



## UKMAGB – Child Protection Policy

### Introduction.

The United Kingdom Martial Arts Governing Body in accordance with the policies now being implemented and adopted by many groups in the UK, recognises that child protection should not be treated in isolation - we will take on board guidance given by Local Authorities and Child Protection Agencies and will address recruitment of our instructors by adopting the following policy:

1. We will ensure that all instructors are properly vetted; this procedure may involve a Local Authority and/or Police Check.
2. We may ask for the names of two referees who are prepared to provide written references for the instructor. The United Kingdom Martial Arts Governing Body's Chairman or A Senior Instructor may contact the referees personally.
3. All instructors must agree to adhere to the guidelines laid down in The United Kingdom Martial Arts Governing Body's "Child Protection Policy" document.

### Statement:

The United Kingdom Martial Arts Governing Body believes that every child, regardless of age, has at all times and in all situations a right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice that results in a child being physically or psychologically damaged. If we have suspicions about a child's physical, sexual or emotional well-being, we will take action.

The above statement and the following Instructors Guidelines form The United Kingdom Martial Arts Governing Body's 'Child Protection Policy' Child Abuse - UKMAGB Instructors Guideline



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### What is child abuse?

Child abuse can take many forms. Physical abuse:

- Physically hurting or injuring a child
- When the nature and intensity of training exceeds the capacity of the child's immature and growing body
- Neglect
- Failure to provide a training environment that caters for a child's basic physical needs (e.g. lighting, heating, toilet facilities)
- Leaving a child unsupervised
- Exposing a child to undue risk of injury
- Sexual abuse
- Inappropriate physical contact with a child
- Emotional abuse
- Shouting at, or verbally abusing a child
- Constantly criticising a child, or creating unrealistic pressure to perform to high expectations
- Where there is neglect, sexual or physical abuse
- Child Protection As a martial arts Instructor you can reduce situations for abuse of children by adhering to good practice. It does not make sense to
- Spend excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others
- Take children alone in a car on journeys, however short
- Take children to your home You should never
- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games
- Allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form
- Allow children to use inappropriate language
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child
- Let allegations a child makes go unchallenged or unrecorded



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- Do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves (if a child is young or disabled it may be necessary to assist in such things, but this should be done with full parental consent) As a martial arts Instructor you are also in a position where you may recognise signs of a child being abused outside of your classes. It is your responsibility to act if you have concerns with regards to the well being of a child. Signs which may indicate abuse include
  - Unexplained bruising or injuries
  - Sexually explicit language or actions
  - Sudden changes in behaviour
  - Something a child has said
  - A change observed over a long period of time (e.g. loss of weight, or becoming increasingly dirty or unkempt) If you have concerns you should
    - Discuss your concerns with the child's parents, guardian or carers
    - Contact the police or social services (these services have a duty under the Children's Act to ensure children are protected and to help those that have been abused)
    - UK Instructors can obtain advice from the NSPCC free help line (24 hours) Tel: 0800 800 500 or Child line Tel: 0800 1111
    - Instructors in other countries should make a note of their local child welfare office or help line.

### To summarise:

1. Instructors should understand what child abuse is
2. Avoid situations for abuse of children by adhering to good practice
3. Recognise the signs of a child being abused outside of your classes
4. If you have concerns, do something



## **UKMAGB – Child Protection Policy**

**The following amendment has been included in the UKMAGB Constitution:**

All instructors must adhere to the guidelines laid down in The United Kingdom Martial Arts Governing Body's 'Child Protection Policy' document.