



## Children's Safeguarding Policy– Key Highlights

The policy is binding and provides procedures and guidance to everyone within the EKF, whether working in a voluntary or professional capacity. All sporting organisations that make provision for children and young people must ensure that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity, have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All staff (paid or unpaid) working in sport has a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer.

The EKF has a duty of care to safeguard all children involved in all forms of Karate from harm. All children have a right to protection, and the needs of disabled children and others who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account. As such EKF will strive to ensure the safety and protection of all children involved in our sport through adherence to the Child Protection guidelines ratified and adopted by the EKF and approved by Sport England and the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit. The policy should be implemented by member associations and is applicable to all within the EKF.

### **The EKF's expectation of affiliated members:**

It is the EKF's Safeguarding Team and Board decision that all affiliated member associations will comply with the requirements in the laid out below by December 2019. Help and support to achieve this is available from the EKF Safeguarding Team.

Associations will need to comply with the following:

- Have a Lead Child Protection Officer for the Association
  - The named person should have their contact details displayed on the official association website (e-mail address and telephone number).
  - Lead to attend official Child Protection/Safeguarding training every 3 years provided by the EKF
  - Ensure association coaches and instructors are compliant with DBS requirements by keeping and monitoring accurate records
- Have a clear Child Safeguarding policy document in line with the Safeguarding Code in Martial Arts
  - The policy should include clear systems and processes for how concerns are received, processed and managed
  - The policy must make reference to the EKF Safeguarding Team and how to refer a concern accordingly.

Have a safeguarding referral form displayed on the website



### **Recruitment**

Advertising will reflect the aims of the EKF key responsibilities of the role, and the necessary experience required. Pre-application information will be sent and an application form is necessary for all posts. Following short-listing, formal interviews will be held and the successful applicant will only be allowed to take up their post and duties once a valid DBS check has been provided to the EKF, and the credentials applicable to the role have been checked. Identity checks and references should also be obtained before appointing.

### **Categories of abuse:**

There are 4 categories of abuse. These include:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse (including bullying)
- Neglect
- Sexual abuse



### **Common signs of abuse**

- Distrustful of a particular adult
- Unexplained injuries
- Deterioration in physical appearance
- Pains, itching, bruising, or bleeding near genital area.
- A change in the child's general behaviour e.g. withdrawn or aggressive
- Inappropriate sexual awareness or behaviour for their age.

Some disabled children may not be able to communicate verbally re: abuse

### Safeguarding and overnight trips for training or competitions

It will be the responsibility of the person tasked with organising accommodation to contact the venue before booking to ascertain what the in policy is on children staying in their own room.

When booking accommodation under no circumstances should an adult (aged 18+) who is not the parent/guardian or carer share a room with a child. Children of a similar age and of the same sex are permitted to share a hotel room but must not share a bed. It is also advisable that there is an adult supervisor situation in an adjacent or nearby room.

Before an overnight stay is planned there should be adequate paperwork produced in order to provide to the parents and children involved which should give them as much information about the trip as possible



### Photography Policy

It is advisable that all clubs be vigilant with any concerns to be reported to the Club Child Protection Officer. Any parent who wishes to photograph their child must seek permission from the instructor or competition organiser. Official photographers must be registered with the event organiser and wear identification. (See EKF Photography Policy)



### Prevent

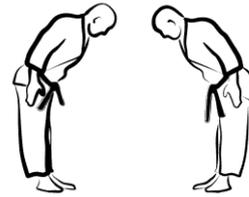
The EKF recognise that the principles of the Governing Body and of karate itself - including teamwork, respect, discipline and sportsmanship - can act as fundamental building blocks to preventing radicalisation at every level. This in turn allows children from diverse backgrounds to reach their full potential within the sport. Any imminent threat of terrorism should be rang through to the police immediately. For all other concerns please contact your Welfare Officer or EKF Regional Lead.

### Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM is the practice of intentionally damaging or removing external female genitalia. This is practiced within cultural contexts and affects mainly African and Middle Eastern regions.

Children may be removed from training for a period of time and taking abroad to a high risk country by a relative. This is often one of the first indications that FGM is to take place.

If FGM is suspected this **HAS** to be reported to the authorities under UK legislation



### Practices to be avoided during classes

Nature of the class must be tailored to consider these factors:

- Children should not do assisted
- Children should be carefully matched for size and weight for sparring practice.
- Great care must be taken, especially where children train in the proximity of adults, to avoid collision injury.
- Children should not participate in full head contact during sparring or partner work – there is a proven scientific link with research undertaken surrounding concussion

### Reporting concerns

It is not the responsibility of anyone working in the EKF, in a paid or unpaid capacity to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place. This is the role of the child protection agencies. However there is a responsibility for all involved in Martial Arts to act on any concerns through contact with the appropriate authorities.

Any suspicion that a child has been abused by either a member of staff or a volunteer should be reported to the Child Protection Officer, who will take such steps as considered necessary to ensure the safety of the child in question and any other child who may be at risk.

Every effort should be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned. Information should be handled and disseminated on a need to know basis only



### GDPR

The Safeguarding Team of the EKF will, as part of their work, collect personal data and therefore GDPR will apply. The EKF therefore has a requirement to process, store and share data in accordance with the new rules. The EKF Safeguarding Team and Association Welfare Officers are mandated by law to share information with relevant authorities when the child is in danger of being abused or is currently being abused. This sharing of information is permitted under GDPR and DPA.