



## UNIT 12 MARTIAL ARTS SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT AND POLICY



Last Updated – 08/12/2024

### SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

As a club that provides services and classes to children and young people we take our safeguarding procedures seriously.

**We ask that you please take a moment to read our safeguarding policy below.**

### SAFEGUARDING POLICY

#### Purpose

The purpose of this document is to set out how Unit 12 Martial Arts protects children and young people from harm during their training within the club<sup>1</sup>. This includes harm arising from abuse of all kinds, including sexual, physical and emotional abuse, neglect, bullying and any other forms of violence or exploitation.

This policy lays out Unit 12 Martial Arts responsibilities and the reporting mechanisms, to ensure that parents, students and members of the public are confident reporting a concern and to take appropriate action.

Safeguarding is defined as *“protecting a persons’ health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect”*. In martial arts Unit 12 Martial Arts this will typically apply to children and young people.

#### Scope Of This Policy

This policy is effective and mandatory for anyone teaching martial arts as part of the Unit 12 Martial Arts Club and/or anyone using the Unit 12 building for any purpose. This policy also applies to all visitors and parents of Unit 12 Martial Arts.

#### Policy Statement

Unit 12 Martial Arts believes that everyone we meet, regardless of age, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation or ethnic origin has the right to be protected from all forms of

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<sup>1</sup> Unit 12 Martial Arts does not currently work with or train Adults at Risk. However, where an adult may be identified as potentially at risk this policy applies in full.

**The Safeguarding Lead for Unit 12 Martial Arts is Ashley Stocker BMABA membership number 70751. Ashley can be reached on [contact@unit12gosport.com](mailto:contact@unit12gosport.com)**



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harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Unit 12 Martial Arts will not tolerate abuse and exploitation by anyone involved with the club. Unit 12 Martial Arts remains committed to ensuring the effective prevention, reporting and response to any safeguarding concerns raised or detected.

### Prevention

Unit 12 Martial Arts is committed to ensuring prevention via professional, competent club governance. To provide the best possible experience and opportunities Unit 12 Martial Arts operates in line with the British Martial Arts and Boxing Association (BMABA) national safeguarding policy. This includes ensuring best practice is always met in relation to safeguarding and risk management. A core part of Unit 12 Martial Arts' prevention strategy is to ensure that the following are always met as minimum best practice guidance.

Instructors will:

- comply with BMABA association national frameworks and regulatory guidelines in respect of minimum standards, best practice and compulsory safeguarding obligations.
- hold the minimum grade required to competently and technically deliver the class in question, with additional qualifications as necessary for specialist styles or roles.
- hold the necessary Public Liability insurance, a valid first aid qualification and both an enhanced DBS check within 3 years from date of issue, and an in-date safeguarding qualification if teaching children
- treat everyone equally, with respect, dignity and courtesy
- put the welfare of children first
- work in an open environment avoiding any isolation or unobserved situations
- encourage an open and transparent club community.
- keep physical contact to an absolute minimum.
- never be alone with a child.
- not take photographs, videos or create any other forms of media featuring any children without written consent from the carer, guardian or parents in advance.
- ensure that if the club embarks on any extra-curricular activities, safeguarding of children shall remain a top priority and furthermore
- if classes are mixed in gender, both an appropriate male and female adult must be present when out of the dojo.

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- remain an excellent role model both in and out of the dojo. This includes not smoking, drinking alcohol or using any foul language in front of any children.
- ensure that any contact via social media or other digital formats are only with adults or a parent, carer or guardian of a child student. No instructor will have any communication with children via any forms of social media.
- recognise the development needs and capacity of the children in the class and not risk sacrificing welfare or safety for the club or instructor's personal gain.
- in relation to the above avoid excessive training and not pushing the student if they are not fully confident.
- secure written parental, guardian or carer consent for the club to act in loco parentis, to give permission for the administration of emergency first aid or other medical treatment if the need arises, ensuring medical conditions and pre-existing injuries and allergies are recorded.
- keep thorough records of any injuries or near misses that have occurred, along with details of any treatment given and further communication had with parents / guardians and/or children.

Where physical contact is essential as part of the safe and structured learning process, the instructor and/or teaching person will only do so with the consent of the child remaining appropriate and non-intrusive. The instructor will ensure that where physical contact is essential (for example, when assisting in an essential physical process for the purposes of safety, such as breakfalls) there are always two fully vetted instructors and/or suitable adults (i.e. a parent, guardian, carer) present.

The involvement of parents, guardians and carers is encouraged wherever possible, provided safeguarding of children remains the top priority and that any adult may not be given the opportunity to cause harm, distress or abuse to any children and / or vulnerable adults present.

#### Raising Concerns or Making a Disclosure

Unit 12 Martial Arts will always take immediate steps to safeguard any case where a child might directly confide to any form of abuse. Where concerns are raised by a third party, or by suspicions held by the instructor or club, the below checklist will be maintained wherever possible but, in all instances, the club will escalate and report in full on all occasions.

**If a child indicates that they are being abused, the instructor to whom the disclosure is made will;**

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- **stay calm** so as not to frighten the child.
- **reassure** the child that they are not to blame and that it was right to inform.
- **listen** showing that they are being taken seriously.
- **keep questions to a minimum** so that there is a clear and accurate understanding of what has been said. The law is very strict, and abuse cases have been dismissed where it is felt that the child has been led or words and ideas have been suggested during questioning. Accordingly, the instructor will only ask questions to clarify details – not to question further.
- **inform** the child that the instructor will have to inform other people about what they have disclosed. The instructor must ensure the child understands this is in confidence, on a needs-must basis and is to help stop the abuse continuing.
- **safety of the child** is paramount. If the child needs urgent medical attention, the instructor will call an ambulance, inform the medics of the concern and ensure they are made aware that this is a child protection and/or safeguarding issue.
- **record** all information.
- **report** the incident where appropriate to BMABA without delay.

**If the instructor / club is not clear on what action is required and there is a real or immediate threat to the child, they should contact the Police on 999. Where there is confusion on what should happen next, the instructor should not delay by contacting BMABA and should instead contact the Hampshire County Council Children's Services emergency line (0300 555 1384 ) or the NSPCC 24-hour help line (0808 800 5000).**

#### Key Contacts

Key contact for Unit 12 Martial Arts is the lead instructor and Safeguarding Lead:

Ashley Stocker [contact@unit12gosport.com](mailto:contact@unit12gosport.com)

**If you are not confident raising your concerns with us**, you can also raise immediate safeguarding concerns or complaints to BMABA for a confidential response. The BMABA's lead safeguarding details are:

BMABA National Designated Safeguarding Lead: **Kirsty Hawkins**

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Telephone Number: **01798 306546 (ext. 201)**

E-Mail: [safeguarding@bmaba.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@bmaba.org.uk)

**Should you not be confident raising your concerns for a non-immediate danger with us or BMABA, please contact the Hampshire County Council Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) on 01962 876364 or Hampshire Children Services: Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm, Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm, phone 0300 555 1384 At all other times, contact the out-of-hours service, phone 0300 555 1373**

**If there is immediate concern for the safety of a child or adult at risk, please call the police on 999.**

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