



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

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Introduction

As long as we coexist, each member of society and the groups organised within must function in harmony and cooperation with the others. Nothing is more important than living prosperously together. If everyone acts with the spirit of cooperation, each person's work benefits not only himself, but also others, and attaining this together will bring mutual happiness.

Jigoro Kano Founder of Judo

We need to maintain our standards and look to continually improve our mechanisms for protecting children and vulnerable adults and continue to listen to and involve children and vulnerable adults in shaping their Judo experience.

This policy is included at the beginning in our overarching Safelanding guidance. In 2007, the BJA achieved the Advanced NSPCC Standards for Safeguarding Children in Sport and are now working within The Framework for Maintaining and Embedding Safeguarding for Children in Sport. In 2023 we achieved the Ann Craft Safeguarding Framework Standard.

To uphold this policy, our Safelandings Guidance [Safe Landings - British Judo Association](#) should be referenced and followed.

Policy

The members, staff, and volunteers of the BJA are committed to the welfare and protection of children and young people so that they can enjoy sporting activities in safety to the best of their ability without fear, threat or abuse.

Everyone has a role to play in safeguarding children from abuse. For some roles such as Welfare Officers and Coaches, the duty is explicit and they regularly attend safeguarding courses, but everyone in Judo has a role to play as the eyes and ears of the BJA and any concerns can be discussed with the Welfare Officer, the Safeguarding Manager or Deputy Safeguarding Manager.

It is widely accepted that it is the responsibility of every adult to protect children from abuse. Child abuse and particularly child sex abuse can arouse strong emotions in those facing such a situation and it is important to understand these feelings and not allow them to interfere with your judgement about any action to take.

[Safeguarding People - Care Quality Commission](#)
[CPSU What is Safeguarding](#)

Abuse can occur within many situations including the home, school, and a sporting environment. Some individuals will actively seek employment or voluntary work with children or young people to harm them. Everyone working

in Judo, either in a paid or voluntary capacity, together with those working in affiliated organisations, has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and preventing their abuse.

British Judo upholds the principle that all children and young people whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief, sexual orientation and/or gender identify have the right to protection from abuse.

Principles

Children and young people have a right to expect us to protect them from harm. By taking care to uphold these principles we can help to assure their welfare and development:

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration.
- All children and young people have the right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief or sexual identity.
- We will take seriously all suspicions and allegations of abuse and respond swiftly and appropriately.
- Anyone under the age of 18 years is considered as a child for the purposes of this document (NB: in Scotland you become an adult at 16 years ([Children 1st: Scotland's National Children's Charity; Age of Legal Capacity \(Scotland\) Act 1991](#)))
- According to the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2021, updated 2023) 'Child Protection procedures may be considered for a person up to the age of 18, the legal boundaries of childhood and adulthood are variously defined. There are overlaps.' [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 - Updated 2023](#)
- We recognise that working in partnership with children and young people and their parents or carers is essential for the protection of children and young people.
- British Judo recognises that roles and responsibilities of statutory agencies in relation to safeguarding children and young people and promoting their welfare. It is fully committed to working together with safeguarding partners.
- Home Nations and English Areas clubs and other organisations will be provided with the appropriate documentation and support to ensure they are able to implement this, Policy.

Safeguarding Adults at risk (and those who may be deemed as vulnerable) Policy.

The principles above apply equally to vulnerable adults participating in Judo and the BJA is committed to taking all reasonable steps to protect vulnerable adults from harm and discrimination within a Judo environment.

In doing so, the BJA considers a vulnerable adult to be anyone over the age of 18 years who is or may be unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.

The BJA recognise that each vulnerable adult is a unique individual with varying degrees of need and ability. The appropriateness of involving carers in welfare related decisions will depend upon the individual needs and circumstances and most importantly, on their wishes. In case of doubt, the BJA Lead Safeguarding Officer (LSO) should be consulted. For CPSU purposes it's referred to as LSO, however in the BJA we have referred to as Head of Inclusion, Safeguarding & Wellbeing (HISW).

For further information please see the BJA's Safeguarding Adults Policy on the BJA website. It also recognises that our elite athletes may be considered additionally vulnerable.

Equity Policy

The concept of 'Sport for All' is nothing new and those agencies providing sport throughout the UK have acknowledged and supported this philosophy for many years. However, despite initiatives such as Sport England's 'Sport For All' campaign and the general agreement that sport is for all, inequalities still exist.

The BJA has completed its Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan, which is a requirement of the Revised Code for Sports Governance [Revised Code for Sports Governance](#) in March 2024 and has completed the diagnostic tool within the new [Moving to Inclusion](#), an initiative from the UK Sports Council.

Equity in sport has now become an increasingly important issue for all those involved in the provision of sport, not least for National Governing Bodies who could find themselves ineligible for funding from various sources unless the inequalities are addressed.

The BJA has a desire and a duty to provide services fairly and without discrimination and is fully committed to the principles of equality of opportunity and will devote energy and resources to the achievement of this aim.

The BJA is responsible for ensuring that no participant, volunteer, job applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, gender, disability, ethnic origin, race, colour, parental or marital status, pregnancy, social or class background, nationality, religious belief, sexual orientation or political belief [Equality Act 2010](#).

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

British Judo recognises its responsibilities both morally and legally under current legislation in all four home nations.

England: [Child Protection System for England](#)

Scotland: [Child Protection System for Scotland](#)

Wales: [Child Protection System for Wales](#)

Northern Ireland: [Child Protection System for Northern Ireland](#)

We recognise that we have a responsibility to:

- Safeguard and promote the interests of wellbeing of children and young people with whom we are working.
- Take all reasonable practical steps to protect them from harm, discrimination or degrading treatment and respect their rights, wishes and feelings.
- Confidentiality should be maintained in line with the Human Rights Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 2018.
- In accordance with good practice (HM Government) we recognise that the BJA and its clubs have the following statutory duties, roles and responsibilities.
 - Effective recruitment and selection procedures, including safeguarding checks.
 - A culture of listening to children and young people.

Our child protection procedures are intended to:

- Offer safeguards to children and young people with whom we work and to our members of staff, volunteers and those in affiliated organisations.
- Help to maintain professionalism and high standards of practice.

We recognise that any procedure is only as effective as the ability and skill of those who operate it. We are therefore committed to:

- Operating safer recruitment procedures.
- Providing support, appropriate training and adequate supervision to all our staff, coaches, volunteer workforce, referees officials and Club Welfare Officers (Home Nation equivalent) so that they can work together with parents/carers and other organisations to ensure that the needs and the welfare of children remain paramount.
- Ensuring that all coaches complete child protection training as part of the BJA coaching qualification.

In addition, refer to the CPSU Case Management thresholds: [CPSU Case Management Thresholds](#) which states

“This document contains guidance on how safeguarding concerns can be scaled using thresholds, enabling for the concern to be properly dealt with. This guidance should be documented as part of your safeguarding procedures. It is

important that this guidance is shared and understood by all staff and volunteers at all levels of your sport.'

And BJA new Threshold Guidance (launched in March 2024).

Three Step Safe

British Judo Association (BJA) has been working with the Home Nation Partners, Affiliates and judo providers in Great Britain to ensure that the standards of delivering the sport are met across all our nations.

This has culminated in our 'Three Step Safe' programme which has been developed to ensure the best environment for all participants of judo.

'Three Step Safe' guarantees clubs affiliated to the BJA offer 3 really important things:

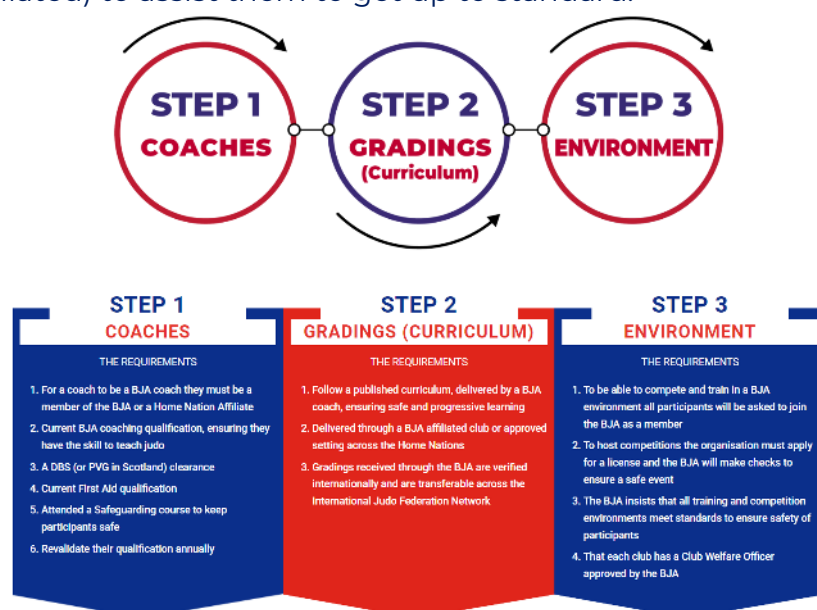
Step 1: Approved coaches

Step 2: Internationally recognised grades

Step 3: Safe training and competition environments

If a club or a coach is not affiliated to the BJA then they may not have the correct training or facilities to be able to offer a safe environment.

We are here to help and will walk you through step by step to make sure you are using affiliated providers and will also work with your provider (if they aren't affiliated) to assist them to get up to standard.

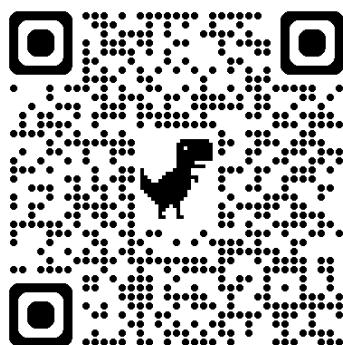


Safeguarding concerns or enquiries.

Email: safeguarding@britishjudo.org.uk

If you Worried about some one's safety, wellbeing or inclusion in Judo with the BJA

Use this QR code to report it to the BJA Safeguarding Team via **MyVoice**



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Minor changes made	CPSU to NSPCC Sport: NSPCC Sport Safeguarding children in sport KCSIE 2025 to KCSIE 2026: Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK Working Together – change any references to Working Together 2026: Working together to safeguard children 2026
Date minor changes made	July 2026
Key changes made	
Date key changes made	