



BAB Child Safeguarding Policy & Guidance

as it applies to

Children and Adults on the Mat Together

Policy Statement

In accordance with Clause 12.1 of the Constitution, the BAB's Child Safeguarding & Protection Policy is mandatory for all Member Associations, including their Clubs and individual members providing services for children and young persons – that is, those under the age of 18.

Responsibilities when Children and Adults are on the Mat Together

Aikido Techniques – Pain Compliance Against Joint Locks. Never apply locks, throws, techniques or exercises on children which use pain compliance or “against the joints” methods of application. All Clubs should ensure their junior Syllabus is amended where necessary in order to remove any exercise or technique which may be inappropriate for children. Children’s physiology is different to that of an adult, and all Coaches working with children should ensure that they have the necessary knowledge in order to deliver safe sessions. This knowledge should be kept up to date through continuing professional development courses offered by the Coaching Development Officer.

The BAB, Associations and their Clubs have a duty of care to maintain the wellbeing of their child members, that is, those under the age of 18. Within the sport of Aikido children and adults may at times be on the mat together. The basis of this decision may be to help develop children’s skills by being on the mat with their more experienced elders in the Club or for operational reasons; the Club Coach will need to assess what is appropriate in terms of such activity i.e. a child of 10 with a large adult male could put the child at considerable risk of harm physically but a child of 17 with an adult may not.

The Coach must always be aware of the potential for abuse in any situation. Sport is known to be targeted by persons who wish to harm children both by gaining positions of responsibility but also through participation in physical contact sports. Should a concern be raised about a Coach or any other adult participant, the person raising the concern must report it to the CWO. Additionally when adults and children are on the mat together the Coach must pay particular attention to whether both parties are acting appropriately within the policies and requirements of the sport in their actions. Any concerns they have should be challenged and reported to the Club Welfare Officer. Also be aware children can be a risk to other children and may also seek to harm another child participant by their actions on the mat.

When adults and children are on the mat together, the Instructor must be cognisant of, and clearly identify to the adults:

- those children present, and
- the limitations of applying locks on Juniors when demonstrating and practising new techniques.

Parents and children must also be made aware if the child will at times be on the mat together with an adult Club member. In advance of this happening, and ideally when a child

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joins the Club, the child and parent must be made aware that physical contact is an essential part of the sport and at times inadvertent and accidental inappropriate incidents can happen, i.e:

- a grab for a particular hold may mean the child is touched inappropriately by mistake.
- a young girl is touched on the breast area.

This is an inherent risk of the sport and as such must be acknowledged and recognised. However all parents and children still have the right to raise a concern and if such an “accident” touching is repeated over time then concern(s) should be raised about the individual to the Club welfare officer and consideration given to the individual’s skills, intention and motivation.