

North West Chinese Kickboxing Association

Child Protection Policy Defining Child Abuse

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. It commonly occurs within a relationship of trust or responsibility and is an abuse of power or a break of trust. Abuse can happen to a child regardless of the age gender race or ability.

The abuser may be a family member, or they may be someone the child encounters in residential care or in the community, including during sports and leisure activities. An individual may abuse or neglect a child directly, or may be responsible for abuse because they fail to prevent another person harming a child.

There are four main types of child abuse:

- **Physical abuse:** where adults physically hurt or injure children, including by hitting, shaking, throwing poisoning, burning, biting, scalding, suffocating or drowning. This category of abuse can also include when a parent or carer reports non-existent symptoms of illness or deliberately causes ill health in a child they are looking after.

Examples of physical abuse in sport may be when a child is forced into training and competition that exceeds the capacity of his or her immature and growing body, or where the child is given drugs to enhance performance or delay puberty.

- **Sexual abuse:** when adults (male or female) use the child to meet their own sexual needs including talking to them in an explicit nature and showing them illicit photographs.

- **Emotional abuse:** the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child, likely to cause severe and lasting adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve communicating to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only in terms of meeting the needs of another person. It may feature expectations of children that are not appropriate to their age or development. It may involve causing children to feel frightened or in danger by being constantly shouted at threatened or taunted which may make the child very nervous and withdrawn. Ill-treatment of children, whatever form it takes, will always feature a degree of emotional abuse.

Examples of emotional abuse in sport include subjecting children to constant criticism, name-calling and sarcasm or bullying. Putting them under pressure to perform to unrealistic high standards is also a form of emotional abuse.

- **Neglect:** this is when adults fail to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, to an extent that is likely to result in serious impairment of the child's health and development. For example, failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger or failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

Examples of neglect in sport could include not ensuring children are safe, exposing them to undue cold or heat or exposing them to unnecessary risk of injury, during sparring for example.