Child Safeguarding Policy

SportKickboxing

1. Policy Statement

SportKickboxing is committed to creating a safe, positive, and inclusive environment for all children and young people involved in martial arts. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm, abuse, and exploitation.

All children, regardless of age, gender, ability, race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation, have the right to protection from all forms of harm and abuse while participating in our activities.

2. Purpose of This Policy

- To protect children and young people who attend our martial arts sessions.
- To provide coaches, volunteers, and staff with clear guidance on their responsibilities in safeguarding children.
- To ensure that everyone involved understands how to respond appropriately to child protection concerns.

3. Legal Framework

This policy is based on UK legislation and guidance including:
- The Children Act 1989 & 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023)
- NSPCC and CPSU (Child Protection in Sport Unit) guidelines

4. Definitions

- Child: Anyone under the age of 18.
- Safeguarding: The proactive measures taken to protect children from harm.
- Child Protection: The procedures followed when there are concerns a child is suffering or at risk of significant harm.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):
- Louise Watton
- 07743658427
- doody.watton@outlook.com

Responsible for handling safeguarding concerns and ensuring policy implementation.

All Coaches, Volunteers and Staff:
- Must complete safeguarding training appropriate to their role.

- Must read and adhere to this safeguarding policy.
- Must report any concerns immediately to the DSL.

6. Code of Conduct

All adults working with children must:
- Treat all children with respect and dignity.
- Never engage in or tolerate bullying or abusive behaviour.
- Avoid any unnecessary physical contact.
- Never be alone in a closed space with a child (except in an emergency).
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries.
- Always act in the best interests of the child.

7. Safe Recruitment

We will ensure:
- All staff and volunteers working with children undergo an Enhanced DBS check.
- At least two references are obtained before appointment.
- Staff/volunteers understand and agree to follow this safeguarding policy.

8. Training and Supervision

- All staff and volunteers must complete recognised child safeguarding training every 2–3 years.
- Coaches and assistants must be supervised and supported in their role.
- The DSL will receive specialist safeguarding training.

9. Reporting Concerns

If a child discloses abuse or if there are signs of abuse:
1. Listen carefully and calmly.
2. Do not promise confidentiality; explain you must report it.
3. Record what the child says using their own words.
4. Report to the DSL as soon as possible.
5. In serious cases, contact emergency services or the local safeguarding board.

In an emergency, call 999.

10. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

- All concerns and reports will be kept confidential and shared only on a need-to-know basis.
- Records will be stored securely in accordance with data protection laws (e.g., GDPR).

11. Online Safety

- No personal contact with children via private messaging or social media.
- Use official club channels for communication.
- No photos or videos of children will be taken or shared without written parental consent.

12. Whistleblowing

Staff and volunteers must report any concerns about inappropriate behaviour by another adult within the club. Whistleblowers will be protected from victimisation or retaliation.

13. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually or after any serious safeguarding incident.

Next review due: 20/06/2027
Reviewed by: [Louise Watton Club Instructor & DSL]

14. Contact Information

- DSL: Louise Watton – 07743658427 / doody.watton@outlook.com
- NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000