BRITISH TAEKWONDO COUNCIL

Safeguarding – Protecting Children Policies and Procedures

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CYBER-BULLYING POLICY

British Taekwondo Council embraces the advantages of modern technology in terms of the information sharing benefits it brings, however we are mindful of the potential for bullying to occur. Central to our anti-bullying policy it is the belief that 'all students have a right not to be bullied' and that 'bullying is always unacceptable'. We also recognise that we must 'take note of bullying perpetrated outside of the Taekwondo environment which spills over into everyday life. The BTC will police cyber-bullying or any bullying aspects carried out by students both in and out of the Taekwondo training sessions or events.

DEFINITION OF CYBER-BULLYING

Cyber-bullying is an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual using electronic forms of contact repeatedly over time against a victim who cannot easily defend himself/herself.

By cyber-bullying, we mean bullying by electronic media:

- Bullying by texts or messages or calls on mobile phones
- The use of mobile phone cameras to cause distress, fear or humiliation
- Posting threatening, abusive, defamatory or humiliating material on websites, to include blogs, personal websites, social networking sites
- Using e-mail to message others Hijacking/cloning e-mail accounts
- Making threatening, abusive, defamatory or humiliating remarks in chat rooms, to include Facebook, Bebo, Youtube etc.

LEGAL ISSUES

Cyber-bullying is generally criminal in character. The law applies to cyberspace.

- It is unlawful to disseminate defamatory information in any media including internet sites.
- Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 makes it an offence to send, by public means of a public electronic communications network, a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or one of an indecent, obscene or menacing character.
- The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 makes it an offence to knowingly pursue any course of conduct amounting to harassment.

POLICY

The BTC educates its Instructors and students both in the proper use of telecommunications and about the serious consequences of cyber-bullying and will, continue to inform and educate them in these fast changing areas.

- BTC Instructors will respond effectively to any reports of cyber-bullying or harassment and has systems in place to respond to it. Where appropriate the BTC will regularly review the anti bullying procedures we have in place.
- Whilst training and guidance remain at the heart of what we do, the BTC reserves the right to take action against those who take part in cyber-bullying.
- All bullying is damaging but cyber-bullying and harassment can be invasive of privacy at all times. These acts may also be criminal acts.
- The BTC supports victims and, when necessary, will work with the Police to detect those involved in criminal acts.
- The BTC will use, as appropriate, the full range of sanctions to correct, punish or remove students who bully fellow students or harass other students in this way, both in or out of club environment.
- The BTC will use its power of confiscation where necessary to prevent students from committing crimes or misusing equipment during a training session.
- All students of the Taekwondo community are aware they have a duty to bring to the attention of the Instructor or Safeguarding Officers any example of cyber-bullying or harassment that they know about or suspect.

GUIDANCE FOR INSTRUCTORS, VOLUNTEERS, STUDENTS, PARENTS/CARERS

If you suspect or are told about a cyber-bullying incident, follow the protocol outlined below:

MobilePhones

- Ask the student or person concerned to show you the mobile phone
- Note clearly everything on the screen relating to an inappropriate text message or image, to include the date, time and names
- Make a transcript of a spoken message, again record date, times and names Tell the student / person to save the message/image
- Go with the student / person and see the Instructor, Safeguarding or Welfare Officer. If it is a Child Protection concern a decision will then be made to contact Police and the BTC Lead Safeguarding Officer.

Computers, iPads,Tablets etc

- Ask the Student to get up on-screen the material in question
- Ask the student to save the material in question
- If possible print off the offending material straight away
- Make sure you have got all pages in the right order and that there are no omissions
- Accompany the student, taking the offending material, to the Instructor
- If it is a Child Protection concern report immediately to the Club Safeguarding Officer and decision then be made as to contact Police and the BTC Lead Safeguarding Officer.

GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS

If you believe you or someone else is the victim of cyber-bullying, you must speak to your Instructor / Welfare Officer as soon as possible:

- Do not answer abusive messages but log and report them
- Do not delete anything until it has been shown to your Instructor / Welfare Officer or parent/carer (even if it is upsetting the material is important evidence which may need to be used later as proof of cyber-bullying)
- Do not give out personal IT details
- Never reply to abusive e-mails
- Never reply to someone that you do not know
- Stay in public areas in chat rooms

GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

It is vital that parents and the BTC and its clubs work together to ensure that all students are aware of the serious consequences of getting involved in anything that might be seen to be cyber-bullying. The BTC as a NGB informs parents of the cyber-bullying policy and the procedures in place to deal with cyber-bullying. This will be available at all clubs:

- Instructors / Parents can help by making sure their child understands the BTC policy and, above all, how seriously the BTC takes incidents of cyber-bullying
- Parents should also explain to their sons or daughters legal issues relating to cyber-bullying
- If parents believe their child is the victim of cyber-bullying, they should save the offending material (if need be by saving an offensive text on their or their child's mobile phone) and make sure they have all relevant information before deleting anything
- If parents are aware of any problems within the Taekwondo club they should contact the instructor or club welfare officer or even the NGB Lead Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible. A meeting can then be arranged to discuss concerns or issues
- If the incident falls outside of Taekwondo the BTC / club reserves the right to take action against bullying perpetrated outside Taekwondo which spills over into Taekwondo.

E-SAFETY AT HOME

Several sites offer helpful advice to parents, particularly with respect to how they can best monitor their child's use of the computer at home. Important and useful information can be found on the following site:

www.nextgenerationlearning.org.uk/safeguarding-learners/Safeguarding-learners- content/Parents-and-carers/

NATIONAL BODIES

Further support and guidance may be obtained from the following:

www.nspcc.org.uk

www.antibullying.net/cyber-bullying1.htm

www.becta.org.uk for information on safeguarding learners

www.beatbullying.org

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk