



Safeguarding Policy for Prestige Martial Arts

Updated 22.12.2024. To be reviewed by 21.12.2025

Introduction

Prestige Martial Arts is dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of all members, particularly children, young people, and vulnerable adults. This policy outlines the organisation's safeguarding approach, offering clear guidance to prevent harm and respond effectively to safeguarding concerns. Our mission is to provide a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where everyone feels valued and protected.

Policy Statement

Prestige Martial Arts:

- Recognises its legal and moral duty to safeguard the welfare of all members, particularly children and vulnerable adults, by protecting them from abuse, harm, and neglect.
 - Promotes a culture of safety, trust, and mutual respect where safeguarding concerns can be raised without fear of victimisation.
 - Strives to ensure that all staff, volunteers, and members adhere to the highest standards of conduct and safeguarding practice.
 - Stresses that it is the duty of all associated with Prestige Martial Arts to ensure safeguarding procedures are followed and to report any concerns to the DSO.
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Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for Prestige Martial Arts is **Dean Baxter**. The DSL plays a critical role in ensuring safeguarding protocols are followed and acts as the primary point of contact for all safeguarding matters.

Key Responsibilities of the DSL:

- Leading and managing the implementation of safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Providing advice and support to staff and volunteers regarding safeguarding concerns.
- Acting as the main liaison with external safeguarding agencies, including social services and the police.

- Ensuring all safeguarding records are securely stored, updated, and kept confidential.
 - Ensuring staff and volunteers receive appropriate safeguarding training.
 - Reviewing and updating the safeguarding policy annually or as needed.
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Definitions

- **Safeguarding:** Protecting the health, well-being, and human rights of individuals, ensuring they are free from harm and abuse.
 - **Abuse:** Any form of maltreatment that results in physical, emotional, or psychological harm. This includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect.
 - **Vulnerable Adult:** A person aged 18 or older who may need care and support due to age, illness, disability, or other factors, making them unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation.
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Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all individuals associated with Prestige Martial Arts, including:

- Coaches, instructors, staff, and volunteers.
 - Members, participants, and their families.
 - External contractors and service providers engaged by Prestige Martial Arts.
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Code of Conduct

All staff, coaches, and volunteers must adhere to the following principles:

1. **Respect and Professionalism:** Treat all members with respect, promoting an inclusive and welcoming environment.
 2. **Appropriate Behaviour:** Avoid physical contact unless necessary for instruction and ensure it is appropriate and consensual.
 3. **Two-Adult Rule:** Ensure that no staff member or volunteer is alone with a child or vulnerable adult. Where possible, activities should take place in an open and observable setting.
 4. **Listening to Concerns:** Take all concerns or allegations seriously and respond appropriately.
 5. **Reporting Concerns:** Immediately report any safeguarding concerns to the DSL.
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Training and Awareness

To ensure safeguarding measures are effectively implemented:

- All staff and volunteers will undergo safeguarding training appropriate to their roles.
 - Regular updates and refresher training will be provided to ensure knowledge remains current.
 - Induction for new staff will include safeguarding awareness and policy familiarisation.
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Recognising Signs of Abuse

Staff and volunteers must remain vigilant for potential indicators of abuse, including:

- **Physical Abuse:** Unexplained injuries, bruises, or burns.
 - **Emotional Abuse:** Excessive withdrawal, fearfulness, or low self-esteem.
 - **Sexual Abuse:** Inappropriate sexual behaviour, knowledge, or comments.
 - **Neglect:** Poor hygiene, malnourishment, or lack of appropriate supervision.
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Procedures for Handling Safeguarding Concerns

1. **Recognise:** Be alert to potential signs of abuse or neglect.
 2. **Respond:** If a child, young person, or vulnerable adult discloses information:
 - Listen calmly and attentively.
 - Reassure them that they have done the right thing by speaking up.
 - Do not promise confidentiality; explain that the information may need to be shared to protect them.
 3. **Report:** Immediately inform the DSL (Dean Baxter) of the concern.
 4. **Record:** Document the concern accurately, including dates, times, and detailed accounts of what was said or observed. Use the safeguarding reporting form if available.
 5. **Refer:** The DSL will assess the situation and, if necessary, make a referral to the appropriate external agency, such as social services or the police.
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Confidentiality and Data Protection

Safeguarding information will be treated as confidential and shared on a need-to-know basis. Records will be securely stored, and access will be restricted to authorised personnel.

Prestige Martial Arts complies with data protection laws and ensures that safeguarding records are handled appropriately.

Safe Recruitment and Vetting

To minimise the risk of harm, Prestige Martial Arts will:

- Conduct enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for all staff and volunteers working with children or vulnerable adults.
 - Require at least two references for all new staff and volunteers.
 - Ensure all new recruits are fully aware of safeguarding policies and procedures during their induction period.
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Whistleblowing Policy

Prestige Martial Arts encourages all staff and volunteers to raise concerns about poor practice or suspected abuse. Whistleblowers will be protected from victimisation and treated with respect and confidentiality.

Monitoring and Review

The safeguarding policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if required by changes in legislation, guidance, or organisational needs. Any updates or amendments will be communicated to all staff, volunteers, and members.

Approval and Endorsement

This safeguarding policy is endorsed by Prestige Martial Arts and applies to all activities, events, and interactions involving the organisation. It will be shared with all staff, volunteers, and relevant stakeholders.

Signed: _____

Dean Baxter

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Prestige Martial Arts

Date: _____

Prestige Martial Arts

Date: 22.12.2024 _____

Signed:

William Taylor

Director and Lead Coach

Prestige Martial Arts

Date: 23.12.2024

Signed : _____

Trevor Digan

Coach

Prestige Martial Arts

Date: