

SAFEGUARDING IN MARTIAL ARTS

SAFE PRACTICE POLICY

NAME OF CLUB:- Quest Taekwondo Lincoln

Martial Arts are activities where safe practice is essential to help prevent injury. Children* are particularly vulnerable as they are still developing mentally and physically, so training methods need to be modified as described below. (*also includes Adults at Risk)

1. Warm Ups

All activities should first include a thorough warm up which is appropriate for the activity taking place. To help reduce the risk of injury, specific attention should be paid to those muscle groups that will be used during later activity.

2. Martial Arts involving throwing, grappling and strangling

Some examples are: Judo, Ju Jitsu and Aikido

The risks include but are not limited to: falling on unsuitable surfaces; landing on the head; damage to the joints from locks; strangulation.

Safe practice includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Checking the matted area for suitability, particularly where the mats have been joined.
- (b) Checking that there are no hard surfaces or sharp/hard objects around the matted area.
- (c) Having an experience instructor who will ensure that children are not taught to use locks, throws or strangles which will cause injury.

3. Martial Arts involving strikes, punches and kicks

Some examples are: Karate, Taekwondo, Thai Boxing and Kickboxing

(a) The risks include but are not limited to: concussion (brain injury) from heavy blows to the head; damage to internal organs and joints from heavy blows; injury from inappropriate stretching and other exercises. Specific considerations for Quest Taekwondo Lincoln are outlined in the table below:

*To what degree, if at all, is head contact allowed? What type of head contact is permitted? (e.g. controlled, light contact, no follow through?)	Head contact is only allowed with mutual consent and when full WTF approved PPE is used
What safeguards are there to limit the risk of head injury?	Head contact is only allowed with mutual consent and when full WTF approved PPE is used
- Is age a consideration regarding head contact? What ages should be considered?	When considering head contact, age and experience is a factor. Head contact is only allowed with mutual consent and when full WTF approved PPE is used
- Is equipment a consideration when sparring or in competition? What equipment should be considered?	Full WTF approved PPE is required for contact sparring.
- Is the age of the participants/athletes a consideration when sparring or in competition? What ages should be considered?	Competitions attended consider ages and weights of participants
- Is height or weight of the participants/athletes a consideration when sparring or in competition? What heights and weights should be considered?	Competitions attended consider ages and weights of participants, with only appropriately ranked/checked individuals competing against one another.
- What floor covering (e.g. mats) is used when sparring or in competition?	Sparring in class or at competitions is only allowable when appropriate safety matting is in place
- What are the steps taken if head injury occurs?	Appropriate first aid equipment and individuals are available to deal with any injuries
- Is appropriate medical supervision available when sparring or in competition?	Appropriate medical supervision and equipment is available when sparring or in competition
- What considerations are taken with mixed gender sparring and competition?	Mixed gender sparring in class is considered on a case by case basis. Mixed gender sparring is not allowable in competitions attended
- Is supervision of the participants/athletes considered when sparring or in competition?	Close supervision of participants is always in place when sparring and in competition

- (b) Avoiding excessive stretching and exercises such as press-ups on the knuckles or hitting heavy bags; the joints of children are still developing and can be damaged by these exercises.

4. Martial Arts involving weapons

Some examples are Kendo, Kobudo, Laido and Freestyle Forms Karate

Safe practice should include but is not limited to:

- (a) No live blades (sharp or otherwise) in the training hall when children are present
- (b) Safe protocols for the use of training weapons by children
- (c) Good supervision at all times by Instructors

Above all, safe practice means having a suitably qualified and experienced instructor who will ensure that children are not exposed to the above risks and who can make a training session enjoyable whilst maintaining the discipline essential to learning a Martial Art.