



GTUK Competition Policy

The GTUK is committed to providing an inclusive and controlled competing environment, where the safety of all competitors, umpires and supporting teams is priority and where unavoidable incidents are managed efficiently and effectively by experienced and trained members of the GTUK.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clearly define processes put in place to mitigate and manage the risks associated with competing at a GTUK event.

Scope

The policy is for

- All members of the GTUK
- Competitors, or parents/guardians of those under the age of 18 years old*
- Umpires
- All competition support roles including but not limited to
 - Tournament board
 - Safeguarding and welfare
 - First Aid
 - Competition administration

*For the purposes of this policy, "Competitor" includes parents/guardians of those who are under the age of 18

The policy covers categories of

- Patterns
- Sparring
- Breaking
- Special Technique

Personal responsibility

It is the responsibility of competitors to assess their own physical and mental health before deciding to compete.

It is also the responsibility of competitors to ensure they are insured to compete having disclosed to their insurance provider any medical conditions of concern, under investigation, or diagnosed since their last insurance validation date.

At the point of competition entry, it is the responsibility of the competitor to declare any disability and/or health condition which may require intervention or adjustment at the event to enhance their personal safety. This includes, but not limited to, where

- medical supervision is a requirement while competing



- medical intervention may be required while competing
- personal risk is enhanced in the event of a medical emergency
- adjustments are essential to enhance personal safety and the safety of the opponent
- the competitor requires adapted communication due to an impairment

The tournament board reserve the right to decline entry to the competition if there if there is genuine reason to believe this decision is in the best interest of the competitor. This may include, but not limited to

- Where a competitor has not made a health declaration, however a health concern relating to the competitor has been raised to the tournament board and it would be considered high risk not to take action
- Where a competitor has not made a health declaration on entry, but choose to make a health declaration on the day of the competition which meets the requirement for an individualised risk assessment
- If the competitor has an evident injury, or the competitor is evidently unwell

Any such decision made will be final. The competitor will be advised and the reasons for the decision will be documented. The tournament board may choose to further investigate any circumstance which had the potential to create unnecessary risk.

Assessing risk

It is the responsibility of the GTUK tournament board to thoroughly assess and manage all competition associated safety risk. Assessments conducted by the board are managed via the process of the generic competition risk assessment and the individualised competition risk assessment.

The risks associated with running a competition are subject to change per event due to assessments made in relation to the facilities used and the experienced resource available, as such the tournament board conduct risk reviews prior to every competition, making amendments and adjustments as necessary.

Competition risk assessment

The purpose of the competition risk assessment is to

- identify all generic risks associated with competing in a contact sport
- take appropriate action to prevent avoidable risks
- create a plan of action for potential and unavoidable personal injury risks associated with competing in a contact sport
- Document all of the above for the purpose of review, audit and transparency

This policy and the competition risk assessment is provided at the point of entering personal details on the competition entry system. Competitors must confirm understanding and acceptance of the policy and risk assessment before proceeding with their competition entry.



While the risks associated with personal safety may appear obvious, transparency is vital to ensure common understanding. Once competitors understand the associated risks, it is their responsibility to follow all competition rules, guidelines and procedures and adhere to any instructions given to them by members of the competition team as identified in the scope of the policy.

Individual competition risk assessment

Where competitors have made a health declaration as part of their entry to the competition, the declaration will be reviewed by the tournament board to determine if there is a requirement for an individualised risk assessment (IRA) due to the specific needs of the competitor.

The purpose of the individualised risk assessment is to enhance the safety of competitors who require adjustments due to disability, accessibility or medical conditions. The IRA process provides the knowledge and understanding of the disclosure so that the tournament board can make informed decisions relating to enhanced safety measures and adjustments.

Where an individualised risk assessment is deemed necessary, a member of the tournament board (or delegated member of the safeguarding team) will conduct a assessment interview with the competitor and their instructor (where appropriate) and use the information provided to create the IRA.

The preferred action of the Tournament Board is to make the required adjustments in support of the individual being able to safely compete. However, the safety of the individual takes precedence and therefore should the Tournament Board assessment conclude that the competition is unable to adequately maintain the safety of the individual, they reserve the right to decline competitor entry to each category where adequate safety measures cannot be established.

The decision of the tournament board is final and is only for the duration of that specific event. The individual can enter future competitions and their entry will be assessed based on the specific circumstances at the time of that event.

The tournament board will make every effort to conclude on IRAs before the date of the event. Where the success of an IRA relies on available resource, it may be that a decision cannot be made before the morning of the event.

If the tournament board decide that the competition is unable to maintain adequate safety measures according to the IRA, this decision will be final and the competitor(s) will be advised.

Competitors will only be removed from categories where the requirements of the risk assessment cannot be adequately met.

Competition safety

The tournament board is accountable for the organisation and the management of the competition and must ensure there is sufficient experience to resource the roles and teams required to run adequately manage and control the event which includes



- Senior and experienced Umpires
- Qualified Centre Referees
- First Aid
- Competitor welfare

Each competition area is allocated an Umpire Team led by a GTUK qualified, senior and experienced black belt. Competitor safety is the priority of the entire Umpire Team. The senior umpire has the added responsibility for ensuring the highest standards of etiquette, professionalism and control are maintained in their area at all times.

Competitor safety while sparring

Competitors are responsible maintaining self-control which means using correct techniques, controlling contact, and being respectful at all times.

All competitors must wear adequate safety equipment including headguard and hand and feet pads. It is advisable to wear shin pads, groin protection and mouth guards. Chest protectors are allowed. Face guards must be approved via the health declaration process pre-competition.

Competitors may be removed from the competition for reasons of misconduct such as

- Dangerous and out of control techniques
- Heavy contact
- Inappropriate or offensive behaviour
- Disrespectful behaviour toward Umpires, Opponents or others
- Repeated warnings for behaviour while competing
- Evident attempts of intentional sparring advantage, for example presenting as a lesser grade than actual or entering as a different age
- Un-Sporting conduct not in line with the ethos of the GTUK or the tenants of Taewkon-Do

Competitors may also be removed from the competition where the tournament board decide it is in their best interest to do so, even if the competitor would choose to continue, such as

- Suffering an injury and the First Aid team advise the competitor should not continue
- Presenting as unexplainably unwell
- There is not a category or a suitable alternative category
- Inadequate safety equipment

It is the responsibility of the Senior Umpire and the Centre Referee (who may not always be the same person) to safely control sparring. Both roles have authority to disqualify competitors in categories competing either in their area, or areas that they are specifically supervising.

It is the responsibility of the 'Holding Area' to allocate sparring categories with the adequate level of experienced Centre Referee. For example, sparring categories for Dragons, Rainbows and Juniors will be allocated a Centre Referee approved by the tournament board to have adequate experience to maintain safe control of those categories.



Where individualised risk assessments are in place, the tournament board will allocate a Centre Referee who has the adequate experience to maintain safe control of the specific circumstances of that risk assessment. A member of the tournament board will enhance safety controls by overseeing this specific category. The Centre Referee has enhanced authority to control the risk associated with this specific category including authority to stop the spar if it is their opinion that to continue would be unsafe. Any decisions made will be in the best interest of the competitor and will be final. It is expected that any decision made will be respected by the competitor.

Personal injury

It is the responsibility of competitors to be aware of the risk to personal injury when competing in a martial art.

Should injury happen, the GTUK qualified first aid team will assess the situation, administer the required first aid and determine the appropriate course of action. This may include

- signing the competitor off as fit to continue
- advising the competitor to no longer continue
- deciding the competitor is not fit to continue
- advising the competitor to seek medical assistance as soon as able
- advising the competitor to seek medical assistance immediately
- calling 111 to seek immediate medical advice
- calling 999 for immediate emergency medical assistance

The First Aid team will use an accident form to document details of the circumstance, first aid given, advice provided and action taken and will ask the competitor to review and approve either at the time, or the first available opportunity following the incident should the competitor be required to leave site immediately.

Personal data

All personal data will be treated and maintained in line with GDPR processes and regulations.

Policy ownership and review

The GTUK competition safety policy is owned by the GTUK Tournament Board and aligned to the policies and guidelines of the British Taekwon-Do Council.

The policy and associated risk assessments are reviewed by the Tournament Board prior to every competition.