



Officials Code of Conduct

Version: V2

Effective Date: 08th May 2026

Review Date: 08th May 2029

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Introduction

Taekwondo Council UK (TCUK) recognises the important role officials play in ensuring that Taekwondo activities, competitions, and events are delivered safely, fairly, professionally, and in accordance with the values of the sport.

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

For the purpose of this Code, “officials” may include referees, judges, table officials, competition officials, technical officials, timekeepers, event officials, and similar appointed roles.

1. Scope

This Code applies to all officials involved in:

- competitions,
- events,
- seminars,
- grading activities,
- training activities,
- camps,
- travel,
- online activity,
- and social media interaction

connected to Taekwondo Council UK affiliated activities.

2. Professional Standards

Officials are expected to:

- act honestly, professionally, responsibly, and impartially,
- maintain appropriate knowledge, qualifications, and competence relevant to their role,
- follow applicable competition rules, safeguarding requirements, and event procedures,
- support fair participation and participant welfare,
- cooperate appropriately with instructors, organisers, safeguarding personnel, volunteers, and fellow officials,

- support a safe, respectful, and positive environment,
- and contribute positively to the integrity and reputation of Taekwondo.

Officials should:

- arrive appropriately prepared and punctual,
 - behave respectfully towards all participants and stakeholders,
 - avoid conflicts of interest where possible,
 - and exercise sound judgement and professionalism during all activities.
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3. Safeguarding Responsibilities

Officials are expected to:

- support and follow TCUK safeguarding policies and procedures,
- promote participant welfare and safety,
- report safeguarding or welfare concerns appropriately,
- cooperate 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.

Officials 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,
- and ensure communication remains respectful, appropriate, and related to Taekwondo activity.

Officials must not:

- engage in grooming, exploitative, coercive, sexualised, abusive, or inappropriate behaviour,
- abuse positions of trust,
- misuse their role for personal benefit,
- 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.

Officials are expected to:

- treat all individuals fairly and respectfully,
- avoid discriminatory behaviour or language,
- support participant welfare and inclusion,
- demonstrate professionalism and impartiality,
- 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. Social Media and Communication

Officials are expected to:

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

Where applicable, officials may be required to:

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

Failure to maintain required suitability, licensing, safeguarding, or governance standards may result in restrictions or removal from officiating duties.

7. 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,
 - restriction or removal of officiating duties,
 - revocation of licences or appointments,
 - or referral through safeguarding, disciplinary, DBS, or statutory procedures where appropriate.
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8. Governance and Review

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

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

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

All officials share responsibility for promoting safeguarding, inclusion, participant welfare, 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