

# Connacht Taekwon-do Schools Code of Conduct Guidelines

## **Junior Members**

*Connacht Taekwon-do Schools* wishes to provide the best possible environment for all our junior members. Young people deserve to be given enjoyable, safe sporting opportunities, free of abuse of any kind. Young participants have rights, which must be respected, and responsibilities that they must accept including the responsibility of treating instructors and other participants with fairness and respect.

### Young students are entitled to:

- Be listened to.
- Be believed.
- Be safe and to feel safe.
- Be treated with dignity, sensitivity and respect.
- Be happy, have fun and enjoy sport.
- Experience competition at a level at which they feel comfortable.
- Make complaints and have them dealt with.
- Get help against bullies.
- Say No.
- To protect their own bodies.
- Confidentiality

### Young students should always:

- Treat Instructors and other officials with respect.
- Play fairly at all times, do their best.
- Respect team members, even when things go wrong.
- Respect opponents, be gracious in defeat
- Abide by the rules set down by instructors when travelling to away events
- Behave in a manner that avoids bringing Taekwon-do into disrepute
- Talk to the club children's officer or other designated person if they have any problems.

### Young students should never:

- Cheat
- Use violence or physical contact that is not allowed within the rules
- Shout or argue with officials, coaches, selectors, team mates or opponents
- Harm team members, opponents, or their property
- Bully or use bullying tactics to isolate another student
- Use unfair or bullying tactics to gain advantage
- Take banned substances
- Keep information secret, especially if they or others have been caused harm.
- Tell lies about other adults/young people
- Spread rumours

## Parents

*Connacht Taekwon-do Schools* recognises the significance of parental behaviour and how it can influence young students.

- Parents have a duty to ensure that their children are picked up at the appointed time.
- Parents should check with young people about transport plans and be happy with the transport arrangements.

Parents of juvenile members are required to:

- Be a role model for their child and maintain the highest standards of conduct when interacting with children, other parents, instructors, officials and organisers
- Always behave responsibly.
- Never intentionally expose any young participant to embarrassment or disparagement by the use of flippant or sarcastic remarks
- Always recognize the value and importance of the instructors who provide sporting/recreational opportunities for their child. In particular parents are required to avoid publicly questioning the judgment or honesty of referees, coaches or organizers.
- Encourage their child to play by the rules and do all they can encourage good sportsmanship.
- Set a good example by applauding good play on both sides. Encourage mutual respect for teammates and opponents.
- Support all efforts to remove abusive behaviour and bullying behaviour in all its forms.

**Parents are required to sign agreement to the above when enrolling their child.**

## Instructors

*Connacht Taekwon-do Schools* recognises the key role instructors play in the lives of children in sport. Instructors should strive to create a positive environment for the children in their care. They have an overall responsibility to take the necessary steps to ensure that positive and healthy experiences are provided.

All Instructors should have as their first priority the child's safety and enjoyment of the sport and should adhere to the guidelines and regulations set out in the IUTF Child Protection Policy

Instructors must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every child and must treat everyone equally, regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion or ability.

Instructors working with young people should be appropriately qualified and must go through the appropriate recruitment and selection procedures. These procedures apply to all persons with substantial access to young people, whether paid or unpaid.

Instructors should familiarise themselves with the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport* and with *IUTF's Child Protection Policy* and follow the procedures if they suspect or receive complaints of abuse of any sort.

An instructor must act as a role model and promote the positive aspects of sport and maintain the highest standards of personal conduct.

The use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco must be actively discouraged as being incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity. Remember, your behaviour to students, other officials, and opponents will have an effect on the students in your care.

Be generous with praise and never ridicule or shout at students for making mistakes or for losing a match. All young students are entitled to respect.

Be careful to avoid the “star system”. Each child deserves equal time and attention.

Remember that young students play for fun and enjoyment and that skill development and personal satisfaction have priority over highly structured competition. Never make winning the only objective. Encourage the development of respect for opponents, officials, selectors and other coaches and avoid criticism of fellow coaches.

Care must be taken not to expose a child intentionally or unintentionally to embarrassment or disparagement by use of sarcastic or flippant remarks about the child or his/her family.

Physical punishment or physical force must never be used. Never punish a mistake - by verbal means, physical means, or exclusion.

Insist that students in your care respect the rules of the school. Insist on fair play and ensure students are aware you will not tolerate cheating or bullying behaviour.

Instructors are responsible for setting and monitoring the boundaries between a working relationship and friendship with students. It is advisable for coaches not to involve young students in their personal life i.e. visits to coaches home or overnight stays. It is important to realise that certain situations or friendly actions could be misinterpreted by the participant or by outsiders

Avoid working alone and ensure there is adequate supervision for all activities.

When young students are invited into adult groups/squads, it is advisable to get agreement from a parent/carer. Boundaries of behaviour in adult groups are normally different from the boundaries that apply to juvenile groups/squads. The group leader or senior coach should nominate one adult member of the group to take particular responsibility for the underage player. Where necessary, two adult members, one of each gender, can be appointed.

Instructors should communicate and co-operate with medical and ancillary practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment and management of their students’ medical or related problems. Avoid giving advice of a personal or medical nature if you are not qualified to do so. Any information of a personal or medical nature must be kept strictly confidential unless the welfare of the child requires the passing on of this information

The nature of the relationship between instructor and a student can often mean that a leader will learn confidential information about a player or player’s family. This information must be regarded as confidential and except where abuse is suspected, must not be divulged to a third party without the express permission of the player/family

Set realistic goals for the participants and do not push young students. Create a safe and enjoyable environment

Instructors must avoid the use of alcohol, before coaching, during events, on trips with young students

***Do:***

- Be Positive during a session, praise and encourage effort as well as results
- Plan and prepare appropriately
- Put welfare of young person first, strike a balance between this and winning / results
- Encourage fair play, treat participants equally
- Recognise developmental needs
- Be Qualified and up-to-date with knowledge and skill of sport for young people
- Involve parents where possible and Inform parents when problems arise
- Keep record of attendance at training
- Keep a brief record of injury(s) and action taken
- Keep a brief record of problem/action/outcomes, if behavioural problems arise

***Avoid:***

- Spending excessive amounts of time with children away from others
- Taking sessions alone
- Taking children to their (leader's) home
- Taking children on journeys alone in their car

***Do Not:***

- Use any form of punishment or physical force on a child
- Exert undue influence over a participant in order to obtain personal benefit or reward
- Engage in rough physical games, sexually provocative games or allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any kind, and /or make sexually suggestive comments about, or to a child
- Take measurements or engage in certain types of fitness testing without the presence of another adults
- Undertake any form of therapy (hypnosis etc.) in the training of children