

## **UKTDC Child Protection Policy Statement**

**It is the policy of the uktdc to ensure that every child or young person who practices Taekwondo should be able to participate in a safe environment and to be protected from neglect, physical, sexual and emotional abuse.**

**Any person under the age of 18 years should be considered as a child or minor and as such comes under the terms and definitions of this document.**

**All allegations or suspicions of abuse must be taken seriously and dealt with accordingly.**

**All children in our clubs irrespective of age, gender, culture, racial origin, nationality or religious belief have a right to protection from abuse albeit of a physical, emotional or sexual nature.**

**There are four main types of abuse:**

**Physical** - when parents or other adults deliberately injure a child, or do nothing to prevent it. This includes hitting, shaking, biting and kicking. It can also be giving children alcohol or drugs. Using excessive force when feeding or changing a baby, and trying to drown or suffocate also come into this category. Injuries caused in physical abuse include bruises, burns, and broken bones. In the most serious cases it can result in brain damage and even the death of a child.

**Emotional** - when parents continuously fail to show love and affection to a child. It might also be when parents or other adults constantly use sarcasm, threaten, criticise, yell at or taunt a child. Emotional abuse can destroy a child's self-esteem, making them fearful and withdrawn. All children need love and praise to feel confident and loveable. The effects of emotional abuse are serious and long lasting, causing difficulties in relationships, mental health and confidence in adult life.

**Neglect** - when parents fail to meet a child's basic needs for food, warmth, clothing or medical attention. It can also be leaving children to fend for themselves when they are too young and immature to manage this, for example leaving them home alone without adult supervision. Neglected children may be either very withdrawn or very aggressive, and can develop health problems or have great difficulty coping in school.

**Sexual** - when an adult, or sometimes an older child, uses a child for sexual gratification. This might mean forcing a child to carry out sexual acts, including sexual touching, oral sex, and intercourse. It can include 'flashing' and indecent exposure, deliberately showing a child adult pornographic videos or magazines, or filming or photographing children in a sexual way. Both boys and girls are sexually abused, and it can happen to very young children - even babies - as well as older ones. The effects of sexual abuse are long lasting and highly damaging. It can cause problems in adult personal relationships. Some children who were abused in this way may also go on to become abusers themselves.

**What to do if an allegation is made**

- 1. Stay calm and listen to the child.**
- 2. Reassure the child that they are not to blame for the alleged abuse.**
- 3. Show the child that you are taking them seriously.**
- 4. Allow only one adult to talk with the child.**
- 5. Don't be hasty in your actions or judgment.**
- 6. Don't make promises that you will not be able to keep.**
- 7. Be absolutely clear that you understand what the child has said.**
- 8. Ensure a level of confidentiality.**
- 9. Do not lead or make suggestions to the child**
- 10. report the allegation to your appointed person and/or the appropriate agency.**
- 11. Record what has been said as accurately as possible and note any concerns you may have, you should try to record.**
- 12. Details of the child such as name age and date of birth.**
- 13. The date and time the allegation was brought to your attention.**
- 14. The date and times of any alleged incidents.**
- 15. The physical and emotional state of the child.**
- 16. If the parents have been notified or are aware of the allegations.**
- 17. Sign and date your written record and keep a copy for yourself.**

**To avoid any incidents happening in any club we try to ensure that there is adequate supervision of children at all times.**