



BRITISH TAEKWONDO

DISCIPLINARY CODE

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Definitions

Appeal Respondent	means: the body who has had an Appeal made against one of their decisions
Appeals Board	means: any Panel established by British Taekwondo to adjudicate on an Appeal.
Appellant	means: a person or Organisation that has submitted an Appeal against a decision
Associates	means: other organisations with connection to British Taekwondo.
BT	means: British Taekwondo
Case Management Group	means: a body appointed to hear a Safeguarding case also known as a Safeguarding Panel
Competitors	means: any person registered or unregistered under the jurisdiction of British Taekwondo.
Disciplinary Officer	means: any person appointed by British Taekwondo to carry out their Discipline process.
Discipline Panel	means: a Panel established by British Taekwondo to adjudicate on a Misconduct case
Independent Chair	means: a person, not employed by British Taekwondo to hear a disciplinary matter
Inside Information	means: any information passed on to a third party without authority which may be used inappropriately.
Interim Suspension	means: A suspension imposed by an authorised body prior to either a charge or the final hearing of a charge
Member Organisation	means: any Club or Organisation under the jurisdiction of British Taekwondo
Members	means: any person with British Taekwondo membership or associated with a Member Organisation
Misconduct Complaint	means: a report or communication of any type that indicates a breach of British Taekwondo Membership Rules or Regulations or in the standard of conduct expected by British Taekwondo
National Discipline Panel	means: a Panel appointed to hear a Serious Case Offence
Officers	means: any employee or volunteer connected to any organisation under the jurisdiction of British Taekwondo
Officials	means: any person acting on behalf of British Taekwondo as a technical official, paid staff or volunteer
Participant	means: any Members, Member Organisation, Officers, Officials, Competitors and participating club member
Protected Characteristic	means: any characteristic protected under the Equality Act 2010 which are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
Respondent	means: any Individual or Organisation who has had a Misconduct Complaint or Charge raised against them.
Safeguarding, HR, and Compliance Manager ("SGCM")	means: any person appointed by British Taekwondo to carry out their Safeguarding process.

Safeguarding Panel	means: a body appointed to hear a Safeguarding case also known as the Case Management Group
Serious Case Offence	means: an Offence to be referred to a National Discipline Panel for an offence listed by British Taekwondo as a Serious Offence from time to time
Summary Offence	means: a breach that can be proceeded against summarily, without the need for a full disciplinary hearing.
Summary Procedure	means: the procedure to be adopted to deal with a Summary Offence.

1. Background

- 1.1 British Taekwondo is committed to providing a fair, consistent and proportionate approach to the handling of Complaints and Disciplinary Matters.
- 1.2 For the purpose of this document a “**Misconduct Complaint**” is any communication to British Taekwondo from which it appears, at the sole discretion of British Taekwondo, that there has or may have been a breach of the Membership Rules or Regulations or Code of Conduct, whether expressed as a complaint, disclosure, grievance, allegation, query or expression of concern or identification of an issue.
- 1.3 This document is designed to provide an open and transparent route for Misconduct Complaints made under this procedure to be resolved fairly within a reasonable period.
- 1.4 Other complaints that are not considered to be a Misconduct Complaint will be dealt with under a separate complaint handling process.
- 1.5 As the governing body, British Taekwondo’s approach is to focus on the most serious breaches of standards of conduct that may give rise to questions about a member or member organisation's suitability to participate in the sport, whilst providing support to Member Clubs to manage lower level breaches and at sanctioned events providing support to Chief Referees and the Competition Supervisory Board to deal with incidents.
- 1.6 Where a Misconduct Complaint necessitates formal disciplinary proceedings, British Taekwondo shall exercise its disciplinary powers in the manner set out in this document.
- 1.7 Where a Misconduct Complaint, following investigation is not considered a breach that requires formal disciplinary action, it may still be investigated for such non disciplinary action that British Taekwondo deems appropriate at their absolute discretion.
- 1.8 It is our intention to promote a culture where it is safe and acceptable for any person to raise any type of complaint or concerns including those of poor practice, bullying or harassment, neglect, grooming, abuse or other forms of misconduct. No person should be victimised for raising concerns or making a Complaint.
- 1.9 Nothing in this document overrides, amends or waives any provision in the Articles of British Taekwondo or restricts the rights of British Taekwondo or the Board to make or amend Regulations or other Bye-Laws or to manage the business of Taekwondo in the United Kingdom as they think fit.
- 1.10 British Taekwondo is also under the jurisdiction of World Taekwondo and the European Taekwondo Union.

2. Jurisdiction and Powers

- 2.1 British Taekwondo’s Articles of Association, its Rules and Regulations and the various conditions of membership, registration and affiliation, require that all members, registered clubs and those associated with clubs as members comply with Regulations made by the Board and conduct themselves in accordance with

the Code of Conduct and Conduct and all and any other relevant British Taekwondo Rules and Regulations.

2.2 There are two processes British Taekwondo may use to investigate and sanction misconduct;

(i) Membership Disciplinary Procedures. Any behaviour contravening Membership Rules and Regulations and Code of Conduct shall be subject to the process outlined within this document.

(ii) Safeguarding Case Management. Any behaviour contravening the Safeguarding Policies shall be subject to the process outlined in those policies.

2.3 British Taekwondo has disciplinary jurisdiction over:

- (i) All individual members of British Taekwondo (the “**Members**”);
- (ii) All member organisations including clubs, and, in each case, their members and officers (the “**Member Clubs**”);
- (iii) All employees and volunteers of or connected to British Taekwondo (the “**Officers**”);
- (iv) All technical officials
- (v) All Taekwondo Competitors who are members of a Member Organisation or who participate in any Taekwondo activity organised or authorised by British Taekwondo;

Information on how British Taekwondo address specific event issues involving non-members can be found in Appendix A of this document.

2.4 These Procedures do not apply to disciplinary action contemplated or taken by British Taekwondo against employees of British Taekwondo, concerning matters arising while in the course of their employment. However, where formal action is taken against British Taekwondo employees in the course of their employment, resulting in any form of sanction that impacts on their ability to continue with British Taekwondo membership, this can be addressed under this policy.

2.5 This policy does not apply to complaints about British Taekwondo services. Any complaints concerning these matters should be addressed initially through the British Taekwondo Complaints Policy. Complaints about British Taekwondo’s staff members should be directed to the CEO.

2.6 British Taekwondo shall exercise its disciplinary powers in the manner set out in this policy.

- 2.7 While British Taekwondo will always consider any anonymous information where a child may be at risk of harm, it may not be able to progress anonymous complaints.
- 2.8 It is normally necessary to identify the complainant to provide the Respondent with a clear understanding of the allegations and ensure procedural fairness. In some situations, it may be possible to keep the details of a complainant confidential (where there is a good reason for concern and/or the identity of the complainant is not material to the case or anonymity has been requested), but this is sometimes not possible as the complainant's identity may be apparent from the details of the complaint provided to the Respondent.
- 2.9 British Taekwondo procedures are not an alternative way of addressing criminal offences. British Taekwondo encourages complainants to report allegations or suspicions of a criminal nature to the police in the first instance.
- 2.10 British Taekwondo itself will involve the statutory authorities in appropriate matters. British Taekwondo will support the police with any resulting investigation in line with its legal obligations.
- 2.11 British Taekwondo will exercise its discretion when deciding whether to consider the Complaint before any criminal proceedings have concluded and may liaise with the police in this regard.
- 2.12 However, the fact that criminal action is being taken or considered does not prevent British Taekwondo from acting within their own regulations.
- 2.13 British Taekwondo may order that a Member be suspended from all or any specific activity on terms it deems appropriate where the Member has been convicted of a criminal offence and where British Taekwondo considers it appropriate to safeguard the Sport.

3. Powers of Enquiry

- 3.1 British Taekwondo requires Members, Member Organisation, Officers, Officials, or Competitors ("**Participant**") to co-operate in any Misconduct Complaint investigation, where requested, to participate in interviews; to provide information and/or statements or any other information believed to be in their possession or knowledge and to attend hearings to give evidence. Members or those representing British Taekwondo registered or affiliated organisations who fail to comply with these requirements, may themselves be subject to disciplinary action.

- 3.2 Subject to the reporting of any decision by the Safeguarding Case Management Group ("CMG"), Disciplinary Tribunal or Appeals Tribunal and except for communications with appropriate authorities, in pursuit of legal obligations, all investigations, communications and proceedings shall be conducted in confidence, with all parties involved subjected to an obligation of confidence.
- 3.3 All and any hearings shall be held in private.
- 3.4 British Taekwondo shall delegate its power to:
- (i) act upon disciplinary matters to a Disciplinary Officer (the "**Disciplinary Officer**").
 - (ii) act upon disciplinary matters to the Safeguarding and Compliance Manager "**(SGCM)**" in the case of Regulation breaches.
 - (iii) in the case of minor breaches of policy and regulations, to the Safeguarding & Compliance Manager of British Taekwondo
- 3.5 The policy and procedures within this document are mandatory for all matters under the jurisdiction of British Taekwondo.
- 3.6 This policy shall apply to any disciplinary matter in respect of match manipulation, financial speculation and betting in accordance with World Taekwondo regulations, British Taekwondo Code of Conduct.
- 3.7 This policy shall apply to Anti-Doping Rule violations in accordance with UK Anti-Doping Rules and the British Taekwondo Code of Conduct.
- 3.8 This policy shall apply to any disciplinary matter which also raises Safeguarding or Child Protection concerns.
- 3.9 British Taekwondo shall also have jurisdiction to investigate any other matter which the Disciplinary Officer or SGCM, at their sole discretion, considers may constitute Misconduct.
- 3.10 Where an individual against whom a complaint is made is under the age of 18 years when the matter complained of occurred, the matter will be dealt with under the procedures for Young People within this document.
- 3.11 Where an individual is considered an Adult at Risk, these procedures will be adapted appropriately at the sole discretion of British Taekwondo addressing the needs of the Adult at Risk.
- 3.12 British Taekwondo may amend these procedures as it sees fit from time to time. Any such amendments shall come into full force and effect upon the date specified by British Taekwondo.

3.13 Investigations shall be conducted in accordance with the version of the Disciplinary Policy in operation on the day an investigation opened.

4. Discipline Rules

4.1 British Taekwondo may act at their sole discretion against any Participant which is considered to be acting in breach of any Code of Conduct or any other Regulation of British Taekwondo.

4.2 Participants are required to ensure their behaviour is appropriate at all times and maybe subject to a charge under these rules and regulations where such behaviour falls below the standard expected irrespective as to whether that misconduct was committed during a competition, event or at any other time.

4.3 A Participant is required at all times to act in the best interests of Taekwondo and shall not act, at the sole determination of British Taekwondo, in any way that brings Taekwondo into disrepute.

4.4 A Participant shall not use any language or behaviour that is Aggravated by the use or reference, whether implicitly or implied, to another persons ethnic origin, colour, race, age, nationality, religion or belief, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, or disability.

4.5 A Participant shall not act in any form of victimisation or discrimination by reason of any “**Protected Characteristic**” covered under the Equality Act unless otherwise permitted by law.

4.6 A Club is responsible for ensuring its Officials, Spectators, and all persons purporting to be its supporters or followers, conduct themselves in an orderly fashion and refrain from any behaviour that in the opinion of British Taekwondo brings the sport into disrepute, including, but not limited to, behaviour, that includes a reference, whether express or implied, to any Protected Characteristic.

4.7 A competitor is required to act in accordance with any anti-doping regulations and any social drug regulations or either WADA, UKAD, or British Taekwondo.

4.8 Betting or Integrity matters – A Participant is required to adhere to the British Taekwondo Betting and Anti-Corruption Regulations as issued by British Taekwondo.

4.9 A member shall not use any information relating to Taekwondo obtained by virtue of their position within British Taekwondo, not available publicly, (“**Inside Information**”) nor may they pass information on to a third party for their benefit.

5. Interim Suspension

- 5.1 If the SGCM considers that an allegation, complaint or matter which has been drawn to their attention falls within the scope of British Taekwondo's disciplinary or Safeguarding regime and is of sufficient seriousness to warrant the suspension of a person or body from any aspect of involvement in British Taekwondo activity (including, where relevant, the suspension of a license or accreditation) until such time as the Disciplinary Panel or Safeguarding Case Management Group has reached its decision (an "**Interim Suspension**"), they shall write to such person or body informing them of the terms of the interim suspension.
- 5.2 The decision of the SGCM, in this matter, shall only be subject to review by an **Independent Chair** and will be considered on correspondence only.
- 5.3 A review in such a circumstance must be submitted within 14 days of the imposition of the Interim Suspension or any application for a review will be declared void.
- 5.4 If at any time the facts or circumstances surrounding a case change, the SGCM may consider, either of its own motion or by an application brought by a person or body subject to an interim suspension, whether such interim suspension should continue.
- 5.5 In their absolute discretion the SGCM may lift such interim suspension or may impose such conditions as they think fit in default of which the person or body will remain subject to suspension.
- 5.6 The fact of an interim suspension being imposed may be published by British Taekwondo.

6. Discipline Procedures General Provisions

- 6.1 These General provisions shall apply to all **Inquiries, Disciplinary Panels, Appeal Boards, Safeguarding Panels** and any other disciplinary body under the control of British Taekwondo.
- 6.2 The bodies subject to these General Provisions are not courts of law and are disciplinary as opposed to arbitral bodies.
- 6.3 It is important to reach a just and fair outcome and any procedural or technical irregularities must come second to ensuring that parties are treated in a just and fair manner and that a just and fair outcome is reached.

- 6.4 All parties are expected to act in a manner of cooperation to ensure such proceedings are dealt with in a timely and appropriate fashion having due regard for its sporting objectives.
- 6.5 The bodies subject to these provisions may regulate their own procedures ensuring fairness is maintained throughout.
- 6.6 The applicable standard of proof will be the civil standard of the balance of probability unless stated elsewhere in the applicable regulations.
- 6.7 Any charge in relation to a Misconduct complaint must be raised within 90 days of being notified of the incident unless written dispensation has been granted on application to an Independent Chairman to extend the time limit in advance of the expiration of the 90 days.
- 6.8 Any first instance hearing must be heard within 180 days of the report being received in the first instance unless written dispensation has been granted on application to an Independent Chairman to extend the time limit in advance of the expiration of the 180 days.
- 6.9 Without the written dispensation being granted within 6.7 and 6.8 above, the case will be declared void and expunged from the records.
- 6.10 Any Participant subject to a charge and attending any hearing is entitled to be represented, including legally, by a person of their choice.
- 6.11 Any **Appellant** or **Respondent** attending any Appeal Board is entitled to be represented, including legally, by a person of their choice.
- 6.12 Any costs of the representation in 6.7 or 6.8 above shall be borne by the party appointing the representative irrespective of the outcome of the case.

7. Preliminary Matters

- 7.1 A Discipline Panel Chair or Appeal Board Chair will have the right, sitting alone, to deal with any Preliminary Matter and may as a result, make directions, including but not limited to:
- (i) Amending any time limit
 - (ii) Setting aside any early decision being appealed against
 - (iii) order a party to attend a hearing
 - (iv) permit any “interested party” to attend and make submissions to the Appeal Board
 - (v) dispense or amend any of the procedures outlined in these regulations

- (vi) consider and make determination on any matters of law.
- (vii) any such other order deemed applicable or appropriate

7.2 The Discipline Panel Chairperson or Appeal Board Chairperson may also refer any Preliminary Matter to be considered by the full Panel.

7.3 Any order of a Preliminary Matter is final and binding.

8. Confidentiality and Publication

8.1 All disciplinary and safeguarding proceedings shall take place in private and only parties involved are entitled to attend.

8.2 Any application for observers should be considered as a preliminary matter prior to the commencement of any hearing or tribunal.

8.3 British Taekwondo has the authority to publish the outcome and details of any tribunal or hearing that it deems appropriate at its sole discretion. Until such time as British Taekwondo publishes the details, they remain Private and Confidential.

8.4 The Disciplinary Panel or the Appeal Board may recommend that a complete dossier of the evidence submitted during the proceedings be prepared and sent to the police and other relevant authorities, together with an expression of the view of the Disciplinary Panel or the Appeal Board that the matter should be investigated by such authorities to establish whether a criminal offence or other infringement has been committed.

9. Dealing with Young People

9.1 It is important to note that when dealing with young people in an investigation or as a witness that they are dealt with in a manner considered appropriate for young people.

9.2 No person under the age of 18 years can be fined. Any financial penalties will be the responsibility of the Club as appropriate.

9.3 A child under the age of 12 cannot appear before any Panel either as a witness or the Member charged.

9.4 Where there is a potential breach by a child under the age of 12, an alternative resolution to formal disciplinary action should be considered, such as, but not limited to group or individual training.

- 9.5 Where a child under the age of 12 would have appeared as a witness, British Taekwondo should arrange for a Welfare Officer, with the permission of the Parents/Guardians of the Child, to obtain a statement from the Child.
- 9.6 The Welfare Officer would attend the hearing in proxy of the Child to deliver the statement.
- 9.7 A child between the ages of 12 and 15 years may attend a hearing, accompanied by an adult, by video conference only and only where:
- i. The evidence is considered so important to necessitate a child to attend:
 - ii. The procedures to hear from a Young Person as a witness, as outlined in this document are strictly followed.
- 9.8 A child aged 16 or 17 years may attend in person, accompanied by an adult, but a Panel may consider it appropriate also for the young person to appear by video conference only.

Young People as Witnesses

- 9.9 When a young person is giving evidence, only essential personnel should be in attendance. Essential personnel are considered as the Panel Members, the Secretary, the person charged and their representative. All others shall leave the room whilst the young person is giving evidence.
- 9.10 Only the Chair of the Panel will be permitted to ask questions of the young person.
- 9.11 No cross examination will be permitted.
- 9.12 At the end of the questioning the Chair of the Panel will enquire from the person charged whether they had any other questions that should be asked of the young witness.
- 9.13 If so, the questions should be relayed to the Chair, outside of the hearing of the young person, and the Chair will determine the relevance.
- 9.14 Once all the questioning has been completed, the young person will leave the hearing.

10. Summary Procedure

- 10.1 The Summary Procedure may be applied if:
- (i) the person or body admits the offence in the correspondence that has passed between the Respondent and the SGCM; and

- (ii) the Disciplinary Officer is satisfied that:
 - (a) the offence is a Summary Offence (as defined in paragraph 8.3); and
 - (b) it can properly be dealt with under this paragraph.

10.2 A “**Summary Offence**” is one where the SGCM or Discipline Officer believe that, if the facts placed before them are true, the appropriate sanction should be no more than:

- (i) a censure;
- (ii) a suspension for a period not exceeding 12 months;
- (iii) a suspension from all or any events for a period not exceeding 12 months;
- (iv) a fine;
- (v) apology to victim or British Taekwondo;
- (vi) education or training
- (vii) a suspended penalty where, if the terms of the suspension are breached, a suspension of no more than 6 months would be appropriate; or
- (viii) a combination of any of the above.

For the purposes of this paragraph, a "suspension" shall mean suspension from Organisation activities or Organisation-sanctioned events.

10.3 Where an admission in correspondence has been made and the SGCM or Discipline Officer considers it appropriate to invoke the Summary Procedure, they shall write to the person or body concerned informing them that it is their view that this is a Summary Offence and that the Summary Procedure for dealing with such offences may be applied. In such correspondence, the SGCM or Discipline Officer shall:

- (i) seek the consent of such person or body to the matter being dealt with under the Summary Procedure
- (ii) formally charge that Participant with Misconduct.

10.4 If the person or body rejects the decision of the SGCM, the case will proceed to Full Disciplinary Procedure.

10.5 There shall be no right of appeal from the imposition of a sanction imposed under the Summary Procedure.

11. Full Disciplinary Procedure

11.1 If the person or body who is the subject of the matter does not consent to the Summary Procedure or if the SGCM or Discipline Officer considers that a case is not appropriate for the Summary Procedure, the Full Disciplinary Procedure of

British Taekwondo, as set out below, shall be invoked. (the “**Full Disciplinary Procedure**”).

- 11.2 British Taekwondo shall commence the procedure by sending to the person or body the charge in writing, setting out a summary of the alleged Misconduct, together with a short factual summary of the evidence supporting the charge.
- 11.3 The person or body against whom the charge has been made shall have 14 days following the date of issue of the written communication setting out the charge to answer the charge where they may:
- (i) Accept the charge and request the matter be dealt with by correspondence only; or
 - (ii) Accept the charge and request to appear before a Disciplinary Panel to enter a plea in mitigation; or
 - (iii) Deny the charge and request the matter be dealt with by a correspondence hearing; or
 - (iv) Deny the charge and request the matter be dealt with by a Personal Hearing.
- 11.4 Should the person or body against whom the charge was raised elect to appear in person for a plea in mitigation or a Personal Hearing, will be required to pay a Hearing Fee of £150.
- 11.5 Failure to respond shall render the person or body concerned to forfeit the right to a personal hearing and the matter will be referred to the next Disciplinary Panel to be considered as a denial of the charge in writing.
- 11.6 The Discipline Officer will schedule a date for the hearing and appoint a Discipline Panel to adjudicate the case.
- 11.7 A Disciplinary Panel shall consist of no less than three members and no more than five members.
- 11.8 A Secretary to the Panel shall also be appointed.
- 11.9 At least 7 days’ notice will be given of the date, place and time of any hearing under the Full Disciplinary Procedure unless all parties consent to a shorter timeframe.
- 11.10 At least 5 days before the date of the hearing, the Discipline Officer shall serve on the person or body charged a Panel pack including the charge letter, evidence to support that charge and any response from the charged party.

- 11.11 The Panel Pack will also be served on the Panel at the same time as it being served on the parties.
- 11.12 The Discipline Officer will also be required to arrange attendance for all witnesses in support of the charge to attend any Personal Hearing.
- 11.13 It will be the responsibility for the party charged to arrange attendance of any witness they require to defend the charge.
- 11.14 In all cases, British Taekwondo shall face the burden of proving that the charge has been made out.
- 11.15 All Organisation witnesses will give their evidence first.
- 11.16 The person or body subject to the charge shall have the right to cross-examine any witnesses called by British Taekwondo to prove the charge, save for any witnesses under the young person or Vulnerable Adult procedures.
- 11.17 The fact that a person charged has been convicted of a criminal offence or issued with a formal police caution in relation to the same incident shall be deemed to be conclusive evidence of a conviction or caution and of the facts and circumstances surrounding it.
- 11.18 The person or body subject to the charge shall give their evidence before any defence witnesses are called and after which they will be entitled (subject to considerations of relevance) to call all any witnesses that they wish to call.
- 11.19 Disciplinary Panel Members shall have the right to question any witnesses at any stage of the process.
- 11.20 Once the person or body subject to the charge has completed their submissions, the person or body subject to the charge shall then have the right to make closing arguments.
- 11.21 The Disciplinary Panel will adjourn to consider liability and shall consider its decision in private.
- 11.22 It shall first consider whether or not the charge of Misconduct is proved and any decision shall be found by a majority verdict.
- 11.23 The Panel shall reconvene and
- (i) in the event of any case being found proven,

- (i) the Secretary of the Panel will be required outline any previous disciplinary history on the record of the party charged.
 - (ii) The party charged shall be given the opportunity to enter a plea in mitigation against sanction.
 - (iii) The Disciplinary Panel will retire to consider sanction as outlined in the sanction and costs guidance.
- (ii) In the event the charge is found Not proven:
- (i) All details of the charge shall be withdrawn from the person charged record and any monies paid refunded.
- 11.24 Having reached its conclusion, the Disciplinary Panel shall communicate that decision either at the time of the hearing or within 5 days thereafter.
- 11.25 In all cases the Disciplinary Panel shall produce a written decision setting out the reasons for reaching its conclusions, including whether the decision was unanimous or by a majority verdict.
- 11.26 Any such decision will be subject to a right of appeal in accordance with the appeal procedures.
- 11.27 In exercising its functions under this policy, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the power to regulate its own procedure. Without prejudice to the generality of this power it shall have the power:
- (i) to extend or vary any limit set out in this policy including the 28 day appeals period;
 - (ii) to permit British Taekwondo, or any other party bringing a charge, to set out their case in advance of hearing from witnesses and provide a closing summary.
 - (iii) to adjourn the proceedings, whether prior to a scheduled hearing date or during the hearing, to allow time for the submission of further evidence or for any other reason;
 - (iv) to ask questions directly of any party or witness to any proceeding before the Disciplinary Panel;
 - (v) to admit or exclude evidence on grounds of relevance or failure to comply with directions;
 - (vi) to make appropriate directions (whether in advance of the hearing or at the start or during the hearing) with respect to the conduct of proceedings before the Disciplinary Tribunal.

- 11.28 In the course of any proceedings before the Disciplinary Tribunal, the Disciplinary Panel shall not be obliged to follow the strict rules of evidence and may admit such evidence as it thinks fit and accord such evidence such weight as it thinks appropriate in all the circumstances.
- 11.29 Subject to the right of appeal, a decision of the Disciplinary Panel shall be deemed to be a decision of British Taekwondo and be binding.

Serious incidents

- 11.30 Misconduct Offences which are defined as ‘Serious incidents’, will take precedence over Summary Offences.
- 11.31 Serious incidents must always be referred to a **“National Disciplinary Panel”** under such terms approved by British Taekwondo from time to time. **(All cases are dealt with by a Panel)**
- 11.32 The incidents referred to the Serious Case Panel include but are not limited to;
- (i) Discriminatory Language or behaviour towards any person
 - (ii) Discriminatory Language or behaviour expressed in any written form or on social media.
 - (iii) Violence or abuse in any form towards officials
 - (iv) Any action online or offline by members in positions of trust and authority which brings the sport of Taekwondo into disrepute
 - (v) Any Safeguarding concerns about a child or about a person working with children or adults at risk.
 - (vi) Any other matter deemed appropriate by British Taekwondo at their sole discretion.

12. Appeals Procedure

- 12.1 Appeals may be made to an Appeals Board in the following circumstances:
- (i) any appeal against a decision of a Disciplinary Panel.
 - (ii) a decision of the British Taekwondo Competitions Committee
 - (iii) a decision of a Safeguarding Panel
 - (iv) any other decision considered appropriate by British Taekwondo save for where the relevant rules properly declare there is no right of appeal.
- 12.2 The grounds of appeal applicable are that the body appealed against;
- (i) Failed to give the appellant a fair hearing; and/or

- (ii) came to a decision that no reasonable body should have reached; and/or
- (iii) failed to comply with the necessary rules and regulations pursuant to the charge; and/or
- (iv) Imposed an award that was excessive.
- (v) in addition to the above, British Taekwondo may also appeal that the sanction imposed was so unduly lenient as to be unreasonable.

12.3 An Appellant shall have 14 days from the date of the relevant decision to submit a notice of appeal (“The Notice”) along with a £250 fee.

12.4 The Notice submitted by the Appellant shall include:

- (i) the precise details being appealed against.
- (ii) the Grounds of appeal
- (iii) the precise basis of the appeal
- (iv) any application to submit new evidence to the Appeal Board
- (v) the relevant appeal fee.

12.5 The **Appeal Respondent** shall within 21 days submit:

- (i) the case papers considered in relation to the case
- (ii) the response to the Notice of Appeal
- (iii) the response to any application by the Appellant to include New Evidence

12.6 New Evidence will only be admitted by the Appeal Board where they are satisfied that there is an exceptional reason why such evidence was not available to be submitted previously to the original body.

12.7 The original order will remain in force unless an application is received by either party to the Appeal Board for it to be set aside pending the outcome of the Appeal. This decision is at the sole discretion of the Appeal Board.

12.8 An Appeal Board will be appointed in accordance with British Taekwondo appointing procedures in force from time to time.

12.9 British Taekwondo will be responsible for preparing the panel pack for the Appeal Board and the pack must be distributed to all parties no less than 5 days prior to the Appeal hearing.

12.10 Appeal Boards shall be by the way of a review of all correspondence, however, the Parties have the right to attend an Appeal Board hearing to make oral submissions to support their written submissions if they so desire.

12.11 An Appeal can only be withdrawn with the approval of an appointed Appeal Board Chairperson.

Appeal Board Hearing

12.12 The following procedures will be adopted unless the procedures are amended by either the Appeal Board Chairperson or the Appeal Board Tribunal:

- (i) The Appellant will set out their case summarising their submission
- (ii) Any New Evidence will be considered, if accepted by the Tribunal, and any witnesses included as part of the New Evidence may be questioned and cross examined by all parties.
- (iii) The Appeal Respondent will set out their response summarising their submission.
- (iv) Any New Evidence will be considered, if accepted by the Appeal Board, and any witnesses included as part of the New Evidence may be questioned and cross examined by all parties.
- (v) The Appeal Board may pose questions at any time but the Appellant and Appeal Respondent are not permitted to pose questions other than to witnesses submitting New Evidence.
- (vi) The Appeal Respondent will make closing submissions.
- (vii) The Appellant will make closing submissions.
- (viii) The Appeal Board will then retire to consider the merits of the appeal.

Appeal Board Decisions

12.13 The Appeal Board shall have power to:

- (i) Allow the Appeal
- (ii) Dismiss the Appeal
- (iii) Make any decision that was open to the original panel which includes the ability to increase, decrease or vary any order of the original panel
- (iv) Order a re-hearing
- (v) Order costs to contribute towards the actual costs of the Appeal Board
- (vi) Order the refund or forfeit of the appeal fee
- (vii) Any other order deemed appropriate

12.14 A decision of the Appeals Tribunal is final and binding, save for the ability to appeal the quantum of costs.

12.15 An appeal on the quantum of costs will be heard by a different Chair of Appeal Boards sitting alone and on correspondence only.

12.16 Any appeal on the quantum of costs must be submitted within 14 days of the Appeal Board decision.

13. Sanctions and Costs

- 13.1 If the Disciplinary Panel or the Appeal Board finds a charge of Misconduct to have been proven under the Full Disciplinary Procedure, it may impose upon the person or body concerned:
- (i) suspension from competition or from taking part in any other capacity in any activity sanctioned by British Taekwondo;
 - (ii) permanent exclusion from competition or taking part in any other capacity in any activity sanctioned by British Taekwondo;
 - (iii) exclusion or suspension from coaching, competing or volunteering at a Member Organisation or an Associate or at any event organised by a Member Organisation or an Associate;
 - (iv) exclusion or suspension from officiating at a Member Organisation or an Associate or at any activity organised by a Member Organisation or an Associate;
 - (v) exclusion or suspension from attending any activity sanctioned by British Taekwondo or organised by a Member Organisation or an Associate;
 - (vi) expulsion, suspension or exclusion from standing for, or holding, any office within British Taekwondo, either for a temporary period or permanently;
 - (vii) a fine;
 - (viii) a caution and/or censure in respect of his, her or its conduct;
 - (ix) a suspended penalty, being a penalty which is only invoked in the event that a person or body, subject to British Taekwondo's disciplinary power, commits another disciplinary offence within a stated time of the date of the decision;
 - (x) the removal of an accreditation either for a temporary period or permanently;
 - (xi) the imposition of any such conditions on an accreditation as it sees fit; and/or
 - (xii) a requirement to attend appropriate training
 - (xiii) A requirement to pay a contribution to the costs of the disciplinary hearing.
- 13.2 In imposing or reviewing a suspension, the Disciplinary Panel or the Appeal Board shall take into account the amount of interim suspension and/or suspension served by the person or body in deciding the appropriate period of such further suspension (if any) that should be imposed.
- 13.3 Where the Disciplinary Panel imposes any period of suspension, that period of suspension shall run from the date set by the Disciplinary Panel which shall be not be:

- (i) before the deadline for the submission of an appeal or, if earlier, when the person or body subject to the suspension confirms that they will not be submitting an appeal
- (ii) where the person or body subject to the suspension submits an appeal in accordance with this policy, before the conclusion of such appeal process (should a suspension still be imposed).

14. Offences in Other Sports

14.1 Any Member found guilty of any of the following offences in another Taekwondo Association or Sport proceedings may be charged under British Taekwondo Regulations for not acting in the best interest of the game:

- (i) Any Betting or Match Fixing Event
- (ii) Any Doping offence under WADA Rules
- (iii) Any offence in connection with discriminatory behaviour.

14.2 The findings of the other Association or Sport will be deemed to be correct unless any appeal to that sport has been lodged and upheld.

14.3 A Discipline Panel may impose a sanction in line with British Taekwondo sanctions as if the offence had been committed within the sport of Taekwondo.

Appendix A – Spectator behaviour procedures

1. Expectations for Spectator Behaviour

All spectators are expected to:

- **Respect all participants:** Athletes, coaches, referees, and other spectators should be treated with respect at all times.
- **Maintain a positive and supportive attitude:** Applaud fair play and encourage athletes, regardless of the outcome.
- **Follow event protocols:** Spectators must adhere to any specific rules or guidelines outlined by the event organisers, including seating arrangements, time restrictions, and conduct during matches.
- **Refrain from interference:** Spectators should not engage with athletes, coaches, or officials during competition. This includes verbal interruptions or attempting to influence the decisions of referees.

- **Comply with safety guidelines:** Spectators must follow all safety protocols related to crowd control and emergency procedures.

Unacceptable behaviours include, but are not limited to:

- Taunting, booing, or derogatory comments.
 - Verbal abuse of athletes, coaches, referees, or other spectators.
 - Disrespect towards Taekwondo traditions, including inappropriate gestures or language.
 - Physical altercations or aggressive actions.
 - Any attempt to disrupt or interfere with the smooth running of the event.
-

2. Responsibilities of Taekwondo Clubs

In accordance with **section 4.6 of the British Taekwondo [Disciplinary Code](#)**, a Club is responsible for ensuring its Spectators, and all persons purporting to be its supporters or followers, conduct themselves in an orderly fashion and refrain from any behaviour that in the opinion of British Taekwondo brings the sport into disrepute, including, but not limited to, behaviour, that includes a reference, whether express or implied, to any Protected Characteristic.

Clubs must:

- **Inform spectators of expected behaviour:** Before attending an event, clubs must communicate the behavioural expectations to all their spectators, including family members and supporters. This can be communicated via a Code of Conduct.
 - **Monitor spectator conduct:** Clubs should be proactive in managing and overseeing their spectators' conduct during events to ensure compliance with this policy.
 - **Explain consequences of poor behaviour:** Clubs must make spectators aware that they may be asked to leave the event if their behaviour is deemed to be unacceptable.
-

3. Disciplinary Action for Non-Compliance and Responsibilities of the Club

Failure to uphold the standards of behaviour set out in this policy will result in action, which **may** include:

- **Verbal warnings:** Event organisers or officials may issue a warning to the club or individual spectator on the day. No further action will be taken by British Taekwondo.
- **Temporary removal:** If a spectator's behaviour is disruptive or threatening, the club may be asked to temporarily remove the spectator from the venue. It will be the responsibility of the club to address the situation.
- **Permanent removal:** In cases of severe misconduct, such as violent behaviour, verbal abuse, or other egregious actions, the offending spectator may be permanently banned from the event, and the club will be required to remove them from the premises. This will be reported to British Taekwondo who will consider a ban from future events.
- **Event disqualification:** In extreme cases, a club and/ or athletes may face disqualification from the event if they fail to control their spectators after repeated warnings or actions.
- **Fines or sanctions against the club:** Failure to control spectators or address disruptive behaviour may result in fines or sanctions imposed on the club by British Taekwondo, which could include suspension from future events. ***A full list of sanctions can be viewed within the British Taekwondo [Disciplinary Code](#) (sections 10.2 and 13.1)***
- Where British Taekwondo becomes aware of an allegation of disruptive, threatening or violent behaviour by an individual spectator that resulted in their removal from the competition then an investigation will commence **in accordance with the British Taekwondo [Disciplinary Code](#) section 2.2**. If it is established that the Club took immediate and effective action to deal with and identify the perpetrator, this will be a significant factor in terms of mitigating against formal disciplinary action against the Club.
- In situations where there is evidence that the Club took no (or insufficient) steps to deal with the incident when it became aware of the same (e.g. when alerted by an official) then this will be an aggravating factor in determining whether formal disciplinary action is taken against the Club.

4. Right of appeal

As per section 12 of the British Taekwondo [Disciplinary Code](#), an appeal may be made by a Club against the decision of a Disciplinary Panel, The Club shall have 14 days from the date of the decision to submit a notice of appeal along with a £250 appeal fee. There shall be no right of appeal from the imposition of a sanction imposed under the Summary Procedure (see section 10 of the British Taekwondo [Disciplinary Code](#))

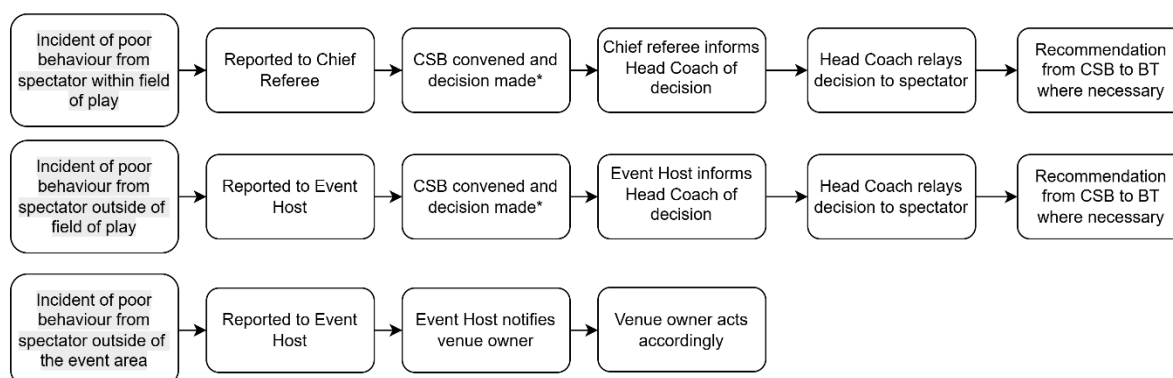
5. Final Provisions

By attending Taekwondo events, all spectators acknowledge their responsibility to behave in a manner consistent with the principles of Taekwondo and this policy. Clubs are encouraged to work together to maintain a respectful and supportive environment for all participants.

6. Location of incidents and reporting

Jurisdiction

Location of incident	Dealt with by	Ultimate Sanction
Field of play	Chief Referee – ratified by CSB	Expulsion from the event area and club disciplined as per the Disciplinary Code
Outside of field of play but within the event area/arena	Event Host – ratified by CSB	Expulsion from the event area and club disciplined as per the Disciplinary Code
Outside of the event area/arena e.g. car park, cafeteria	Venue owners	Venue owners' discretion



* The CSB has the jurisdiction to make a decision relating to that event only.

Any incident of poor behaviour at an event that has required the CSB to take action against a spectator, athletes and/or club and where the CSB feels it requires further action or sanctions that could extend beyond a single event, should be dealt with in the form of a

report of the incident sent to the British Taekwondo Referee department and British Taekwondo Head of Safeguarding & Compliance.

Reporting to British Taekwondo

Reports of poor spectator behaviour should be made directly to British Taekwondo by the CSB or Chief Referee – see flowchart below.

