



# TAEKWONDO COUNCIL UK

## Adult Safeguarding Policy

V2 – January 2026

Version	Author	Date	Review Date
2	TCUK	January 2026	January 2029

## Introduction

Taekwondo Council UK (TCUK) is committed to safeguarding the wellbeing, safety, and rights of adults who participate in Taekwondo activities.

This policy sets out TCUK's **UK-wide approach to safeguarding adults at risk**, including the prevention, recognition, and response to abuse, neglect, and exploitation. It applies across **England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland**, recognising that statutory safeguarding systems and procedures differ between the home nations.

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## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect adults at risk from abuse, neglect, harm, and exploitation.
  - Promote safe, inclusive, and respectful participation in Taekwondo activities.
  - Ensure compliance with **relevant safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance across all UK home nations**.
  - Provide clear guidance on safeguarding roles, responsibilities, and procedures.
  - Support early identification of safeguarding concerns and appropriate action.
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## 2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All TCUK members
- Staff and volunteers
- Coaches, instructors, officials, and referees
- Anyone acting on behalf of Taekwondo Council UK

It applies to all Taekwondo-related activities, events, training, competitions, and environments involving adults at risk.

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## 3. Definitions

### Adult at Risk:

A person aged 18 or over who:

- Has needs for care and/or support (whether or not those needs are being met), and
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- As a result of those needs, is unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect.

### Safeguarding:

The actions taken to protect an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

### Adult Protection:

Specific actions taken when there are concerns that an adult at risk is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect.

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## 4. Legal and Statutory Framework

Taekwondo Council UK is committed to complying with **all relevant safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance** applicable within each UK home nation, including but not limited to:

### England and Wales

- Care Act 2014
- Mental Capacity Act 2005

### Scotland

- Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007

#### Northern Ireland

- Adult Safeguarding: Prevention and Protection in Partnership

#### UK-wide

- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Relevant data protection legislation

TCUK recognises that **terminology, statutory agencies, and safeguarding processes differ across the UK** and requires all concerns to be managed in line with **local safeguarding procedures and reporting arrangements**.

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## 5. Safeguarding Procedures

### 5.1 Recognition and Response

All members, staff, volunteers, and coaches must:

- Be aware of the signs and indicators of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults at risk.
- Understand their responsibility to act if they have concerns.

Any concern regarding the safety or wellbeing of an adult at risk **must be reported immediately** to the appropriate Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or the TCUK Safeguarding Team.

### 5.2 Risk Assessment and Support

- Risk assessments must be undertaken to identify and manage potential risks.
- Adults at risk must be supported to participate in Taekwondo activities in a way that promotes safety, dignity, autonomy, and inclusion.
- Reasonable adjustments should be made where required to support participation.

### 5.3 Confidentiality, Consent, and Capacity

- Information must be handled sensitively and shared only on a **need-to-know basis**.
- Wherever possible, adults at risk should be involved in decisions about their care and participation.
- Consent should be obtained before sharing information, unless doing so would place the individual or others at increased risk.
- Where an adult may lack capacity, decisions must be made in accordance with relevant legislation and in the person's **best interests**.

### 5.4 Reporting Concerns

- All safeguarding concerns must be recorded and reported promptly.
  - Concerns will be managed in line with **local adult safeguarding procedures** relevant to the home nation in which the concern arises.
  - Where required, referrals may be made to:
    - Local Authority Adult Safeguarding Services
    - Health or social care services
    - Police or emergency services
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## 6. Prevention and Safeguarding Culture

TCUK is committed to preventing harm by:

- Promoting a culture of respect, dignity, and inclusion.
  - Ensuring safe recruitment, appropriate training, and clear codes of conduct.
  - Providing safeguarding training and guidance to relevant individuals.
  - Encouraging adults at risk to raise concerns and feel confident they will be taken seriously.
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## 7. Safeguarding Governance and Accountability

Safeguarding adults at risk within TCUK is supported by a **governance framework** that includes:

- A **Board-level Safeguarding & EDI Champion**, who provides leadership and active involvement in safeguarding matters.
- **Executive accountability** held by the CEO.
- **Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)** for England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.
- A **Safeguarding Support function** providing administrative and case support.

This structure ensures safeguarding concerns are managed consistently, proportionately, and in line with local statutory requirements.

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## 8. Communication and Review

- This policy will be communicated to all members, staff, volunteers, and coaches.
  - It will be published on the TCUK website and made available upon request.
  - The policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure continued compliance with legislation and best practice.
  - Feedback from adults at risk, carers, and stakeholders will inform continuous improvement.
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## 9. Key Contacts

### TCUK Safeguarding Team

Email: [safeguarding@tkdngb.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@tkdngb.co.uk)

Telephone: 0121 271 0887

### Local Safeguarding Services

Refer to your Local Authority or local safeguarding partnership for relevant contact details.

**Emergency Services:** 999

**Action on Elder Abuse Helpline:** 0808 808 8141

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## Conclusion

Taekwondo Council UK is committed to safeguarding adults at risk and promoting their wellbeing across all Taekwondo activities.

By implementing this policy and working in partnership with statutory agencies and stakeholders across the UK, TCUK aims to provide a **safe, respectful, and inclusive environment** where all adults can participate with confidence.