

# **Singto Muay Thai Network**

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## **Child Protection Policy Procedures**

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### Good Practice Guidelines

For Singto Muay Thai Network  
staff, coaches and volunteers.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

An increasing number of young people take part in the activities and opportunities offered by the Singto Muay Thai Network, whether through Singto initiatives or activities offered by our partner clubs, groups and organisations.

In order to give young people protection from potential and actual child abuse, it is important that all concerned have a basic understanding of the issues involved and that procedures are in place that are understandable and easy to implement by anyone providing a service to young people by Singto Muay Thai Network.

## **2.0 AIM**

To ensure that young people can enjoy the sporting activities provided by Singto Muay Thai Network in a safe and secure environment.

## **3.0 OBJECTIVES**

To ensure that all individuals and groups involved in the provision of sporting activities by Singto Muay Thai Network have knowledge and an empathy with issues related to child protection.

To establish procedures to effectively deal with issues related to child protection.

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

The issues of child abuse presents a challenge to all that provide services for young people, and the profile has been raised over recent years.

In order to give added protection to young people involved in activities by Singto Muay Thai Network, it is important that all individuals are aware of the issues, have a basic understanding of the forms of abuse and have clear instructions on how to prevent occurrences and what actions to take should an incident occur.

Child abuse is a difficult issue and many people feel uncomfortable with the subject. It is not easily recognisable and individuals often fear reading too much into a situation. Many young people are subject to minor accidents causing injuries, but there may be occasions where you are concerned over the nature and frequency of injury.

This document contains information on some of the signs that may give cause for concern. This document is based on the principle that:

*“It is not your responsibility as members of staff, a coach or volunteer to decide whether or not child abuse is occurring, but it is your responsibility to act on those concerns and do something about it.”*

## **5.0 WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE**

All staff, coaches and volunteers who come into contact with young people should have an understanding of the types and potential signs of child abuse.

The effects of child abuse can be devastating, especially if children are left unprotected or do not have support to cope with the abuse. It is not the intention of this document, however, to make staff, coaches and volunteers experts in recognising child abuse.

The term ‘child abuse’ is used to describe ways in which young people are harmed by someone in a position of power. There are many different ways in which children can be harmed, all with a common factor that the child feels undervalued and worthless. Abuse can happen anywhere, but research indicates that the predators of such abuse are likely to be known and trusted by the child.

### **5.1 TYPES OF ABUSE**

#### **5.11 PHYSICAL ABUSE**

Physical abuse includes hurting or injuring a child. It might also occur if a child is forced to train beyond his or her capabilities. Bullying is likely to fall under this category.

#### **5.12 SEXUAL ABUSE**

Sexual abuse is where children are encouraged or forced to observe or participate in any form of sexual activity. This

could also occur through unnecessary or inappropriate physical contact or through suggestive comments or verbal innuendo.

### **5.13 EMOTIONAL ABUSE**

Emotional abuse occurs when a child is not given love, help, encouragement and attention and is constantly derided or ridiculed or, perhaps even worse, ignored. This can also occur when a child is over-protected. It can be present in the unrealistic expectations of coaches and parents over what children can achieve. The use of abusive language of any sort constitutes emotional abuse and it can be a feature of bullying.

### **5.14 NEGLECT**

Neglect usually means failing to meet children's basic needs such as food, warmth, adequate clothing, medical attention etc. It could also mean failing to ensure they are safe or exposing them to harm.

(Please note that these are not exhaustive)

## **6.0 EFFECTS OF ABUSE**

The effects of child abuse can be devastating, especially if children are left unprotected or do not have the support to cope with that abuse.

Indications that a child may be being abused include:

- Unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising, cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries.
- An injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent.
- The child describes what appears to be an abusive act involving him or her.
- Someone else (child or adult) expresses concern about the welfare of another child.
- Unexplained changes in behaviour such as becoming very quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden outbursts of temper.
- Inappropriate sexual awareness.
- Engaging in sexual explicit behaviour.
- Distrustful of adults, particularly those with whom a close relationship would normally be expected.
- Has difficulty in making friends.

## **7.0 PROCEDURE**

### **WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SUSPECT ABUSE IS TAKING PLACE?**

If any member of staff, coach or volunteer is concerned that abuse may or has occurred they must refer the matter immediately to Kru Ryan, who will decide in conjunction with the Club Secretary whether or not to report the matter further. If it is felt that further investigation is necessary in order to protect the child, the matter must be referred to Social Services.

In the event of referral to Social Services, copies of all relevant correspondence and notes of dialogue must be passed to the Club Secretary for filing. It is very important that any concerns on a child's safety are logged. Within this document is a Singto Muay Thai Network Child Protection logging form, which should be used if any doubt over a child's welfare exists. This should be forwarded to the Club Secretary in the first instance.

Singto Muay Thai Network Child Protection policy arises from the following principles:

- The child's welfare is the first consideration
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender or ethnic origin have a right to be protected from abuse.

## **8.0 GOOD PRACTICE IN THE CARE OF CHILDREN**

Situations where abuse may occur and be minimised by:

- Always being publicly open when working with children.





# Singto Muay Thai Network



## LOGGING CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD'S SAFETY & WELFARE

Name of Young Person		Date of Birth	
Date Form Completed		Time Form Completed	
Your Name <i>(Please Print)</i>		Your Signature	
Your Organisation		Your Position	
Reason(s) for recording incident			
Please record the following as factually as possible	<u>Who?</u>		
	<u>What?</u>		
	<u>Where?</u>		
	<u>When?</u>		
<u>Offer an opinion where relevant</u> <i>(how and why this may have happened)</i>			
<u>Substantiate the opinion</u> <i>(Please note the action taken, including the names of anyone to whom information was passed)</i>			

Please check this report to ensure that it is clear and that it will also be clear to a stranger who may have to read it in a year's time.

PLEASE PASS THIS FORM TO THE CLUB SECRETARY MARKED **PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**