



Martial Arts Alliance

Child Safeguarding Policy

Martial Arts Alliance
(Sept 2022)

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Child Safeguarding Policy

Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every three years, or in the following circumstances:

- Changes in legislation and/or government guidance.
- As required by the local safeguarding partnership, UK Sport and/or home country sports councils and Martial Arts Alliance.
- As a result of any other significant change or event.

This policy was last reviewed on 1-10-2022

Policy Owner: Martial Arts Alliance

Policy approved by: Master Phil Hatton (7th Dan)

Date Policy approved: 1-10-2022

Next review Date: 1-10-2025

[this should be signed by the most senior person with responsibility for safeguarding in your organisation, for example the safeguarding lead on your board of trustees].

Our Safeguarding Officer (Lead)

Name: Master Phil Hatton (7th Dan)

Tel: 07852 961675

Email: philhatton@freestylemartialarts.com

Our Deputy Safeguarding Officer

Name: Mr Elliot Manning (5th Dan)

Tel: 0333 456 7585

Email: elliotmanning@freestylemartialarts.com

In a safeguarding emergency, where a young person is at immediate risk of harm, call 999.

Section 1: Child Safeguarding Policy

Guidelines for safeguarding children's welfare

It is widely accepted that it is the responsibility of every adult to protect children from abuse. It is a child's right to be safe and happy, and it is their parents right to expect that whatever organisation or event to which they entrust their child/children, it is without risk or harm to their child/children.

Organisations have a duty of care to protect any child within their custody, or for whom they provide services.

In 1998 Government figures indicated that over 31,600 children were registered as needing protection from abuse. Children may be abused regardless of age, racial origin, gender, religious belief, disability, or sexual identity. They are usually abused by people they know and trust. This can be from within or outside the family, and even in a sporting environment.

It is possible to reduce situations in which abuse can occur and help protect Instructors by promoting good practice. The following guidelines should be adhered to when working with children within any context.

As a professionally qualified Martial Arts Instructor, a minor (child) is deemed anyone under the age of 18.

Please read the following guidelines carefully—they will help you to understand child abuse and what to do if a child tells you about abuse.

'Zero Contact' Policy

All Martial Arts Alliance instructors and assistants must adopt a 'zero contact' policy at all times, unless required to make contact under 'special circumstances' or as a medical emergency.

Contact during a medical emergency is permitted and must always be appropriate to the medical condition of the patient.

'Special circumstances' cover any situation where a child may require a limited level of contact due to a health issue, injury, or disability. All 'special circumstances' must be agreed, in writing, with the parent or guardian prior to commencing training.

Warmups, linework, apparatus activities, games, stretches, and seminar work, where an adult is assisting a child, or an adult and child are working together (e.g. blocker tag game), should only be done if a 'zero contact' policy can be adhered to at all times.

If 'zero contact' is not possible, then the activity should be risk assessed to find a safer solution for practicing the activity or remove the activity from the syllabus if a solution cannot be found.

No contact with any student or spectator under 18 years, unless

- Essential for an injury, illness, or medical emergency
- Essential for a disabled student (pre-arranged)
- Partnering is with a parent
- Partnering is with an older sibling (over 18)
- Partnering is with a friend or relative (pre-arranged)

Zero Contact Policy (Basic First Aid)

- Allow a parent to administer first aid
- Try to have another member of staff present
- If washroom is needed, let a parent or female instructor go
- If no parent or instructor available, administer first aid in the presence of other adult students, parents, or spectators
- Use minimum contact relevant to the injury only

Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures

1. Commitment to Safeguarding

At Martial Arts Alliance we are committed to safeguarding children and young people, and we expect everyone who works in our clubs to share this commitment. Our clubs take all welfare concerns seriously and encourages children and young people to talk to us about anything that worries them. We will always act in the best interests of the child.

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2. Principles

Martial Arts Alliance acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance such as Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and complies with best practice requirements.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience in a safe and child centred environment.
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in activity organised within Martial Arts Alliance premises or outside.
- Martial Arts Alliance acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare. As part of our safeguarding policy Martial Arts Alliance will:
 - i. promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
 - ii. ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify, and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
 - iii. ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern.
 - iv. ensure that confidential, detailed, and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
 - v. ensure information is shared with relevant agencies when necessary for child protection purposes
 - vi. prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals
 - vii. ensure our workforce is aware of all relevant legislation affecting those in Positions of Trust
 - viii. ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in Martial Arts Alliance. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

3. Relevant Legislation & Statutory Guidance

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime 2021
- Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022
- Sexual Offences Act 2003

(To include Section 22A – the expansion of Positions of Trust to include sports coaches)

- Data Protection Act 2018

4. Definitions

In England, Northern Ireland and Wales a child is someone under the age of 18, whether living with their families, in state care, or living independently (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018).

This generally applies in Scotland but in some cases, for example for parts of the Scottish Child Protection Process it will be 16.

5. Types of Abuse and Neglect

All club staff and volunteers should be aware that abuse, neglect, and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another.

Abuse:

A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. They may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children. (See Peer-on-Peer abuse later in this document)

Position Of Trust:

As of 28 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. The Sexual Offences Act 2003 is amended as follows.

A person (A) is in a position of trust in relation to another person (B) if he/she coaches, teaches, trains, supervises or instructs B, on a regular basis, in a sport or a religion, and he/she knows that they coach, teach, train, supervise or instruct B, on a regular basis, in that sport or religion.

Physical abuse:

A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Emotional abuse:

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children.

These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning or preventing the child from participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse:

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse,

as can other children. The sexual abuse of children by other children is a specific safeguarding issue.

Peer-on-Peer / Child-on-Child Abuse:

Peer-on-peer sexual abuse is a form of harmful sexual behaviour where sexual abuse takes place between children of a similar age or stage of development.

Child-on-child sexual abuse is a form of HSB that takes place between children of any age or stage of development.

Peer on peer / Child-on-child abuse occurs when a young person is exploited, bullied and / or harmed by their peers who are the same or similar age; everyone directly involved in peer-on-peer abuse is under the age of 18.

Related issues:

In addition to the above categories, there are other forms of harm or abuse that should involve the police and other organisations working together to protect children. These include:

Bullying:

Bullying falls under four main categories, psychological, verbal, physical and cyberbullying and its effects can have far-reaching consequences. Bullying can have an impact on anyone, children, and adults in school or at work. It can seriously affect someone's physical and mental health. Sustained bullying can cause stress, emotional issues, social problems, physical disorders and in some serious cases, self-harm or even death.

Child Exploitation:

Child exploitation refers to the use of children for someone else's advantage, gratification or profit often resulting in unjust, cruel, and harmful treatment of the child. These activities are to the detriment of the child's physical or mental health, education, moral or social-emotional development. It covers situations of manipulation, misuse, abuse, victimisation, oppression, or ill-treatment.

Child Criminal Exploitation:

Child Criminal Exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur using technology.

Child Sexual Exploitation:

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse of young people. It is not just something that affects teenage girls or specific groups and can happen in and out of

school. It involves an individual or group coercing, manipulating, and deceiving a child into sexual activity. Children as young as 8 have been sexually exploited.

Hate crimes:

Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender.

Abuse in domestic settings:

Much verbal, physical, emotional, and sexual abuse and neglect takes place in the home within the context of the intimate relationships between family members that take place within the home. Abuse between relationship partners is sometimes referred to as "partner abuse", "domestic violence", "relationship violence", or "family violence". Much child abuse and elder abuse takes place within the home as well.

Honour based violence:

Honour Based Abuse can take many forms, including child marriage, virginity testing, enforced abortion, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, as well as physical, sexual, and economic abuse and coercive control.

Forced marriage:

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not or cannot consent to the marriage, and pressure, coercion or abuse is used to force them into marriage. The pressure put on people to marry against their will may be by physical/threat of physical harm to them or another. It can include the use of physical or sexual violence, use of emotional and/or psychological abuse and can include making someone feel like they are bringing 'shame' on their family if they do not agree to the marriage.

Note – Forced marriage should not be confused with an "arranged marriage" where both people agree and consent to marriage that may have been arranged within the couple's community of between their families.

Trafficking/ Modern Slavery:

Human Trafficking is defined as the arranging or facilitation of the travel of another person for the purposes of exploitation. 'Arranging' includes the facilitation, recruitment, transporting, transferring, harbouring, or receiving of a child for the purpose of exploitation. It is irrelevant whether the child consents to the travel/movement. A child is trafficked if he/she is provided with the means to travel (ticket/taxi/money etc.) to carry out a criminal offence, i.e., to carry & sell drugs, to conceal weapons/stolen goods. A child cannot consent to being exploited & must not be judged as them freely making a choice.

Gang Violence/County Lines:

The term "Gang" does not have a precise definition. Section 34(5) Policing & Crime Act 2009, (amended by the Serious Crime Act 2015) states that someone/thing is 'gang related' if it occurs during, or is otherwise related to, the activities of a group that:

- Consists of at least three people; and
- Has one or more characteristics that enable its members to be identified by others as a group.
- Many groups of people may share a community, friendship, or common characteristics such as age, but an additional feature of a gang is that it carries out criminal activity.

'County Lines' is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of 'deal line'. They are likely to exploit children and adults to move [and store] the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

Radicalisation:

Religious or political indoctrination used to coerce individuals for purposes of promoting violence/civil unrest/racial disharmony.

Poor practice :

Sometimes, your concerns may relate to poor practice, where an adult or another young person's behaviour is inappropriate and may be causing distress to a child or young person. In the application of this policy, poor practice includes any behaviour which contravenes the principles of this document or the relevant Club NGB Code of Conduct or brings Martial Arts into disrepute, or which infringes an individual's rights. Where poor practice is serious or repeated this could also constitute abuse and should be reported immediately. Examples of poor practice towards students, which should never be sanctioned include:

- use of excessive, physical or humiliating punishments/behaviour;
- failure to act when you witness possible abuse or bullying;
- being unaware of, or breaching, any relevant policy such as the Code of Ethics and Conduct or legislation such as that relating to those in Positions of Trust;
- spending excessive amounts of time alone with young people away from others;
- inviting or allowing young people into your home where they will be alone with you;
- engaging in rough, physical or sexually provocative activity;
- allowing young people to use inappropriate language unchallenged;
- making sexually suggestive comments even in fun;
- reducing a person to tears as a form of control;
- travelling alone with a young person by offering lifts to and from sessions/competitions;

- allowing allegations made by a young person to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon;
- doing things of a personal nature for young people that they can do for themselves; sharing a bedroom with a young person you are not related to, even with parental permission.

Some participants may require assistance with personal care due to being very young or disabled. If a young person needs this level of support, it should be made clear to their parent/s that this can only be carried out by a designated carer and not by the instructor. Even if the instructor is trained in carrying out personal care tasks, this compromises their role as trainer and places them and the child in a vulnerable position. These support arrangements should clearly be in place and agreed to by all parties prior to the activities commencing.

6. Signs and Indicators of Abuse and Neglect

Indicators that a young person may be being abused/neglected may include the following:

- unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising, cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries;
- an injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent;
- the young person describes what appears to be an abusive act involving him/her;
- someone else (a young person or adult) expresses concern about the welfare of another;
- unexplained changes in behaviour/presentation/appearance (e.g., becoming very quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden outbursts of temper, unexplained missing episodes);
- inappropriate sexual awareness;
- engaging in sexually explicit behaviour;
- sudden or unusual distrust of adults, particularly those with whom a close relationship would normally be expected;
- having difficulty in making friends;
- being prevented from socialising with other young people;
- displaying variations in eating patterns including overeating or loss of appetite;
- or a sudden weight change;
- becoming increasingly dirty or unkempt.
- attending with unusual amounts/unexplained gifts/money

It should be recognised that this list is not exhaustive and the presence of one or more of the indicators is not proof that abuse is taking place. A good working relationship with parent/guardians will help to identify any other concerns that a young person may be experiencing. For example, a family bereavement which could cause some of the changes listed above.

7. What to do if you have a concern or someone raises concerns with you.

Martial Arts Alliance recognises 'everyone who works with children has a responsibility for keeping them safe. No single practitioner can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances and, if children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action' (page 11 para 16 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018).

Whilst accepting this duty it is recognised Martial Arts Alliance is not responsible for deciding if abuse has occurred. It does, however, have a duty to respond and report concerns.

Martial Arts Alliance will have an appropriately trained Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy.

All safeguarding concerns and poor practice occurrences, except if the issue concerns those individuals, must be reported to the DSL / Deputy. This includes issues raised concerning the activities of instructors or volunteers or, where there are concerns outside of Martial Arts Alliance (for example at home, school or in the wider community).

Where there is an allegation against an instructor or volunteer who works with children at Martial Arts Alliance the DSL/Deputy must report the matter to the Local Authority Designated Officer/ NGB Designated Officer.

Instructors and volunteers must also report the following to the DSL / Deputy and make a written record of what they have done, seen or heard:

- They have accidentally hurt a child;
- a child seems distressed in any manner;
- a child appears to be sexually aroused by their actions;
- a child misunderstands or misinterprets something they have said or done.

If you think a child is in immediate danger or requires medical attention, you should call the emergency services on 999. You can also ring the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000 to report immediate risks. This is an immediate responsibility and will take priority over informing the Designated Safeguard Lead or Deputy.

8. How to respond to a concern

It is always difficult to hear about or witness harm or abuse experienced by a child or young person. The following points will be helpful for both you and the child should they choose to disclose abuse to you:

1. Stay calm.
2. Listen carefully to what is said and try not to interrupt.

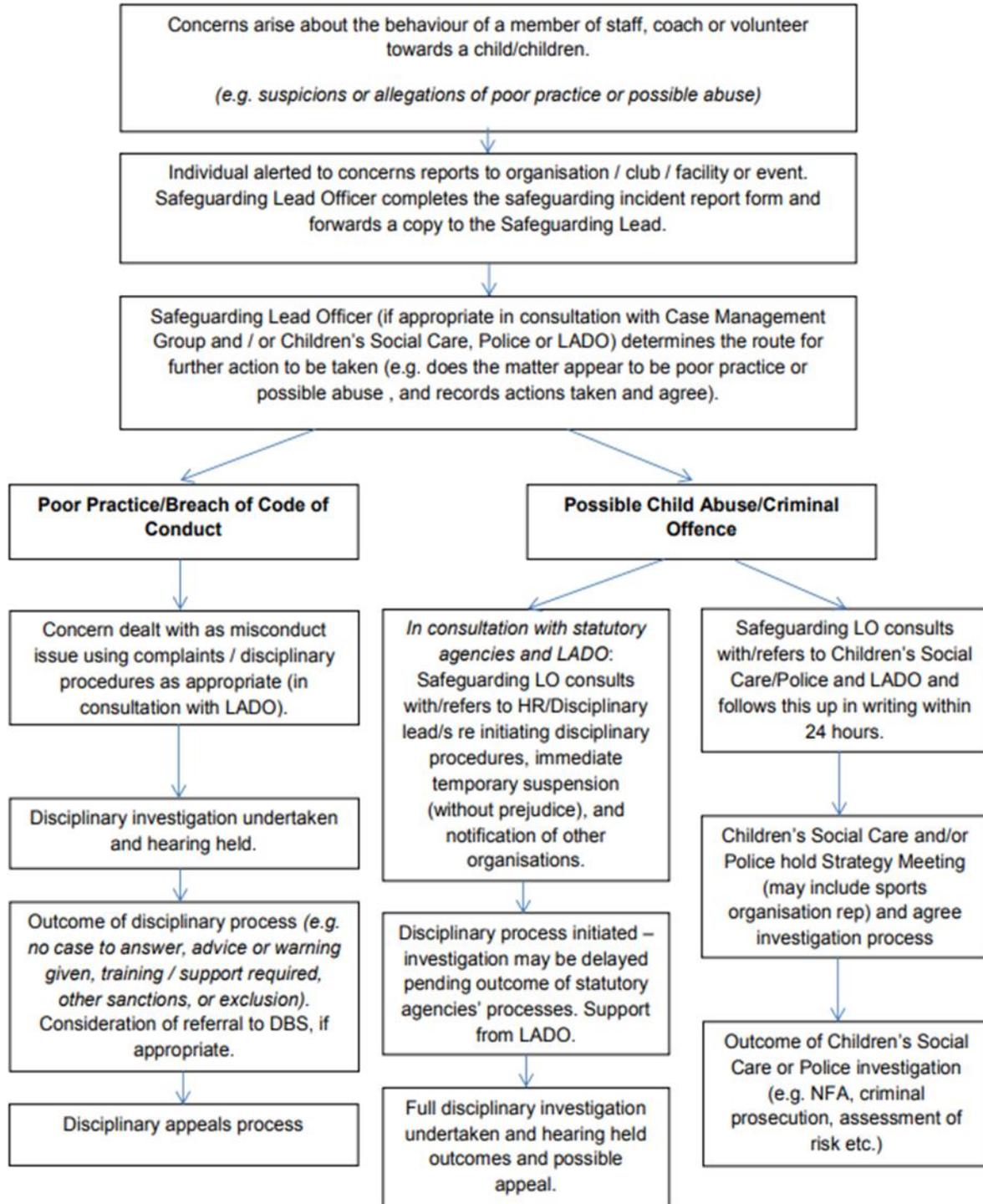
3. Find an appropriate point early on to explain that it is likely that the information will need to be shared with others – do not promise to keep secrets.
4. Allow free flow of information and do not question other than to ensure the child is safe.
5. Ask questions for clarification of key detail only, such as the name and address of the person accused (if known) & the relationship to the child.
6. Reassure them that they are not to blame, they are believed and have done the right thing in telling you. If the concern is serious explain that you will need to get support from other trained people to help keep the child safe. This must be shared even if the child doesn't want you to tell anyone else.
7. Consider how to keep them safe immediately after their disclosure
8. Tell them what you will do next and with whom the information will be shared. If they are adamant that they do not wish the information to be shared, explain that you will have to tell your Designated Safeguarding Lead and that it will be discussed further with them.
9. Be aware of the possibility of forensic evidence if the disclosure relates to a recent incident of physical harm or injury and try to protect any supporting materials e.g., bedding or clothing.
10. Where you are unable to contact your Designated Person, advice can be sought from statutory agencies or the NSPCC Helpline.
11. All serious concerns must be referred to statutory agencies.
12. Where the concern or allegation is about a member of staff or a volunteer, this must like all other concerns be reported to the DSL or Deputy. The DSL if they consider the concern to be serious, for example potentially child abuse or a crime they must report the incident to the Local Authority Designated Officer or the Police.

When a safeguarding concern or poor practice has been identified concerning a specific child the parents/guardians/carers of that child should be notified (unless this is likely to place the child at further risk of serious harm). Where the DSL/Deputy has reported the incident to the statutory authorities, advice should be sought from them regarding this duty before notifying the parents/guardians/carers.

Safeguarding Children Flowchart

1. About the behaviour of the organisation's staff member or volunteer

(e.g. allegation about a coach or officer's behaviour towards a child)



9. Recording

Should a child make a disclosure a record in writing must be made as soon as possible, using their words as closely as possible and where relevant, using the club report form. Note the date, time, any names mentioned, names and addresses to whom the information was given and who else is aware of the allegation. Note or clearly describe any visible injury.

Take care to distinguish between fact, observation, allegation, and opinion. It is important that the information you have is accurate.

Recording of any incident, including possible abuse or poor practice incidents, should also follow this procedure. In all situations, including those in which the cause of concern arises either from a disclosure of abuse or from suspicion of abuse, it is vitally important to record the details, regardless of whether they are shared with a statutory agency, as soon as possible using the Incident Referral Form

The record should be clear and factual as it may be needed by child or adult protection agencies and may, in the future, be used as evidence in court. Records should be kept securely and shared only with those who need to know about the incident.

Throughout the process of any safeguarding cases, accurate records should be made and maintained.

10. Codes of Conduct and Ethics

The Codes of Conduct and ethics for all those involved at Martial Arts Alliance can be found as a separate guidance sheet. It is essential these are followed in so the highest possible standards of behaviour and conduct in Martial Arts activities are maintained. The principles must be adhered to at all times so that Martial Arts can be enjoyed by all. All those involved at Martial Arts Alliance will show their understanding and commitment to the Codes of Conduct and ethics by signing a copy of the relevant guidance sheet.

11. Safer Recruiting

At the Martial Arts Alliance we take all reasonable steps to ensure unsuitable people are prevented from working with children. Whilst there may be some reservations that volunteers could be put off by having to go through a recruitment process, it is important to ensure reasonable steps have been taken to identify unsuitable individuals. A guidance sheet can be found which outlines safer recruiting in further detail.

12. Supervision, support, and training

Once recruited, all staff and volunteers at the Martial Arts Alliance will be well informed, trained, supervised, and supported to ensure that they effectively safeguard children and know how to respond to any concerns.

Martial Arts Alliance will ensure that training and resources are available to encourage the development of staff and volunteers. This will include:

- an induction to the work and the school/club
- a trial period in which to develop skills whilst supervised
- ongoing support and monitoring

There are currently no formal qualifications specifically for safeguarding and protecting children in sport. However, training developed by sports and other organisations is available to strengthen the skills and knowledge of the sporting children's workforce to safeguard children and young people. Training plays an important role in equipping staff and volunteers to do their job safely and effectively. Different safeguarding training is available depending on the person's role.

13. Whistleblowing

It's important that people within the Martial Arts Alliance have the confidence to come forward to speak or act if they're unhappy with anything.

Whistleblowing occurs when a person raises a concern about dangerous or illegal activity, or any wrongdoing within their sports organisation. The NSPCC has a whistleblowing advice line to support professionals who have concerns about how child protection issues are being handled in their own or another organisation.

14. Complaints

To ensure we develop an open culture where children and staff feel able to express any concerns, we have a procedure for dealing with complaints from a child, worker, volunteer, parent or carer. You can access the relevant policy [here](#).

Section 2: Safeguarding Contacts

Local authority safeguarding contacts

Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board 0300 123 4042 (24 hours)

Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership 0300 123 4043 (24 hours)

Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board 0345 050 7666 during office hours or the Emergency Duty Service number (0800 833 408) outside of those hours

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board

If you have a concern about a child, please call MASH on 0345 050 7666 during office hours (8.30am – 5pm, Monday to Thursday, 8.30am – 4pm, Friday)

Outside office hours call the Emergency Duty Team on 0800 833 408

Shropshire

Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire to report a safeguarding concern by phone ring our First Point of Contact team on 0345 678 9044 Monday to Thursday, 9am to 5pm, and Friday 9am to 4pm.

If you have urgent adult safeguarding concerns outside of these hours, please phone the Emergency Social Work Duty Team on 0345 678 9040.

Keeping Children Safe in Shropshire

Please report your concerns to First Point of Contact on 0345 678 9021.

If you need to report concerns out of office hours, then please contact the Emergency Social Work Team on 0345 678 9040 selecting option 1

Buckinghamshire

MASH - Monday to Thurs 9-5pm and Fri 9-4.30pm on 01908 253169/70

Emergency Social Work Team (out of office hours) on 01908 265545

Adult Safeguarding Team

Monday to Friday from 8:30am -5:00pm on 01908 252835

Social Care Out of Hours 5:00pm -9:00am Monday-Friday Weekends & Bank holidays
24 hrs on 01908 725005

Warwickshire

Adults: WSAB@warwickshire.gov.uk

Children's: WSCB@warwickshire.gov.uk

Adults/Children's: 01926 410410

Hampshire

Hampshire Children's Service: 0300 555 1384

Hampshire Adult Services: 0300 555 1386

Essex

Essex Safeguarding Children Board: 0345 603 7627

Essex Safeguarding Adults Board: 0345 6037630

NSPCC: 0800 800 5000

Childline: 0800 111