



## EMMA Safeguarding Policy

Version 1

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Millions of children and young people take part in a variety of sporting activities everyday across the world. For some this is purely for recreation and fun, for others it is a more serious endeavour where competitions and goal settings are fundamental in their quest for achievement and success. For other young people sport may well be a chosen career path as an athlete, a coach, a trainer or an official. Sport can also be accessed as a means to assist young people escape crime and criminality and other anti-social behaviour that is negatively impacting on their well-being.

Children and young people all have the right to participate in their chosen sport within the parameters of a safe and enjoyable environment where they can thrive, be healthy, achieve their potential, unlock hidden talents and be part of a sporting community. **Children have the right to participate in sport in a safe and enjoyable environment. Their rights are established by the United Nations Convention on the rights of a child, adopted by the General Assembly Resolution 44/25 of November 1989.**

The following safeguarding policy outlines the core values and beliefs that EMMAA see as a fundamental necessity in keeping young martial artists safe. The policy itself represents good practice but to be confident and not complacent in such an important endeavour we feel the safeguarding policy will be subject to periodic review which will ensure we are working to the highest possible standards as well as implementing any new National safeguarding legislation.

Child safeguarding in sport is a set of actions that help to ensure all children participating in sport have a positive experience. Child safeguarding is about keeping all children safe from harm, abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect. Having effective child safeguarding measures in place means that all the clubs affiliated to EMMAA along with their coaching and training staff are proactively working internally and externally to ensure that children are kept safe. **The HM Government “safeguarding children document” July 2018 states All paid and volunteer staff need to be aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, how they should respond to child protection concerns and how to report safeguarding concerns.**

It is noted by EMMAA that in the **Children’s Acts 1989 and 2004 respectively, a child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education or is a member of the armed forces, does not change his or her status or entitlement to services or protection under the Children’s Act.**

EMMAA’s safeguarding principles and policy are based on the following criteria –



- # All children have the right to participate, enjoy and develop through sport in a safe and inclusive environment, free from all forms of abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation.
- # To help create a safe sporting environment for children wherever they participate and at whatever level.
- # To promote good practice and challenge practice that is harmful to children.
- # Children have the right to have their voices heard and listened to. They need to know who they can turn to when they have a concern about their participation in sport or how they have been treated.
- # Everyone involved in MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) from individual clubs, coaching staff, promoters, officials and EMMAA Board members has a duty of care and a responsibility to support and care for children and to keep them safe.
- # All children who participate in MMA have the right to be treated equally with dignity and respect and not to be discriminated against based on gender, race, age, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, beliefs, religious or political affiliation.
- # All affiliated clubs will have at least one member of coaching staff that has undertaken a recognised and accredited safeguarding course and records of this will be kept by the EMMAA safeguarding lead.
- # All affiliated clubs will be sent an EMMAA “**safeguarding children document**” to bolster their knowledge from the recognised safeguarding course and will be encouraged to disseminate this amongst all coaches and trainers at their facility.
- # To ensure that appropriate and necessary measures and protocols are in place at competitions and venue’s where young athletes are competing whether this be local, regional, National or International level.
- # To have a zero-tolerance policy against racism, discrimination and exclusion
- # To ensure everyone who works with or for EMMAA understand and fulfil their roles and responsibilities whilst working with children and young people
- # EMMAA will apply necessary actions against any member of staff, associate or visitor who commits any act of abuse or violence against a child.

Safeguarding is fundamentally important to any organisation working with children as is recognising abuse and being confident and proactive in dealing with it. Children are often too young, too scared or too ashamed to tell anyone what is happening and so it is so important that professionals know what they are looking out for. The below list provides some indicators of what to look out for.



# Child abuse is any action by another person, be that a family member, care worker, trusted adult or stranger, that causes significant harm to a child.

# The term child or children, includes any child or young person up to the age of 18

# The abuse can be physical, sexual or emotional, but it can just as often be a lack of love, care and attention.

# It is evidenced and widely recognised that neglect can be just as damaging to a child as physical abuse

# An abused child will often experience more than one type of abuse, as well as other difficulties in their lives.

# Rather than a one-off event, abuse often happens over a period of time, and is increasingly happening online.

**The NSPCC estimate that for every child identified as needing protection from abuse, there are another eight who are suffering and not getting the support they need.**

Please see the EMMAA safeguarding procedure document to get an insight into the different types of harm and abuse that children and young people need protecting from as well as how to report concerns or incidents of child abuse.