



BAB Child Safeguarding Policy & Guidance

as it applies to

Dress Code & Use of Changing Facilities

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.

Dress ode

Aikido is a dynamic and interactive activity and, as such, all clothing worn by junior aikidoka should be fit for the activity in question and compliant with safeguarding principles.

During all training sessions:

- Training suits (gi or dogi) should be of the correct size. For example:
 - Trousers which are too long may be hazardous and cause trips or falls.
 - Clothing which is too tight may restrict movement.
 - Clothing which is too loose may fall open or fall down.
- Belts (obi) should also be of an appropriate length so as not to be hazardous to the wearer or other students.
- Training attire should cover vulnerable areas of the body such as knees and elbows.
- No jewellery (rings, earrings, bracelets, watches and studs) should be worn during training or competition sessions. Jewellery which cannot be removed for any reason should be covered with appropriate tape if it is considered a hazard to the child or to others on the mat (check for allergies before taping).
- In the event of athlete's foot, verruca's or any other contagious foot problem, socks should be worn. Please be aware that socks may not allow as much grip with the floor – and so, where possible, neoprene or other 'grippy' activity socks should be used.
- Girls and female teenagers wearing dogi should also wear plain – preferably white – T-shirts underneath their jackets. Sports bras may also be appropriate for developing girls.
- The instructor should not adjust the dress of any child unless not to do so would be hazardous to the child or other children taking part, or if it is necessary to protect the modesty of the child. Wherever possible the child should be guided to adjust their own dress, or their parents should assist if they are present. If, despite this, adjusting a child's dress is necessary (such as knotting a belt or securing trouser ties) then the instructor should do so to the side of the training area whilst also ensuring they remain in open view. Where possible, a female ach or helper should adjust the dress of a female child and vice-versa. An instructor should never take a child out of the area to adjust clothing.
- Gi trousers must always be worn underneath hakama

Changing Rooms Used by Children

In many Clubs children and adults arrive changed ready to undertake their training session. The policy guidance outlined below is relevant to those Clubs where changing rooms are used by Club members under 18 years of age.

- Ensure that parents are made aware that changing facilities at venues may be shared by both Club members and members of the general public.
- Ensure parents are made aware of the type of changing rooms i.e. separate areas for male and female, or changing villages
- Ensure parents are aware they should not be in the changing room while their child is changing unless the child is of an age where help is required from parents, or the child requires additional specific assistance. This is generally at an age that is stipulated by the venue hirer, usually 7 or 8 years of age. In such circumstances the parent must be same gender as the child, unless the facility has family changing facilities or is a “mixed changing village”.
- Ensure that when running competitions where other Clubs/activities are involved, the competition organisers advise parents and competitors (via the competition information) if the facilities are likely to be open to the general public at any time during the event
- Whenever possible, aches are to follow best practice and should not change with (i.e. at the same time as) their junior members.

Where there are no changing facilities at a venue, parents/guardians should be advised to bring their child to class, already dressed for training.

The BAB does not advise that adults supervise changing facilities as this may place them and the children at risk of harm and allegation