



Preventing the Abuse of Positions of Trust Policy

Version: V2

Effective Date: 06th May 2026

Review Date: 06th May 2029

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Introduction

Taekwondo Council UK (TCUK) is committed to safeguarding children and young people and promoting safe, positive, respectful, and appropriate relationships within all Taekwondo activity.

This policy aims to prevent the abuse of positions of trust and protect young people, particularly those aged 16 and 17, from exploitation, manipulation, coercion, grooming, or inappropriate relationships involving adults in positions of authority or influence.

This policy should be read alongside all other TCUK safeguarding policies, Codes of Conduct, disciplinary procedures, and governance documents.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- promote safe and appropriate relationships within Taekwondo,
- protect young people from abuse, exploitation, and inappropriate conduct,
- define expectations and responsibilities for individuals in positions of trust,
- provide guidance on professional boundaries,
- and support safeguarding, reporting, and disciplinary processes.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- all TCUK members,
- Board Directors,
- Management Committee members,
- sub-committees,
- panels,
- working groups,
- coaches and instructors,
- officials and referees,
- volunteers and support personnel,
- affiliated clubs and associations,
- and anyone acting on behalf of Taekwondo Council UK.

This policy applies across all Taekwondo-related activities, including training, competitions, camps, events, travel, online activity, and social media interaction.

3. Positions of Trust

A position of trust exists where an adult has authority, influence, responsibility, supervision, guidance, or decision-making power over a child or young person.

This may include situations where a young person:

- depends on an adult for coaching, grading, selection, progression, mentoring, or support,
- seeks approval, recognition, or advancement through Taekwondo activity,
- or may be vulnerable due to age, maturity, experience, disability, communication needs, or personal circumstances.

Even where a young person is above the legal age of consent, significant power imbalances may still exist.

4. Appropriate Relationships and Professional Boundaries

All individuals in positions of trust are expected to:

- maintain safe, respectful, and professional boundaries,
- act in the best interests of children and young people,
- avoid behaviour that could be viewed as grooming, coercive, manipulative, exploitative, or inappropriate,
- ensure relationships remain centred around Taekwondo participation and welfare,
- and avoid favouritism, dependency, or inappropriate emotional relationships.

Adults in positions of trust must not:

- seek or engage in sexual or romantic relationships with 16 or 17-year-old participants for whom they hold responsibility, authority, influence, or trust,
- engage in sexualised communication,
- use social media or digital communication inappropriately,
- or abuse their position for emotional, personal, financial, or sexual gain.

Such behaviour may constitute:

- a safeguarding concern,
 - misconduct,
 - abuse of position,
 - and/or a disciplinary matter regardless of whether criminal laws have technically been breached.
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5. Legal Framework

Under UK law:

- sexual activity involving a child under 16 is illegal,
- and certain relationships involving 16–17-year-olds and adults in positions of trust may constitute criminal offences.

TCUK recognises that sports roles are not always specifically covered within current legislation. However, TCUK considers the abuse of positions of trust within sport to be unacceptable and incompatible with safe sport and safeguarding standards.

This policy therefore establishes safeguarding expectations and behavioural standards that apply regardless of whether criminal thresholds are met.

6. Safeguarding and Governance Measures

TCUK is committed to:

- maintaining safeguarding policies, Codes of Conduct, disciplinary procedures, and governance arrangements that support safe participation,
- promoting safeguarding awareness and professional boundaries,

- supporting safer recruitment, DBS compliance, due diligence, and safeguarding declarations,
- encouraging appropriate safeguarding training and awareness,
- and responding appropriately to safeguarding concerns, allegations, and misconduct.

Where appropriate, safeguarding concerns may result in:

- disciplinary action,
 - suspension,
 - removal from role,
 - referral to statutory agencies,
 - and/or referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
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7. Reporting Concerns

Any concerns regarding:

- inappropriate relationships,
- grooming,
- abuse of trust,
- boundary violations,
- or safeguarding concerns

must be reported promptly through TCUK safeguarding procedures.

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>

Where a child or young person may be at immediate risk of harm:

- contact emergency services on 999,
- and/or contact relevant statutory safeguarding authorities immediately.

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

8. Communication and Review

- This policy will be communicated to relevant members, clubs, volunteers, instructors, officials, and stakeholders.
 - The policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure continued alignment with safeguarding legislation, governance expectations, and best practice.
 - Learning arising from safeguarding concerns, incidents, or reviews may inform future updates.
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Conclusion

Taekwondo Council UK is committed to promoting safe, respectful, and appropriate relationships within all Taekwondo activity.

Abuse of positions of trust is incompatible with the values of TCUK and will be treated seriously in order to protect children, young people, participants, and the integrity of the sport.

Approval

Approved operationally by: TCUK CEO & Safeguarding Team

Date: 06th May 2026

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Subject to formal Board ratification at the next Board meeting

Next Review Date: 06th May 2029