

Selecting a Safe Taekwondo Club

A guide for parents and carers

When choosing a taekwondo club for your child, you will probably think about location, training times, fees and uniforms. The most important question, though, is whether the club is a safe place for your child.

Good clubs welcome questions about safety - they take their duty of care seriously. This guide explains what to look for and what to ask. You can also use our Checklist for Selecting a Safe Taekwondo Club when you visit.

1 Is the club affiliated with Australian Taekwondo and its State Member Association?

Affiliated clubs and their members are bound by Australian Taekwondo's national policies, including the National Integrity Framework. Ask the club to confirm its affiliation, or use the club finder at austkd.com.au.

2 Does the club have a safeguarding policy and commitment statement?

A child safeguarding policy sets the standards of behaviour expected of everyone at the club. It should explain what behaviour is unacceptable, how concerns are responded to, and how suspected abuse is reported. It should be easy for families to find and read.

3 What other policies and procedures does the club have?

Look for:

- A complaints procedure
- A photography and filming policy
- A social media policy
- Codes of conduct for instructors, athletes, parents and spectators
- A concussion and injury management procedure

4 Does the club have a Child Safe Officer or Integrity Officer?

Every club should have a named person you can go to with a concern, who will listen and explain what happens next. They may be called a Child Safe Officer, Integrity Officer, Welfare Officer or Member Protection Information Officer.

5 Are children told about their right to be safe?

Children and young people should be given age-appropriate information about how they should be treated, and who to talk to if something makes them feel unsafe.

6 How does the club communicate with children?

Parents and carers should be included in communication about their child's training, gradings, competitions, health and welfare. Electronic messages to a child should always include another adult - no adult should message a child one-on-one.

7 How does the club recruit and check its instructors and volunteers?

Ask whether the club:

- Interviews applicants and checks references
- Requires a current Working with Children Check (or equivalent) wherever your state or territory requires one
- Uses instructors who hold current Australian Taekwondo coaching accreditation

8 Do instructors and volunteers receive ongoing safeguarding training?

Everyone working with children should keep their child safety knowledge current - for example through Sport Integrity Australia's free safeguarding education.

9 How are children supervised?

Ask how many adults are supervising at any time. Look for:

- Adult-to-child ratios that suit the age and activity
- Training in an open area where children can always be seen - instructors should not be alone with a child behind closed doors
- Any physical contact, such as correcting a stance or technique, that is appropriate, explained and done in view of others
- Clear arrangements for change rooms and private lessons

10 Does the club collect consent and emergency information?

At registration, the club should ask for emergency contacts, relevant medical information (such as asthma or allergies) and consents for photography, filming and events. It should explain who can see this information and how it is used.

11 Does the club involve families and young people?

Safe clubs involve parents, carers, children and young people in decisions about how the club runs, and actively ask for feedback.

12 Is sparring safe, and what happens if someone is injured?

Look for:

- Qualified first-aid providers, a stocked first-aid kit and ice at every session
- A procedure for responding to, recording and reporting injuries - including suspected concussion
- Sparring matched to age, size and experience, with the correct protective equipment
- Compliance with Australian Taekwondo's rules for children and cadets, including the head-kicking policy
- Insurance for all participants

More information

- Australian Taekwondo national policies: austkd.com.au/policies
- Australian Taekwondo Incident Support and Resources: austkd.com.au/incident-support-and-resources
- Sport Integrity Australia resources: sportintegrity.gov.au
- National Principles for Child Safe Organisations: childsafe.humanrights.gov.au

Contact us

Australian Taekwondo

Web austkd.com.au/contact
Email integrity@austkd.com.au
Complaints austkd.com.au/club-hub/lodge-a-complaint

Sport Integrity Australia

Hotline 1800 161 361 (Safe Sport Hotline)
Email contactus@sportintegrity.gov.au
Web sportintegrity.gov.au

If someone is in immediate danger, call 000.