



British TaeKwon Do Council

CODE OF CONDUCT & ETHICAL STANDARDS

POLICY DOCUMENT
INSTRUCTORS

Version 3.0

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Recognised by the Sports Council as the Governing Body for TaeKwon Do in the United Kingdom

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CODE OF CONDUCT & ETHICAL STANDARDS



THE ISSUES OF RESPONSIBILITY

The BTC as the governing body for Taekwon Do in the UK has the responsibility of facilitating Taekwon Do to the public. Within this facilitation it is necessary to ensure a Code of Conduct and Ethical Standard is maintained, reviewed and audited. This in turn has created this document for implementation into the national member organisations instructor course.

Coaching, Teaching and Instructing

Even though the standards of respected coaching institutions that focus on and describe work functions, there is a need for a number of accepted assumptions and values which underpin good practice in coaching, teaching and instructing. These have been articulated into Codes of Ethics, developed by the British Institute of Sports Coaches and it is incorporated in its entirety into this guide.

Ethical standards comprise such values as integrity, responsibility, competence and confidentiality. Members of the Council, in assenting to this code, accept their responsibility to performance, colleagues, this council, their members and to society. In pursuit of these principles, Tae Kwon Do instructor subscribe to standards in the following areas:

- The Code of Ethical Conduct
- Issues of competence

This code of ethics is a framework within which to work. It is a series of guidelines rather than a set of instructions, and should be used in conjunction with the Council's Constitution.

Teaching Standards

- Lesson Plan
- Consistency
- Application of Technique
- Self Assess
- Continued Personal Development

Teaching Practices

- Safe Provision for Taekwon-Do
- Continued Risk Assessment
- Adherence to Organisation Syllabus

CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

Tae Kwon Do tuition is a deliberately undertaken responsibility, and Tae Kwon Do instructors are responsible for the observation of the principles embodied in this Code of Ethics.

Humanity

The instructor will always respect the rights, dignity and worth of every human being and their ultimate right to self-determination. Specifically, instructors must treat everyone equally, within the context of their activity, regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion or political persuasion.

Relationships

The Instructor will always be concerned primarily with the well being, health and future of the individual student and only secondarily with the optimisation of performance.

The Instructor will always encourage all students to develop an independent attitude and to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance in training, in competition, and social life.

The Instructor is responsible for setting and monitoring the boundaries between a working relationship and friendship with their students. This is particularly important when the instructor and the student are of opposite sex or when the student is a young person. The instructor must realise that certain situations or friendly actions could be misinterpreted, not only by the student, but outsiders motivated by jealousy, dislike or mistrust, and could lead to allegations of sexual misconduct or impropriety.

The relationship between instructor and student relies heavily on mutual trust and respect. In detail this means that the student should be made aware of the instructor's qualifications and experience and must always be given the opportunity to consent to or decline any proposals for training and performance.

Commitment

The Instructor will clarify in advance with students and / or employers the number of sessions, fees (if any) and method of payment. They should also clarify with the students and / or employers the expectation of the outcome of tuition.

The instructor has a responsibility to declare to their students and / or employers any other current teaching commitments that they may have. The Instructor should also find out if any prospective student is currently receiving guidance from another instructor. If so, the other instructor should be contacted to discuss the situation.

The Instructor who become aware of a conflict between their obligation to their students and their obligation to their Governing Body or other organisation employing them at the earliest opportunity must make explicit the nature of the conflict, and the loyalties and responsibilities involved, to all parties concerned.

Co-operation

The Instructor will communicate and co-operate with other sports and allied professions in the best interests of their students. An example of such contact would be the seeking of educational and career advice/counselling for young students whose training impinges upon the performance of their studies.

The Instructor must communicate and co-operate with registered medical and ancillary practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment and management of their student's medical and psychological problems.

Advertising

Advertising undertaken by the instructor in respect of qualifications and / or services shall be accurate and professionally restrained.

The Instructor shall not display any affiliation with an organisation in a manner that falsely implies sponsorship or accreditation by the organisation.

Integrity

The Instructor will not express any public criticism of fellow coaches. Differences of opinion should be dealt with on a personal basis and more serious disputes should be referred to the Council or the appropriate Governing Body.

The Instructor must not encourage students to violate the rules of their sport and should actively seek to discourage such actions. Furthermore, instructors should encourage students to obey the spirit of such rules.

The Instructor must not compromise their students by advocating measures that could be deemed to constitute seeking to gain an unfair advantage. Above all, the instructor must never advocate the use of prescribed drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances.

The Instructor must treat opponents and officials with due respect, both in victory and defeat and should actively encourage their performers to act in a similar manner.

The Instructor must accept responsibility for the conduct of their student insofar as they will undertake to discourage inappropriate behaviour.

Confidentiality

The Instructor will inevitably gather a great deal of personal information about their students in the course of a working relationship. Instructor and student must reach agreement as to what is to be regarded as confidential information, i.e., not divulged to a third party without the express approval of the student.

Confidentiality does not preclude the disclosure of information, to persons who can be judged to have a 'right to know', relating to students when relevant to the following:

1. Evaluation of the student within the sport for competitive selection purposes.
2. Recommendations concerning student for professional purposes.
3. Pursuit of disciplinary action involving students within the sport.

Pursuit of disciplinary action by the British Tae Kwon Do Council-involving fellow coaches in alleged breaches of this Code of Ethics and Conduct.

The sports coach is privileged, on occasions, to have contact with student and to travel and reside with students in the course of coaching and competitive practice.

The Instructor must not attempt to exert undue influence over any student in order to obtain personal benefit/reward.

Personal Standards

The Instructor must consistently display high personal standards and project a favourable image of their sport and of coaching to students, other instructors, officials, spectators, the media and general public.

Personal appearance is a matter of individual taste but the sports coach has an obligation to project an image of health, cleanliness and functional efficiency.

The Instructor must never smoke when coaching.

The Instructor should not drink alcohol so soon before coaching that the smell will still be on their breath when working with performers.

Safety

The Instructor has a responsibility to ensure the safety of the students with whom they work as far as possible within the limits of their control.

The Instructor must take all responsible steps to establish a safe training environment. This must include a requirement for all students to wear approved protective equipment whenever they are sparring, this must include pads on hands and feet, gum shields and head guards for all students, also groin guards for all males.

The Instructor must ensure that the manner in which the training is done is in keeping with regular and approved practice within the BTC.

The Instructor must ensure that the tuition and instructions given are suitable for the age, experience and ability of the student.

The Instructor must ensure that the students have been systematically prepared for the activity being undertaken and made aware of their personal responsibilities in terms of safety.

Issues of Competence

The Instructor shall confine themselves to the practice of Tae Kwon Do and to any other sports in which they have been trained/educated, and which are recognised by the ETC to be valid. Valid areas of expertise are those that are directly concerned with sports coaching. Training includes the accumulation of knowledge and skill through both formal coach education courses and by experience at a level of competence acceptable for independent coaching practice.

The Instructor must be able to recognise and accept when to refer students to other agencies. It is the instructor's responsibility, as far as possible, to verify the competence and integrity of the person to whom they refer a student.

The Instructor should regularly seek ways of increasing their professional development and self-awareness.

The Instructor will welcome evaluation of their work by colleagues and be able to account to students, employers, Governing Bodies and colleagues for their actions.

The Instructor has a responsibility to themselves and their students to maintain their own effectiveness, resilience and abilities, and to know when their personal resources are so depleted as to make it necessary for them to seek help and / or to withdraw from instruction, whether temporarily or permanently.

Violation of this code

An alleged breach of this code shall be grounds of making a complaint; this shall be a formal expression of dissatisfaction with the behaviour of individuals, associations, or governing bodies. Any complaints should wherever possible be notified to an officer of the Council within two weeks of the alleged offence.

British TaeKwon Do Council

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