



BRITISH TAEKWONDO COUNCIL

**Why is online safety important for Taekwondo?**



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- According to the latest research from 33% of cases reported to NGBs in 2022-23 involved online activity.
- In particular, 87% of non-contact sexual abuse cases occurred online.
- So, it's increasingly important for sport and physical activity organisations to feel confident in supporting young people while also recognising and responding to these concerns.
- Having safeguards in place helps protect children and young people from potential online risks whilst in your organisation's care.



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## **What online safety means for Taekwondo**



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- Using websites and social media platforms to promote your sport or organisation can have many benefits, such as encouraging a team ethos, sharing information or news to participants, listening to the voices of children and young people, and attracting new club members. But the online risks still apply.
- Keeping children safe in Taekwondo and physical activity extends beyond the court or changing rooms to include digital devices, online platforms and communication.



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**Potential risks for children and young people**



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- Although most children still feel safe online (77%), according to the [2025 Internet Matters annual index report](#), children and young people face several potential risks online, such as abuse or being exposed to harmful content.
- All of which can affect their wellbeing and mental health.
- Here are some of the key concerns:



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## **Exposure to Inappropriate Content:**

This includes pornography, violent content, and material promoting the use of harmful substances like illegal drugs, alcohol, cigarettes or vapes, self-harm or eating disorders.



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## Online Predators:

- Children may be targeted by individuals seeking to exploit them.
- This could include being encouraged to create or share inappropriate or harmful material of themselves or others, including sexting (sexual messages, images or videos).
- It could also include inappropriate relationships between adults in positions of trust or influence.





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## Cyberbullying:

- The anonymity of the internet can lead to bullying, harassment, and intimidation, trolling or berating by peers and people they consider 'friends'.



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## **Privacy Risks:**

- Sharing personal information online, such as on social media, can lead to identity theft or unwanted contact.



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## **Radicalisation:**

- Exposure to extremist content can influence young minds.



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## **Financial Risks:**

- Children might be enticed into gambling or making in-app purchases that can lead to significant expenses.



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- It's crucial for coaches/instructors and other sport staff to understand online activities and the potential risks associated with them.

<b>Our Safeguarding Lead</b>	<b>Kevin Beddows</b>	<b>0151 424 9466 07521756029</b>	<b>kevin@tkdcouncil.com</b>
<b>Deputy Safeguarding Lead</b>	David Sutherill	01302943245	sutherill@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Deputy Safeguarding Lead</b>	Fiona Brown	07922 870782	tkd40@yahoo.com
<b>Board Champion for Safeguarding</b>	Laurie Cornwell	Insert telephone number	lawtkd@hotmail.com

## Contact details

**In a safeguarding emergency, where a child is at immediate risk of harm, call 999.**

**You can contact the NSPCC Helpline by [calling 0808 800 5000](tel:08008005000), [emailing help@NSPCC.org.uk](mailto:help@NSPCC.org.uk) or [completing our report abuse online form](#).**

**Any child can call Childline on 0800 1111 or chat to them [online](#).**