: Purpose

SECTION 3: Scope

SECTION 4: Policy Statement

SECTION 5: Definitions

5.1 Definitions

5.2 Designated Personnel

5.3 Recognising abuse

5.4 Duty of Care

5.5 Good practice guidelines

SECTION 6: How to Respond to a Disclosure or Concern

- 6.1 Dealing with a disclosure
- 6.2 Recording & Reporting
- 6.3 Allegations of previous abuse (historical abuse)
- 6.4 Whistleblowing
- 6.5 Support for staff

SECTION 7: Information Sharing

SECTION 8: Safeguarding and helpline contacts

Appendix 1

Safeguarding Helpline Contacts

This Safeguarding Policy should be read in conjunction with the following related policies and procedures

[Code of Conduct](#)

[Use of Social Media Policy](#)

[Guidance on Use of Photography, Film, Imagery](#)

[Disciplinary Code](#)

SECTION 1 - Policy

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and it is important that organisations work together to protect people who need help and support.

1.2 At British Taekwondo we are committed to safeguarding and protecting all of our members from abuse; particularly children whose safety and wellbeing is central in everything we do

Version 7 March 2025

1.3 The Children Act 1989 enshrines in law the key principle that the welfare of children is paramount. Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child provides the right for all children to be safe from violence.

1.5 The framework for safeguarding children in England is set out in the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children HM Government. The guidance applies explicitly to sports organisations and to anyone working within these organisations, whether paid or a volunteer and states in Chapter 2 (page 72, paragraph 63);

“There are many sports clubs and organisations including voluntary and private sector providers who deliver a wide range of sporting activities to children. Some of these will be community amateur sports clubs, some will be charities. All should have the arrangements described in this chapter in place and should collaborate to work effectively with the safeguarding partners as required by any local safeguarding arrangements. Paid and volunteer staff need to be aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, how they should respond to child protection concerns and how to make a referral to local authority children’s care or the police if necessary.”

1.6 Working Together highlights that both UK Sport and Sport England make it a condition of funding that national sports governing bodies implement standards for safeguarding children in sport, developed in partnership with the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU).

1.7 Effective information sharing is a vital part of safeguarding. While data protection law should not be seen as a barrier to sharing information where it is necessary to protect a child at risk from harm, due regard must be given to ensuring personal information is shared in accordance the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018

1.8 This safeguarding policy primarily applies to children in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and is aligned with the statutory guidance and legal framework in these jurisdictions, including the Children Act 1989 and 2004, Working Together to Safeguard Children, and relevant local safeguarding procedures.

It is important to recognise that Scotland operates under a distinct child protection system, governed by separate legislation, including the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland. Organisations operating across England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland must ensure that safeguarding practices comply with the appropriate legal and procedural requirements for each jurisdiction. Where concerns arise relating to a child in Scotland, referrals should be made to the relevant Scottish local authority and Child Protection Committee in accordance with Scottish safeguarding procedures.

2 PURPOSE

2.1 The overall aim of the policy is to ensure that everyone can take part in Taekwondo without fear of harassment and abuse. To achieve this aim, everyone must understand their role and responsibility for preventing and responding to harassment and abuse concerns, including where the abuse may be occurring outside the Taekwondo environment. The policy interprets for the

Taekwondo community any relevant legislation and statutory guidance for safeguarding children to ensure, as a minimum, that we all comply with all applicable legal responsibilities.

The key objectives of the policy are to:

2.2 Ensure everyone in Taekwondo understands that any form of non-accidental violence is unacceptable and should not be tolerated.

2.3 Ensure everyone knows what to do if they are concerned about someone's welfare and promote a culture where everyone feels able to raise concerns without fear of recrimination.

2.4 Ensure an appropriate and co-ordinated response to any incidents of abuse within or connected to participation in Taekwondo in the UK in line with any relevant statutory framework.

2.5 Ensure that everyone in Taekwondo understands their responsibility to report concerns relating to the welfare of a child that relate to an individual or environment outside Taekwondo.

2.6 Ensure appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place to protect athletes and other participants when representing British Taekwondo.

2.7 Implement effective measures that minimise the likelihood of incidents of harassment and abuse.

3 SCOPE

3.1 This policy and associated standards and guidelines are mandatory for all members of British Taekwondo. In addition, the policy applies to non-members who are part of a national squad athlete's entourage including but not limited to coaches, trainers, chaperones, medical personnel and to any individuals acting on behalf of British Taekwondo such as directors, officials or administrators whether employed, contracted or voluntary.

3.2 The policy applies to incidents of harassment and abuse that arise from participation in British Taekwondo regulated activities.

3.3 The responsibility to report also applies to any concerns that a child may be experiencing abuse outside Taekwondo.

3.4 The policy applies to affiliated clubs involved in the delivery of Taekwondo. Any individual or organisation that is providing a service to British Taekwondo even within a third-party capacity must also demonstrate that they comply with these standards.

4 POLICY STATEMENT

4.1 We believe that everyone has the right to participate in Taekwondo in an environment free from non-accidental violence regardless of sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, age, marriage and civil partnership, parental or marital status, pregnancy and maternity, disability, religion or belief, colour, race including nationality or ethnicity and socio/economic background.

British Taekwondo recognises our duty of care for our members. We believe that the wellbeing of children should be at the centre of everything we do and recognise the need to ensure that we have a responsibility to promote their welfare.

We accept our responsibility to ensure that we and our member clubs have effective safeguarding arrangements in place and respond appropriately to any incidents of harassment, abuse and poor practice that arise relating to the activity they provide. All clubs must ensure that any suspected abuse of children are reported to the Police and/or Children's Services in line with the applicable reporting procedure and in line with local arrangements.

SECTION 5: DEFINITIONS

5.1 Definitions

"Child/Children" will be used and includes "young person(s)". This is anyone under the age of 18 years.

"Parent" will also refer to carers or guardians.

"Staff" refers to anyone in a paid or voluntary role within British Taekwondo (and includes coaches and contracted personnel).

5.2 Designated Personnel

British Taekwondo has a Safeguarding & Compliance Manager who you can speak to if you have concerns about poor practice or suspect that a child may be being abused or is at risk. They can be contacted on 07568503791 or by email at safeguarding@britishtaekwondo.org.

You may also report a concern at any time at taekwondo.vissro.com/public/Taekwondocase.nsf/safeguarding-report

In an emergency situation or out of hours then please contact:

Police 101 (or 999 in an emergency) or NSPCC 24-hour helpline 0808 800 5000

5.3 Recognising Abuse

British Taekwondo staff and members are not expected to be experts at recognition of abuse, however, they do have a responsibility to act if they have any concerns about the behaviour of someone (adult or child) and to follow the reporting procedures in this document.

The following are forms of abuse, inappropriate behaviour and other safeguarding concerns that must be recorded and reported to the Club Welfare Officer or the Safeguarding and Compliance Manager.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may involve:

- Hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child
- A parent or carer fabricating the symptoms of, or deliberately inducing, illness in a child.

This is not to say that whenever an injury is caused to a vulnerable person, it must be a case of physical abuse. An adult or older child might inflict an injury by accident – for example, while playing football.

Examples of physical abuse in sport may be when a child is forced into training and competition that exceeds the capacity of his or her immature and growing body; or where a child is given drugs to enhance performance or delay puberty

Emotional Abuse

Emotional Abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child causing severe and persistent adverse effects on their emotional development and wellbeing. It may involve:

- Conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only because they meet the needs of another person
- Not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or “making fun” of what they say or how they communicate
- Imposing expectations that are inappropriate to the age or development of the child - e.g., over-protecting the child, limiting their exploration and learning, preventing them from taking part in normal social interaction
- Seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of someone else
- Serious bullying (physical or verbal) which causes the child frequently to feel frightened or in danger
- Exploitation or corruption including Child Criminal Exploitation and Radicalisation

Examples of emotional abuse in sport include subjecting children to constant criticism, name calling, sarcasm and bullying. Putting them under constant pressure to perform to unrealistically high standards is also a form of emotional abuse.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of abuse and neglect but it may occur alone.

Child Criminal Exploitation

This occurs when children and young people are coerced into committing crimes. This can include delivering drugs to different parts of the country – a situation known as County Lines.

Radicalisation

This is a process by which an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly radical political, social, or religious ideals and aspirations that reject or undermine the status quo or contemporary ideas and expressions of the nation.

It is important that coaches are alert to the signs that someone may be in the process of being groomed either under child criminal exploitation or radicalisation.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse occurs when someone exploits their power, authority or position and uses a vulnerable person sexually to gratify their own needs. Sexual abuse can happen within and outside the family, and is usually by people known and trusted by a child.

In addition to the criminality of having sexual relationships with anyone under 16, from 28th June 2022 in England and Wales it is a criminal offence for a coach in a position of trust to engage in a

sexual relationship with someone aged 16 or 17. Currently, the 'positions of trust' law in Scotland remains as originally set out in the Sexual Offences Act (2009), which does not cover sports settings.

Sexual abuse involves someone forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether the child is aware of what is happening. Children of any age - between 0 and 18 - can experience sexual abuse. It can happen to both boys and girls. There is no typical individual who commits sexual offences against children.

The activities may involve:

- Physical contact, including assault by penetration (e.g., rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts (e.g., masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside clothing)
- Non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at or producing sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (e.g. via the internet, i.e. "sexting" - when someone sends or receives a sexually explicit text, image or video on their mobile phone, usually in a text message).

In sport, coaching techniques that involve physical contact with children can potentially create situations where sexual abuse may go unnoticed.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Although children 16 years and over can legally consent to sexual activity, it is inappropriate and extremely poor practice for an adult to pursue a relationship with a young person with whom they are in a position of trust. Sexual offences legislation already provides that any sexual activity involving children under 16 years of age is unlawful.

The power and influence that a coach has over an athlete attending a group or activity cannot be under-estimated. If there is an additional competitive aspect to the activity and one person is responsible for the other's success or failure to some extent, then the dependency will be increased. It is therefore vital for people to recognise the responsibility they must exercise in ensuring that they could not be considered to have abused their position of trust. In some cases, an "abuse of trust" is a criminal offence.

British Taekwondo will take disciplinary action in situations where an adult in a position of trust has abused their position by having sexual contact with a 16 or 17-year-old.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to seriously damage their health or development. In pregnancy, this can happen because of maternal substance misuse.

Neglect may involve persistently failing to:

- Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter, including excluding the child from home or abandoning them
- Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- Ensure adequate supervision, including the use of inadequate care-givers
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
- Competing with known injury

- Allowing an athlete to compete without the correct protective equipment

It may also include neglecting or being unresponsive to a child's basic emotional needs.

Examples of neglect in sport could include not ensuring children are safe, exposing them to undue cold or heat, or exposing them to unnecessary risk of injury.

Peer on Peer Abuse (Bullying)

Bullying is any persistent behaviour by an individual or group (typically by peers) which intimidates or threatens or has a harmful and distressing impact on another individual or group. By persistent, it happens over a period (an hour, a day, over weeks) and has a degree of repetition. Bullying behaviour may be any of the following:

- Verbal or social
- Material or emotional
- Physical or sexual
- Discriminatory (e.g. homophobic, racist)
- Cyber (i.e. via social media or mobile communication devices).

Some examples are:

- Name calling or making hurtful personal comments
- The victim is ostracised or left out of peer group activities
- Possessions are stolen or damaged or extortion takes place
- Pressure to conform with unwanted situations
- Harassment or aggression towards victim
- Deliberately inflicting pain or injury

Bullying will always be taken seriously and where a victim feels they are being bullied then the situation should be investigated as such.

British Taekwondo has a zero-tolerance approach to bullying. Participants and staff are expected to interact in a respectful way as per clearly communicated codes of conduct.

As an organisation, our coaches, athletes, parents and spectators will:

- Aim to create a positive and safe environment for everyone, especially children
- Not ignore bullying activity and always act where it is reported
- Listen to and take seriously the concerns of individuals, or their parents, taking part in the sport
- Respond proportionately and effectively to incidents of bullying
- Raise awareness amongst targeted groups (e.g. elite squads, coaches, parents) on the impact of bullying and consequences of being involved.

What are the effects of abuse?

The effects of cruelty to children are wide-ranging and profound. They vary according to the type of abuse and how long it has been endured but can include:

- Behavioural problems
- Educational problems
- Mental health problems

- Relationship difficulties
- Drug and alcohol problems
- Self-harm
- Suicide

Fortunately, children who are abused can be helped.

It is vital that everyone who works or comes into contact with children acts responsibly if they have any concerns about the behaviour of someone (adult or child) and follows the reporting procedures in this document.

5.4 Duty of Care

All coaches are to demonstrate exemplary behaviour and are accountable for the way in which they exercise authority, manage risk, use resources and protect children from discrimination and unavoidable harm.

All coaches have a duty to keep children safe and to protect them from neglect, sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional harm and bullying. Children have a right to be safe and treated with respect and dignity. It is therefore expected that staff take all reasonable steps, including appropriate safeguarding training to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children involved within British Taekwondo.

Coaches should understand the responsibilities as part of their employment or role and be aware that sanctions will be applied if these provisions are breached.

At all times, staff should act, and be seen to act, in a child's best interests. Following the Code of Conduct will support this to be achieved.

5.5 Good Practice Guidelines

Everyone should be encouraged to demonstrate exemplary behaviour in order to promote children's welfare and reduce the likelihood of allegations being made. With this in mind, we expect everyone involved in taekwondo to adhere to the Codes of Conduct and heed the following guidelines:

General

- Always work in an open environment (i.e. avoid private or unobserved situations and encourage open communication with no secrets)
- Treat everyone equally, with respect and dignity
- Always put the welfare of the athlete ahead of winning
- Ensure that any form of physical support with positioning is only done with the consent of the athlete
- Keep up to date with technical skills, qualifications and insurance in sport
- Recognise the developmental needs and capacity of the athlete, avoiding excessive training and not pushing them against their will
- Give enthusiastic and constructive feedback avoiding negative criticism
- Be an excellent role model

Competitions

- Ensure that if mixed teams are taken away, they should always be accompanied by a male and female member of staff. We recognise, however, that same gender abuse can also occur

- Ensure never to enter a child's room unaccompanied or invite children into your room
- Never share a room with a child
- Whilst "on duty" ensure role model status continues and do not drink or smoke

Administration

- Secure parent/carer consent in writing to act in loco parentis, if the need arises to administer emergency first aid and/or other medical treatment
- Keep a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given
- Request written parental consent if officials are required to transport young people in their cars

We expect people when working with children to avoid the following:

- Spending time alone with children away from others - one to one training sessions are not permitted unless another individual over the age of 18 is present
- Taking or dropping off a child to an event, activity or home after training

British Taekwondo encourages members not to take children on journeys alone in their car. If all alternatives have been exhausted, and an adult has to transport a child, there are a number of safety measures that must be put in place to minimise risk, please refer to [CPSU guidance on this particular subject](#).

You must never:

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games
- Share a room with a child
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child even if you believe it to be "banter"
- Reduce a child to tears as a form of control
- Fail to act upon and record any allegations made by a child
- Invite or allow children to stay with you at your home unsupervised

We know that sometimes it may be necessary for coaches to do things of a personal nature for someone, particularly if they are young or have a disability. These tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and consent of the parent/carer and athlete involved. These tasks may include situations where they are helping to dress or undress the athlete, where there is physical contact, lifting or assisting to carry out particular activities.

We expect a person carrying out these tasks to:

- Be responsive to a person's reactions
- Talk with them about what is happening and give choices where possible
- Avoid taking on responsibility for tasks for which they are not appropriately trained

Physical Contact within the Sport

Taekwondo is a contact sport but physical contact by the coach should always be intended to meet the child's needs, NOT the adult's. The adult should only use physical contact if their aim is to:

- Develop sports skills or techniques

- To treat an injury
- To prevent an injury or accident from occurring
- To meet the requirements of the sport

For example, a coach should seek to explain the nature and reason for the physical contact to a child reinforcing the teaching or coaching skill. Unless the situation is an emergency, the adult should ask the child for permission. Contact should not involve touching genital areas, buttocks, breasts or any other part of the body that might cause a child distress or embarrassment. Touching children, including well intentioned informal and formal gestures such as putting a hand on the shoulder or arm, can, if repeated regularly, lead to the possibility of questions being raised.

Children should be encouraged to voice concerns they have if any physical contact makes them feel uncomfortable or threatened.

SECTION 2: How to Respond to a Disclosure or Concern

2.1 Dealing with a disclosure

When a child discloses that they have been abused or are at risk of abuse, coaches must ensure that the child's immediate needs are met and must prioritise their safety and protection from further abuse above all else.

It is the responsibility of the coach to be a supportive listener and to refer the information. However, it is not their role to counsel the child, or to investigate their claims. The coach is expected to act in the best interests of vulnerable groups always and disclosures must always be taken seriously even if the truth is uncertain.

Tell the person who has made the disclosure how you are managing this, who you will be contacting and that you will support them through that process. At all times respect the confidentiality of the disclosure and do not share the information with anyone other than those who need to know.

How to respond

If you witness or become concerned about someone's behaviour, or someone tells you they or another person is being or has been abused you should:

- make immediate time to listen and not put a child off even if the time is not convenient
- find an appropriate place to hear the disclosure
- react calmly so you do not frighten the child or deter the disclosure
- listen carefully
- take what they say seriously
- keep questions to an absolute minimum, and for clarification only (T.E.D. – Tell, Explain, Describe should be your starting point for clarification)
- tell them they are not to blame and that they are right to tell
- reassure them and explain you have to share what they have said
- make a record of everything said and any actions taken as soon as possible using the incident report form. It is vital that clear and concise notes are made at the time or soon after a disclosure.

The person receiving the disclosure should not:

- panic or allow their shock to show
- ask questions other than to clarify that you have enough information to act
- speculate or make assumptions
- make promises or agree to keep secrets
- make negative comments about the alleged abuser
- approach the alleged abuser
- discuss the allegations with anyone who does not have a need to know
- assume this is the only child involved; there may be others
- take sole responsibility
- delay in reporting the concerns

A disclosure is not the only way that you may be made aware of a safeguarding concern. Sometimes another child may say something about a possible abusive situation. Or you might witness an incident that causes concern or information might be passed to a member of staff anonymously.

Whatever the nature of the source of information that causes concern and may put others at risk, the result should be the same – take action.

If there is an immediate risk of harm or injury, or if a criminal offence may have been committed, then the appropriate statutory agency or emergency services must be contacted immediately. Again, do not delay in reporting the concern. British Taekwondo Safeguarding & Compliance Manager must then be notified immediately after contacting the statutory agencies or emergency services.

2.2 Recording & Reporting Incidents

If any of the following occur, parents of the child should be informed and it should be reported immediately to the Club Welfare Officer and the incident should be recorded:

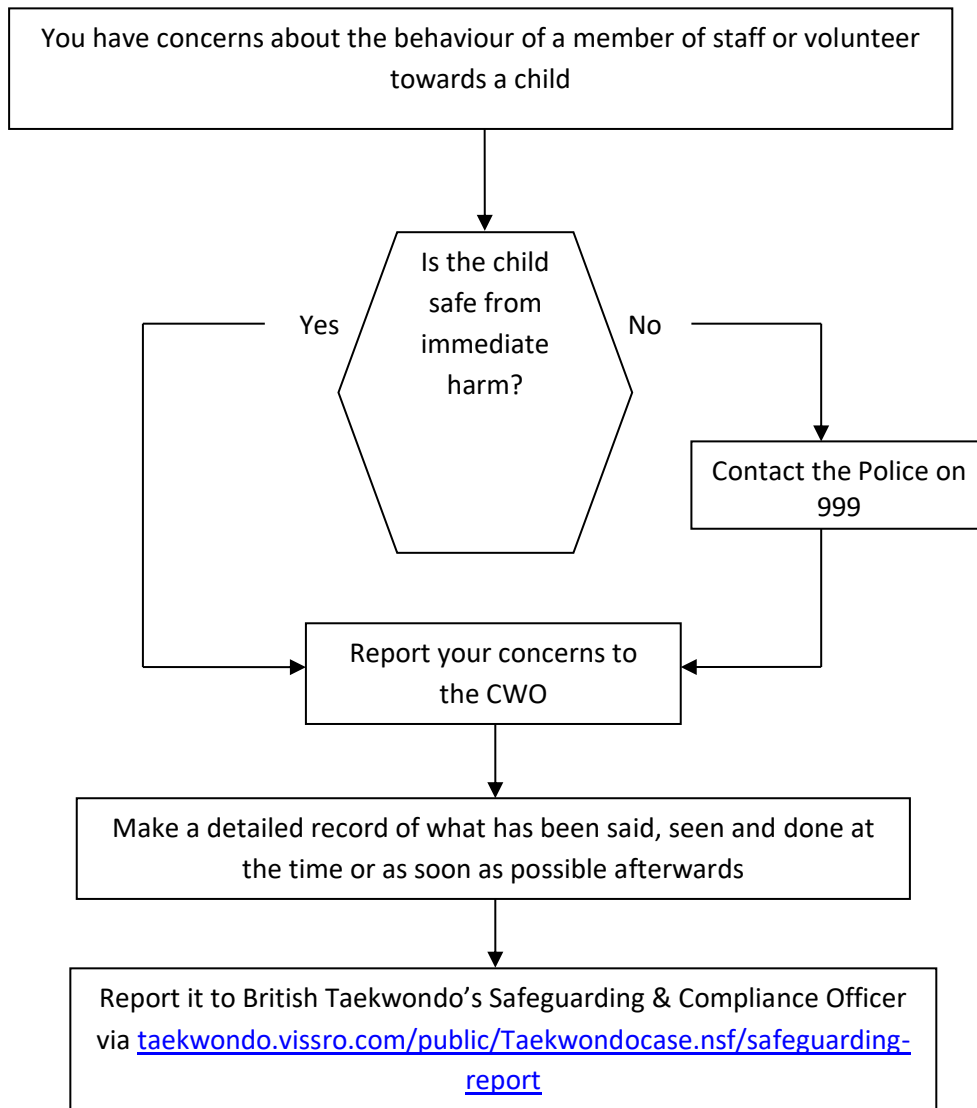
- the child is accidentally hurt by a coach, volunteer or official
- if he/she seems distressed in any manner
- if they appear to be sexually aroused by your actions
- if you believe they have misunderstood or misinterpreted something you have done

If you suspect abuse or poor practice then you must inform the Club Welfare Officer and provide them with a written report. This must be accurate and a detailed record should always be made at the time of disclosure which should include the following:

- panic or allow their shock to show
- The child's name, age, date of birth, home address and telephone number
- Whether they are your concerns or those of someone else
- The nature of the concern, including any dates, times or other relevant information
- Distinction between fact, opinion and hearsay and as far as possible use the child's words
- A description of any physical evidence or behavioural changes
- Details of any witnesses to the incident
- Have the parents/carers been contacted and if so what has been said
- Has anyone else been consulted and if so why and what was said
- If the report was not instigated by the child has the child been spoken to and what did they say
- Has the alleged abuser been identified and their details
- If it has been reported to children's social care the referral should be followed up in writing within 24 hours and the name of the person who took the referral should be recorded

The first point of contact for any concerns of abuse should be to the Club Welfare Officer. What happens after that is dependent on whether the allegations arise from within taekwondo (i.e. concern about a coach or volunteer within a club) or is from outside taekwondo (i.e. about a relative or friend). The flow diagrams below outline the reporting process for both situations.

Concerns within Taekwondo Reporting Flowchart



Reports of alleged misconduct or information which raise concern about an individual's suitability to work with children, arising from referrals from any source will be managed by a Case Management Group (CMG) to determine whether misconduct has occurred or concerns require disciplinary action in line with British Taekwondo's [Disciplinary Code](#). A CMG comprises a minimum of three people, including the British Taekwondo Safeguarding & Compliance Officer and the Non-Executive Director for Safeguarding and an independent person determined by the nature of the case.

If it is decided the behaviour does not by itself call into question a person's suitability for a particular role, no further action will be taken by the CMG other than to formally advise the person of the receipt of a report and the decision made.

In some cases the CMG may decide that whilst a disciplinary panel need not be convened certain re-training or learning opportunities may be recommended.

The recipient will have the right to make immediate written representations or reserve that right should he/she be reported for misconduct on a subsequent occasion. The CMG also reserve the right on receiving a second report, to take into account the facts of prior submissions.

If the report raises a question about a person's suitability within British Taekwondo, the CMG will proceed as outlined below:

- The person subject to the allegation will be advised of the receipt of a report and the CMG's knowledge of any related disciplinary hearings or legal and / or employment proceedings. The CMG will inform whether it has decided to temporarily suspend the person subject to the allegation pending further inquiries and the CMG will inform the NGB as necessary
- Once inquiries are complete the person subject to the allegation will be provided with copies of all reports made to the CMG
- The person subject to the allegation will be asked to provide a written explanation supported, if he or she wishes, by further representations, references or testimonials from those whose knowledge of the person is relevant

Internal investigations will be informed by, and pending the outcome, of any statutory investigations.

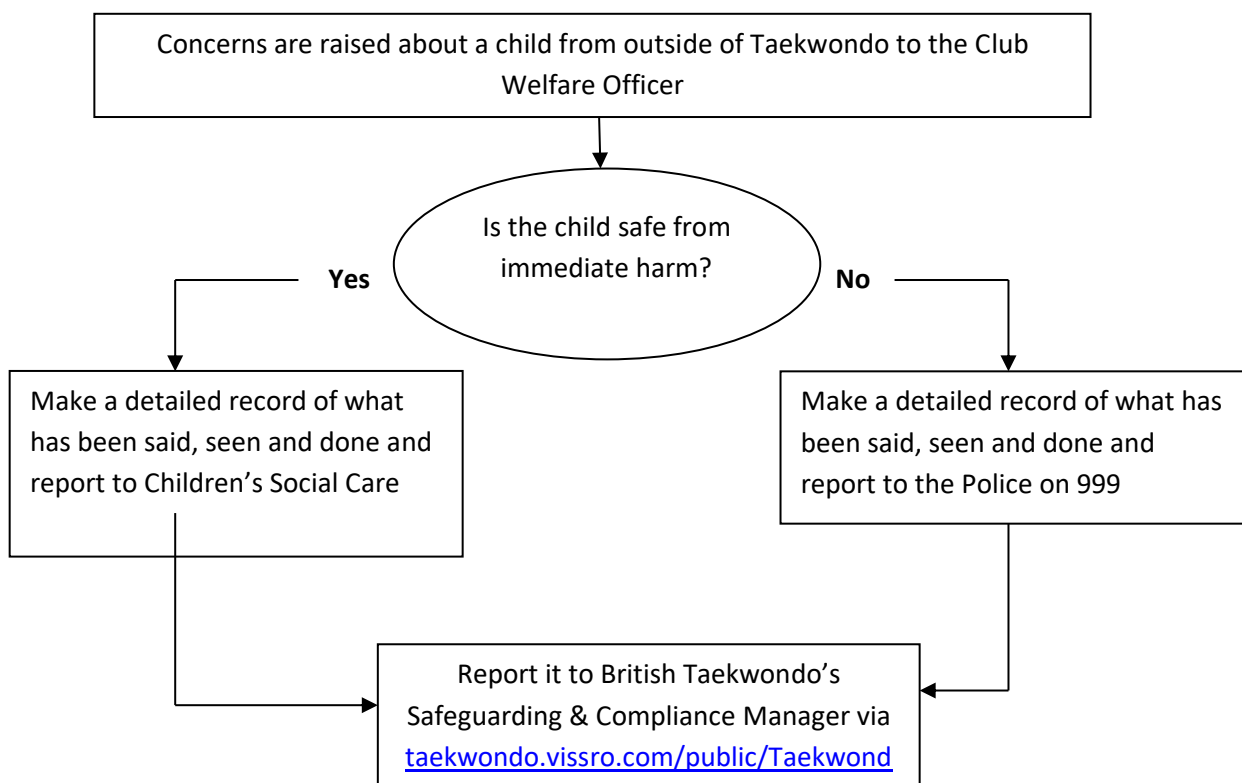
British Taekwondo reserves the right to refer a case to Sport Resolutions for investigation. In such cases, the panel will follow the Sport Resolutions National Safeguarding Panel (NSP) Procedural Rules. For the avoidance of doubt, this means that the decision of such appointed Panel shall be final and binding on the Member and shall not be subject to appeal to any Court or tribunal.

Records and information

Information passed to Social Care or the Police must be as helpful and comprehensive as possible, hence the necessity for making a detailed record at the time of the disclosure/concern.

Reporting the matter to the Police or a Social Care department should not be delayed by attempts to obtain more information.

Concerns from Outside Taekwondo



2.3 Allegations of previous abuse (historical abuse)

Allegations of abuse may be made some time after the event (e.g. by an adult who was abused as a child or by a member of staff who is still currently working with children).

Where such an allegation is made, British Taekwondo will follow the procedures as detailed above and report the matter to the Social Services or the Police. This is because other children, either within or outside Taekwondo, may be at risk.

2.4 Whistleblowing

British Taekwondo is committed to the highest standards of quality, openness, probity and accountability, including when dealing with safeguarding and child protection concerns. This policy encourages coaches and volunteers to reveal and raise concerns over misconduct or malpractice within British Taekwondo enabling them to do so without fear of reprisal or victimisation even if it turns out the concerns (and regardless of the nature of the concern) were unfounded. It applies not only to employees but to contractors providing services and members of the national governing body.

If you have a concern about a dangerous practice, fraud or other illegal or unethical conduct which relates to the safeguarding of children, raise it first with the Safeguarding & Compliance Officer. This can be done verbally or in writing.

British Taekwondo will, as far as possible, respect confidentiality and treat disclosures in a confidential and sensitive manner. The identity of the individual making the allegation may be kept confidential so long as it does not hinder or frustrate any investigation. We would expect the individual who has raised the disclosure to co-operate fully with any investigation that involves other regulatory bodies such as the Police, Social Services, Health and Safety Executive etc.

It is a disciplinary matter to victimise a whistle-blower and for someone to maliciously make a false allegation.

2.5 Support for staff

British Taekwondo will provide full support and protect anyone who in good faith reports a concern that a colleague is, or may be, abusing a child. Dealing with a disclosure may have an impact on the emotions and well-being of the staff involved and it is important that they seek help if they feel that they need support.

British Taekwondo requires all coaching staff to undertake appropriate training to support them with their role, including [sport specific NSPCC safeguarding training](#) to ensure their practice is exemplary and to facilitate the development of a positive and pro-active attitude towards best practice and organisation wide implementation and embedding of a safeguarding culture.

British Taekwondo also requires all staff to read the policies and procedures of safeguarding and the code of conduct and sign to say they understand the expectations and will adhere to the policies.

SECTION 7: INFORMATION SHARING

Information sharing between organisations can be essential to protect individual rights, facilitate access to support and services and may be vital in protecting people from being harmed.

While the focus here is on information sharing about abuse or neglect concerns, information sharing may also be appropriate in other circumstances to promote the welfare or wellbeing of a 'child in need'.

The third-party organisations with whom safeguarding concerns may need to be shared include:

- Statutory Authorities e.g. police and social care.
- Taekwondo organisations i.e. where clubs share information with British Taekwondo and vice-versa.
- Other organisations e.g. other sports organisations or community clubs where risks posed by an individual cannot be managed without the disclosure of information

Where an individual receives information that he or she knows or ought to know is being given in confidence there is a duty to ensure this information is kept confidential. Generally, this means that such information should not be shared without the individual's permission. However, confidential information can be shared with other organisations where there is an overriding justification to do so without consent, for example where there is a significant safeguarding concern.

The sharing of personal information is regulated principally by the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. These laws provide a legal framework for the use of personal information about living and identifiable people.

Data protection laws should never be a barrier to sharing information that is necessary to protect children, or to prevent a crime. However, any decision to share information needs to balance the individual privacy and human rights and consequences for those whose personal information is being shared against the potential impact on children or others at risk, if information is not shared. If an individual did not want information about them to be shared, it is important to consider if there is another equally effective means of protecting the individual and other vulnerable people that can be achieved without sharing the information.

If you would share the information irrespective of whether the individual consents because of safeguarding concerns about the individual or about others who may be at risk if the information is not shared, it is not appropriate or necessary to ask for consent. However, it is always best practice to be open and honest with the individual from the outset as to the reason why and with whom their information will be shared and try to get their agreement to share, where it is appropriate and safe to do so, especially where the individual may not expect their information to be shared.

In the context of safeguarding a child or young person, the principles of the Children Acts 1989 and 2004, that state that the welfare of children is paramount mean that the needs of children who may be at risk must always be the key consideration.

Anyone who makes decisions about whether to disclose confidential information to a third-party organisation is accountable under data protection law for these decisions. Decisions about who

needs to know and what information needs to be shared should always be taken on a case by case basis and the justification for any sharing decisions should be recorded.

Where a safeguarding concern is external to the sport, if a club is not clear that information should be shared, advice about whether sharing is appropriate can be sought from DPO@British Taekwondo.org

Appendix 1

Safeguarding Helpline Contacts

If you have concerns for the welfare of a child, please let us know. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility!

In case of an emergency, please contact:

Police: 999

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline: Tel: 0808 800 5000

A free service which provides counselling, information and advice to anyone concerned about a child at risk of abuse.

NSPCC Textphone (for people who are deaf or hard of hearing):

Tel: 0800 056 0566 Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

NSPCC Asian Child Protection Helpline: Tel: 0800 096 7719 (Mon–Fri 11am–7pm)

NSPCC Cymru/Wales Child Protection Helpline: Tel: 0808 100 2524 (Mon–Fri 10am–6pm)

ChildLine: Tel: 0800 1111

A free 24-hour helpline for children in distress or danger.

Other useful contacts/support groups

Respond: Tel: 020 7383 0700 / 0808 808 0700 (Helpline) Fax: 020 7387 1222

Web: <http://www.respond.org.uk/>

Respond provides a range of services to victims and perpetrators of sexual abuse who have learning disabilities, and training and support to those working with them.

British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy: Tel: 01455 883 300

Web: <http://www.itsgoodtotalk.org.uk/>

The Association exists to serve its members and the psychological therapies, as well as increasing awareness. It publishes directories and other information to enable those seeking counselling and training to make an informed choice.

Survivors Network: Tel: 020 8519 2122

Web: <http://www.mind.org.uk/>

The Survivors Network Website provides over 70 pages of information on recovery, self-management techniques/tools and self-help strategies, mental health issues, health and wellbeing, education articles, information on different treatment approaches (alternative and traditional),

indirect support, research, training, news, events, volunteering and networking opportunities, all of which can be used to support an individual's recovery from mental distress, and be accessed and used by mental health professionals, academics, supporters and allies.

Suzy Lamplugh Trust: Tel: 020 7091 0014

Web: <http://www.suzylamplugh.org/>

The Trust is a leading authority on personal safety. Its role is to minimise the damage caused to individuals and to society by aggression in all its forms – physical, verbal and psychological.

Victim Support: Switchboard: 020 7268 0200

Web: <http://www.victimsupport.com/>

Victim Support provides practical advice and help, emotional support and reassurance to those who have suffered the effects of a crime.

Women's Aid Federation of England and Wales: Tel: 0117 944 4411

Web: <http://www.womensaid.org.uk/>

Women's Aid is a national domestic violence charity. It also runs a domestic violence helpline 08457 023 468.

Samaritans: Tel: 08457 90 90 90 (24 hours, 365 days a year)

Web: www.samaritans.org

Samaritans is a registered charity aimed at providing emotional support to anyone in emotional distress, struggling to cope, or at risk of suicide throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland, often through their telephone helpline.

The National Association for people Abused in Childhood:

Tel: Freephone support line 0800 085 3330

Web: www.napac.org.uk