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## **Code of Conduct for Coaches**

*For the All England Taekwon-Do Association*

### Introduction

This code of conduct is the guideline on common standards of conduct & behaviour to be adhered to by Coaches whilst teaching classes / events hosted by The All England Taekwon-Do Association (AETA).

The purpose of this code of conduct is to fulfil goals and objectives laid out in The All England Taekwon-Do Association (AETA) Safeguarding policy.



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## 1. THE RESPONSIBLE TAEKWON DO COACH: CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

Your coaching should reflect the following key principles: -

- The right of every individual to participate in Taekwon do.
- The need to develop relationships with students and their parents based on openness, honesty, mutual trust, and respect.
- Your responsibility to have the highest standards of personal behaviour.
- Your responsibility to have the highest standards of professional competence to ensure safe and correct teaching.

The Taekwon-Do Coach's Charter:

1. Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and treat everyone equally within the context of Taekwon-Do.
2. Coaches must place the well-being and safety of the student above the development of performance. They should follow all guidelines laid down by their association and hold appropriate insurance cover.
3. Coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with students (especially children), based on mutual trust and respect. Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
4. Coaches must encourage and guide students to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
5. Coaches should hold up to date coach qualifications.
6. Coaches must ensure the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience, and ability of the individual.
7. Coaches should, at the outset, clarify with students (and where appropriate with their parents) exactly what is expected of them and what students are entitled to expect from their coach.
8. Coaches should co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g., other coaches, officials, sport scientists, doctors, and physiotherapists) in the best interests of the student. Coaches should communicate with the instructor of the student before recommending any additional training or competitions.



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9. Coaches should always promote the positive aspects of Taekwon-Do and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.
  10. Coaches must consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.

## **2. GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR SESSIONS ON YOUR ARRIVAL:**

You should arrive early for all sessions.

- Introduce yourself to venue staff.
- Familiarise yourself with the venue. Identifying Emergency Exits, Emergency Telephone and First Aid Station.
- Check your work area for any safety hazards. You should have a risk assessment or carry out a dynamic risk assessment.

### **ON STUDENTS' ARRIVAL:**

- Ensure you have Emergency Contact numbers and knowledge of any health or medical conditions.
- Get group to put belongings in a safe place together if lockers are unavailable.

### **INTRODUCTION TO GROUP:**

- Ensure the group know who the coaches are and their names.
- Get to know the names of individuals you are coaching, especially younger children.
- Inform the group where toilets are.
- Inform the group of any session rules.

### **DURING SESSIONS:**

- Ensure children take any appropriate breaks and take drinks if necessary.
- Children must be supervised during breaks.
- Do not allow any children to leave site unless unaccompanied by a parent/carer.

### **AT END OF SESSION:**

- Allow children to leave when parents present or check those going home by themselves.

If a child has not been picked up on time:



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- Two people remain if possible.
  - Allow 15-20 mins for parent/carer to arrive.
  - Use Emergency Contact number to contact parent/carer.

#### SESSIONS AT SCHOOL SITES:

- If you are working on a school site during lesson time or working off school site as part of a schools P.E. curriculum, the teacher/school always remains in loco parentis. You shouldn't be left alone unless previously agreed with the head teacher.
- If you are working on school site during extra-curriculum time the school remains in loco parentis and is therefore responsible for all children; however, very often after school hours coaching is seen as the coach responsibility. Agree your responsibilities with the Head Teacher.
- When working on school sites always ensure you sign in and out at the reception. Also make yourself known to school staff as to what your purpose is for being on school premises. Wearing your uniform and identity badge is important.
- Although the teacher/school remains in loco parentis, a coach still has a joint "Duty of Care" and a responsibility for the children they are coaching.

#### LOST PROPERTY:

- Should be collected, logged, and stored at the venue where left or should be collected and handed to the appropriate person for logging and storage.

#### COACH APPEARANCE:

- A professional image is always expected.
- Wear a clean pressed dobok.

#### SMOKING:

- Smoking / vaping is not permitted whilst coaching or in any breaks during sessions.
- If you do smoke/ vape, stop! At least don't let your students see you.

#### DRUGS

- Please refer to the ITF Antidoping policy.

#### ALCOHOL:



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- Should not be consumed before coaching. It will affect your competence to instruct and compromise the safety of your group.

### **3. DEALING WITH ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES:**

All coaches should have a current first aid certificate and a first aid kit.

In case of accident or injury:

- Assess situation.
- Identify injury or condition.
- Give immediate treatment.
- If necessary, remove to hospital.
- Record on Accident Report Form.
- Inform parent/carer.

### **4. DEALING WITH ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Treat disruptive or disorderly behaviour seriously and deal with it promptly. It spoils the session for others.

Disruptive and disorderly behaviour can best be described as conduct which will or may prejudice the health or safety of participants, staff and the individual(s) concerned and/or cause annoyance or distress to the detriment of the enjoyment of other participants (e.g., mental or physical bullying/name calling).

Where a coach considers that acceptable conduct has been breached, using discretion they should:

Warn the child or young person that continued misconduct will mean being removed from the session.

If there is no improvement sit the child or young person out for a while.

On reintroduction if problems are repeated, the parent/carer should be informed, and the child or young person withdrawn from the session activity

Much will depend on the nature or seriousness of the incident.

All coaches must make a written report of any violent incidents or threats of violence, abusive or disruptive behaviour



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An Incident Report Form will also need to be completed.

## **5. GUIDELINES FOR TRANSPORTING PEOPLE**

Coaches should not take individual responsibility for the care of children when travelling to competitions. Children must be accompanied by a carer or parent.

### GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR TRANSPORTING PEOPLE:

- Never transport children alone in your own car.
- To drive a minibus, you must be 25 or over, and hold a full driving licence.
- Ensure the vehicle is fit for the purpose Taxed, MOT tested and insured.
- Always have another responsible adult in the vehicle.
- Ensure all children under 16 have completed a parental consent form.
- Plan the journey in advance.
- Take a break every 90 minutes.
- You are expected to drive within the limits of the law.
- Smoking/ vaping is not permitted on any vehicle.

### SAFETY:

- All seats must have belts. It is your responsibility to see that they are used.
- Always have at least one responsible adult in the rear of the vehicle.
- No passengers under 18 to be carried in the front of the vehicle.
- Check tyre pressure, oil, and water before every trip.
- Never transport equipment with people.
- Never exceed maximum numbers of passengers for a given vehicle.
- No animals to be transported except guide dogs.
- Never drop off passengers except where you are sure it is safe.

### PARKING:

- It is the driver's responsibility to ensure that the vehicle is always parked safely and legally.
- Do not park in car parks of licensed premises except in an emergency.

### IN CASE OF AN ACCIDENT:

Switch off ignition and make sure passengers are safe. Make a record of the following: -

- Time of accident.



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- Registration number of any other vehicle involved.
  - The precise location
  - Full details of any injuries to passengers.
  - Contact relatives if injuries serious enough to go to hospital.
  - The details and addresses of any witnesses.

#### IF YOU BREAKDOWN OR HAVE A PUNCTURE:

- Park vehicle as safely as possible.
- If you have warning triangle and lights use them.
- Make sure passengers are safe and stay together.
- Contact emergency services.
- Private hire: as their procedure.

#### EQUIPMENT:

- Drivers carrying equipment only must hold a full driving licence.
- Always check vehicle is in a road worthy condition before every trip.
- When towing equipment do not exceed maximum load.
- Make sure any equipment is properly secured.

## **6. COACH RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

For the purposes of this document and in general, children and young people are defined as individuals under the age of 18. It should be recognised, however, that many of the guidelines and good practices contained in this document are relevant to coaching practice with individuals of all ages and for vulnerable adults.

Coaches are responsible for setting and monitoring the boundaries of the working relationship with the children and young people in their care and should ensure that they always maintain a professional relationship with them. This includes sexual activity and manipulation by coaches or adults who hold a position of trust, responsibility or authority in relation to them, and, as a result, have a considerable amount of power and influence on their lives.

As of 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022 the law in England and Wales states that those in a position of trust in sports organisations, such as a coach cannot legally have a sexual relationship with young people they look after, under 18 years old.



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Coaches must take care that their conduct does not give rise to comment or speculation. Attitudes, demeanour, and language all require care and thought particularly when working with children and young people.

- Coaches should:
  - treat everyone with respect.
  - Respect an individual's right to personal privacy.
  - refrain from showing favouritism to any individual.
  
- 'Crushes' on coaches do occur from time to time and these need to be handled very sensitively. Coaches should not encourage or joke about these incidents as they may unintentionally hurt the feelings of the child or young person and cause an adverse reaction in the form of an accusation. It may give rise to gossip which a parent/carer may decide to investigate.
  
- No matter how conscientious coaches are in carrying out their duties, there will be occasions when their actions may be misconstrued. Where physical contact between a coach and any student is a necessary part of the coaching process, coaches must ensure that no actions on their part could be misinterpreted. This is particularly important when the student is a child or a young person.
  
- There may be occasions where a distressed child or young person needs comfort and reassurance. Avoid physical comfort such as hugging.
  
- Coaches administering First Aid to a child or young person should ensure wherever possible another adult is present or that First Aid is carried out in view of others, as the necessary physical contact could be misconstrued.
  
- Coaches should recognise that caution is required in all one-to-one situations and coaches should not:
  - Spend excessive amounts of time alone with children or young people away from others.
  - Take children or young people alone in a car on journeys, however short.
  - Take children or young people to their home.

If emergency situations arise where these are unavoidable, try and ensure that they occur only with the full knowledge and consent of the child or young person's parent/carer.

- Coaches must never:



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- Engage in rough physical, sexually provocative games, or horseplay.
  - Allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form.
  - Make sexually suggestive comments to a child or young person, even in fun.
  - Allow children or young people in their care to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
  - Let any allegations a child or young person makes go unchallenged or unrecorded, always act.
  - Do things of a personal nature that children can do themselves. However, it may sometimes be necessary for coach to do things of a personal nature for children or young people particularly if they are very young or disabled. These should only be carried out with the full knowledge and consent of their parents/carers in an emergency which requires this type of help.

• Whilst it is unlikely that as a coach you will ever be involved in a reported incident of either bad practice or abuse, it is unwise to rely upon your "good name" to protect you or to believe "it could never happen to me".

## **7. RECOGNITION OF CHILD ABUSE**

Child abuse is a term used to describe ways in which children are harmed, usually by adults and often by people they know and trust. It refers to the damage done to a child's physical or mental health. Children can be abused within or outside their family, at school and in the sports environment.

### FORMS OF ABUSE

Physical Abuse, where adults:

- Physically hurt or injure children (e.g., by hitting, shaking, squeezing, biting or burning)
- give children alcohol, inappropriate drugs, or poison
- Attempt to suffocate or drown children

In sport situations, physical abuse might also occur when the nature and intensity of training exceeds the capacity of the child's immature and growing body.

Neglect, when adults:

- fail to meet a child's basic physical needs. (e.g., for food, warm clothing)
  - Consistently leave children alone and unsupervised.
  - fail or refuse to give children love, affection, or attention.
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Neglect in a sports situation might also occur if a teacher or coach fails to ensure children are safe or exposes them to undue cold or risk of injury.

Emotional Abuse can occur when:

- There is a persistent lack of love or affection.
- There is constant overprotection which prevents children from socialising.
- Children are frequently being shouted at or taunted.
- There is neglect, physical or sexual abuse.

Emotional abuse in sport might also include situations where parents or coach subject children to constant criticism, bullying or unrealistic pressure to perform to high expectations.

Sexual Abuse. Boys and girls are sexually abused when adults (male or female) use them to meet their own sexual needs. This could include:

- Full sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, fondling
- showing children pornographic books, photographs, or videos, or taking pictures for pornographic purposes.

Sport situations which involve physical contact (e.g., supporting or guiding children) could potentially create situations where sexual abuse may go unnoticed. Abusive situations may also occur if adults misuse their power over young people.

## RECOGNITION OF ABUSE

Even for those experienced in working with child abuse, it is not always easy to recognise a situation where abuse may have occurred or is taking place. It is acknowledged that coaches are not experts at such recognition. It is however expected a coach must discuss any concerns they may have about the welfare of a child immediately with your organisation's child safeguarding officer.

Indications that a child is being abused include:

- Unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising, cuts or burns, particularly situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries.
- An injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent.
- The child describes what appears to be an abusive act involving him/her.
- Someone else - a child or adult, expresses concern about the welfare of another child.



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- Unexplained changes in behaviour - e.g., becoming very quiet, withdrawn, or displaying sudden outbursts of temper.
  - Inappropriate sexual awareness.
  - Engaging in sexually explicit behaviour in games.
  - Is distrustful of adults, particularly those with whom a close relationship will normally be expected. • Has difficulty in making friends.
  - Is prevented from socialising with other children.
  - Displays variations in eating patterns including overeating or loss of appetite.
  - Loses weight for no apparent reason.
  - Becomes increasingly dirty or unkempt.

It must be recognised that the above list is not exhaustive and the presence of one or more of the indicators is not proof that abuse is actually taking place. It is not the responsibility of coach to decide that child abuse is occurring, but it is your responsibility to act on any concerns.

## **8. ON DISCLOSURE OF ABUSE BY A CHILD**

If a child says or indicates that he or she is being abused, or information is obtained which gives concern that a child is being abused, the coach receiving this information should:

- React calmly so as not to frighten the child.
- Tell the child they are not to blame and that it was right to tell.
- Take what the child says seriously, recognising the difficulties inherent and interpreting what is said by a child who has a speech disability and/or differences in language.
- Keep questions to the absolute minimum necessary to ensure a clear and accurate understanding of what has been said.
- Reassure the child but do not make promises of confidentiality which might not be feasible in the light of subsequent developments.
- Make a full record of what had been said heard and/or seen as soon as possible.
- Report the incident as outlined in the following section.

## **9. REPORTING CHILD ABUSE**

***It is not up to the coach to take responsibility or to decide whether child abuse is taking place.*** There is, however, a responsibility to protect children in order that appropriate agencies can then make inquiries and take any necessary action to protect the child.



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The Children's Services Department of each local authority has a statutory duty under the Children Act 1989 to ensure the welfare of a child. When a child safeguarding referral is made its staff has a legal responsibility to investigate. This may involve talking to the child and family and gathering information from other people who know the child. Inquiries may be carried out jointly with the Police.

#### What to do if there are Concerns

1. There is always a commitment to work in partnership with parents or carers where there are concerns about their children. Therefore, in most situations, it would be important to talk to parents or carers to help clarify any initial concerns. For example, if a child seems withdrawn they may have experienced bereavement in the family. However, there are circumstances in which a child might be placed at even greater risk were such concerns to be shared, e.g., where a parent or carer may be responsible for the abuse or not able to respond to the situation appropriately.
2. Where such concerns exist, discuss them first with your child safeguarding officer before approaching carer or parent. Follow your club / AETA safeguarding policy and reporting flow chart.
3. If you feel unable to speak to someone within your club or AETA, Contact the ITF England safeguarding lead for advice. The safeguarding officer is Master Mckenna. He can be contacted on 07815 127725 or by e-mail at [info@newcastleblackbeltacadamy.co.uk](mailto:info@newcastleblackbeltacadamy.co.uk)
4. If your child safeguarding officer is not available. The person discovering or being informed of the abuse should immediately contact the Children's Services Department or the Police. If you are not sure about what to do, you can also obtain advice by telephoning the NSPCC freephone Helpline.

The Number is 0800 800 500

It operates a 24-hour service. You do not have to give your name, but it is helpful if you can.

In these circumstances the Children's Services Department, together with the person in charge, where appropriate, will decide how and when parents or carers will be informed.

#### Recording and Information



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Information passed to the Children's Services Department, or the Police must be as helpful as possible, hence the necessity for making a detailed record.

Information should include:

- The nature of the allegation.
- A description of any visible bruising or other injuries.
- The child's account, if he or she can give them of what has happened and how any bruising or other injuries occurred.
- Any times, dates, or other relevant information
- A clear distinction between what is fact, opinion, or hearsay
  
- Reporting the matter to the Police or Children's Services Department should not however be delayed by attempts to obtain more information.
  
- Wherever possible, referrals telephoned to the Children's Services Department should be confirmed in writing within 24 hours. A record should also be made of the names and designation of the Children's Services member of staff or Police Officer to whom the concerns were passed, together with the time and date of the call, in case any follow up is needed.

Concerns can be raised and reported at [safeguarding@aeta.uk](mailto:safeguarding@aeta.uk)

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