

TAEKWONDO COUNCIL UNITED



SAFEGUARDING
Children and Adults
POLICY
REVISED March 2024

TAEKWONDO COUNCIL UNITED

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This Safeguarding Policy should be read in conjunction with the Taekwondo Council UK's Instructors Handbook and policies and procedures listed at www.tkgngb.co.uk .

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SECTION 1 - Policy

1.1 Introduction & Aims

This document is governed by the Rules and Regulations set out in 1989 and 2004 Children's Act and Working Together Care to Safeguard Children 2018 (England), Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, National guidance for child protection in Scotland, The adult support, and Protection Act (Scotland) 2007 and Childcare Act 2001 and Adult Safeguarding Operational Procedures 2016 (Northern Ireland).

Taekwondo Council United Kingdom is committed to providing the safest possible environment for the welfare of Children and Adults at Risk and has a duty to safeguard and protect all participants from harm whilst promoting best practice. All vulnerable groups have a right to protection, and we recognise our duty to promote their welfare and to respond to abuse or safeguarding concerns when they arise. Some children and adults at risk may be particularly vulnerable and face extra barriers to get help because of their personal characteristics, such as race, gender, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, social background, or culture. This could include factors such as prejudice, discrimination, the reduced ability to resist or report abuse, communication barriers or myths based on stereotypes.

Protecting and promoting the welfare and well-being of vulnerable groups, children and adults at risk is paramount, therefore the aims of the policy are to:

- Promote the welfare and safety of children and adults at risk.
- Help minimise the risk of abuse.
- Provide guidance to all those involved about acceptable behaviour and good practice.
- Help provide clarity to all of what is expected of them, and others involved with the martial art.

This policy and procedures have been endorsed by the Taekwondo Council United Kingdom of Directors who are committed to their implementation. Board members, volunteers, Instructors, parents, staff, and students themselves all have responsibility to implement the policy, and each has a right to be protected by it.

This policy is mandatory for all to follow. It applies to Instructors, all responsible persons at any level and members affiliated to Taekwondo Council United Kingdom whatever their position, role, or responsibility. Membership of Taekwondo Council United Kingdom requires that the Safeguarding Policy and all related policies and procedures be adhered to and there is an understanding that any breaches will be addressed through the disciplinary policy and procedures.

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1.2 Legislation & Statutory Guidance

The practices and procedures within the safeguarding policy are based on the principles contained within UK legislation and Government Guidance, have taken the following into consideration:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Position of Trust 2022
- The Care Act 2014 – Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The Care for child (Scotland)
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2012
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Mental Capacity Act 2

Designated personnel to include roles and responsibility.

1.3 Definitions

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

“Child’ and ‘young person’ describe any person under the age of 18 “

“Adult at risk” means any person who may need support because of mental or other disability, age or illness and may be vulnerable against significant harm or exploitation. The term adult at risk may include any individuals who may be vulnerable because of their role, their circumstances at a given time and their capacity to make a decision. Although it is not for individuals to decide about whether an adult lacks capacity, it is important that you understand the ‘notion’ of capacity when safeguarding adults.

“Capacity” refers to an individual’s ability to make a decision or take a particular action for themselves at a particular time, even if they are able to make other decisions.

“Parent” will also refer to carers or guardians. *‘parents’ should be read as parents and carers inclusively.*

“Staff” refers to anyone in a paid or voluntary role within Taekwondo Council United Kingdom (and includes instructors/coaches).

“Coach” refers to anyone planning, organising, and delivering an appropriate range of sports activities and programmes for individuals and teams e.g. competitions/events.

References to vulnerable groups apply to both children and adults at risk.

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1.4 Principles.

The key principles underpinning this policy are:

- Protecting and promoting the welfare and well-being of vulnerable groups, children and adults at risk is paramount.
- All vulnerable groups have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs, or sexual identity.
- Children and adults at risk have a right to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment.
- An adult has a moral and statutory duty for the care, custody, and control of any vulnerable person under their supervision. To ensure that Instructors, parents, and other adults who encounter vulnerable groups provide good models of behaviour.
- All safeguarding concerns, allegations of abuse or poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to quickly, efficiently, and appropriately.
- It is the responsibility of the child and adults at risk protection experts and agencies to determine whether abuse has taken place, but it is everyone's responsibility to report any concerns.
- All those involved in the management of children and adults at risk in taekwondo have a duty to ensure they are:
 - Allowed access to the sport in a way that is appropriate for their age and ability coached and trained by appropriately qualified and vetted people.
 - Not required to compete in too many competitions or attend too many training sessions, to become a threat to their well-being.
 - Not subjected to verbal or racial abuse from any source, especially from the field of play and spectator zone, including references to height, weight etc
 - Not subjected to bullying, threats, or undue pressure from any source.
 - Encouraged to achieve their full potential at all levels.
 - Instructed on how to behave, both on and off the mat, and in accordance with the student code of behaviour.
 - Afforded respect and value in a competing and training situation and any other taekwondo environment.

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1.5 Designated Personnel

Taekwondo Council United Kingdom has a Safeguarding Team, Led by Safeguarding Officers who you can speak to if you have concerns about poor practice or suspect that a child or adult may be being abused or is at risk.

They can be contacted on 0121 271 0887 or email events@tkdngb.co.uk

Full details regarding the team can be found at www.tkdngb.co.co/safe-guarding

In an emergency or out of hours then please contact: Police 101 (or 999 in an emergency).
Childline 24-hour helpline 0800 1111.

Safeguarding Roles

Club Welfare Officer

- Work with others in the club to ensure a positive adult/child centred environment.
- Act has point of contact for the club where concerns about safeguarding.
- Implement reporting and recording procedures.
- Ensure appropriate confidentiality is maintained.
- Support the TUCK/club in implementing safeguarding.

Designated Safeguarding Leads

- Have a lead role in developing and establishing the TCUK approach to safeguarding adults/children and young people and embedding best practice.
- Support cases of poor practice and abuse reported to TCUK.
- Ensure safeguarding standards are consistently met, maintained, and improved.
- Represent TCUK at external meetings related to safeguarding.
- Provide advice and support to Instructors/coaches.
- Lead role in maintain and reviewing TCUK safeguarding policies.

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1.6 Recognising Abuse

Instructors, Welfare Officers, and Designated Safeguarding Leads 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 designated welfare officers and Taekwondo Council United Kingdom Designated Safeguarding Leads.

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 participating in martial art activities.

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 or adult at risk 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.

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It is important that Instructors 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 or adult at risk.

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 or adult at risk 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 an instructor has over a student 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. Taekwondo Council United Kingdom will take disciplinary action in situations where an adult in a position of authority has abused their position of trust by having sexual contact under 18-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 caregivers.
- 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.

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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.

Taekwondo Council United Kingdom 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 instructors/coaches, students, 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 Taekwondo.
- Respond proportionately and effectively to incidents of bullying.
- Raise awareness amongst targeted groups (e.g. elite squads, Instructors, 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 the Children and Adult Safeguarding Policy and in the

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1.7 Duty of Care

All instructors/coaches/welfare and safeguarding Leads 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 Instructors have a duty to keep children and adults at risk 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 Taekwondo Council United Kingdom.

Instructors/coaches should understand the responsibilities as part of their role and be aware that sanctions will be applied if these provisions are breached.

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

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1.8 Best Practice Guidelines

Everyone should be encouraged to demonstrate exemplary behaviour 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 the following guidelines:

- 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 student.
- 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 at Tournaments.
- 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.
- 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.
- Taking or dropping off a child to an event, activity, or home after training.

If cases arise where these situations are unavoidable it should be done with the full knowledge and consent of someone in charge of the club and the child's parent/carer. For example, a child sustains an injury and needs to go to hospital, or a parent fails to arrive to pick a child up at the end of a session.

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 Instructors 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 student involved. These tasks may include situations where they are helping to dress or undress the student 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.

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1.9 Physical Contact within the Taekwondo

Taekwondo is a contact sport but physical contact by the instructor/coach should always be intended to meet the child's needs, **NOT** the adults. 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, an instructor 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.

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SECTION 2: How to Respond to a Disclosure or Concern

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2.1 Dealing with a disclosure.

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

It is the responsibility of the instructor/ coach/ welfare officer and safeguarding Leads to be a supportive listener and to refer the information. However, it is not their role to counsel the child or adult at risk, or to investigate their claims. The instructor 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.

If a child tells you that he or she is being abused:

- React calmly so as not to worry, alarm, or deter them.
- Reassure them that you are glad that they told you.
- Do not promise to keep it to yourself.
- Explain that you need to make sure that they will be safe and may have to pass on the information to someone trusted to deal with it appropriately.
- Listen to what the child or young person says and take it seriously.
- Only ask questions if you need to clarify what the child is telling you – do not ask the child about explicit details.
- Do not ask leading questions – a leading question is one that pre-supposes the answer, e.g. “Sam hit you, didn't he?”
- Make a detailed record of what the child has told you but, do not delay passing on the information.

It is never easy to respond to a young person who tells you that they are being abused and you may feel upset and worried yourself. You should contact safeguarding officers if you require support and have an opportunity to debrief.

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 or delay in reporting the concerns.

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A disclosure is not the only way that you may be made aware of a safeguarding concern. Sometimes another child or adult at risk may say something about a possible abusive situation. Or you might witness an incident that causes concern or information might be passed to an instructor/coach/ parent or guardian/carer/volunteer 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. Taekwondo Council United Kingdom Designated Safeguarding Leads 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 instructor or where the instructor is involved of concern the incident should be raised to the welfare officer and safeguarding Lead.

- The child is accidentally hurt by an instructor/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.

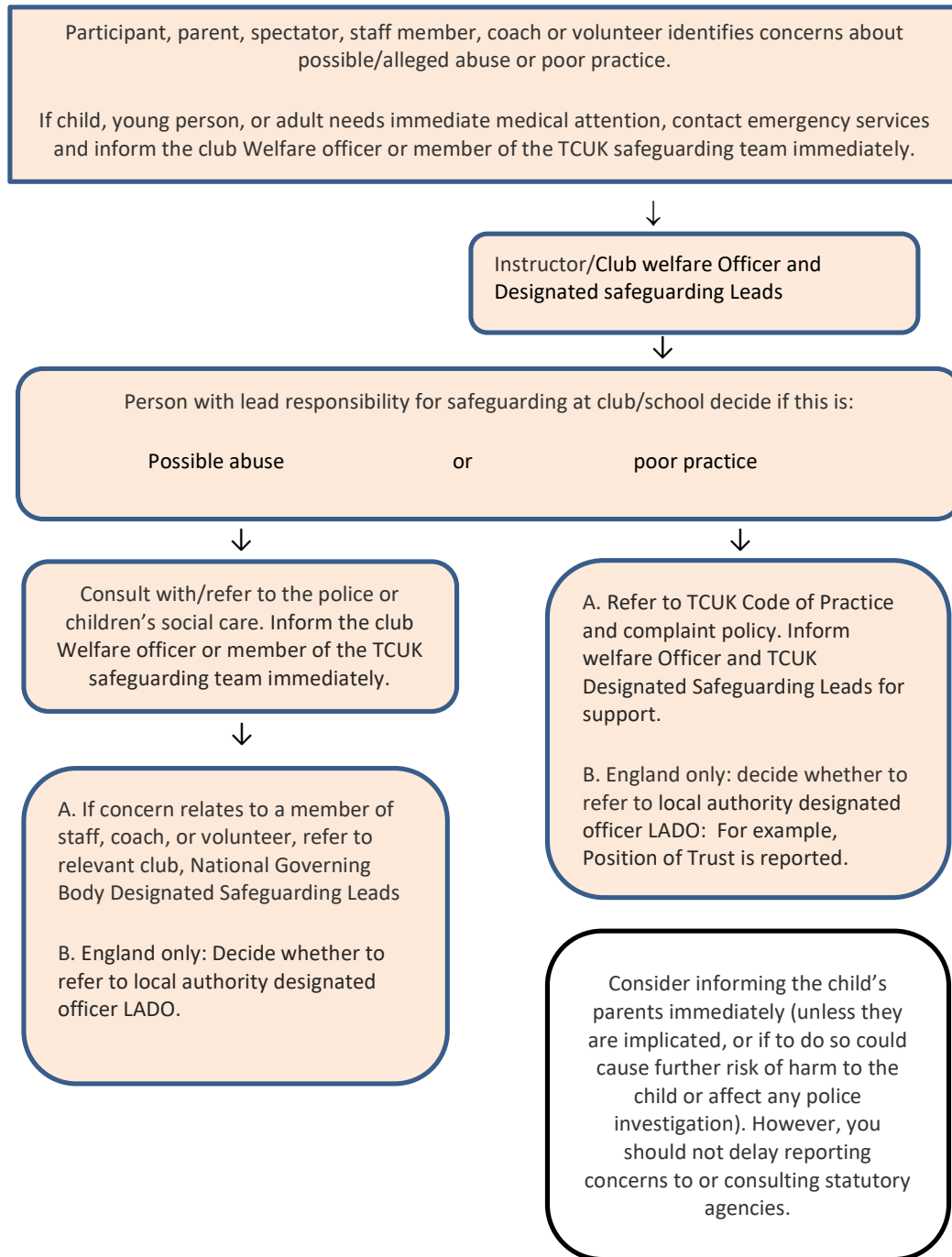
If you suspect abuse or poor practice, then you must inform the instructor and provide them with a written report. This must be accurate, and a detailed record should always be made at the time of disclosure which should include the following:

- 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 in the absence of a welfare officer please contact the Taekwondo Council United Kingdom Safeguarding Team, details can be found at www.tkdmg.co.uk/safeguarding. What happens after that is dependent on whether the allegations arise from within taekwondo (i.e. concern about an instructor/ 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.

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Reporting of concerns flowchart



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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 Taekwondo Council United Kingdom's disciplinary procedures (on advice from statutory agencies where a referral has been made), including referral to the local authority designated officer (LADO) in England where appropriate.

A CMG comprises a minimum of five people, including a Taekwondo Council United Kingdom Designated Safeguarding Leads determined by the nature of the case and executives.

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 be taken into account the facts of prior submissions.

If the report raises a question about a person's suitability within Taekwondo Council United Kingdom, the Taekwondo Council United Kingdom 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 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 instructor or relevant responsible person, as necessary.
- Once inquiries are complete the person subject to the allegation will be provided with copies of all reports made to the Taekwondo Council United Kingdom.
- The person subject to the allegation will be asked to provide a written explanation to support their response, 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.

Records and information

Information passed to the Children's 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 Children's Social Care department should not be delayed by attempts to obtain more information.

Concerns from Outside Taekwondo

Concerns are raised about a child or adult at risk from outside of Taekwondo to the Club Welfare Officer (CWO) or in the absence of a CWO to the Designated Safeguarding Lead

- Make a detailed record of what has been said, seen and done and report to Children's Social Care
- Make a detailed record of what has been said, seen and done and report to the Police on 999

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Report it to Taekwondo Council United Kingdom Safeguarding Team on 0121 2710887 or email safeguarding@tkdngb.co.uk.

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, Taekwondo Council United Kingdom should 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 from this person. Anyone who has a previous criminal conviction for offences related to abuse is automatically excluded from working with children.

2.4 Whistleblowing

Whistleblowing occurs when a person raises a concern about dangerous or illegal activity, or any wrongdoing by Instructors, students, staff, or volunteers, within their organisation.

Taekwondo Council United Kingdom is committed to the highest standards of quality, openness, probity, and accountability, including when dealing with safeguarding and child protection concerns. This policy encourages Instructors, students, staff, and volunteers to reveal and raise concerns over misconduct or malpractice within Taekwondo Council United Kingdom 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 to all including external agencies 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 with the Safeguarding Team. This can be done verbally or in writing.

Taekwondo Council United Kingdom 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 as 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.

For further information please review Whistleblowing Policy which can be found at www.tkdngb.co.uk

2.5 Support

Taekwondo Council United Kingdom will provide full support and protect anyone who in good faith reports a concern that a colleague is, or may be, abusing a child or an adult at risk. 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.

Taekwondo Council United Kingdom requires all Instructors/coaches/ staff/volunteers to undertake appropriate training to support them with their role, including safeguarding awareness 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.

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Taekwondo Council United Kingdom 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.

2.6 Confidentiality

Instructors/students/ staff/volunteers/Welfare Officers/ Designated Safeguarding Leads may have access to material to undertake their responsibilities that is confidential, including highly sensitive and private information about children. Information received is always to be treated in a discreet and confidential manner. Confidential information should never be:

- Used to your own or others' advantage (to include partners, friends, relatives, or other organisations).
- Used to intimidate, humiliate, or embarrass children.
- Used casually in conversation.
- Shared with anyone other than on a "need to know" basis.

In circumstances where the child's identity does not need to be disclosed, the information should be used anonymously.

Circumstances in which staff may be expected to share information are, e.g. when abuse or poor practice is alleged or suspected, and in such cases, have a duty to pass information on without delay to the TCUK Designated Safeguarding Leads. If in doubt about whether to share information, Instructors/coaches should seek advice from Welfare Officers or Designated Safeguarding Leads.

The storage and processing of personal information about children is tailored by the Data Protection Act 2018 and governed with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), see Taekwondo Council United GPR policy.

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SECTION 3 - Safe Guarding Helplines

In case of an emergency, please contact: Police: 999

- **ChildLine**

Tel: 0800 1111 or at www.childline.org.uk

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

Confidential telephone advice for children who are being abused or are at risk – there are several ways to contact ChildLine, and more information is available on their website.

- **NSPCC Child Protection Helpline**

Tel: 0808 800 5000

Website: www.nspcc.org.uk

A free 24-hour service which provides counselling, information, and advice to anyone concerned about a child at risk of abuse. The NSPCC provides advice and support for children who have been abused, and for adults who are concerned that a child has been abused or is at risk of radicalisation.

- **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)

- **NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line**

Tel: 0800 028 0285.

Provides free advice for anyone concerned about how child protection issues are being handled in their organisation.

- **The Albany Trust**

Tel: 020 8767 1827

Website: www.albanytrust.org

They offer one-to-one counselling for people who have been sexually abused or suffer from psychological difficulties.