### Lea Valley Karate Academy – Safeguarding Statement

Lea Valley Karate Academy acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and English Karate Federation requirements.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children:

* Have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport at Lea Valley Karate Academy in a safe and child centred environment
* Are protected from abuse whilst participating in Karate or outside of the activity.

Lea Valley Karate academy acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communications, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy we will:

* Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Through an ethos that the welfare of the child is paramount.
* Ensuring everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people. Ensure that all instructors / coaches complete the introduction to child protection course and in some cases the further child protection course as part of their training and refresher safeguarding training completed every two years.
* Ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individuals who raise or disclose the concern.
* Ensure that confidentiality, details and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored. In line with the Human Rights Act 2000 and the Data protection Act 1988.
* Have effective recruitment and selection procedures, including DBS checks. Prevent the employment/deployments of unsuitable individuals.
* Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved with Lea Valley Karate academy. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addresses without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

**Monitoring:**

The policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every three years, or in the following circumstances:

* Changes in legislation and/or government guidance
* As required by the Local Safeguarding Children board, UK sport and /or home country sports councils and English karate federation
* As a result of any other significant change or event.

Lea Valley Karate Academy recognises its responsibilities, both morally and legally, under current legislation, including the Children Act 1989 and 2004 and will use its best efforts to promote good practice to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults.

**(Last reviewed June 2020)**