

M.W.R.A

Child Protection Policy

This working document covers the following:-

How your group can maintain a safe children's environment

Our child Protection Policy commits us to maintaining a safe environment for children, parents, members and young people.

Officers and volunteers are carefully selected and accept responsibility for helping to deal with the abuse of a child or children.

Selected **Sub committee members** group appoints person to become a child protection officer so that he/she is the main point of contact for parents and children.

Further Information Available from
Montreal Wado Ryu Karate School Association
5020 Cavendish Boulevard
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
H4V 2R3

**GUIDELINES FOR SAFEGUARDING
CHILDREN'S WELFARE**

Please read the following guidelines carefully—they will help you to understand child abuse and what to do if a child tells you about abuse.

Forms of child abuse

Sexual abuse

Both boys and girls can be sexually abused in the following ways:

- Full sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex and fondling
- Showing children pornographic books and videos
- Asking children to take part in making videos or taking pornographic photographs.

What to look for

- Pain, itching, bruising or bleeding in genital area
- Stomach pains
- Discomfort when walking
- Unexpected sources of money
- Inappropriate drawings, language or behaviour
- Aggressive, withdrawn behaviour or fear of one person.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse can be in the form of injuries sustained through hitting, shaking, squeezing, biting or burning. In certain situations abuse may occur when the nature and intensity of training exceeds the capacity of the child's body.

What to look for

- Unexplained or untreated injuries
- Injuries on unlikely parts of the body
- Cigarette burns, bite or belt marks, scalds
- Fear of parents being contacted, going home or receiving medical advice
- Flinching when touched
- Refusal to discuss injury
- Covering arms and legs.

Neglect

Where adults:

- Fail to meet a child's basic physical needs e.g. Food, warmth and clothing
- Constantly leave children alone and unsupervised
- Fail or refuse to give children love, affection or attention.

Neglect might also occur during organised activities if young people are placed in an unsafe environment, are exposed to extreme weather conditions or are at risk from being injured.

What to look for

- Poor personal hygiene
- Constantly hungry
- Inappropriate clothing or dress
- Constantly tired
- Lonely, no friends
- Underweight
- No parental support or interest
- Dishevelled appearance.

Forms of child abuse

Emotional abuse

This form of abuse includes:

- Persistent lack of love or affection
- Frequently shouting at children
- Taunting children
- Over-protection which can lead to poor social skills.

Emotional abuse may include situations where parents, coaches or organisers subject children to constant criticism, bullying or unrealistic pressure to perform to high expectations.

What to look for

- Over-reaction to mistakes
- Sudden speech disorders
- Extremes of emotions
- Self-mutilation.

What to do if a child tells you about abuse

- Most importantly, you should listen attentively and let he/she know it was right to tell someone about their worries.
- Stay calm and make sure that the child feels safe and knows that he/she is not to blame for what has happened.
- Explain that you will have to tell someone else about the abuse if it is to stop.
- Only ask questions that establish what was done and who did it.
- Make a note of what the child said and the date and time of your conversation.
- Don't act without seeking help from your organisations Child Protection Officer if you have one, or from social services or the police, who must be informed about all suspected cases of child abuse.
- Seek advice before telling parents or carers about the conversation or let any person suspected of abuse know what's happened—you could be putting the child in greater jeopardy by doing so.
- Don't worry that you may be making things worse by reporting your concerns—few things are worse than allowing child abuse to continue.

Many children are devastated by the experience of abuse and, in the most serious cases, may be seriously harmed or have their life threatened.

The Child-Safe Code for Staff and Volunteers

Do:

Treat all young people with respect and take notice of their reactions to your tone of voice and manner
Always seek the parents' and child's consent if he/she is very young or disabled and needs help to go to the toilet

Remember that it is okay to touch children in a way which isn't intrusive or disturbing to he/she or to observers

Make sure that any allegations or suspicions are recorded and acted upon.

Do not:

Engage in rough physical games including horseplay

Touch a child in an intrusive or sexual manner

Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even as a joke

Do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as going to the toilet or changing clothes.

Try to avoid:

Spending too much time alone with a child

Giving a child a lift in your car

Taking a child to your home.

If some of these situations are unavoidable, try to get parental permission first. If this isn't possible make sure you let parents know what has happened as soon as you can.