



FACT OR OPINION: THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN REPORTING SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

The BJA Safeguarding team encourages all its members and clubs to report safeguarding concerns.

Concerns about safeguarding, welfare, or safety in BJA clubs can be reported via the MyVoice platform, directly to the BJA Safeguarding Team, or through your local Club Welfare Officer.

All reports to BJA need to be fair, accurate and based on fact, not opinion. We have therefore produced some useful do's and don'ts when sending in written reports to BJA:

- To distinguish between facts and opinions, consider the following points:
- Facts are statements that can be proven true or false based on objective evidence. For example, "The Earth orbits the sun" is a fact supported by scientific data.
- Opinions are subjective statements that reflect personal beliefs or interpretations. For instance, "Manchester is the best city in the UK" is an opinion that cannot be verified.
- To identify facts, ask if the statement can be verified with evidence or data. For opinions, look for subjective language and personal bias.
- Effective communication requires recognising the difference between facts and opinions to avoid misunderstandings and ensure clarity.

By applying these guidelines, you can better navigate the complexities of information and maintain a clear understanding of what is factual versus opinion-based.

What we record: Dos

Concerns described factually as a result of your direct observations,

or

Told to you by others which are relevant to the reporting but which you cannot personally verify

What we record: Don'ts

NB: Data refers to what you are reporting

- Data which is not fair and lawful
- Inaccurate information
- Data not relevant to the concern being reported
- Opinion not based on fact
- Subjective or biased comments
- Lengthy non-concise statements about events
- Jargon or abbreviations
- Poor grammar which cannot be understood by anyone else except you.

HOW TO REPORT A CONCERN

MyVoice Platform: Reporting A Concern

BJA members and others can report safeguarding concerns using MyVoice, which allows anonymous reporting if desired. This platform is suitable for concerns about children, vulnerable adults, or general club practices. The BJA Safeguarding Team will forward concerns to the relevant Home Nation Safeguarding Teams if necessary

Contacting the BJA Safeguarding Team:

Email: safeguarding@britishjudo.org.uk

Telephone: 0121 728 6920 (select the Safeguarding option)

Out-of-Hours Support: 5:00pm–9:00am and weekends, with a mobile rota for urgent concerns

SAFEGUARDING