



ENGLISH KARATE NGB CHILD PROTECTION POLICY: WHISTLE BLOWING – A GUIDE

Introduction

This document must be read in conjunction with both English Karate NGB Child Protection Policy and the English Karate NGB Discipline Code. Whilst these documents fully outline English Karate NGB's stance with regard to whistle blowing, this document provides a simple step-by-step guide to the recommended practice when a Whistle blower emerges.

Reporting concerns

It is acknowledged that feelings generated by the discovery that a coach, volunteer or other child or young person has abused, or may be, abusing a child will raise concern amongst other coaches or volunteers, particularly in relation to the difficulties inherent in reporting such matters.

It is important, however, that any concerns for the welfare of any child arising from poor practice, abuse or harassment by a coach, volunteer or child / young person should be reported immediately.

The welfare of the child must always be of paramount importance, and you should ensure someone takes immediate steps to remove the child or young person from a position of harm or potential harm. If in a club environment this can be done by recruiting the help of a colleague or by contacting the parents / carers in order that the child or young person may be removed from the position of harm whilst the matter is resolved.

If a member of staff, a coach or other volunteers becomes aware that a member of staff, a coach or other volunteer has or may abuse a child(ren), you **MUST** inform an appropriate person, in confidence if necessary. That person could be a Club Welfare Officer, Safeguarding Officer, or Lead Safeguarding Officer.

All information received and discussed will be treated in confidence and only shared with those individuals within English Karate NGB who will be able to manage and resolve the situation.

In cases where you are required to take 'Immediate steps regarding serious incidents of abuse', or you do not feel able to disclose your concerns to any or all of English Karate NGB's Welfare Officers, you **MUST** contact the Police, the Children's Social Care Services or The NSPCC.

All these agencies are experienced in such matters and you can be confident that the concerns will be addressed in a professional way.

If in the event that you feel only able to disclose your concerns anonymously, you are urged to contact any of the agencies named, or by contacting the English Karate NGB Lead Safeguarding Officer providing as much detail as possible to assist the Lead Safeguarding Officer or those agencies to minimise the harm or risk that the child(ren) may come to.

Remember: doing nothing is not an option.

Supervision and support for Staff and Volunteers involved in whistle blowing English Karate NGB assures all athletes, coaches, volunteers, helpers, staff or officials that it will fully support and protect anyone who, in good faith, reports their concerns that someone has demonstrated poor practice or has abused, or may be, abusing a child. We will also ensure that supervision and support is available both during and following an incident or allegation.

The first person within a club to consider for support is the Club Welfare Officer. This officer should whenever possible be on hand to offer help and advice at this difficult time. The Club Welfare Officer may draw on the assistance of either Safeguarding Officers or the Lead Safeguarding Officer whose role is to provide help and assistance in this difficult area. All these officers form a team who, through working together will support you.

The benefit of a supportive club committee cannot be understated as, on many occasions, there is expertise within this group.

In the most serious and appropriate cases, it may be possible to access counselling from the statutory agencies particularly the Children's Social Care Services who will have links to other branches of Social Service and specialties.

In any event, you will not be expected to deal with this alone and you should always seek help and advice from the network of Welfare Officers within English Karate NGB. Do not forget that the Lead Safeguarding Officer is available to advise and help at anytime.

If you are not sure what to do:

Advice can be obtained by telephoning the NSPCC Help line on 0800 800500 or Public Concern at Work on 0203 117 2520 – email: whistle@pcaw.co.uk or via the English Karate NGB's Lead Safeguarding Officer.