



TCUK INSTRUCTOR EDUCATION, QUALIFICATION & RECOGNITION FRAMEWORK

Version 1.0

1. Purpose

The TCUK Instructor Education, Qualification & Recognition Framework establishes the standards for instructor education, qualification achievement, qualification recognition, continuing professional development and quality assurance within Taekwondo Council UK (TCUK).

The framework:

- Defines the TCUK instructor education pathway
- Establishes qualification standards and competence requirements
- Establishes the requirements for TCUK Qualifications
- Recognises external qualifications and prior learning where appropriate
- Supports workforce development and succession planning
- Promotes safe, inclusive and effective coaching and instruction
- Supports the delivery of consistent national standards across the TCUK instructor workforce

This framework should be read alongside:

- TCUK Membership Terms, Governance & Conditions
 - TCUK Membership Structure Framework
 - TCUK Safeguarding Policies
 - TCUK Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policies
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2. Scope

This framework applies to:

- Cadets (Junior Leaders)
 - Assistant Instructor candidates
 - Instructor candidates
 - Club Instructors
 - Individuals seeking recognition of external qualifications
 - Individuals seeking Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
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3. Principles

TCUK adopts a competence-based approach to instructor education.

Qualification achievement requires completion of the required learning, practical experience and verification requirements.

TCUK recognises that individuals may develop competence through:

- Formal qualifications
- Coaching experience
- Instructor experience

- Professional learning
- Mentoring
- Continuing Professional Development

Holding a qualification does not automatically confer membership status, insurance entitlement or deployment authority.

Membership, insurance and deployment requirements are governed separately by TCUK.

4. Instructor Development Pathway

TCUK recognises that individuals may enter the instructor pathway through different routes depending upon age, grade, experience and previous qualifications.

Typical development pathways may include:

Student

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Assistant Instructor Qualification

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Instructor Qualification

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Club Instructor

or

Student

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Cadet (Junior Leader)

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Assistant Instructor Qualification

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Instructor Qualification

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Club Instructor

Cadet status is intended as a development opportunity for junior members and is not a mandatory requirement for progression to Assistant Instructor status.

Alternative routes may also be recognised through external qualification recognition or Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

5. Qualification Standards

The following standards establish the minimum eligibility requirements recognised by TCUK.

Meeting the minimum requirements does not automatically guarantee qualification achievement.

Additional learning, experience or verification requirements may apply.

Qualification	Minimum Age	Minimum Grade
Cadet (Junior Leader)	12+	Red Belt or above
Cadet (Junior Leader)	14+	Blue Belt or above

Assistant Instructor	14–17	Black Belt
Assistant Instructor	18+	Red Belt or above
Instructor	18+	Assistant Instructor Qualification or recognised equivalent plus recognised Black Belt Degree Certificate

TCUK may recognise equivalent qualifications, grades or experience through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) or external qualification recognition.

6. Cadet (Junior Leader)

Purpose

The Cadet pathway provides a structured introduction to leadership, coaching and instructor development.

Eligibility

Cadets must:

- Hold Student Membership
- Meet the minimum qualification standards
- Be approved by a recognised Club Instructor

Approval

The Club Instructor should consider:

- Regular attendance
- Positive attitude and behaviour
- Leadership potential
- Maturity
- Commitment to training

Role

Cadets:

- Assist with class activities
- Support participant learning
- Help organise activities
- Develop leadership and communication skills
- Prepare for future instructor development

Supervision

Cadets:

- Assist only
- Must always be supervised
- Do not teach independently
- Do not count towards instructor ratios

Cadet experience may be recognised when progressing towards Assistant Instructor status.

7. Assistant Instructor Qualification

The Assistant Instructor Qualification is the first formal TCUK Qualification.

Purpose

The qualification prepares individuals to assist with the safe delivery of Taekwondo activities and develop instructional competence.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the qualification standards specified within this framework.

Required Learning

Candidates must complete:

- BMABA Introduction Training

- BMABA Level 1 Instructor
- Concussion and Head Injury Management
- First Aid Essentials
- Mental Health First Aid
- Safeguarding in First Aid
- Risk Assessment and Safe Practice in Martial Arts

Practical Experience

Candidates must complete a minimum of 10 hours supervised teaching experience.

Verification

The supervised teaching experience must be verified by a recognised TCUK Platinum Member.

The verifying instructor should confirm that the candidate has:

- Completed the required learning
- Completed the required supervised teaching experience
- Demonstrated safe practice
- Demonstrated appropriate communication skills
- Demonstrated appropriate professionalism and conduct
- Demonstrated an understanding of safeguarding responsibilities

Qualification Award

Upon completion of the required learning and verification requirements, the candidate may be awarded the TCUK Assistant Instructor Qualification.

Supervision Requirements

Individuals under 18 years of age may hold the TCUK Assistant Instructor Qualification where they meet the requirements of this framework.

Assistant Instructors under the age of 18 must operate under the supervision of a recognised TCUK Instructor or Club Instructor and must not be left solely responsible for the delivery of instruction, participant supervision or safeguarding responsibilities.

8. Instructor Qualification

The Instructor Qualification is the principal TCUK Qualification.

Purpose

The qualification prepares individuals to plan, deliver and manage Taekwondo programmes and support participant development.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Hold the Assistant Instructor Qualification or recognised equivalent
- Hold a recognised Black Belt Degree Certificate
- Meet any additional requirements established by TCUK
- Hold a current Enhanced DBS certificate where required by their role

Required Learning

Candidates must complete:

- BMABA Level 2 Instructor
- BMABA Lead Safeguarding
- BMABA Martial Arts SENCO
- Knife Crime and Serious Youth Violence Awareness
- Trauma-Informed Coaching

Experience Requirements

Candidates must demonstrate a minimum of 12 months active service supporting a recognised Lead Instructor or Club Instructor in the delivery of Taekwondo instruction.

Verification

The required experience must be verified by a recognised TCUK Platinum Member.

The verifying instructor should confirm that the candidate has:

- Completed the required learning
- Actively supported instruction for a period of not less than 12 months
- Demonstrated appropriate instructional competence
- Demonstrated professional leadership
- Demonstrated safe and inclusive practice
- Demonstrated readiness to operate as a TCUK Instructor

Qualification Award

Upon completion of the required learning and verification requirements, the candidate may be awarded the TCUK Instructor Qualification.

9. Recognition Principles

TCUK distinguishes between:

- TCUK Qualifications
- Recognised Qualifications
- Recognised Organisation Qualifications

TCUK Qualifications

TCUK Qualifications are qualifications awarded through the TCUK education pathway and require completion of the learning, experience and verification requirements specified by TCUK.

Only qualifications achieved through the TCUK pathway may be described as TCUK Qualifications.

Recognised Qualifications

TCUK may recognise qualifications awarded by governing bodies, associations, federations, international organisations or independent providers.

Recognition does not convert an external qualification into a TCUK Qualification.

Recognised Organisation Qualifications

TCUK may recognise qualifications awarded by organisations, associations or instructional groups operating within the TCUK community.

Recognition does not convert an organisation qualification into a TCUK Qualification.

10. Recognition of External Qualifications

TCUK recognises that legitimate qualifications may be obtained through a variety of organisations, governing bodies, associations, federations and independent providers.

Applicants may apply for recognition of:

- Governing body qualifications
- Association qualifications
- Federation qualifications
- Independent provider qualifications
- International qualifications

Recognition outcomes may include:

- Fully recognised
- Recognised subject to CPD
- Recognised subject to mentoring
- Recognised subject to verification
- Not recognised

Recognition does not automatically confer membership status, insurance entitlement or deployment authority.

11. Recognition of TCUK Partner and Organisation Qualifications

TCUK recognises that organisations, associations and instructional groups operating within the TCUK community may develop and deliver their own instructor education programmes, qualifications and CPD activities.

TCUK may recognise such qualifications where they meet TCUK minimum standards.

Recognition may be granted:

- In full
- Subject to CPD requirements
- Subject to mentoring requirements
- Subject to verification requirements
- Subject to specific conditions

Recognition does not automatically confer membership status, insurance entitlement or deployment authority.

12. Minimum Standards for Recognised Qualifications

Qualifications delivered by organisations, associations, instructional groups or independent providers may be recognised by TCUK where they demonstrate standards broadly equivalent to those expected by TCUK.

As a minimum, recognised qualifications should include:

- Clear learning outcomes
- Defined eligibility requirements
- Appropriate safeguarding content
- Appropriate health and safety content
- Risk assessment and safe practice principles
- Participant welfare considerations
- Equality, diversity and inclusion considerations
- Appropriate practical instruction
- Demonstration of competence
- A suitable verification process
- Record keeping sufficient to verify achievement

For instructor qualifications, TCUK would normally expect evidence that learners have demonstrated competence in:

- Safe class management
- Technical instruction
- Participant welfare
- Communication skills
- Behaviour management
- Safeguarding awareness
- Risk management
- Inclusive practice

Recognition decisions remain at the discretion of TCUK.

13. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Individuals may apply for Recognition of Prior Learning.

Evidence may include:

- Instructor qualifications
- Coaching qualifications
- Teaching experience
- Professional learning
- CPD records
- References

Recognition decisions shall be based upon evidence of competence and safe practice.

14. Club Instructor Responsibilities

Recognised Club Instructors play an important role in the development of the TCUK workforce.

A Club Instructor may:

- Mentor Cadets
- Support Assistant Instructor candidates
- Support Instructor candidates
- Verify supervised teaching experience
- Verify instructor development and readiness for qualification
- Promote safe and inclusive practice
- Support quality standards within the activities they lead

15. Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

CPD supports instructors in maintaining competence, developing professionally and remaining current with best practice.

Instructors are expected to undertake at least one role-relevant CPD activity each year and maintain appropriate records where requested by TCUK.

Examples include:

- Safeguarding learning
- Inclusion training
- Coaching development
- Technical seminars
- Welfare training
- Leadership development
- Approved external learning
- TCUK learning activities

TCUK may require specific CPD where necessary.

16. Quality Assurance and Audit

TCUK does not routinely assess candidates directly.

Qualification decisions are based upon completion of required learning and verification by recognised TCUK Platinum Members.

TCUK operates a quality assurance and audit process to maintain standards.

TCUK may audit:

- Qualification records
- Verification records
- Learning evidence
- Recognised instructors
- Recognised organisations
- Qualification decisions
- Supporting documentation

TCUK may request additional evidence where necessary to verify compliance with this framework.

17. Withdrawal of Recognition

TCUK may suspend or withdraw:

- Cadet recognition
- Qualification recognition
- Instructor recognition
- Course recognition

where standards, safeguarding requirements or governance requirements are not maintained.

18. Equality, Safeguarding and Inclusion

TCUK is committed to:

- Equality of opportunity
- Safe and inclusive environments
- Respect for all participants

Individuals recognised under this framework are expected to support and uphold TCUK policies and standards relevant to their role.

19. Governance

This framework:

- Is issued by TCUK as the national framework for instructor education, qualification and recognition
 - Applies to individuals seeking recognition, qualification or instructor status within TCUK
 - Supports the TCUK Membership Structure Framework
 - Forms part of the wider TCUK governance framework
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20. Interpretation

TCUK retains the right to interpret and clarify this framework where required.

The interpretation of TCUK shall be final.

21. Document Control

Version: 1.0

Status: Active

Effective Date: 2 June 2026

Review Cycle: Every 3 Years

Document Owner: TCUK CEO

Governance Oversight: TCUK Board

22. Version History

Version	Date	Description
1.0	2 June 2026	Initial Release

23. Approval

Approved for implementation by the TCUK CEO on 2 June 2026.

This framework shall take immediate effect from 2 June 2026.

The framework will be presented for ratification at the next meeting of the TCUK Board.

Following ratification, the framework shall continue in force until amended, replaced or withdrawn by TCUK.