

<b><i>Taekwondo Ireland Code of Conduct Policy</i></b>	Approval Date:	21/07.21
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# Code of Conduct

## Contents

1. Conduct Guidelines .....
2. Young People Responsibilities .....
3. Players Code of Conduct .....
4. Parents Responsibility .....
5. Sports Leaders (Coaches, Selectors, Team Managers & Appointed Volunteers) .....
6. Taekwondo Sports Leaders .....
7. Supporters and Spectators .....
8. Event Officials .....
9. Club and Committees .....
10. Taekwondo Ireland Code of Conduct .....

## 1. Conduct Guidelines

The Taekwondo Ireland Code of Conduct is our leading policy on establishing acceptable standards of behaviour in our sport.

A young person's experience of sport should be guided by what is best for the child/young person. The stage of development and the ability of the child/young person should guide the type of activity provided within a Taekwondo environment.

Adults will need to have a basic understanding of the needs of a child/young person, including their physical, emotional and personal needs.

Sport gives young people an opportunity to be part of a team and to learn and develop skills; the sporting environment should be regarded by children as a safe place.

Within Taekwondo Ireland, we want children to have fun and develop skills in a safe and fair environment where good standards of behaviour are adopted at ALL times.

We recognise that competition and winning is an important goal but winning at all costs does not meet the needs of children/young players.

Taekwondo Ireland is aware that there are increasing numbers of children leaving the sport at a certain age. A number of the most common reasons given are; that sport was no longer fun, they did not get to compete, overemphasis on winning, and competing against all other sports

Therefore, we have to make every effort to ensure that we keep a balanced approach to competition, make sure all players get a chance to compete and strive to keep the fun in juvenile competition.

## 2. Young Peoples Responsibility

Just like coaches and volunteers, young people have responsibilities to make the activity **fun** and **safe**. This means respecting the coaches' volunteers and other players who are there to help young people by:

- Sticking to the rules of the game
- Not making insulting comments or swearing at the coach or other helpers and other club members.
- Being prepared and on time for sessions/training
- Doing their best at all times.
- Giving their friends a second chance if they make a mistake.
- Welcoming new members
- Saying NO to bullying

### 3. Player's Code of Conduct

Taekwondo Ireland recognises that the nature of the sport allows adults and juveniles to play with / against each other. The following highlights what players should **NEVER** allow happen:

- Never argue with the coach or referee in public.
- Never cheat.
- Never use foul language especially in front of or to a juvenile.
- Disrespect anyone in the training area with you,
- Take photos of juveniles unless parental consent has been given.
- Show aggressive behaviour or threaten anyone.
- Use bullying tactics to gain an advantage or manipulate other players.
- Train or play if they feel unwell or are injured.
- Use social media negatively (see social media policy)

Players should behave appropriately and should act in a manner which sets a good example to all involved within the club. Players should:

- Play fairly and within the rules.
- Respect their fellow players regardless of ability, cultural, or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation or religious beliefs. (see racial and vilification policy)
- Take due care of Club Equipment and that of other players.
- Accept the decisions of referees and/or officials.
- Be gracious in defeat and modest in victory.
- Adhere to acceptable standards of behaviour in line with the Code of Conduct.
- Know they can talk to their Safeguarding Officer with any concerns they may have about themselves or other players.

#### Adult-child relationships in sport should be:

- Open, positive and encouraging.
- Entered into by choice.
- Defined by a mutually agreed set of goals and commitments.
- Respectful of the creativity and autonomy of children/young people.
- Carried out in a context where children/young people are protected and where their rights are promoted.
- Free from physical, emotional or sexual abuse and neglect or any threat of such harm.
- Respectful of the needs and developmental stage of the child.
- Aimed at the promotion of enjoyment and individual progress.
- Governed by a code of ethics and good practice in sport that is agreed and adhered to by all members of the sports club/organisation.
- Respectful, but not unquestioning of authority.
- Mindful of the fact that children with disabilities may be more vulnerable.

## 4. Parents Responsibility

Taekwondo Ireland recognise the significance of parental behaviour and how it can influence young players. Parents should be there to support the running of the club. As parents they should:

- Help out when asked – (once they are Garda Vetted, parents can help out on a regular basis)
- Be enthusiastic and cheer the young people on but not embarrass them.
- Never argue with the coach or referee in public.
- Never put undue pressure on their child.
- Be realistic in their expectations.
- Applaud the effort and performance rather than the result.
- Encourage a balanced and healthy lifestyle for their child or children.
- Drop their young person off and collect them on time.
- Listen to any concerns the club may have.
- Make sure the young people have the correct kit/shoes/equipment.

Parents and young people should be provided with a copy of the guidelines contained within this document about their responsibility and expectations, to sign and return an acknowledgement of their agreement to behave to an agreed standard.

## 5. Sports Leaders (Coaches, Selectors, Team Managers & Appointed Volunteers)

Taekwondo Ireland recognises the key role leaders play in the lives of children/young people in sport. Coaches and volunteers involved in youth taekwondo have a great opportunity to be a positive role model and help build an individual's confidence. They have an overall responsibility to take the necessary steps to ensure that positive and healthy experiences are provided.

All Leaders should have as their priority the child's safety and enjoyment of the sport and should adhere to the guidelines and regulations set out in Taekwondo Ireland's Safeguarding Children and Young People policy.

This summary explains what you should do to keep young people **safe** and make sure they have **fun**. It also helps you think about what responsibilities you have.

## 6. Taekwondo Sports Leaders

Are there to make sure children/young people learn skills, enjoy the activity and keep safe. It means you should respect children/young people and consider their safety by:

- Being reliable.
- Being fair and letting them have their say.
- Making them feel safe.
- Letting them take part.
- Encouraging them.
- Being a good role model not showing favouritism.
- Never condoning bullying or abusive language.
- Work in an open environment where children and young people can voice concerns adhere to Taekwondo Ireland supervision guidelines as per the supervision policy.
- Holding a register of those who attend each session – This is very important from an insurance perspective.
- Agreeing to safe recruitment procedures (including vetting) Making sure that they do not feel uncomfortable.

### Coaches and Volunteers must make sure that:

- They themselves are vetted through Taekwondo Ireland.
- The activity is FUN.
- They have the right qualification for their role.
- The equipment used is safe.
- You know what you are doing.
- You work to the Taekwondo Ireland code of conduct. Act as a good role model for children and young people. You treat young people as individuals.

### You should not:

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay, allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching.
- Allow children/young people to use foul, sexualised or discriminatory language unchallenged.
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child/young person.
- Enter the area of play unless the referee/official in charge has given permission to do so.
- Take coaching sessions on your own.
- Reduce a child/young person to tears as a form of control.
- Smoke, consume alcohol or use non-prescribed drugs whilst underage players are in your care.
- Allow allegations made by a child/young person to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
- Over-train your players.
- Invite or allow children/young people to stay with you at your home.

- Communicate individually by text, email or via social media with children or young people.
- Ignore any concerns a child/young person may have regarding their welfare.

It is hugely important that the coach is made aware of who their Safeguarding Officer is, and that any concerns that are made aware to a coach regarding a child/young person are passed onto the Safeguarding Officer.

Coaches and volunteers within Taekwondo are expected to make themselves familiar with and sign the more detailed Sports Coaches Charter.

## **7. Supporters and Spectators**

Supporters and spectators are encouraged to appreciate the entertainment given by the sport of Taekwondo. We acknowledge the impact that supporters and spectators have in promoting our sport and enhancing the image of Taekwondo.

In this capacity, supporters of the game and those who play it should take into consideration the following in terms of their behaviour within our sport:

- Applaud good performances and effort, particularly when watching children/young players
- Condemn the use of violence in any form
- Using appropriate and acceptable language
- Respecting all officials within the game
- Never disrespecting a player who makes a mistake
- Never entering the court of play at any stage
- Ensuring that respect is shown to opponents to those of whom you are supporting

It is important that all those who are there to support players do so in a manner which upholds the principles of fair play.

## **8. Event Officials**

Without the event officials Taekwondo Ireland supports, we would struggle to implement our matches, programmes and tournaments in an efficient, safe and fair environment. Our referees and officials in particular have an important role to play in implementing the principles and rules we have set out in the Code of Conduct.

Our officials should behave in a manner by which we follow the below guidelines:

- Apply the playing rules impartially and with consistency
- Deal with any breaches of the code in a fair and transparent manner
- Communicate effectively and respectfully to all players, coaches and officials
- Work in unison with fellow officials at an event
- In a case of a challenge of decision, communicate your reasons for such decision to a player in a respectful manner
- Maintain composure regardless of the situation
- Deal with foul or abusive language in a firm and fair manner

- Report any cases of misconduct, in line with this document to the person in charge.
- Undertake agreed checks / training as requested by Taekwondo Ireland and its affiliated body's.

## 9. Clubs & Committees

Clubs and committees have a massive role to play in protecting the integrity of Taekwondo. The volunteers who run and deliver activities do so in the best interests of the development of the sport, and Taekwondo Ireland fully supports volunteers in carrying out their roles.

In terms of applying best practice at a local level, it is important that our affiliated bodies adopt an approach which offers great levels of protection to our children and young people who play the sport, to the parents of these players, and offer support and reassurance to our officials in order that we can enjoy the sport of Taekwondo in a safe, enjoyable environment where fair play is at the core of what we implement in practice.

Affiliated Bodies can act in a proactive manner by:

- Adopting and implementing the code of conduct
- Leading by example
- Developing effective and efficient procedures particularly in terms of enforcing the code of conduct
  - Agreeing the roles and responsibilities of people working within the club
  - Ensuring that all checks such as Vetting and Safeguarding Training are completed.
  - Ensuring that all people working with children and young people are adequately qualified with respect to these checks, and any other qualifications that are required
  - Ensuring that there are structures in place to protect all involved such as the implementation of safe travel and supervision policies
  - Appointing a suitably qualified Safeguarding Officer
  - Appointing a Designated Liaison Person .
  - Encouraging participation and interaction of parents of young players
  - Ensuring that all those who join their Taekwondo Club are appropriately affiliated to Taekwondo Ireland for eligibility purposes
  - Promoting the code of conduct with their club and at events
  - Ensuring that principles of transparency, fairness and integrity are upheld in the case of a complaint being made.
  - Ensuring that all documentation legally required is administrated, and adhered to

By promoting the importance of the Code of Conduct within your affiliated body at the start of the year, and continuing on through, the affiliated body is in a position where they can enforce set rules in terms of what is expected by all within the club. The Safeguarding Officer can implement informal actions in the case of a breach of the code and can seek advice from Taekwondo Ireland in such a scenario.

## **Taekwondo Ireland Code of Conduct Declaration**

### **Please complete and return this sheet to Taekwondo Ireland**

I have read and accept the Taekwondo Ireland Code of Conduct in accordance to my role within Taekwondo Ireland and its affiliated body's.

I understand that any breach of the Code of Conduct may lead to disciplinary action being taken in line with the Taekwondo Ireland Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures, or in the case of suspected abuse under the regulations in Taekwondo Ireland Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy.

**Signature**.....

**Role** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date**.....