



Instructor Code of Conduct

Version: V2

Effective Date: 08th May 2026

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Introduction

Taekwondo Council UK (TCUK) recognises the important responsibility instructors hold in delivering safe, inclusive, ethical, and professionally managed Taekwondo activity.

Instructors play a central role in participant development, safeguarding, welfare, inclusion, and the promotion of positive sporting values.

This Code of Conduct outlines the standards of behaviour, safeguarding expectations, welfare responsibilities, professional standards, and governance obligations expected from instructors involved in TCUK-affiliated activity.

1. Scope

This Code applies to:

- licensed instructors,
- assistant instructors,
- trainee instructors,
- club owners and operators,
- and individuals delivering or supporting instruction on behalf of TCUK-affiliated organisations.

This Code applies across:

- training sessions,
- competitions,
- seminars,
- gradings,
- camps,
- travel,
- online activity,
- and social media interaction.

2. Professional Standards

Instructors are expected to:

- act honestly, professionally, respectfully, and responsibly,
- place participant welfare, safety, safeguarding, and wellbeing at the centre of their practice,

- deliver activities appropriate to the age, experience, ability, and needs of participants,
- maintain appropriate qualifications, competence, insurance, and professional standards,
- comply with relevant safeguarding, governance, health and safety, and legal requirements,
- maintain appropriate professional boundaries,
- support fair participation and ethical conduct,
- cooperate appropriately with officials, safeguarding personnel, volunteers, clubs, and TCUK representatives,
- and contribute positively to the integrity and reputation of Taekwondo and TCUK.

Instructors should:

- act as positive role models,
- promote respectful behaviour and good sportsmanship,
- encourage safe and inclusive participation,
- support participant development responsibly,
- and engage positively with feedback, governance processes, and continuous development.

3. Safeguarding Responsibilities

Instructors are expected to:

- support and follow TCUK safeguarding policies and procedures,
- promote participant welfare and safety,
- report safeguarding or welfare concerns appropriately,
- cooperate fully with safeguarding processes and investigations where required,
- maintain appropriate professional boundaries,
- and contribute to a safe environment for children, young people, and adults at risk.

Instructors should:

- avoid situations where they are alone with children where reasonably avoidable,
- avoid unnecessary physical contact,
- seek consent before physical interaction where appropriate,
- maintain appropriate online and social media boundaries,
- ensure communication remains respectful, appropriate, and related to Taekwondo activity,
- and ensure activities are delivered safely and responsibly.

Instructors must not:

- engage in grooming, exploitative, coercive, sexualised, abusive, discriminatory, or inappropriate behaviour,
- abuse positions of trust,
- misuse their role for personal benefit,
- encourage unsafe practices or prohibited performance-enhancing behaviour,
- or place themselves or others in situations that may create safeguarding concerns or reputational risk.

Current safeguarding contacts, reporting routes, safeguarding guidance, and support information can be found via the TCUK safeguarding section of the website:

<https://tkdngb.co.uk/en/members-area/safeguarding>

4. Inclusion and Respect

TCUK is committed to promoting:

- equality,
- dignity,
- inclusion,
- accessibility,
- and fair participation.

Instructors are expected to:

- treat all individuals fairly and respectfully,
- support inclusive participation wherever reasonably practicable,
- avoid discriminatory behaviour or language,
- consider participant welfare and individual needs appropriately,
- and contribute positively to a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Current inclusion guidance and support information can be found via the TCUK inclusion section of the website:

<https://tkdngb.co.uk/en/members-area/inclusion>

5. Health, Safety, and Welfare

Instructors are expected to:

- promote safe participation,
 - manage activities responsibly,
 - undertake appropriate risk assessment where applicable,
 - maintain safe training environments and equipment where reasonably practicable,
 - respond appropriately to accidents, injuries, or welfare concerns,
 - maintain appropriate first aid awareness or arrangements where applicable,
 - and ensure incidents are recorded and reported appropriately.
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6. Confidentiality and Data Protection

Instructors may receive confidential or sensitive information relating to participants, safeguarding, welfare, medical matters, or organisational activity.

Instructors are expected to:

- handle information responsibly and appropriately,
 - comply with applicable data protection and confidentiality requirements,
 - share information only where appropriate and necessary,
 - and recognise that safeguarding concerns may require information sharing on a lawful and proportionate basis.
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7. Licensing, Suitability, and Compliance

Where applicable, instructors may be required to:

- maintain licences, qualifications, registrations, and insurance,
- complete safeguarding declarations,
- undertake identity verification,
- complete DBS/Disclosure/Access NI checks,
- comply with probation, governance, and compliance arrangements,
- and cooperate with safeguarding, disciplinary, governance, or compliance investigations and processes.

Failure to maintain required standards, suitability, safeguarding, or governance requirements may result in restrictions, suspension, or removal from instructional duties.

8. Social Media and Communication

Instructors are expected to:

- communicate respectfully and professionally,
- maintain professional boundaries,
- avoid offensive, abusive, discriminatory, or inappropriate content,
- protect confidentiality where required,
- and avoid behaviour that may negatively affect participant welfare, safeguarding, or the reputation of TCUK.

9. Obligation to Report Concerns

Instructors are expected to report:

- safeguarding concerns,
- misconduct,
- welfare concerns,
- serious breaches of policy,
- unsafe practice,
- or behaviour that may place participants or the organisation at risk.

Concerns should be reported through appropriate safeguarding, disciplinary, governance, or reporting procedures.

10. Breaches of this Code

Behaviour inconsistent with this Code may result in:

- informal guidance,
 - safeguarding or welfare intervention,
 - additional training requirements,
 - disciplinary action,
 - temporary or permanent suspension,
 - restrictions or removal of instructional duties,
 - revocation of licences or registrations,
 - or referral through safeguarding, disciplinary, DBS, or statutory procedures where appropriate.
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11. Governance and Review

This Code will be reviewed periodically to ensure continued alignment with:

- safeguarding standards,
 - governance expectations,
 - participant welfare,
 - inclusion commitments,
 - instructional standards,
 - and best practice.
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Conclusion

Taekwondo Council UK values the contribution of instructors and recognises their responsibility in supporting safe, respectful, inclusive, ethical, and professionally managed Taekwondo activity.

All instructors share responsibility for promoting safeguarding, participant welfare, inclusion, professionalism, ethical conduct, and the positive reputation of the sport.

Approval

Approved operationally by: TCUK CEO & Safeguarding Team

Date: 08th May 2026

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Subject to formal Board ratification at the next Board meeting

Next Review Date: 08th May 2029