

Champions MA Safeguarding Policy

Creating a Safe Environment for Martial Arts in Faringdon, Oxfordshire

Parent-Friendly Summary

At Champions MA, your child's safety is our top priority.

- ✓ All our staff and coaches have **enhanced DBS checks** and receive **safeguarding training**.
- ✓ We have clear procedures to **keep your child safe** in every session.
- ✓ We treat every student with **care, respect, and as an individual**.
- ✓ If a concern arises, we act quickly and responsibly.
- ✓ We work in partnership with **parents and carers** to create a positive, supportive environment.

If you ever have any concerns, speak to our **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** or a member of our team. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we're here to help.

1. Policy Statement

Champions MA is committed to safeguarding all children, young people, and adults who take part in our martial arts activities. We provide a safe, inclusive space where every individual can grow in confidence and ability.

We take all safeguarding concerns seriously and follow national guidance, including **Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)** and relevant local authority procedures.

2. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to:

- All children and young people under 18
 - All adults, including adults at risk
 - All staff, instructors, volunteers, and anyone working on behalf of Champions MA
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3. Key Safeguarding Principles

- **The welfare of the individual is paramount**

- **All staff undergo enhanced DBS checks**
 - Everyone has the right to be **protected from harm, abuse, and neglect**
 - Safeguarding is a **shared responsibility**
 - **All concerns will be acted upon** appropriately and promptly
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4. Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Name: Darren Horsell

Role: Designated Safeguarding Lead

Email: info@championsmawilts.co.uk

Phone: 01793 547035

A **Deputy DSL** will be appointed to cover when the DSL is unavailable.

5. Types of Abuse We Recognise

- **Physical abuse**
 - **Emotional abuse**
 - **Sexual abuse**
 - **Neglect**
 - **Bullying or cyberbullying**
 - **Radicalisation**
 - **Poor practice by staff or volunteers**
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6. Safeguarding in Practice

We:

- Maintain a safe **adult-to-child ratio**
 - Avoid situations where staff are left **alone with a child**
 - Require **parent/guardian consent** for photos or video recording
 - Promote **positive behaviour and respect** in all classes
 - Encourage **open communication** between students, coaches, and families
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7. Adults at Risk

We respect the rights of all adults and ensure those with additional needs are supported and protected. Safeguarding principles apply equally to adults with vulnerabilities.

8. Staff Code of Conduct

Staff must:

- Always act in the best interest of students
 - Use positive language and behaviour
 - Report all safeguarding concerns immediately
 - Never make inappropriate contact with under-18s
 - Maintain clear boundaries between personal and professional life
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9. Responding to Concerns

If you are worried about a child or adult:

1. Speak to the DSL or Deputy DSL
 2. Record your concern clearly and factually
 3. Do not delay—acting quickly is vital
 4. Concerns can also be reported to the local safeguarding team or police
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10. Confidentiality and Records

All safeguarding concerns are:

- Handled with sensitivity
 - Kept confidential and secure
 - Only shared with those who need to know
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11. Staff Checks and Training

- **All Champions MA staff and volunteers undergo enhanced DBS checks.**
 - Staff receive **initial and regular refresher safeguarding training.**
 - Safeguarding is included in staff inductions and reviewed annually.
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12. Policy Review

- This policy is reviewed **annually** or earlier if needed.
 - Any updates will be communicated to staff, volunteers, and parents.
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13. Useful Contacts

- **NSPCC:** 0808 800 5000
- **Oxfordshire MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub):** 0345 050 7666
- **Childline:** 0800 1111
- **Police:** 101 (non-emergency) or 999 (emergency)

Policy Review Date: 01 August 2025

Next Review Due: 01 August 2026

Approved By: Darren Horsell (Chief Instructor & Designated Safeguarding Lead)
