



Child Protection Policy

SVJ Karate Club operates in accordance with the principles set out in the *Code of Ethics & Good Practice for Children's Sport* published by the Irish Sports Council. The full Irish Sports Council document can be found here: http://www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/Participation/Code_of_Ethics/

This document sets out the manner by which our club applies the Code of Ethics into our practices.

1. Supervision:

1. SVJ Karate Club ensures that at least two adults are present at all times in the company of children while in the club dojo. This is normally achieved by having two or more instructors present, but may also be achieved by having an adult parent or member present with the instructor. Where children arrive early for a class the instructor will require the adult who accompanies the child to the dojo to remain in attendance until a second instructor (or parent) arrives.
2. Unnecessarily spending time alone with young people away from others must be avoided by any adult involved in running the club. Adults club members and volunteers should avoid such situations and try to move to a location so that they are in public view (eg. in the hall or reception area) if a situation arises where one child is left alone with them for any reason.
3. We encourage some parents to remain in the hall throughout the classes, as this ensures protection for the children and also allows the parent to see the child's progression in training. We hope that parents encourage their children to participate fully in class through positive reinforcement of their child's efforts.

2. Photography:

1. Photography is not allowed at normal weekly club training sessions, but may be permitted at events such as gradings, demonstrations or competitions or to celebrate achievements by students, subject to the organisers' consent.
2. Where a parent declines to allow their child to be photographed then it is the parent's responsibility to remain present at the event to supervise their child.
3. Photos on the official club website or official club Facebook pages should not associate children's names with photos and vice versa.
4. External events, competitions and public events are outside the control of the club and parents should investigate and be aware if there is photography policy in use at the event and satisfy themselves that they wish for their child to attend.

3. Mobile Phones:

1. Group email and the official Facebook page are the preferred forms of electronic communication to members and parents / guardians. Instructors and adult members should not normally communicate with any mobile phone or email account belonging to a member under the age of 18.
2. Mobile Phones should not be used in the dojo area. If an incoming call is received the phone should be taken outside the dojo to continue the call.

4. Transport:

1. Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from events and club training locations. The club does not participate in organising lifts.





2. Where child members must travel to an event (e.g. gradings or competitions) then all transport and accommodation must be arranged by the parent / guardian. Instructors and adult members do not provide supervision for such events.

5. Changing rooms:

1. Children should arrive and leave training and events in their karate suit. If a child has to get changed at an event changing room then the parent should be present with them in the dressing room or arrange for a guardian to escort them.
2. Instructors do not assist child members to change clothes, nor to use bathrooms. Where it is necessary to do so, an instructor may re-tie a child's karate suit or belt, but this will only be done inside the dojo in the company of others.

6. Physical contact:

1. Typically the club instructor may need to fix the head, hand or foot position of a student to assist in their correct position of a technique.
2. Where any form of manual/physical support is required it should be provided openly and with the consent of the young person. Physical contact can be appropriate so long as it is neither intrusive nor disturbing and the young person's consent has been given.

7. Discipline:

1. The nature of karate training requires that instructors maintain a high level of discipline during the classes in order to safeguard members and ensure that there is no opportunity for bullying to occur.
2. Normally discipline is encouraged through positive promotion of the Dojo Code and the Children's Code of Conduct. In exceptional cases the instructor may temporarily stop a child from participating in the class in order to stop impetuous behaviour which risks the safety of other members or of themselves. Students of higher ranks may be assigned a physically challenging exercise in order to provide an opportunity for reflection, where their conduct has fallen short of the expected behaviour.
3. Where a member repeatedly misbehaves the instructors may terminate that person's membership.
4. Instructors never use corporal punishment to enforce *discipline*.

8. Children's Protection Officer and Designated Person:

1. Club Instructors will undergo Garda Vetting.
2. SVJ Karate Club appoints a *Children's Protection Officer (CPO)* and a *Designated Person (DP)*. These people should typically be adult club members or the parent of a junior club member, and should also undergo Garda vetting.
3. All members and parents should be notified of the club's *CPO* and advised that they may approach the *CPO* with any questions or concerns they may have.
4. The *DP* is responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection of children, and for reporting allegations or suspicions of child abuse to Health Services Executive and / or An Garda Síochána. In certain cases, the club's *CPO* may assume this role. All members and parents should also be notified of the contact details for the *DP*.





Notification

The Children’s Protection Officer for SVJ Karate Club is Ms Nina Brennan. Nina may be contacted by email at ninambrennan@gmail.com or by phone at 086-8906444.

The Designated Person for SVJ Karate Club is Mr Steven Rees. Steven may be contacted by email at steven_mg_rees@hotmail.com or by phone at 087-2552795.

Please detach and return the declaration below:



Declaration by Parent / Guardian

Date: _____

Please tick:

- I have read the **Children’s Code of Conduct** and the club’s **Child Protection Policy**. I understand that if I should have any concerns in relation to my child’s participation in the club I can contact the Children’s Protection Officer, whose contact details I have received.
- I accept the duties of parent / guardian as set out in the above documents
- I hereby agree to allow my child be photographed at events as set out in the club policy and for those pictures to appear on the SVJ Karate Club website and / or Facebook page. Where such agreement is withheld I understand that it is my responsibility to supervise my child at events in order to ensure that they are not photographed.

Name: _____

Child Member’s Name(s): _____

Signature: _____

