

Pilsung Ecosse

Child Protection Procedures













Introduction

It is the policy of Pilsung Ecosse Taekwondo to ensure that every child/young person who takes part in Taekwondo training should be able to participate in a fun and safe environment and protected from neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse.

The key principles that underwrite the policy are:

-  A child is anyone under the age of 16
-  The child's welfare is paramount
-  All children regardless of age, culture, race, ability, gender, religion and or sexual identity have the right to be protected from harm and abuse
-  All suspicions or allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and will be responded to swiftly and appropriately
-  It is the responsibility of Pilsung Ecosse to produce appropriate documentation and support to implement the policy
-  Adults working with children are also given protection and are aware of best practice so they can protect from wrongful allegations
-  Working in partnership with children and their parents/carers is key to child protection
-  Pilsung Ecosse recognises the statutory responsibility and is committed to working in partnership with Local Social Work Departments to ensure the welfare of the children it trains

This policy has been developed from the British Taekwon-Do Council Child Protection Policy and Implementation Procedures. A copy can be requested from the Club Secretary (must be returned)








Definitions


The term child abuse is used to describe ways in which a child can be harmed, usually by adults and often by those they know and trust.

There are four types of abuse. A child may experience one or more type of abuse at any one time in their life.


 **Physical Abuse** - Actual or attempted physical injury to a child, including the administration of toxic substances, where there is knowledge, or reasonable suspicion, that the injury was inflicted or knowingly not prevented.

 **Sexual Abuse** - Any child may be deemed to have been sexually abused when any person(s), by design or neglect, exploits the child, directly or indirectly, in any activity intended to lead to the sexual arousal or other forms of gratification of that person or any other person(s) including organised networks. This definition holds whether or not there has been genital contact and whether or not the child is said to have initiated, or consented to, the behaviour.

 **Emotional Abuse** - Failure to provide for the child's basic emotional needs such as to have a severe effect on the behaviour and development of the child.



 **Physical Neglect** - This occurs when a child's essential needs are not met and this is likely to cause impairment to physical health and development. Such needs include food, clothing, cleanliness, shelter and warmth. A lack of appropriate care, including deprivation of access to health care, may result in persistent or severe exposure, through negligence, to circumstances which endanger the child.

Other forms of abuse include:

 **Abuse of Trust** - Where a child or young person is indoctrinated with attitudes to training, drugs and cheating, social, political, and religious views which are unacceptable to the young athlete's family, community or rules of the sport.





-  The inappropriate use of photographic material taken at a sporting event is an area of abuse that is growing and awareness of this is required.
-  All forms of bullying, both verbal and physical from adults and other children is also a form of abuse.

There is a requirement for all within the sport to ensure that there are sufficient mechanisms to allow children and those working with children to report instances of abuse.


















Identifying Abuse

Dealing with child abuse is rarely straight forward. In some cases the child's disturbed behaviour or an injury may suggest that a child has been or is being abused. In many instances the signs may not be clear cut and the decisions about what action to take can be difficult.

Possible signs of abuse include:

-  Uncharacteristic changes in the child's behaviour, attitude and commitment e.g. becoming quiet and withdrawn or displaying sudden outburst of anger and aggression
-  Gossip from other adults/ children involved with the team.
-  Bruises or injuries not typical with the sport or an injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent. Remember the physical nature of the sport of Taekwondo may mean that a child is marked accidentally
-  Signs of pain and discomfort
-  Reluctance to remove tracksuit or shower
-  The child becomes increasingly dirty or unkempt
-  The child loses weight for no apparent reason
-  Nervousness when approached or touched
-  Fear of particular adults/children - especially with those with whom normally a close relationship would be expected
-  If a child or young person shows a reluctance to attend training or the child wishes to switch to another coach without good reason or explanation
-  Inappropriate sexual awareness
-  Children who are always alone and unaccompanied and/or are prevented from socialising with other children
-  Children who are reluctant to go home

It must be acknowledged that the above list is not exhaustive and the presence of one or more of these indicators is not necessarily a sign that abuse is taking place. It is not the responsibility of those working with children to decide if abuse has taken place but is to respond appropriately to concerns raised.

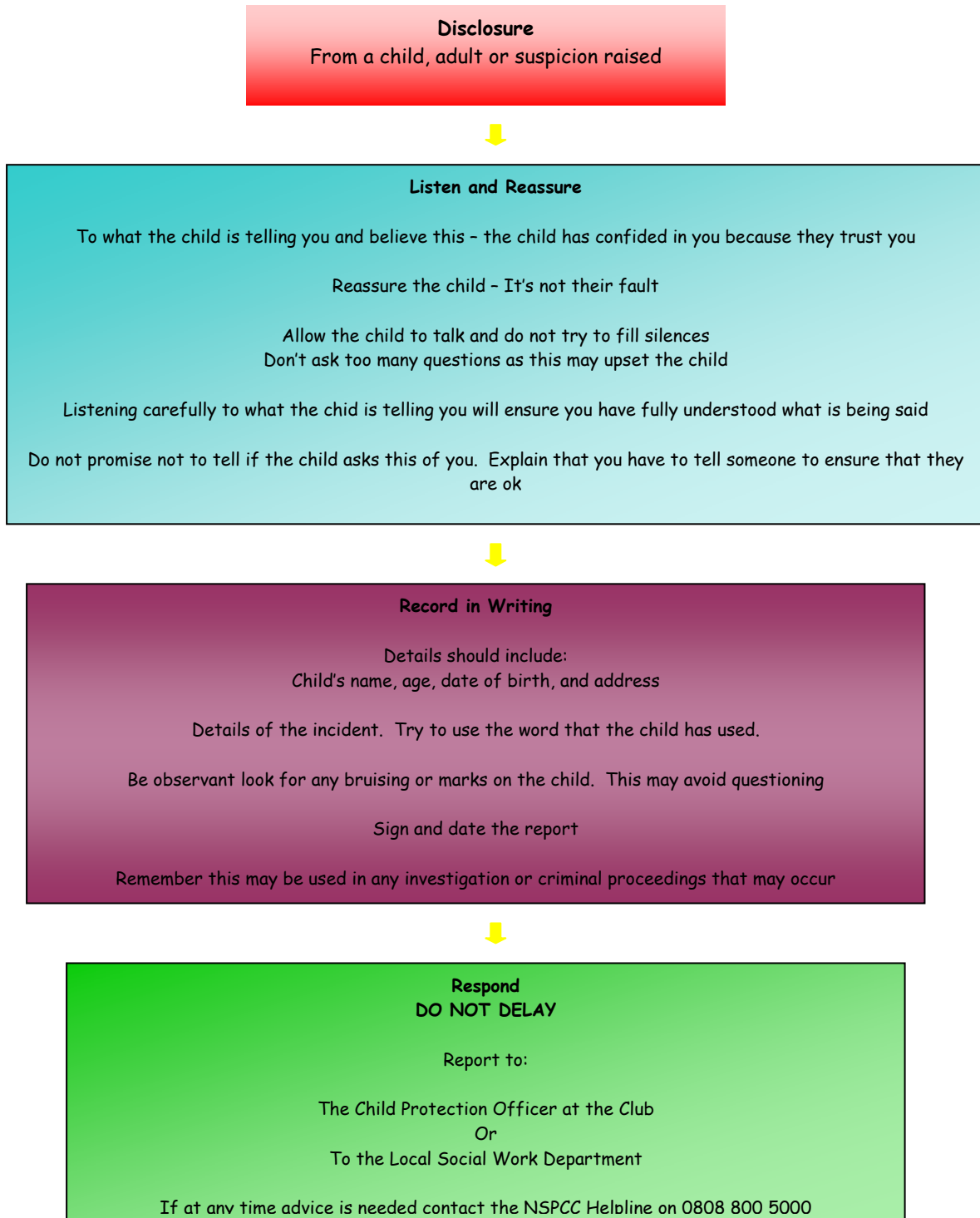




Responding to Complaints and Alleged or Suspected Abuse

The following flow chart gives the basic procedure for reporting allegations or concerns.

In all cases confidentiality is of the utmost importance. Do not share the concerns with those other than is necessary. Confidentiality must not be promised to the child at the time of a disclosure.





Promoting Good Practice

By promoting good practice throughout the club and in the wider context it is possible to reduce situations where by children can be abused. The club should have a policy that ensures children are protected and kept safe from harm. Everyone should know what to do should concerns be raised and where the procedures are kept.

The appointment of a Child Protection Officer is key in this practice and will be encouraged to promote good practice throughout the club ensuring that everyone is aware of their responsibilities. This may include leading by example, organising simple training briefings and the use of leaflets and posters in areas used by the club including material with appropriate contact numbers such as:



In addition to the procedures outlined above it is the role of the Child Protection Officer to ensure that all volunteers complete the appropriate forms. The volunteers have to be prepared to be subject to police vetting prior to being allowed to work with the club. The forms may be sent to Scottish Taekwonmudo on request.

Use of Photography and video recorders - To reduce the risk of misuse of sports photography all those wishing to take pictures or use video recording equipment are requested to fill in a form giving their name, address and reasons for wishing to use the equipment. Permission from parents will be requested in relation to allowing their child's photograph to be taken in relation any sports related publicity.

Bullying will not be tolerated - As it is recognised that bullying may occur in the club the club is encouraged to adopt an anti bullying policy. Any occurrences of bullying will be taken seriously and investigated fully. Incidents of bullying are encouraged to be reported to an adult e.g. an instructor or Child Protection Officer etc.

Team management/Team Travel - there is a duty to care that a team manager and or club has to its young athletes when travelling to events. It is recommended that the club travel with full address list and contact numbers for each athlete within the team with consent from the parent or guardian. This information will include special dietary requirements and allergies.

During overnight stays it is the responsibility of the Team manager to prevent any misuse of alcohol or access to unsuitable material such as adult movie channels etc.

