



SPORT JIU-JITSU INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

ATHLETE SAFEGUARDING POLICY & PROTECTION FRAMEWORK

Protecting the Jiu-Jitsu Community
from Abuse, Harassment, and Misconduct

A unified framework for SJIF and its affiliated National and Regional Federations

Version 1.0

Effective: 2026

Approved by the SJIF Board of Directors



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Quick Reference: What To Do Right Now

If something feels wrong, you do not need to be sure. You do not need evidence. Tell someone.

<p>If a child is in immediate danger</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call local emergency services first — 911 (US), 112 (EU), or local police. 2. Move the child to a safe location with another trusted adult. 3. Do not confront the suspected abuser yourself. 4. Then notify the SJJIF Safeguarding Officer (Section 11). 	<p>If you are an athlete and someone has hurt or harassed you</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You are not at fault. You did nothing wrong. 2. Tell a trusted adult — a parent, the Event Safeguarding Officer, or any coach not involved. 3. Or report directly: safeguarding@sjjif.com or the online form (anonymous if you wish). 4. You will be believed, supported, and protected from retaliation.
<p>If you are a parent or guardian with a concern</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Listen to your child without interrupting or judging. 2. Document what was said in your child's own words. 3. Report through any channel in Section 11 — you do not need to investigate first. 4. If criminal, contact local law enforcement directly as well. 	<p>If you witnessed something that felt wrong</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You do not need certainty. "Something felt off" is enough to report. 2. Write down what you saw or heard, when, and where. 3. Tell the on-site Safeguarding Officer or email safeguarding@sjjif.com. 4. You are protected from retaliation under this Policy.
<p>If you are a coach, official, or staff member with a concern</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You are a mandatory reporter under this Policy (Section 10.4). 2. Report promptly — do not investigate first or wait for proof. 3. Contact the SJJIF Safeguarding Officer and, if criminal, law enforcement. 4. Failing to report is itself a violation (Section 6). 	<p>If you have been accused</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You have the right to be heard and to a fair process (Section 12). 2. Cooperate fully with the investigation; do not contact the complainant. 3. You may be subject to provisional measures pending review. 4. You have the right to appeal any sanction (Section 12, Step 7).

Three Reporting Channels — Always Available

- Online — the SJJIF website "Athlete Safeguarding" page (anonymous option available).
- Email — safeguarding@sjjif.com.
- In Person — to any SJJIF or Federation Safeguarding Officer, or on- Event site with a Safeguarding Officer.

For criminal conduct, also report to local law enforcement (911 / 112 / local).

In the U.S., sexual misconduct may also be reported to the U.S. Center for SafeSport: 720-531-0340 / uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern.



How To Use This Policy

This document is the binding safeguarding policy of the Sport Jiu-Jitsu International Federation (SJJIF) and applies to every affiliated Federation, academy, athlete, coach, official, staff member, volunteer, and event. It is also a practical handbook designed for everyday use.

If you only have five minutes

Read the Quick Reference page above and Section 5 (Core Principles). Then bookmark Section 11 (How to Report) and Section 12 (Investigation) so you know what happens after a report.

If you are a Safeguarding Officer or Federation leader

Read the full Policy. Pay particular attention to Section 8 (Minor Athlete Protection), Section 10 (Roles and Responsibilities), Section 12 (Investigation), Appendix D (Safeguarding Officer Training Manual), and Appendices K (Disciplinary Hearing Procedures) and L (Interim Measures Hearing). These set out the procedural rules you will need when a matter moves from an investigation to a hearing.

If you are a coach, instructor, or official

Read Sections 5-9 carefully. You are required to sign Appendix E (Code of Conduct Acknowledgment) and complete approved safeguarding training (Section 13). Where you teach Minor Athletes, familiarize yourself with Appendix M (Parent and Guardian Consent Form), which records the parental consents that authorize specific one-on-one interactions.

If you are an athlete or parent

Read Sections 1, 5, 6, 9.3, 9.4, and 11. Make sure you know the contact information for the Safeguarding Officer at your Federation and at any event you attend. Parents should also review Appendix M (Parent and Guardian Consent Form) before consenting to any one-on-one coaching, transportation, lodging, or private-lesson arrangement for their child.

Cross-references and definitions

Throughout this Policy, references to specific Sections (e.g., "Section 11") and Appendices (e.g., "Appendix B") direct you to the relevant detailed provisions. Defined terms are listed in Section 4 and Appendix I (Glossary).



1. Purpose and Statement of Commitment

The Sport Jiu-Jitsu International Federation ("SJJIF") is fully committed to providing a safe, respectful, and abuse-free environment for every athlete, coach, referee, official, volunteer, parent, and staff member involved in our sport. Jiu-Jitsu is a close-contact grappling sport practiced by millions of children, adolescents, and adults around the world. The intimate physical nature of the sport, the trust placed in coaches and instructors, and the high participation of minors create opportunities for both personal growth and unique risks that must be actively managed.

SJJIF unequivocally rejects and condemns all forms of harassment, abuse, neglect, bullying, hazing, and misconduct — whether physical, psychological, sexual, emotional, or perpetrated through digital means. SJJIF mandates that all affiliated Federations, academies, coaches, officials, and stakeholders actively contribute to safeguarding the community, and is firmly determined to investigate every credible allegation within its jurisdiction, to cooperate fully with law enforcement and child-protection authorities, and to remove predators and abusers from the sport.

This Policy establishes a zero-tolerance standard, a global reporting system, a clear investigation and response procedure, and a shared responsibility model across every affiliated Federation. It is adopted in alignment with the principles set out in the IOC Consensus Statement on Harassment and Abuse in Sport (2016), the IOC Framework for Safeguarding Athletes and Other Participants from Harassment and Abuse in Sport, the IOC Olympic Movement Medical Code, and the standards of the U.S. Center for SafeSport, including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP).

"Everyone in sport shares the responsibility to identify and prevent instances of abuse and harassment to assure the health and safety of each participant in the sport environment."

— International Olympic Committee, Olympic Movement Medical Code

Our Promise to the Community

- We will listen. Every report will be received with respect and taken seriously.
- We will protect. The safety of athletes — especially minors — is our highest priority and will always take precedence over reputation, ranking, or competitive interests.
- We will act. Allegations will be investigated promptly, fairly, and confidentially, and credible findings will lead to meaningful consequences.
- We will educate. We will continuously train coaches, officials, athletes, and parents to recognize, prevent, and respond to abuse.
- We will collaborate. We will work openly with our federations, with law enforcement, and with specialized safeguarding bodies to keep predators out of Jiu-Jitsu.



Participation in SJJIF — as an athlete, coach, official, staff member, or volunteer — is a privilege, not a right. SJJIF extends that privilege to individuals and member organizations whose conduct is consistent with this Policy and with the values of the sport. The privilege may be withheld, suspended, or withdrawn at any time when SJJIF determines, through the procedures set out in this Policy, that a person's conduct is inconsistent with athlete safety, the integrity of the sport, or the standards established here.

SJJIF maintains zero tolerance for abuse and misconduct as defined in this Policy. "Zero tolerance" does not mean the harshest sanction in every case — sanctions are proportionate and reasonable to the conduct. It means that credible reports are not ignored, are not minimized, and are not weighed against the standing or popularity of the person involved before they are investigated.

2. Objectives

The purpose of this Policy is to establish a unified, enforceable, and easily understood framework that enables SJJIF and every affiliated Federation to work together to protect the entire Jiu-Jitsu community from predators, harassment, and abuse.

2.1 Specific Objectives

- To define clearly the conduct that is prohibited at every level of SJJIF-recognized Jiu-Jitsu, with particular attention to behaviors that endanger minors.
- To establish minimum standards of behavior, training, screening, and supervision that every affiliated Federation, academy, coach, and official must meet.
- To create simple, accessible, and confidential reporting channels that allow any participant — anonymously if they choose — to raise concerns without fear of retaliation.
- To ensure every report is documented, evaluated, and addressed in a fair and timely manner, with appropriate involvement of law enforcement when criminal conduct is alleged.
- To prevent perpetrators from moving between academies, regions, or federations to escape accountability through mutual recognition of disciplinary decisions.
- To provide care, support, and resources to anyone affected by harassment or abuse.
- To embed a culture of safeguarding through ongoing education, awareness campaigns, and visible leadership.
- To reflect, in clear and practical terms, the close-contact nature of Jiu-Jitsu — distinguishing legitimate technical instruction from misconduct (Section 7), so that coaches, athletes, and parents share the same understanding of where the lines are drawn.



3. Scope of Application

3.1 Who This Policy Covers

This Policy applies to all of the following "Covered Individuals," without limitation:

- All affiliated National and Regional Federations and their officers, employees, board members, and volunteers.
- All athletes registered, licensed, or competing under SJJIF rules, including children, adolescents, and adults of every belt level.
- All coaches, instructors, professors, and assistant instructors at SJJIF-affiliated academies and at SJJIF-sanctioned events.
- All referees, table officials, mat coordinators, and tournament staff.
- All members of the SJJIF Board, commissions, committees, and appointed representatives.
- All Local Organizing Committees (LOCs) and their staff and volunteers.
- All medical, physiotherapy, massage, and recovery personnel acting in connection with SJJIF activity.
- All Personal Care Assistants (PCAs) supporting para-athletes or athletes with disabilities in connection with SJJIF activity.
- All parents, guardians, chaperones, and spectators while present at SJJIF-affiliated activities.
- Any other person granted accreditation, credentials, or access to a SJJIF-sanctioned activity.

3.2 When This Policy Applies

This Policy applies during all in-program contact and activity, including but not limited to:

- Training, classes, drilling, sparring (rolling), and open-mat sessions at any SJJIF-affiliated academy or training site.
- All SJJIF-sanctioned competitions, including Regional, National, Continental and World Championships, qualifying events, exhibitions, seminars, and camps, from arrival at the venue until departure.
- Travel to and from competitions, training camps, seminars, or other SJJIF-affiliated activities.
- Lodging, meals, and any social activity organized in connection with a SJJIF-affiliated event.
- All electronic and digital interactions related to Jiu-Jitsu — text messages, direct messages, social media, video calls, email, and team communication apps.
- Medical treatment, physiotherapy, massage, weight cuts, and recovery activities connected to participation in Jiu-Jitsu.



3.3 Relationship to Local Law

This Policy establishes the minimum global standard for safeguarding within SJJIF. Where the law of a host country, state, or jurisdiction imposes stricter requirements (for example, mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse, criminal background-check requirements, or stricter rules on adult-minor interaction), local law takes precedence and must be followed in full. Nothing in this policy authorizes or requires conduct that violates applicable law.

3.4 What This Policy Does Not Cover

To preserve fairness and to keep this Policy focused on its core purpose, the following matters are addressed under separate SJJIF processes and are NOT safeguarding violations under this policy. Confusion between these categories causes good-faith reports to be filed in the wrong place and dilutes the response to true safeguarding concerns.

- Competition rules and field-of-play decisions — illegal techniques, weight-cut violations, in-match conduct (yelling at an opponent or referee), refereeing complaints, point disputes, scoring errors, and similar matters are governed by the SJJIF Rules of Competition and the Refereeing Regulations, not by this policy. A safeguarding report should not be used to relitigate a competition outcome.
- Eligibility and classification disputes — disputes about an athlete's age division, weight class, belt rank, or qualification to compete are addressed under SJJIF eligibility regulations. Having a sanction imposed under this policy that may have the incidental effect of disqualifying an individual from competition does not convert that disciplinary matter into an "eligibility dispute."
- Anti-doping — alleged use, possession, or distribution of prohibited substances or methods is governed by the World Anti-Doping Code and the SJJIF Anti-Doping Rules, and is investigated and adjudicated by the relevant National Anti-Doping Organization or by SJJIF's anti-doping authority — not by the SJJIF Safeguarding Commission.
- Financial and contractual disputes — disagreements between athletes, parents, academies, coaches, or federations over fees, sponsorships, prize money, contracts, intellectual property, or commercial arrangements are addressed through the SJJIF Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Regulations or through ordinary civil channels. A safeguarding investigation under this Policy does not consider or resolve any such financial or contractual claim, even where the parties to that claim are also parties to a safeguarding matter.
- Personal disagreements not amounting to misconduct — interpersonal conflict between adults, professional disagreements over coaching method, training-style preferences, and similar matters that do not meet a definition under Section 4 or Section 6 are not safeguarding violations and are not adjudicated under this policy.

Where a single incident raises both a safeguarding question and a separate matter (for example, a refereeing complaint that also involves an allegation of physical misconduct), the safeguarding question



is handled under this Policy and the other matter is handled under the applicable separate process. The two proceed in parallel; one does not delay or preempt the other.

4. Definitions of Misconduct and Key Terms

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions apply. They are drawn from and consistent with the IOC Consensus Statement on Harassment and Abuse in Sport (2016), the U.S. Center for SafeSport SafeSport Code, and the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP). Where any term used in this Policy is also defined under applicable local law, the definition that affords the greater protection applies.

4.1 Forms of Harassment, Abuse, and Other Misconduct

Each definition below is followed by short, concrete examples to make it easier to recognize prohibited conduct in practice. Examples are illustrative, not exhaustive.

<p>Psychological Abuse</p>	<p>Any unwelcome act including confinement, isolation, verbal assault, humiliation, intimidation, infantilization, repeated belittling, threats, manipulation, or any other treatment that may diminish the sense of identity, dignity, or self-worth of the recipient. Includes undermining athlete confidence or identity. Examples: a coach screaming personal insults at an athlete after a loss; isolating a junior athlete from training partners as punishment; repeated public humiliation of a struggling athlete in front of teammates.</p>
<p>Physical Abuse</p>	<p>Any deliberate and unwelcome act — punching, beating, kicking, biting, burning, choking outside of legitimate technical instruction, or excessive force during drilling — that causes physical trauma or injury. Also includes forced or inappropriate physical activity (age- or physique-inappropriate training loads; training when injured or in pain; punitive conditioning; weight cutting that endangers health), forced alcohol consumption, and forced doping. Examples: making an injured athlete continue rolling; using submission holds as punishment; ordering excessive conditioning that has no training purpose; demanding a minor cut weight beyond medically safe limits.</p>
<p>Sexual Harassment</p>	<p>Any unwanted and unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, whether verbal, non-verbal, or physical, including suggestive comments, gestures, sexually-themed jokes, the display or sharing of sexually explicit material, unnecessary or lingering physical contact, and any other conduct that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. Examples: a coach commenting on an athlete's body or attractiveness; sexually-themed jokes or banter directed at or about an athlete; sending suggestive emojis or images; staring, leering, or unnecessary touching during demonstration.</p>
<p>Sexual Abuse</p>	<p>Any conduct of a sexual nature, whether non-contact, contact, or penetrative, where consent is not given, coerced, manipulated, or cannot legally be given. ANY sexual contact with a minor — regardless of any apparent willingness — is sexual abuse and a criminal offense in virtually every jurisdiction. Includes sexual exploitation, voyeurism, recording or sharing intimate images without consent, and exposing another person to a sexually transmitted infection without their knowledge.</p>



Neglect	The failure of a coach, instructor, parent, chaperone, or other person with a duty of care toward an athlete to provide a minimum level of care, where that failure causes harm, allows harm, or creates an imminent danger of harm. Includes leaving minors unsupervised in locker rooms or hotels, ignoring obvious injuries, encouraging or permitting return to play after a head injury without medical clearance, or failing to provide adequate water, nutrition, or rest.
Bullying / Hazing	Repeated and intentional aggressive behavior — physical, verbal, or relational — that involves a real or perceived power imbalance, including initiation rituals, public humiliation, exclusion, or coercive "traditions" imposed on newer or lower-belt athletes. Apparent consent of the person subjected to hazing is not a defense.
Sexual Bullying / Sexual Hazing	Bullying or hazing that is sexual in nature, or directed at a person because of their actual or perceived sex or sexual orientation. Treated as a category of Sexual Abuse and subject to the same consequences as other sexual misconduct under this Policy.
Grooming	A pattern of behavior used by an offender to gain access to and trust of a potential victim (and sometimes the victim's family), normalizing physical or emotional boundary violations, isolating the victim, and preparing them for abuse. Grooming behaviors may appear flattering or generous on the surface and frequently target minors. Examples: gift-giving designed to create obligation, secret communications, isolating a minor from peers or family, sharing personal or sexual content, progressively testing physical and emotional boundaries.
Abuse of Authority	The improper use of a position of influence, power, or authority — by a coach, official, board member, sponsor, or any other person — against an athlete or participant for personal, financial, sexual, or competitive advantage. Examples: conditioning belt promotion on personal favors; using selection authority to coerce a relationship; threatening to remove an athlete from competition for refusing a request.
Cyber Abuse	The use of any technology — text, social media, messaging apps, video calls, or online platforms — to harass, intimidate, threaten, frighten, or humiliate another person. Cyber Abuse includes doxing (sharing another person's personal information without consent), the sharing of real or simulated explicit images of any person without their consent, the posting of manipulated content intended to harm a person's reputation, and the use of technology to coordinate or carry out any other form of abuse defined in this Policy.
Exposing a Minor to Sexual Content	Intentionally exposing any Minor Athlete to content or imagery of a sexual nature, including pornography, sexual comments, sexual gestures, sexual messaging, or sexual situations, in person, online, or by any other means. Such conduct is treated as a serious form of sexual misconduct in its own right, separate from Sexual Abuse, and applies regardless of whether physical contact occurs.
Stalking	A course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others, or to experience substantial emotional distress. Includes cyber-stalking — the use of electronic means to repeatedly contact, surveil, track, or threaten another person. Stalking may be conducted directly or through third parties acting on the perpetrator's behalf.
Threats	Any written, verbal, physical, or electronically transmitted expression of intent to physically injure, harm, or endanger another person, communicated either directly to the intended target



	<p>or to a third party. Threats may be expressed or implied (e.g., "You will regret what you said"). An Adult Participant who knows or should know of threatening behavior and fails to intervene or report is in violation of this Policy.</p>
Aiding and Abetting	<p>Knowingly helping, encouraging, instructing, hiring, or otherwise enabling another person to engage in conduct prohibited by this Policy — including allowing a person who has been suspended, banned, or otherwise made ineligible by SJJIF, an affiliated Federation, or a recognized safeguarding authority (such as the U.S. Center for SafeSport) to: coach or train athletes; receive coaching; participate in events; hold a position with any SJJIF-affiliated organization; own or operate (in whole or part) any academy or facility connected with SJJIF activity; or otherwise circumvent the consequences of a disciplinary decision. Having another person act on one's behalf to do any of these things is also a violation.</p>
Retaliation	<p>Any adverse action taken against a person because they have reported a concern, participated in an investigation, or supported a complainant — including threats, exclusion from training, demotion, removal from competition, public ridicule, intimidation, or any offer of reward to drop a complaint. Retaliation does not include good-faith actions taken in lawful response to a report (e.g., imposing required provisional measures on the accused).</p>
Filing a False Report	<p>Knowingly making a report that the reporter believes to be false, with malicious intent. A report that is made in good faith but is later not substantiated is NOT a false report and is not a violation of this Policy. Filing a false report is a separate violation and may also expose the reporter to civil or criminal liability under applicable law.</p>
Abuse of Process	<p>Conduct that interferes with, obstructs, or attempts to influence a SJJIF safeguarding process — including falsifying or destroying evidence, harassing or intimidating any party, witness, or investigator, publicly disclosing a complainant's identity, breaching confidentiality of the process, surreptitiously recording proceedings, or pressuring another person to withdraw or alter their participation. Abuse of Process by a Covered Individual, or by anyone acting on their behalf, is a separate violation under this Policy.</p>
Willful Tolerance	<p>Knowingly allowing prohibited conduct to continue when one is in a position of power or responsibility — for example, a coach, instructor, official, board member, or other Adult Participant who is aware of misconduct (or of facts that should reasonably prompt inquiry) and fails to act, fails to report, or affirmatively shields the conduct or its perpetrator. Willful Tolerance is itself a violation of this Policy and may be sanctioned independently of, and in addition to, the underlying misconduct.</p>

Harassment and abuse may occur in combination or in isolation, may consist of a single incident or a pattern of incidents, may occur in person or online, and may be based on any ground including race, religion, color, national origin, ethnicity, physical attributes, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, socio-economic status, or athletic ability.

Where bullying or hazing is sexual in nature, or is directed at a person because of their actual or perceived sex or sexual orientation, it is treated as Sexual Bullying or Sexual Hazing — a category of Sexual Abuse — and is subject to the same consequences as other sexual misconduct under this Policy.



Consistent with the IOC Consensus Statement (2016), harassment and abuse exist on a continuum and should not be artificially separated. All ages and types of participants are susceptible to abuse; minors, para-athletes, athletes traveling internationally, and athletes from minority groups face heightened risk and warrant additional protection.

Boundary with the SJJIF Rulebook (Field-of-Play Carve-Out)

Conduct between opponents during a sanctioned match — disputed calls, technical infractions, illegal grips or techniques, unsportsmanlike behavior on the mat — is governed by the SJJIF Rulebook and the relevant disciplinary procedures of the competition, not by this Policy. The same is true for tournament-floor disputes between an athlete or coach and an official.

This Policy applies, however, where conduct on or near the field of play crosses into the categories defined in Section 4.1 — for example: a deliberate, willful injury inflicted on an opponent who has tapped or who is otherwise out of the action; sexualized contact during a bout; or threats, slurs, or harassment that target a protected characteristic.

In short: Rules disputes go to the rulebook; safeguarding violations go to this Policy. Where the same incident has both a competition-rules dimension and a safeguarding dimension, both processes may proceed independently.

4.2 Other Key Terms

The following operational terms govern how this Policy is applied and referenced throughout. They are listed alphabetically for ease of use.

Adult Participant	Any individual aged 18 or older acting in a SJJIF-affiliated role, including coaches, officials, referees, staff, volunteers, parents working with athletes other than their own child, and adult athletes.
Authority	A position in which one person, based on the totality of the circumstances, has the power or right to direct, control, give orders to, or make decisions for another person. Coaches, instructors, officials, federation officers, team managers, and chaperones are presumed to hold Authority over athletes under their supervision.
Case Management Group	A panel of qualified individuals convened to evaluate, investigate, and recommend action on safeguarding concerns (Section 12, Step 4).
Close-in-Age Exception	An exception applicable to certain Minor Athlete Protection Standards (Section 8) where the Adult Participant has no Authority over the Minor Athlete and is not more than four (4) years older than the Minor Athlete (e.g., a 19-year-old training partner of a 16-year-old). This exception applies only to the Section 8 protective standards; it does NOT excuse any conduct that would constitute misconduct under Section 4.1.
Consent	A clear, knowing, voluntary, and active agreement to participate in a specific activity, communicated through unambiguous words or actions. Silence, lack of resistance, or



	<p>prior consent to other activity does not constitute consent. Consent can be withdrawn at any time. A person cannot give consent if they are coerced, intoxicated or otherwise incapacitated, below the age of consent under applicable law, or in a relationship of Power Imbalance with the other person. For the purposes of this Policy, the age of consent is 18, except where applicable local law sets a higher age.</p>
Covered Individual	<p>Any person to whom this Policy applies, as set out in Section 3.1.</p>
Dual Relationship	<p>A relationship between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete that exists outside the sport program (e.g., the Adult Participant is the Minor Athlete's school teacher, neighbor, or family friend). Where a Dual Relationship exists, certain Section 8 standards may be modified with annual written consent from the Minor Athlete's parent/legal guardian, identifying the specific standards to which the Dual Relationship applies. A Dual Relationship never permits conduct that would otherwise violate Section 4.1 or 6.</p>
Emergency Exception	<p>An exception applicable across the Section 8 standards for genuine emergencies (e.g., a Minor Athlete who is sick, injured, or in imminent danger). Where an Emergency Exception is invoked, the circumstances must be documented in writing as soon as reasonably possible, and the Minor Athlete's parent/legal guardian must be notified.</p>
Event Safeguarding Officer	<p>The individual designated by the Local Organizing Committee to receive concerns and oversee safeguarding at a specific SJJIF-sanctioned event.</p>
Federation Safeguarding Officer	<p>The individual designated by an affiliated Federation to implement this Policy locally and to receive reports within their jurisdiction.</p>
In-Program Contact	<p>Any contact or activity related to participation in SJJIF-affiliated Jiu-Jitsu, including training, competition, travel, lodging, meals, medical care, and electronic communications. In-Program Contact is not limited to events at official venues; a coach texting a Minor Athlete about training is In-Program Contact.</p>
Intimate Relationship	<p>A romantic or sexual relationship, or a relationship that combines features of one — including sexual activity, regular contact outside of sport, sustained emotional connection, the exchange of gifts, identification as a couple, the sharing of intimate personal information, or behaviors consistent with grooming. Intimate Relationships between an Adult Participant and any Minor Athlete are absolutely prohibited under this Policy. Intimate Relationships are also prohibited between an Adult Participant and any athlete or participant with whom they have a Power Imbalance, even if the other person is an adult and even if the relationship would not be illegal under local law. Family relationships (parent–child, siblings, spouses) are not Intimate Relationships for the purposes of this Policy.</p>
Local Organizing Committee (LOC)	<p>The body responsible for organizing a specific SJJIF-sanctioned event.</p>
Mandatory Reporter	<p>An individual required by this Policy or by applicable law to report a safeguarding concern. The categories of Mandatory Reporters under this Policy are set out in Section 10.4.</p>



Minor Athlete	Any athlete under 18 years of age, or any athlete recognized as a minor under the law of the jurisdiction where the activity takes place — whichever provides greater protection. The term also includes any minor who participated in a SJJIF-affiliated activity within the previous twelve (12) months. For the purposes of this Policy, the term "Minor Athlete" further includes any minor who participates, or has within the previous twelve (12) months participated, in a non-athlete role under SJJIF jurisdiction — for example, junior officials, junior coaches, junior team-managers, or other minor volunteers. Such minors are entitled to the protective standards of this Policy in the same way as competing athletes.
Observable and Interruptible	An interaction that occurs in a setting where it can be seen by another individual and where another individual is able to enter or interrupt without obstacle (open doors, windows, public spaces). "Observable" and "interruptible" are independent requirements — both must be satisfied.
Open and Transparent	In the context of electronic communications, an interaction where the Adult Participant copies or includes the Minor Athlete's parent/legal guardian, another adult family member of the Minor Athlete, or another Adult Participant on every communication. Disappearing-message platforms and private accounts that conceal the existence of communications cannot be "Open and Transparent."
Personal Care Assistant (PCA)	An individual who assists an athlete requiring help with the activities of daily living and preparation for participation in Jiu-Jitsu (for example, a guide for a visually impaired athlete; assistance with transfer, dressing, showering, medication, or toileting for a para-athlete). Any Adult PCA assigned to a Minor Athlete must (i) be approved in writing by the Minor Athlete's parent/legal guardian, (ii) complete approved safeguarding training (Section 13.1), (iii) pass a background check (Section 13.2), and (iv) be registered with the relevant Federation.
Power Imbalance	A relationship in which one person holds authority, control, or responsibility for the wellbeing or advancement of another. A Power Imbalance is presumed to exist in every coach–athlete relationship and may also exist between athletes (e.g., a senior belt and a novice), between an official and a competitor, between an instructor and an assistant, or in any relationship where one person can grant or deny a benefit to the other. Factors considered include type and length of the relationship, age and role, significant differences in size, strength, or mental capacity, and the presence of a primary aggressor. Once established in a coach–athlete relationship, a Power Imbalance is presumed to continue for as long as that relationship exists. Where the relationship began while the athlete was a minor, the Power Imbalance is presumed to continue after the relationship ends until the athlete reaches age 25.
Regular Contact	Ongoing interactions during a twelve-month period in which an Adult Participant is in a role of direct and active engagement with one or more Minor Athletes — for example, regular drilling or rolling with minors, recurring instruction, or travel with minors. Adult Participants who have Regular Contact with Minor Athletes are subject to the full training and screening requirements of Sections 13.1 and 13.2.



Safeguarding Officer	An individual designated to receive, document, and triage safeguarding concerns at SJJIF, at a Federation, or at an event. Safeguarding Officers do not investigate; they receive and route.
Safeguarding Register	The confidential SJJIF record of disciplinary outcomes, with a public-facing subset, used to prevent perpetrators from moving between organizations and federations (Section 12, Step 6).

5. Core Safeguarding Principles

Every SJJIF member, federation, academy, and event must uphold the following principles. They are stated briefly here; the rest of this Policy is the operational expression of these principles.

- Athlete welfare over results — the safety and wellbeing of athletes always takes precedence over competitive success, reputation, or convenience.
- Zero tolerance for abuse — no form of harassment, abuse, or misconduct will be ignored, minimized, or rationalized.
- Duty to report — every member of the community has a responsibility to report concerns; designated personnel are mandatory reporters.
- Confidentiality with accountability — reports and investigations are handled discreetly, but never used to silence victims or shield perpetrators.
- Protection from retaliation — anyone who reports a concern in good faith is protected from any adverse action.
- Special protection for minors and vulnerable groups — children, novice athletes, athletes with disabilities, para-athletes, and athletes traveling internationally receive heightened protective measures.
- Fair process — every person accused has the right to be heard, to have evidence properly evaluated, and to appeal.
- Education before incident — prevention through training is preferred over response after harm. SJJIF invests in education for coaches, athletes, parents, and officials as the front line of safeguarding.



6. Prohibited Conduct

The following conduct is prohibited under this Policy and constitutes a violation that may result in disciplinary action, including suspension, expulsion, and referral to law enforcement. Definitions are in Section 4.1; this Section is the consolidated, enforceable list.

1. Psychological abuse, as defined in Section 4.1.
2. Physical abuse, as defined in Section 4.1.
3. Sexual harassment, as defined in Section 4.1.
4. Sexual abuse and any sexual contact with a Minor Athlete, as defined in Section 4.1.
5. Exposing any Minor Athlete to sexual content or imagery in any form, whether in person, online, or through any device or medium, as defined in Section 4.1.
6. Neglect, as defined in Section 4.1.
7. Bullying, hazing, initiation rituals, and any cruelty masquerading as "tradition" or "toughening up."
8. Sexual bullying and sexual hazing— bullying or hazing that is sexual in nature, or directed at a person because of their actual or perceived sex or sexual orientation.
9. Cyber abuse — including the use of any technology, social media, messaging app, or online platform to harass, intimidate, threaten, dox, or humiliate any person, or to share real or simulated explicit images of any person without their consent.
10. Stalking and cyber-stalking, in any form, of any participant in Jiu-Jitsu — including a coach following or surveilling an athlete, or an athlete following another athlete.
11. Threats — any written, verbal, physical, or electronically transmitted expression of intent to harm another person, whether communicated directly or to a third party.
12. Grooming behaviors, including: gift-giving designed to create obligation, secret communications with a minor, isolating a minor from peers or family, sharing personal or sexual content, or progressively testing physical and emotional boundaries.
13. Intimate Relationships — any romantic or sexual relationship between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete (absolutely prohibited), and any Intimate Relationship between an Adult Participant and any other person where a Power Imbalance exists, irrespective of apparent consent.
14. Possession, distribution, or production of child sexual abuse material in any form.
15. Any unnecessary, prolonged, or sexualized physical contact, including in the context of demonstrating technique. Section 7 sets out the boundary between legitimate technical instruction in Jiu-Jitsu and prohibited contact.
16. Discrimination or harassment based on race, religion, color, national origin, ethnicity, physical attributes, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, or any other protected characteristic.



17. Use of position, authority, ranking, or belt promotion as leverage to obtain personal, financial, or sexual advantage.
18. Retaliation in any form against a person who reports a concern, supports a complainant, or participates in an investigation.
19. Aiding and Abetting — knowingly helping, encouraging, hiring, or otherwise enabling another person to engage in prohibited conduct, including allowing a person who has been suspended, banned, or made ineligible by SJJIF, an affiliated Federation, or a recognized safeguarding authority to coach, train, compete, hold any role in a SJJIF-affiliated organization, or own or operate any academy or facility connected with SJJIF activity. A parent or legal guardian who knowingly arranges for their child to be coached, trained, supervised, or transported by a person under sanction commits Aiding and Abetting; the child may, in addition, be barred from participation in SJJIF activity until the situation is corrected.
20. Restriction on aiding employment — a Covered Individual must not assist (beyond routine personnel-file transmission) any person known to the Covered Individual to have been sanctioned, suspended, or made ineligible by SJJIF, an affiliated Federation, or a recognized safeguarding authority for sexual misconduct, child abuse, or a related offense, in obtaining a coaching, instructional, or athlete-supervisory position with any organization.
21. Willful Tolerance — knowingly allowing prohibited conduct to occur or continue while in a position of power or responsibility, including failing to act on facts that should reasonably have prompted inquiry, or shielding a perpetrator. Willful Tolerance may be sanctioned independently of, and in addition to, the underlying misconduct.
22. Failure to report — for those with a duty to report under this Policy or applicable law, knowingly failing to report a credible concern.
23. Failure to cooperate with any investigation, including failing to provide information accurately and without undue delay, or obstructing, concealing, tampering with, or destroying potentially relevant evidence.
24. Abuse of Process — conduct that interferes with the SJJIF safeguarding process or with the process of a recognized external authority (e.g., the U.S. Center for SafeSport), including harassment of any party, witness, or investigator; falsifying or destroying evidence; surreptitiously recording proceedings; pressuring a person to withdraw a report; or publicly disclosing a complainant's identity.
25. Filing a False Report — knowingly making a report that the reporter believes to be false, with malicious intent. (Reports made in good faith that are not substantiated are not violations.)
26. Interference with an investigation — for SJJIF, an affiliated Federation, an academy, or a Covered Individual to attempt to influence the outcome of any internal or external safeguarding investigation, beyond providing information requested by the investigators and engaging through the established appeal channel.
27. Possession of a Criminal Charge or Disposition — for any role-holder, the existence of a pending formal charge, conviction, plea (including no-contest, deferred adjudication, or comparable



disposition), civil judgment, or sex-offender registry listing for conduct that would violate this Policy. The Automatic Disqualifiers in Section 13.2 apply without need for further internal investigation.

7. Appropriate Physical Contact in Jiu-Jitsu

Why this Section exists

Jiu-Jitsu is a grappling sport. Close, sustained physical contact is inherent to instruction, drilling, sparring (rolling), groundwork, and competition. A safeguarding policy that fails to acknowledge this would be unworkable and would invite either over-policing of legitimate coaching or under-recognition of genuine misconduct.

This Section sets out, in practical terms, where the line is drawn between physical contact that is part of the sport and physical contact that is prohibited under Section 6. It is binding on every coach, instructor, athlete, official, and Adult Participant.

The presence of legitimate physical contact in Jiu-Jitsu does NOT lower the standard for misconduct. It heightens the responsibility of every Adult Participant to be deliberate, transparent, and athlete-centered in every contact they make.

Professors should behave as an educator authority in the mats and Tickling, "horseplay" playing outside legitimate technical drilling, mock-fighting, or other playful but not instructional physical contact with a Minor Athlete — even where the athlete appears to enjoy it should be avoided. The fact that contact is framed as fun does not make it appropriate; legitimate physical contact in Jiu-Jitsu serves a training, teaching self-respect, body awareness, limits, safety, including brief celebratory purpose under Section 7.1.

7.1 Permitted Physical Contact

The following forms of physical contact are part of the sport and, when conducted appropriately, are permitted:

Technical instruction

- Demonstrating a technique on or with an athlete (e.g., positioning a grip, demonstrating a sweep, showing the mechanics of a submission).
- Correcting an athlete's posture, stance, base, or hand placement during drilling.
- Spotting or supporting an athlete to prevent injury during a throw, takedown, or fall.

Drilling, rolling and groundwork

- Supervised drilling between training partners.



- Rolling (free practice) and groundwork between consenting and appropriately matched partners, conducted under the supervision of a coach or referee.
- Brief contact necessary to control intensity, separate partners, or address a safety issue during sparring.

Safety and welfare

- Releasing muscle cramps under the direction of qualified personnel.
- Providing first aid or assisting an injured athlete off the mat.
- Stepping in to prevent immediate harm — for example, separating partners when one is in danger or when a submission is held beyond the tap.

Brief, public celebration and consolation

- Greeting gestures: high-fives, fist bumps, brief team handshakes, and brief hugs visible to others.
- Public, brief consolation of an athlete who has just lost a match, been injured, or is emotionally distressed — including a brief embrace or hand on the shoulder, in view of teammates, parents, or officials.

7.2 Common Criteria — All Permitted Physical Contact Must Meet ALL of These

Permitted contact is permitted only when ALL of the following conditions are satisfied:

- It serves a legitimate technical, training, safety, celebratory, or consolatory purpose. "That's how we've always done it" is not a purpose.
- It is no longer or more invasive than necessary for that purpose. Once the purpose is achieved, the contact ends.
- It takes place in a public, observable, and interruptible setting — on the mat, in the warm-up area, in view of other adults — except in genuine medical emergencies.
- It is explained, where reasonable, before it occurs ("I'm going to grip your collar to show this position"), and the athlete has the opportunity to step back or decline.
- It avoids contact with intimate body areas — chest, breasts, buttocks, groin, genitals — except where strictly required by the technique (e.g., a guard pass that necessarily involves the inner thigh) and only where conducted in normal, public training context.
- It is age-appropriate and physique-appropriate. Adult-on-adult, child-on-child, and adult-instructor on supervised child are different contexts that warrant different levels of caution.
- It does not have any sexualized character — no lingering, no caresses, no contact pursued for the personal gratification of the Adult Participant.



7.3 Prohibited Physical Contact

The following are NEVER permitted, regardless of the apparent willingness of the athlete and regardless of any claim of technical purpose:

- Sexual or sexualized touching of any participant.
- Lingering or repeated embraces beyond what brief celebration or consolation requires.
- Asking or having an athlete sit in the lap of a coach, instructor, official, board member, staff member, or volunteer.
- Cuddling, prolonged physical contact, or sharing a sleeping accommodation with a Minor Athlete who is not the Adult Participant's own child.
- Punitive physical contact — slapping, hitting, kicking, or otherwise striking an athlete to discipline, punish, or coerce compliance. Punitive conditioning, punitive submissions, or other physical "correction" of an athlete is physical abuse under Section 4.1.
- Choking outside of legitimate technical instruction or supervised sparring; any choke applied for the purpose of inflicting fear, punishment, or humiliation.
- Continuing a submission past the tap, holding a submission with the intent to inflict pain or injury, or applying excessive force during drilling.
- Any physical contact with a Minor Athlete in a closed, isolated, or non-observable setting, except where Section 8 expressly permits or where a genuine emergency applies.
- Any physical contact with an athlete after the athlete (or, for a minor, the parent/legal guardian) has asked it to stop.
- Any form of sexual manipulation rubbing breast, genitalia, the use of tongue or sounds trying to arouse or take advantage the other person.

7.4 The Athlete's Right to Decline Contact

All coaches, staff members, volunteers, officials, parents, and fellow athletes shall honor the desire of any athlete who wishes to minimize or not engage in physical contact that would otherwise be permitted under this Section. This right extends to the parent or legal guardian of a Minor Athlete, who may request on the athlete's behalf that an Adult Participant minimize or avoid physical contact with their child. Such requests must be honored without retaliation, exclusion, or any adverse consequence to the athlete's standing.

Where an athlete or guardian declines a particular form of contact, the coach should adapt instruction (for example, by demonstrating a technique on a different partner, or providing verbal coaching only). Declining a permitted touch is not a basis for excluding the athlete from training or competition.



7.5 Documentation and Communication

Coaches and instructors should communicate to athletes and parents — at the start of every season, and before any new training relationship — the kinds of physical contact that are part of Jiu-Jitsu instruction and the criteria that govern them. Where reasonable, written acknowledgment from parents of Minor Athletes should be retained. The Code of Conduct Acknowledgment in Appendix E satisfies this obligation.

8. Minor Athlete Protection Standards

Because of the high participation of children in Jiu-Jitsu and the close-contact nature of the sport, SJJIF adopts the following minimum standards — modeled on the U.S. Center for SafeSport Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) — to govern interactions between Adult Participants and Minor Athletes. These standards are binding on every affiliated Federation, academy, and Adult Participant operating under SJJIF jurisdiction.

The Foundational Principle

All one-on-one in-program contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be **OBSERVABLE AND INTERRUPTIBLE** — meaning it occurs in a setting where it can be seen and where another adult could enter or interrupt without barrier — except in genuine emergencies and except where Section 8.1 expressly recognizes a narrow Exception.

8.1 Exceptions Framework

The Section 8 standards limit one-on-one contact between Adult Participants and Minor Athletes. The following narrow Exceptions apply across these standards. Every Exception requires the conditions stated in this subsection; mere convenience or familiarity does not invoke an Exception.

Close-in-Age Exception

Where the Adult Participant has no Authority over the Minor Athlete and is not more than four (4) years older than the Minor Athlete (e.g., an 18-year-old training partner of a 15-year-old), one-on-one in-program contact is permitted to the limited extent that ordinary peer training relationships require. This Exception applies only to the protective standards in Section 8 and does NOT excuse any conduct that would constitute misconduct under Section 4.1 or Section 6.

Personal Care Assistant Exception

An Adult Personal Care Assistant (PCA) may have one-on-one in-program contact with the Minor Athlete they assist, provided that: (a) the Minor Athlete's parent/legal guardian has given written consent, identifying the PCA by name and the activities for which assistance is provided; (b) the PCA has completed approved safeguarding training (Section 13.1); (c) the PCA has passed a background check at the level required by Section 13.2; and (d) the PCA is registered with the relevant Federation.



Dual Relationship Exception

Where an Adult Participant has a relationship with a Minor Athlete that exists outside the sport program (e.g., the Adult Participant is the Minor Athlete's school teacher, neighbor, or close family friend), certain Section 8 standards may be modified by annual written consent from the Minor Athlete's parent/legal guardian. The consent must identify the specific Section 8 standards to which the Dual Relationship applies; a blanket consent is not sufficient. Consent may be withdrawn at any time. A Dual Relationship NEVER permits Intimate Relationships, sexual contact, or any conduct that would violate Sections 4.1 or 6.

Emergency Exception

Where a genuine emergency makes compliance with a Section 8 standard impracticable (for example, a Minor Athlete is sick, injured, or in immediate danger and no other adult is reasonably available), the Adult Participant may take such action as is necessary to address the emergency. The circumstances must be (a) documented in writing as soon as reasonably possible, and (b) reported to the parent/legal guardian and to the relevant Safeguarding Officer. Emergencies are construed narrowly; mere inconvenience, schedule pressure, or a desire for privacy is not an emergency.

A note on Exceptions

Exceptions reduce the requirement of a particular Section 8 standard. They never reduce the requirement that conduct be lawful and consistent with this Policy as a whole. Section 7 (Appropriate Physical Contact) and Section 4.1 (Forms of Misconduct) apply at all times.

8.2 One-on-One Interactions

- Closed-door private meetings between a single Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete are prohibited. If a private conversation is necessary, doors must remain open or the room must have a window allowing visibility from outside, and another adult must be informed and reasonably available.
- Whenever possible, two adults should be present for any meeting or interaction with a Minor Athlete ("two-deep" supervision).
- Parents and legal guardians have the right to observe any training, meeting, or interaction involving their minor child at any time.

Licensed mental health and healthcare provider carve-out

Mental health counseling, psychological assessment, and certain healthcare consultations cannot function without confidentiality. SJJIF therefore recognizes a narrow exception to the observable-and-interruptible rule above for licensed mental health professionals (psychologists, psychiatrists, licensed clinical social workers, licensed counselors), licensed healthcare providers other than athletic trainers, and



supervised students of any of these professions, who meet one-on-one with a Minor Athlete in connection with SJJIF-affiliated activity. This carve-out applies only when ALL of the following safeguards are in place:

- The door of the meeting room remains unlocked at all times during the session.
- Another adult is present somewhere on the premises and has been notified that a one-on-one session is occurring (the Minor Athlete's identity does not need to be disclosed to that adult).
- The Federation, academy, or Local Organizing Committee under whose jurisdiction the session is taking place has been notified, in advance, that the provider will be meeting with a Minor Athlete.
- The provider has obtained informed consent consistent with applicable laws and the ethical rules of their profession; consent may be withdrawn at any time.

Athletic trainers are not within this carve-out; they are governed by Section 8.5 (Massage, Therapy, and Manual Care).

8.3 Individual Training Sessions and Private Lessons

- All individual or "private" training sessions with a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible.
- Written consent from the parent or legal guardian must be obtained in advance for any private lesson, and renewed at least annually; the parent must be informed of the time, location, duration, and identity of the instructor. Consent may be withdrawn at any time.
- Parents and guardians retain the right to attend and observe any private lesson.
- Where multiple private lessons occur in the same facility on the same day, the facility should monitor the schedule to confirm that each lesson is observable and interruptible.

8.4 Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Bathrooms

- Adult Participants must not be alone with a Minor Athlete in a locker room, changing area, or bathroom, except in genuine emergencies.
- Where possible, separate changing areas should be provided for adults and minors. Where this is not possible, monitored entry, scheduled use, or supervision by at least two adults is required.
- Photography, video recording, and use of any image-capturing device is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, changing areas, and bathrooms at all times. This prohibition extends to all areas used for weighing-in.
- Coaches, instructors, and officials must announce themselves before entering a locker room used by minors and avoid being inside such areas when minors are changing whenever possible.
- Adult Participants must not undress or behave in a manner that exposes their breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a Minor Athlete in a locker room or changing area.



- Adult Participants must not shower with Minor Athletes unless the Close-in-Age Exception applies or the shower is part of a pre- or post-activity rinse while in appropriate athletic attire.
- Parents and guardians may request in writing that their Minor Athlete not change or shower with Adult Participants. That request must be honored.
- Limited media exception. Recording or photography in a locker room is permitted ONLY for the purpose of highlighting a sport or athletic accomplishment AND only if (a) parent/guardian consent is obtained; (b) SJJIF or the LOC approves the specific instance; (c) two or more Adult Participants are present; and (d) everyone present is fully clothed.

8.5 Massage, Therapy, and Manual Care

- Massage, physiotherapy, taping, manual therapy, and any other physical care administered to a Minor Athlete must be performed by a properly licensed or certified provider.
- Such care must take place in an observable and interruptible setting, with at least one other Adult Participant physically present.
- Written consent from the parent or legal guardian must be obtained before any therapy session with a minor and renewed annually. The consent must specify whether it is for a single treatment or ongoing treatment, and the nature of the treatment. Consent may be withdrawn at any time.
- The minor must be appropriately draped at all times, with breasts, buttocks, groin, and genitals always covered. The provider must narrate each step before taking it and seek the assent of the Minor Athlete throughout.
- Parents and guardians must be permitted to be present in the room as observers, except where credentialing rules at a sanctioned competition venue restrict access; in that case, the provider must take additional steps (such as a second Adult Participant in the room) to ensure observability.
- Coaches who are not licensed providers should not perform full-body massages on athletes, regardless of the athlete's age.

8.6 Electronic Communications

- All electronic communications between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be Open and Transparent, professional, and limited to legitimate purposes related to training and competition.
- Open and Transparent means the Adult Participant copies or includes the Minor Athlete's parent/legal guardian, another adult family member of the Minor Athlete, or another Adult Participant on every communication. If a Minor Athlete sends a private message first, the Adult Participant must respond in an Open and Transparent manner.



- Adult Participants must not send to a Minor Athlete, request from a Minor Athlete, or share with a Minor Athlete any sexually explicit, suggestive, intimate, or otherwise inappropriate content.
- Adult Participants must not communicate with Minor Athletes through disappearing-message platforms (such as Snapchat or apps with auto-delete features) for in-program purposes, and must not use private accounts that conceal the existence of communications.
- Recommended hours: routine electronic communications should be sent between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. local time at the Minor Athlete's location, except in emergencies or where time-zone constraints during international travel make this impracticable.
- A parent or guardian may, at any time, request to discontinue electronic communication between their child and any Adult Participant. That request must be honored immediately.

Web-based conferencing and remote sessions

- Coaches, team managers, athletic trainers, and others may use web-based conferencing software (e.g., Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams) to meet with Minor Athletes. All such sessions must follow the Open and Transparent rule — the parent/legal guardian, another adult family member, or another Adult Participant must be invited to and able to attend the session.
- Virtual lessons or live-stream training sessions involving Minor Athletes must be observable and interruptible. Use of passwords, waiting rooms, or other access controls is required to prevent unauthorized participants from joining.
- Pre-recorded technique or training videos sent to a Minor Athlete must be Open and Transparent — the parent/legal guardian or another Adult Participant must be copied.

Group chats among Minor Athletes

- Athlete-to-athlete group chats (text threads, social media groups, gaming platforms, etc.) are concerning environments where bullying, harassment, and sexual misconduct may occur outside adult view.
- Where a group chat exists for a SJJIF-affiliated team, club, or activity and includes Minor Athletes, an Adult Participant must be a member of the chat for supervision, OR the chat must be regularly monitored by the team's coaches or chaperones.
- Any Minor Athlete or parent who has concerns about the conduct in a group chat should report to the Safeguarding Officer through the channels in Section 11.

8.7 Transportation

- Adult Participants may not transport a Minor Athlete one-on-one during in-program travel. At least one other adult or two other minors aged eight (8) or older must be present, except in unforeseeable emergencies.
- Where one-on-one transportation is unavoidable in an emergency, the parent or guardian must be notified as soon as possible and the trip should be documented.



- Adult Participants must not transport a Minor Athlete to or from any location not connected with a sanctioned activity without the express written consent of the parent or legal guardian. Such consent may be withdrawn at any time.
- All in-program transportation must be observable and interruptible to the extent practicable in a vehicle context — for example, traveling in a group, with multiple adults or multiple minors, and not deviating from the sanctioned route without notice to the parent/guardian.

8.8 Lodging at Events and Camps

- Adult Participants must not share a hotel room, dormitory, tent, or any sleeping accommodation with a Minor Athlete who is not their own child.
- Minor Athletes should be lodged with other minors of similar age, with appropriate adult supervision in a separate room.
- A clear lodging plan, including room assignments and supervisory adults, must be communicated in writing to all parents or guardians before any overnight travel.
- Curfews, room-check procedures, and emergency contact information must be established for any overnight event involving minors.
- Billeting (housing a Minor Athlete in a private home not occupied by the athlete's family) at SJJIF-affiliated events requires advance written parent/guardian consent, identification of the host adult(s) by name, screening of the host adult(s) consistent with Section 13.2, and a designated point of contact for the Minor Athlete.

8.9 Photography and Video

- Photographs and video of Minor Athletes may only be captured for legitimate training, competition, promotional, or family purposes, and only in public areas.
- No photography or video shall occur in locker rooms, changing areas, bathrooms, or weigh-in areas under any circumstance, except under the limited media exception in Section 8.4.
- Adult Participants must not publicly share or post photos or videos of a Minor Athlete on personal social media without the prior consent of the parent/legal guardian and, where age-appropriate, the Minor Athlete.
- Parents and guardians have the right to refuse photography or publication of images of their child.

8.10 Out-of-Program Contact, Gifting, and Personal Relationships

The following standards apply to Adult Participants who do not satisfy the Close-in-Age Exception and who do not have a Dual Relationship with the Minor Athlete:

- Out-of-program one-on-one contact with a Minor Athlete (in-home visits, individual transportation outside an event, social outings) is strongly discouraged and requires advance



written parent/legal guardian consent. Coaches in particular should not engage in out-of-program one-on-one contact with minors they coach.

- Personal gifts to a Minor Athlete are prohibited. Gifts may be given only where they are equally distributed to all athletes and serve a legitimate motivational, educational, or competitive purpose (e.g., a team patch given to every team member).
- Building a private, personal, or special relationship with one Minor Athlete that is qualitatively different from the relationship the Adult Participant has with other athletes — particularly where it involves secrecy, exclusivity, or a sense of being "chosen" — is a recognized grooming pattern (Section 4.1) and is itself prohibited.

9. Code of Conduct

All Covered Individuals must adhere to the following standards of behavior at all times during in-program contact. The Code of Conduct is a practical, day-to-day expression of the principles and prohibitions set out earlier in this Policy.

9.1 General Standards (Apply to Everyone)

- Treat every athlete, official, opponent, and member of the community with respect, dignity, and fairness.
- Demonstrate integrity, honesty, and good sportsmanship in training, competition, and conduct.
- Reject and refuse to participate in any form of cheating, manipulation, or unethical behavior, including match-fixing, age fraud, or doping.
- Comply with all SJJIF rules, technical regulations, anti-doping rules, and disciplinary procedures.
- Honor the limits set out in Section 7 (Appropriate Physical Contact) and Section 8 (Minor Athlete Protection).

9.2 Coaches, Instructors, and Officials

- Recognize and accept the position of trust and authority that comes with the role, and never use that position to obtain personal, financial, or sexual advantage.
- Provide instruction appropriate to the age, physical development, and skill level of each athlete; never push an athlete to train through pain or injury that risks lasting harm.
- Limit physical contact to what is necessary for legitimate technical instruction, demonstration, congratulation, or first aid; explain contact in advance and respect any athlete's request to step back. (See Section 7.)
- Avoid private isolated training with minors and never engage in romantic, sexual, or otherwise inappropriate relationships with any athlete you coach, supervise, or have authority over. Such relationships with a minor are absolutely prohibited.



- Maintain professional language and conduct at all times; do not engage in profanity, sexual jokes, intimidation, or humiliation.
- Follow the electronic communication rules in Section 8.6 in all communications with athletes, especially Minor Athletes.
- Complete all required SafeSport, safeguarding, or equivalent training before working with athletes, and undergo any background-check screening required by your Federation or local law (Sections 13.1, 13.2).
- Self-disclose, in writing and within seven (7) days, any arrest, charge, plea, conviction, registry listing, restraining order, or sanction by another sport governing body (Section 13.2).

9.3 Athletes

- Treat opponents, training partners, coaches, referees, and event staff with respect at all times.
- Refrain from bullying, hazing, harassment, or intimidation of any teammate, opponent, or staff member, in person or online.
- Speak up when you see or experience behavior that does not feel right; you have the right to say NO and to report.
- Respect the privacy of teammates and opponents, especially in locker rooms, changing areas, and lodging.
- Support a positive, inclusive environment for all members of the community.

9.4 Parents and Guardians

- Support your child's training and competition with positive encouragement; refrain from verbally abusing officials, coaches, opponents, or other athletes.
- Stay informed about your child's training schedule, instructors, and any private or one-on-one activities.
- Communicate concerns directly through the reporting channels described in this Policy.
- Trust your instincts: if something feels wrong about an interaction involving your child, report it.
- Where you are asked to provide consent under Section 8 (private lessons, transportation, lodging, electronic communication, photography, dual relationships), take time to read the consent and consider taking the parent education course referenced in Section 13.4 before signing.



10. Roles and Responsibilities

10.1 SJJIF Safeguarding Commission

SJJIF shall establish a Safeguarding Commission, led by a Safeguarding Officer who reports directly to the SJJIF Board. The Commission shall:

- Develop, implement, and continually update SJJIF safeguarding policies, procedures, and training programs.
- Maintain a confidential reporting system and personally receive, log, and triage all reports submitted to SJJIF.
- Conduct safeguarding risk assessments for SJJIF events and determine the level of safeguarding support required.
- Coordinate with affiliated Federations, Local Organizing Committees, law enforcement, and external safeguarding bodies.
- Convene the Case Management Group when warranted and oversee fair, prompt, and impartial investigations.
- Maintain the SJJIF Safeguarding Register — a confidential record of disciplinary outcomes — and share necessary information with affiliated Federations to prevent perpetrators from moving between organizations.
- Lead SJJIF education, training, and awareness initiatives.
- Provide an annual public report to the Board on safeguarding activity, trends, and policy improvements (without disclosing identifying details of any case).

10.2 Affiliated National and Regional Federations

Each affiliated Federation must:

- Adopt this Policy (or a substantially equivalent local policy that meets every minimum requirement) and integrate it into Federation rules and member agreements. The formal compliance obligation, including the adoption deadline, is set out in Section 15.1.
- Designate a Federation Safeguarding Officer with the authority, training, and resources to implement this Policy and receive reports.
- Maintain a publicly accessible reporting channel and publish the Federation Safeguarding Officer's contact information on their website.
- Implement screening and background-check procedures for all coaches, officials, and adults working with minors, in accordance with local law and at minimum every two years (Section 13.2).
- Require completion of an approved safeguarding training course for all coaches, officials, and adults working with minors (Section 13.1).



- Educate coaches and staff on this Policy at the start of every season.
- Submit an annual compliance report to SJJIF (Section 15.2).
- Cooperate fully with SJJIF and law enforcement on any cross-jurisdictional investigation.
- Refrain from interfering in, or attempting to influence the outcome of, any SJJIF investigation, any investigation by another competent body (e.g., the U.S. Center for SafeSport), or any criminal investigation. Engagement is limited to providing information requested by investigators and pursuing the established appeal channel.

10.3 Local Organizing Committees (LOCs)

Every LOC for a SJJIF-sanctioned event must:

- Designate a primary point of contact for safeguarding matters before, during, and after the event — the Event Safeguarding Officer.
- Plan and operate the event in line with Section 14 (Safeguarding at Events), including the arrangements required there for Minor Athletes, athletes with disabilities, and para-athletes accompanied by Personal Care Assistants.
- Recruit and vet all event staff and volunteers using procedures that include criminal background checks where lawful and appropriate.
- Provide a safeguarding induction to all event staff, volunteers, and contractors before the event begins.
- Display visible posters with reporting contact information at the venue and on event materials (Appendix F).
- Maintain reporting procedures aligned with the legal framework of the host country and ensure mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse to local authorities where required.

10.4 Mandatory Reporters

Within their jurisdiction and to the extent permitted by law, the following individuals are designated mandatory reporters under this Policy. Any of the following with a reasonable suspicion that a Minor Athlete has been or may be subject to abuse, or that any Covered Individual has engaged in conduct prohibited under Section 6, must report the concern both to law enforcement (where local law requires) and to a Safeguarding Officer:

- All coaches, instructors, and assistant instructors.
- All referees and event officials.
- All Federation officers, board members, and employees.
- All medical, physiotherapy, and recovery personnel acting in connection with SJJIF activity.
- All members of any Case Management Group.



- All chaperones, team managers, and Personal Care Assistants.

Reporting to a Safeguarding Officer does not satisfy any independent legal duty to report suspected child abuse to law enforcement or child-protection authorities under local law. Ignorance or mistake as to one's reporting obligation is not a defense, and reporting to a supervisor or administrator does not relieve a Mandatory Reporter of the obligation to report.

Reporting sequence for suspected child abuse

Where a Mandatory Reporter has reasonable suspicion that a child has been, is being, or is at risk of being abused, the order of reporting is fixed:

- First, report to local law enforcement (or, in jurisdictions where applicable, to the child-protection authority such as Child Protective Services in the United States, the Conselho Tutelar in Brazil, or equivalent). This step is mandatory under most national laws and must not be delayed.
- Immediately after, and as a separate report, notify a SJJIF Safeguarding Officer (or the Federation Safeguarding Officer, who shall escalate to SJJIF).
- Both reports must be made — one does not replace the other. The SJJIF report enables sport-side protective action; the law-enforcement report initiates any criminal investigation.

A Mandatory Reporter who first contacts SJJIF without also contacting law enforcement, or who delays law-enforcement contact in order to consult sport authorities first, may themselves be in violation of this Policy and of local mandatory-reporting statutes. Mandatory Reporters are not required to investigate or to confirm their suspicion before reporting.

10.5 Adult Participant Categories

For ease of compliance with screening and training requirements, Adult Participants are grouped by their level of contact with and authority over Minor Athletes. The categorization in Appendix G governs which obligations under Sections 13.1 (training) and 13.2 (background checks) apply to each role. Where a person fulfills more than one role, the most stringent applicable category applies.

10.6 Responsible Adult at the Academy

Day-to-day implementation of this Policy at an affiliated academy, club, or training site requires a designated point of accountability beneath the Federation Safeguarding Officer. Each affiliated academy must therefore designate at least one Responsible Adult — a person within the academy who has either been formally assigned, or has assumed in practice, certain duties regarding Minor Athletes. The Responsible Adult is not a Safeguarding Officer; the Responsible Adult is the on-the-ground person who ensures that day-to-day arrangements at the academy are consistent with this Policy.



Responsible Adult duties include:

- Verifying that all coaches, instructors, and adults with Regular Contact with Minor Athletes at the academy are current on training (Section 13.1) and background screening (Section 13.2) before they are scheduled to interact with athletes.
- Monitoring locker rooms, changing areas, and other higher-risk spaces during training and events held at the academy, in line with Section 8.4.
- Ensuring that one-on-one interactions, individual training sessions, and any manual therapy at the academy comply with Section 8 — observable, interruptible, with appropriate consent.
- Receiving informal concerns and queries from athletes and parents and either resolving them at the academy level (where appropriate) or forwarding them promptly and in full to the Federation Safeguarding Officer (where the concern raises any matter under Section 4 or Section 6).
- Maintaining the academy's safeguarding records: training certificates, screening confirmations, parent consent forms, attendance at safeguarding briefings, and visible posters required under Appendix F.
- Briefing every new coach, assistant, and adult volunteer on this Policy before they assume duties involving Minor Athletes.

The Responsible Adult must be a current member in good standing of the affiliated Federation, must have completed the required Section 13.1 training, and must have passed background screening at the level required by Section 13.2 for adults with Regular Contact with Minor Athletes. The academy informs its Federation of the Responsible Adult's identity and contact information, and notifies the Federation within thirty (30) days of any change.

11. Reporting System

Anyone — an athlete, parent, coach, official, staff member, volunteer, spectator, or member of the public — may report a concern about possible harassment, abuse, or misconduct. Reports may be made anonymously. The most important thing is that you tell someone.

If a Child Is in Immediate Danger

Call your local emergency number first. In the United States, dial 911. In the European Union, dial 112. In Brazil, dial 190. In the United Kingdom, dial 999.

If sexual abuse of a minor is alleged in the United States, also report to the U.S. Center for SafeSport at uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern.

After ensuring the child is safe, report the concern to SJJIF using the channels below.



11.1 SJJIF Reporting Channels

- Online Reporting Form — available on the SJJIF website at the "Athlete Safeguarding" page; supports anonymous submission.
- Email — safeguarding@sjjif.com.
- Event Safeguarding Officer — in person, at any SJJIF-sanctioned event.
- Anonymous Report — submit through the online form without providing identifying information. Note that anonymous reports may limit follow-up; where the reporter is willing, providing contact information enables more effective response.
- Through Your Federation — any affiliated Federation's Safeguarding Officer can receive a report and forward it to SJJIF.
- Emergency — local police or emergency services if anyone is in immediate danger.

11.2 Reporting to External Authorities

Nothing in this Policy prevents or discourages a person from reporting a concern directly to law enforcement, child-protection services, or any other competent authority. In many jurisdictions, certain reports must be made to such authorities by law. SJJIF strongly encourages such reports and will cooperate fully. In the United States, allegations of sexual misconduct may be reported to the U.S. Center for SafeSport at uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern.

A person receiving an allegation must not weigh the credibility of the allegation, the credibility of the person making it, or the strength of the evidence as a precondition to reporting. It is not the role of a coach, academy administrator, federation officer, or any other recipient to decide whether an allegation "sounds plausible" before forwarding it. The investigation function exists for that purpose. Recipients may ask clarifying questions only to the extent needed to make an adequate report — they must not interview, cross-examine, or test the account of a person making a report. Hesitation about credibility is a common cause of late reporting and must not stand in the way of timely action.

11.3 Reporting Through a Local Academy Administrator

In some cases, a person making a report may feel more comfortable speaking first with a local academy administrator, instructor, or Responsible Adult (Section 10.6) rather than directly with a Federation Safeguarding Officer. This is permitted, with the following requirements:

- Any report received at the academy level must be forwarded by the recipient to the Federation Safeguarding Officer immediately and in any event within twenty-four (24) hours, in writing, with the original wording of the report preserved. The recipient does not summarize, edit, or filter the account.
- Where the report concerns alleged child abuse or sexual misconduct, the local recipient is also a Mandatory Reporter under Section 10.4 and must independently make any report to law



enforcement or child-protection authorities required by local law. Forwarding to the Federation Safeguarding Officer does not satisfy that legal duty.

- Where the report concerns conduct by the academy owner, head coach, or another person to whom the recipient reports, the recipient is encouraged to bypass the local academy entirely and report directly to the Federation Safeguarding Officer or to the SJJIF Safeguarding Commission. The local recipient retains the duty to forward, but the reporter is not required to use that channel.

Where a report is forwarded by an academy administrator and the matter is appropriate for local handling — such as a Code of Conduct issue with no allegation of abuse — the Federation Safeguarding Officer may refer the matter back to the academy for initial response, while retaining oversight and the right to take over the matter at any point.

11.4 What to Include in a Report

A report does not need to be perfect or complete to be made. The following information is helpful where it is available:

- The name and contact information of the person reporting (unless anonymous).
- The name(s) of the person(s) believed to have been harmed.
- The name(s) of the person(s) believed to have committed the conduct.
- A description of what happened, including dates, times, and locations.
- The names of any witnesses.
- Any supporting evidence — messages, screenshots, photos, videos, medical reports.
- Any immediate safety concerns.

Reports may be verbal or written; verbal reports must be documented by the receiving Safeguarding Officer using the official SJJIF form (Appendix B). Reporters do not need to investigate or confirm their suspicion before reporting. If something does not feel right, report it.

11.5 Anti-Retaliation Protection

SJJIF strictly prohibits retaliation against any person who, in good faith, reports a concern, supports a complainant, or participates in an investigation. Retaliation is itself a violation of this Policy and will be sanctioned, separate from and in addition to any sanction for the underlying conduct. This protection applies even if the original report is ultimately not substantiated, provided it was made in good faith.

Specific consequences

Where a Covered Individual is found to have engaged in retaliation:

- They shall be subject to immediate provisional measures under Section 12, Step 4 (suspension from coaching, removal from event, restriction of communications) pending full investigation.



- Where retaliation is established and the perpetrator holds a paid or contracted role with SJJIF, a Federation, or an academy, the role shall be terminated. Voluntary roles shall be revoked.
- The retaliation finding shall be entered on the SJJIF Safeguarding Register independently of any finding on the underlying conduct, so that retaliation cannot be erased by the original allegation being unsubstantiated.
- Coercing, intimidating, or attempting to dissuade a person from reporting — including offers of reward to drop a complaint — is itself retaliation and treated identically.

11.6 Filing a False Report

Filing a knowingly false report with malicious intent is a separate violation of this Policy under Section 6. The standard is a high one: the report must have been made with knowledge that the allegation was false and with intent to cause harm. Reports made in good faith that are later not substantiated are NOT false reports and are protected from any adverse consequence. Anti-retaliation protections under Section 11.5 apply to all good-faith reporters.

11.7 Confidentiality of Reports

Confidentiality and data-protection rules governing reports and investigations are set out in Section 12, Step 10.

12. Response and Investigation Procedure

Step 1 — Immediate Safety

- Ensure the victim is safe.
- Remove the accused from contact with athletes if necessary.
- Provide medical or psychological support if needed.

Step 2 — Initial Assessment (within 72 hours)

The Safeguarding Officer will:

- Acknowledge receipt of the report (where the reporter is identified) and provide information about the process and available support.
- Assess severity and whether any participant — particularly a minor — is in immediate danger.
- Determine whether the conduct alleged would meet a criminal threshold or trigger mandatory reporting, and ensure such reports are made.
- Determine the appropriate jurisdiction and notify any other Federation or external safeguarding body as appropriate.



Step 3 — Escalation

- If criminal — report to law enforcement immediately and follow their instructions on internal handling.
- If non-criminal — the SJJIF Case Management Group commences an internal safeguarding investigation.

Notification chain

Once a credible report is received, SJJIF coordinates protective action across every level of the sport ecosystem — not in sequence, but in parallel — so that no perpetrator can move between Federations, academies, or jurisdictions to escape accountability:

- Continental Federation — the SJJIF Continental body covering the territory where the alleged conduct occurred is informed and asked to coordinate region-wide protective measures.
- National Federation — the National Federation in the country of the accused, of the affected athlete, and of the venue (where different) is each notified, in writing, with sufficient detail to enable them to apply provisional measures within their jurisdiction. Notification is made even if the alleged conduct occurred outside that Federation's events.
- Local Sport Organization or academy — the academy, club, or local organization where the accused operates is notified to the extent permitted by law and the integrity of the investigation, so that on-site protective measures can be put in place (supervision, removal from instruction, no-contact arrangements).
- Law enforcement and child-protection authorities — where the conduct may be criminal, or where a Minor Athlete is involved, SJJIF supports and does not impede notification to police, public prosecutors, the Conselho Tutelar (in Brazil), Child Protective Services (in the United States), or the equivalent authority in the relevant jurisdiction.
- Other recognized safeguarding bodies — where the accused holds credentials with another sport governing body that operates a public disciplinary database (such as the U.S. Center for SafeSport in the United States), SJJIF will provide that body with a written notice of any provisional measure or final sanction so cross-sport coordination is possible.

Each notification is made in writing, dated, recorded in the case file, and bounded by data-protection law (Section 12, Step 10). Where local law restricts what may be shared at a given stage, SJJIF shares only what may lawfully be shared, and re-notifies as further information becomes shareable.

Step 4 — Case Management Group

The Case Management Group must:

- Be composed of at least three persons of independent judgment, free from conflict of interest.
- Include at least one member with formal training or experience in child protection, sexual-violence response, or victim support.



- Include legal expertise, either among its members or through advisor support.
- Be chaired by the SJJIF Safeguarding Officer or their designee.

The Group conducts fair and impartial investigations, assesses risks, decides on provisional protective measures, and recommends disciplinary action.

Provisional Measures Pending Investigation

Where there is a credible allegation that, if true, would create a risk to athletes or to the integrity of the investigation, SJJIF imposes provisional measures immediately — that is, before the investigation is concluded and before any finding of responsibility. Provisional measures are protective in nature, not disciplinary; they exist to prevent further harm while the investigation runs and do not constitute a determination of guilt.

Provisional measures may include any of the following, applied singly or in combination:

- Interim suspension from coaching, instruction, refereeing, or other contact with athletes.
- Removal from a current event or prohibition on attending upcoming events.
- No-contact directives prohibiting communication with the complainant, witnesses, or specific athletes.
- Restriction or removal of accreditation, credentials, badges, and venue access.
- Required supervision ("two-deep" or "observable and interruptible" arrangements) for any continuing role.
- Suspension of any officiating or judging assignment.
- Listing on the SJJIF Safeguarding Register as "under provisional measure" — see Step 6 for what is published and when.

Provisional measures are reviewed at least every 30 days by the Case Management Group and are lifted, modified, or extended based on what the investigation has shown. A Covered Individual subject to a provisional measure has the right to receive written notice of the measure, to know the general nature of the allegation (subject to investigation integrity and victim privacy), and to be heard by the Case Management Group on the question of whether the measure is necessary.

Status-Based Response Tracks

SJJIF distinguishes three status tracks for an accused Covered Individual. The tracks are cumulative — a person who progresses from "under investigation" to "arrested" to "convicted" carries forward all measures applied at the prior stage and has additional measures added. The protective measures only moves in one direction: more protective. SJJIF does not unwind a Track 2 suspension because a Track 1 investigation is still pending.



Track 1 — Under Investigation	Track 2 — Arrested or Charged	Track 3 — Convicted or Civilly Liable
<p>Trigger</p> <p>A credible report is received and an investigation is opened by SJJIF, an affiliated Federation, or a recognized authority such as the U.S. Center for SafeSport.</p> <p>Required action</p> <p>Provisional measures imposed within 72 hours of the credible report (sooner where there is immediate risk). Measures are reviewed every 30 days. The accused is informed in writing and has the right to be heard.</p> <p>Authority</p> <p>SJJIF Case Management Group, in coordination with the National Federation. May be deferred where a recognized authority has assumed exclusive jurisdiction; SJJIF then adopts and enforces that authority's measures.</p> <p>Public listing</p> <p>Listed on the SJJIF Safeguarding Register as "under provisional measure — investigation in progress" only where the alleged conduct, if confirmed, would pose continuing risk (sexual misconduct, child abuse, violence). Less acute matters kept internal until conclusion.</p>	<p>Trigger</p> <p>The accused is arrested, formally charged, indicted, the subject of a search warrant, or has pending criminal charges for any conduct that would violate this Policy if proven.</p> <p>Required action</p> <p>Immediate suspension from all SJJIF-affiliated activity — no exceptions, no "administrative leave with continued contact." Effective on the day SJJIF receives reliable confirmation of the arrest or charge. Suspension remains until the criminal matter is resolved or the SJJIF investigation concludes, whichever is later.</p> <p>Authority</p> <p>SJJIF and every affiliated Federation. The arrest or charge is itself the trigger — a separate SJJIF investigation is not required to impose suspension.</p> <p>Public listing</p> <p>Always listed publicly on the SJJIF Safeguarding Register as "interim suspension — pending criminal disposition."</p>	<p>Trigger</p> <p>The accused has been criminally convicted, has accepted a plea (including a plea to a lesser offense, no contest, or deferred adjudication), is on a sex-offender registry, or has been found responsible in a civil or administrative proceeding for conduct that would violate this Policy.</p> <p>Required action</p> <p>Permanent ineligibility from all SJJIF-affiliated activity — coaching, competing, officiating, owning or operating any SJJIF-affiliated academy or facility, holding any role in a Federation or LOC. Recognition is automatic; no further internal investigation is required where the conviction or finding has been entered by a competent court or recognized body.</p> <p>Authority</p> <p>SJJIF, recognized automatically by every affiliated Federation under Step 8 (Mutual Recognition).</p> <p>Public listing</p> <p>Always listed publicly as "permanently ineligible." Listing is permanent and survives any later expungement of the underlying record (subject to applicable privacy law).</p>

Step 5 — Investigation Standards

Notice and Membership Consent. By accepting membership, accreditation, or any role within SJJIF, every Covered Individual consents to receive notice of allegations, provisional measures, decisions, and sanctions through the contact information on their SJJIF or Federation membership profile — including by email, text message, or written communication to the registered address. Each Covered Individual is



responsible for keeping that contact information current. Failure to receive a notice because the contact information is out of date does not invalidate the notice or the proceeding.

- Promptness — investigations begin without delay and proceed without unnecessary interruption.
- Fairness — both complainant and accused are given a fair opportunity to be heard.
- Impartiality — investigators have no personal, financial, or competitive stake in the outcome.
- Trauma-informed practice — interviews with complainants, especially minors, are conducted with sensitivity and using approaches consistent with child-protection best practice.
- Documentation — every step is recorded so the process can be audited.

Standard of Proof

SJJIF disciplinary investigations are administrative in nature, not criminal. The standard of proof applied by the Case Management Group is the preponderance of the evidence — that is, whether it is more likely than not that the alleged conduct occurred. This is the same standard used by the U.S. Center for SafeSport, by Title IX administrative proceedings in the United States, and by most international sport disciplinary bodies.

This standard is intentionally lower than the criminal "beyond reasonable doubt" standard. The reasons are practical and protective: a criminal acquittal — or a decision not to prosecute — does not mean the conduct did not occur. It means only that the criminal evidentiary threshold was not met. Athlete safety cannot wait for a criminal conviction that may never come. SJJIF's sanction is exclusion from a privilege (participation in this sport), not deprivation of liberty. A different evidentiary standard reflects this materially different consequence.

Where the same facts are the subject of both a SJJIF investigation and a criminal proceeding, SJJIF may proceed in parallel and is not required to suspend its process pending the criminal outcome. SJJIF will, however, take care that its process does not interfere with the criminal investigation, and will coordinate with law enforcement where requested.

Methods of Resolution

A safeguarding matter under investigation may be resolved through one of three pathways:

- Administrative Closure: Before an investigation is concluded, SJJIF may administratively close a matter for reasons including insufficient information to proceed, the complainant's election not to participate in the resolution process, the absence of jurisdiction, or other factors that make further investigation impracticable. Administrative closure is not a finding that the alleged conduct did not occur — it is a procedural disposition. SJJIF's decision to administratively close a matter is not appealable. SJJIF may, on receipt of new information or evidence, reopen any matter previously closed administratively.



- **Informal Resolution by Acceptance of Responsibility:** At any time before a matter becomes final, the Responding Party may elect to resolve the allegations by accepting responsibility for the policy violation. SJJIF will then determine the appropriate sanction without a hearing on responsibility. The Responding Party may challenge the sanction (only) through the appeal channel under Step 7. Informal resolution is not a settlement and does not extinguish the underlying violation; it is a final and binding disposition. The outcome and any sanction may be published in the same manner as any other final decision.
- **Formal Resolution:** Where the matter is neither administratively closed nor resolved informally, the investigation proceeds to a finding by the Case Management Group on the preponderance-of-evidence standard. The Responding Party may then request an appeal of the SJJIF decision under the procedures in Appendix K (Disciplinary Hearing Procedures). The Complainant does not have a right of appeal from a Formal Resolution; the right of appeal sits with the Responding Party only.

Each pathway preserves SJJIF's commitment to athlete safety. Administrative closure does not preclude reopening; informal resolution does not erase a violation; formal resolution provides full procedural protection to a Responding Party who contests the allegation.

Step 6 — Outcome and Discipline

Where a violation is established, sanctions may include:

- A formal written warning placed in the individual's record.
- Mandatory education, counseling, or supervised practice.
- Loss of credentials, accreditation, or coaching authorization.
- Disqualification from one or more competitions or revocation of results.
- Suspension from SJJIF activity for a defined period.
- Permanent expulsion (lifetime ban) from SJJIF and any affiliated Federation.
- Public listing on the SJJIF Safeguarding Register where appropriate and consistent with applicable law.
- Referral to law enforcement or child-protection authorities.

In determining the appropriate sanction, the Case Management Group considers the age and vulnerability of the victim, abuse of authority, duration and pattern, premeditation, prior findings, cooperation, and impact.

SJJIF Safeguarding Registry — Public Listing Rules

The SJJIF Safeguarding Registry is a centralized record of disciplinary outcomes maintained by SJJIF. A subset of the Registry is published publicly so that academies, Federations, parents, and athletes can verify the eligibility status of any coach, official, or other Covered Individual. The public Registry is modeled on the Centralized Disciplinary Database operated by the U.S. Center for SafeSport and serves the same



purpose: to keep the community informed and to prevent perpetrators from moving between organizations.

Who is listed publicly

- Persons subject to provisional measures pending investigation, where the alleged conduct, if confirmed, would pose a risk to athletes (sexual misconduct, child abuse, violence, grooming, intimate-relationship violations, exposing a minor to sexual content). Listed as "under provisional measure — investigation in progress."
- Persons subject to interim suspension following arrest, formal charge, or comparable formal action by a competent law-enforcement authority. Listed as "interim suspension — pending criminal disposition."
- Persons sanctioned with suspension or permanent ineligibility after a SJJIF investigation, after acceptance of a sanction by agreement, or after recognition of a sanction imposed by another competent body (Step 8).
- Persons criminally convicted, civilly liable, or registered on a sex-offender registry for conduct that would violate this Policy. Recognized automatically and listed as "permanently ineligible."

Who is NOT listed publicly

- Minors — names of accused individuals under 18 are kept on the internal Register only.
- Persons subject to lower-severity sanctions (formal warning, mandatory education, short-term probation) where public listing would be disproportionate.
- Persons whose matter has been administratively closed without sanction.
- Complainants, victims, or witnesses — under any circumstances.

What information is published

For each listed person, the public Registry may show: name; city, state or province, and country (where lawful to publish); sport affiliation (Jiu-Jitsu) and organizational role; the type of measure or sanction; the broad category of misconduct; the date of the decision; and the date the listing takes effect. The public Registry does not publish detailed facts of the case; names of complainants, victims, or witnesses; details of an ongoing criminal investigation; or any information whose publication would violate the data-protection law of the relevant jurisdiction (LGPD in Brazil, GDPR in the European Union, U.S. state privacy laws).

How long a listing remains

- Provisional measures — listed for as long as the measure is in force. Removed if the matter is administratively closed or the measure is lifted; replaced with a more permanent listing if the matter results in a sanction.



- Time-limited suspensions — listed for the duration of the suspension. Once the period of suspension ends and any conditions of reinstatement have been met, the listing is moved from "active" to "historical" and remains searchable for a minimum of five additional years.
- Permanent ineligibility — listed permanently. Removal is not available except where required by court order or where SJJIF concludes the original finding was the result of identifiable factual error or fraud.
- Posthumous status — a listing remains in place after the death of the listed person if the underlying conduct is one for which permanent ineligibility was imposed; otherwise it is moved to the historical archive.

Reinstatement

A person sanctioned with a time-limited suspension may apply for reinstatement at the end of the suspension period. Reinstatement is not automatic and requires evidence of completion of any conditions imposed (training, counseling, supervision), the absence of further incidents, and a recommendation by the Case Management Group. Permanent ineligibility is not subject to reinstatement.

Step 7 — Right of Appeal

Any person sanctioned under this Policy has a right of appeal to a body independent of the Case Management Group that issued the original decision. The procedural rules — filing requirements, panel composition, the conduct of hearings, the burden of proof, the available sanctions, and the appellate pathway — are set out in Appendix K (Disciplinary Hearing Procedures). Where the sanction is an interim or provisional measure imposed pending investigation, the abbreviated procedure in Appendix L (Interim and Provisional Measures Hearing) applies.

Step 8 — Mutual Recognition and Reciprocity

Safeguarding only works if a sanction in one place is honored everywhere. SJJIF therefore operates a strict mutual-recognition rule that flows in both directions:

- Outbound. Subject to the right of appeal, every disciplinary decision made by SJJIF under this Policy must be recognized and respected by every affiliated Federation, every Local Organizing Committee, and every academy operating under SJJIF authority. A person made ineligible by SJJIF may not coach, compete, officiate, hold a role, or own or operate a facility anywhere in the SJJIF ecosystem.
- Inbound. Where SJJIF is informed that an individual has been (a) criminally convicted, accepted a plea, or had a comparable formal disposition for conduct that would violate this Policy; (b) civilly liable for such conduct; (c) sanctioned by another competent sport governing body for such conduct; or (d) placed on a sex-offender registry — SJJIF shall recognize and give effect to that conviction, finding, or sanction without conducting a new investigation. The original decision constitutes the evidentiary basis.



- Equivalent bodies. For these purposes, "another competent sport governing body" includes, without limitation: the U.S. Center for SafeSport; National Olympic Committees and their National Anti-Doping Organizations; international federations recognized by the International Olympic Committee or by SportAccord; safeguarding authorities of equivalent standing in any other jurisdiction. SJJIF maintains a list of recognized bodies and updates it as new safeguarding institutions are established.
- Floor, not ceiling. Where another body's sanction is shorter or less restrictive than what SJJIF would have imposed for the same conduct, SJJIF may impose its own additional sanction so long as the cumulative effect does not exceed permanent ineligibility. SJJIF shall not, however, reduce or unwind the other body's sanction.

Reciprocity is suspended only where a SJJIF appeal panel determines that the foreign or external decision was procured by fraud, was rendered without any opportunity to be heard, or was based on conduct that does not, on any reasonable view, constitute a violation under this Policy.

Step 9 — Duty to Inform and No Interference

Affiliated Federations shall promptly inform SJJIF of any allegations (where lawful to disclose) and any sanctions imposed under their jurisdiction. SJJIF shall, in turn, promptly inform Federations of any allegations (where lawful) and sanctions imposed against persons under their jurisdiction. This information-sharing exists for one purpose: to prevent perpetrators from moving between academies, regions, or Federations to escape accountability.

No Interference. SJJIF, every affiliated Federation, every Local Organizing Committee, and every academy shall not interfere in, attempt to interfere in, or attempt to influence the outcome of any internal SJJIF investigation, any investigation by another competent body (e.g., the U.S. Center for SafeSport), or any criminal investigation. Engagement is limited to (a) providing information requested by investigators, (b) participating in formal disciplinary or appeal proceedings as a party, and (c) pursuing the established appeal channel under Step 7. Interference is itself a violation of this Policy and may be sanctioned independently.

Step 10 — Confidentiality, Records, and Data Protection

Every report, every piece of personal information about those involved, every document gathered during investigation, and every outcome decision is treated as confidential. Disclosure is limited to those who need to know in order to investigate, decide, or act — and to law enforcement or competent authorities where required by law. Both the rights of the complainant and the rights of the accused are protected throughout the process.



Records Retention

SJJIF and each Federation maintain the following minimum retention periods for safeguarding records, subject to longer periods required by applicable law:

- Reports involving alleged abuse of a minor: indefinitely, or until the minor reaches the age of 25 plus 25 additional years, whichever is longer.
- Disciplinary findings of substantiated misconduct: indefinitely, on the SJJIF Safeguarding Register.
- Reports that are not substantiated, but made in good faith: a minimum of seven (7) years from the date the case was closed.
- Training and screening records: a minimum of five (5) years after the individual ceases to hold a SJJIF-affiliated role.

Storage and Security

Safeguarding records are stored in a secured electronic system with role-based access control, access logs, and encryption at rest and in transit. Paper records are stored in locked, access-controlled facilities. Access is limited to the SJJIF Safeguarding Officer, members of the relevant Case Management Group, and other authorized personnel as required for case handling, audit, or legal compliance.

Data Protection Compliance

All processing of personal data under this Policy is carried out in accordance with applicable data-protection law, including (where applicable) the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the UK Data Protection Act, the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), and the data-protection laws of any jurisdiction where SJJIF activity occurs. Data subjects have rights of access, rectification, and (where compatible with safeguarding obligations) deletion of their personal data, exercisable by contacting the SJJIF Safeguarding Officer. Where local law requires a Data Protection Impact Assessment, SJJIF and the relevant Federation will conduct one.

Conflict of Interest

Any member of the Case Management Group, or any Safeguarding Officer, who has a personal, professional, or competitive relationship with the complainant or the accused must disclose the conflict immediately and recuse themselves from the case. Where conflicts cannot be avoided, an external safeguarding professional may be retained to ensure impartiality.

13. Education, Training, and Prevention

13.1 Required Training

Training is the front line of safeguarding. Required training under this Policy is divided by audience: Adult Participants, Minor Athletes, and parents/guardians.



Adult Participants — required training

All Adult Participants who interact with athletes (and especially with minors) must complete an approved safeguarding training program before assuming their role and renew the training at least every two years. "Interact with athletes" means having Regular Contact with or Authority over a Minor Athlete, or holding an employee, board, or officer position with SJJIF, an affiliated Federation, or an academy. Approved programs include:

- U.S. Center for SafeSport "SafeSport Trained" core course (for activity in the United States).
- IOC Safeguarding Officer in Sport Certificate or IOC Safe Sport course.
- National sport-safeguarding training accredited by the relevant National Olympic Committee or government safeguarding authority.
- SJJIF-approved equivalent training delivered through the SJJIF education platform.

Adult Participants must complete the required training before Regular Contact with a Minor Athlete begins, or within forty-five (45) days of beginning a new role subject to this requirement, whichever comes first. Refresher training is required annually; the full core course is repeated at least once every four (4) years. Medical providers may take the SafeSport Health Professionals Course (or equivalent) in lieu of the general core course.

Volunteers Without Regular Contact

Adults serving in a brief or non-contact volunteer capacity (e.g., one-time event volunteers, administrative volunteers) who will not have Regular Contact with or Authority over Minor Athletes should complete a short volunteer course (or the SafeSport Trained Core Course or equivalent) before engaging with the event. Where any doubt exists about the role, the Adult Participant and the Federation should err toward the full training.

Minor Athlete Training — Must be offered

SJJIF and every affiliated Federation must, every twelve (12) months, offer to all Minor Athletes and, subject to parental consent, provide age-appropriate training on the prevention and reporting of abuse. The Federation must keep a record of how the training was offered, whether it was provided, and the topics covered. Individual completion-tracking for minors is not required.

Parent and Guardian Training — Must be offered

SJJIF and every affiliated Federation must, every twelve (12) months, offer to parents and guardians of registered athletes training on the prevention and reporting of abuse. SJJIF strongly recommends that parents complete this training before consenting under any of the Section 8 standards (private lessons, transportation, lodging, electronic communications, photography, dual relationships).



Exemptions and Accommodations

Online training courses may include content that is uncomfortable or trauma-triggering. Exemptions and accommodations are available:

- Survivor exemption. A survivor of abuse or misconduct may request an exemption from the online training, in writing, to the SJJIF Safeguarding Officer. Survivor exemptions, once granted, are indefinite and need not be renewed annually.
- Accessibility accommodations. Where a cognitive or physical disability, or a language barrier, prevents an individual from completing the standard online course, the SJJIF Safeguarding Officer (or the Federation Safeguarding Officer) may approve an alternative format. Where alternative formats provided by the underlying course (screen-reader compatibility, multiple language tracks) meet the need, those should be used in preference to an exemption.
- Documentation. Every exemption or accommodation granted must be documented and tracked so it is correctly applied to the individual's compliance status.

13.2 Background Checks

Every Federation must implement a documented screening process for all coaches, instructors, officials, and adults with Regular Contact with or Authority over Minor Athletes. Screening must include:

- A criminal records check at the level allowed by local law, repeated at least every two years.
- Identity verification.
- Reference checks for new coaches and officials.
- A check against the SJJIF Safeguarding Register and, where applicable, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Centralized Disciplinary Database or equivalent national registers.

Automatic Disqualifiers

The following findings, established by criminal conviction, civil judgment, formal charge, registry listing, or finding by a recognized safeguarding authority, render an individual automatically ineligible to coach, instruct, officiate, or hold any role of authority over athletes within the SJJIF ecosystem. No discretion attaches to these — they apply without need for further internal investigation:

- Any conviction, plea (including no contest, plea to a lesser offense, deferred adjudication, or diversionary disposition), or pending formal charge for a sexual offense involving any victim.
- Any conviction, plea, or pending formal charge for child abuse, child neglect, child sexual abuse, exposing a minor to sexual content, or any offense against a victim under 18.
- Listing on any state, national, federal, tribal, or international sex-offender registry.
- Permanent ineligibility imposed by the U.S. Center for SafeSport, by any recognized international safeguarding body, or by any other competent sport governing body for conduct that would violate this Policy.



- Any active interim suspension, temporary measure, or pending investigation by the U.S. Center for SafeSport or equivalent body for sexual misconduct, child abuse, or grooming.
- Any conviction or pending formal charge for kidnapping, human trafficking, exploitation of a minor, or possession or production of child sexual abuse material.

Pending charges

A pending formal charge — even before any conviction — is itself a disqualifier. SJJIF and every Federation shall not allow a person facing such charges to hold a role with athlete contact during the pendency of the criminal matter, regardless of the presumption of innocence in the criminal proceeding. The criminal presumption of innocence is preserved as to liberty; it does not extend to the privilege of coaching.

Discretionary Review

The following are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and may, depending on the facts, render an individual ineligible:

- Convictions for non-sexual violent offenses (assault, domestic violence, weapons offenses).
- Convictions for offenses involving deception, fraud, or breach of trust where the role would involve handling money, scoring, or athlete welfare.
- Drug or alcohol offenses where the role involves transporting, supervising, or chaperoning athletes.
- Restraining orders or protective orders involving any minor or any person who is or was an athlete; convictions for violation of any restraining or protective order.
- A history of disciplinary action by an academy, school, or employer for conduct involving athletes, students, or persons in a relationship of trust.
- Misdemeanor stalking, harassment, blackmail, or threats — particularly where the victim is an athlete, a person under 18, or a person in a position of trust to athletes.
- Convictions for arson, vandalism, criminal mischief, or other destruction-of-property offenses.
- Convictions for animal abuse or neglect.

Repeat-Screening Cadence

Background screening is not a one-time event. The minimum cadence is:

- Initial screen — completed and verified before the individual assumes any role with athlete contact.
- Renewal screen — every two years for all roles with regular access to minors; every three years for adult-only roles.
- Trigger screen — performed immediately whenever SJJIF, a Federation, or an academy receives credible information of a charge, conviction, registry listing, or sanction by another body, regardless of when the last routine screen was conducted.



- Cross-check — at minimum annually, every Federation cross-checks its active roster against the SJJIF Safeguarding Register and against the U.S. Center for SafeSport Centralized Disciplinary Database (and equivalent national registers in other jurisdictions). Matches trigger immediate provisional measures under Section 4.

Self-Disclosure Obligation

Every coach, instructor, official, and Adult Participant has a continuing duty to disclose, in writing and within seven (7) days, any of the following events that occur or come to light after their initial screen: any arrest, charge, indictment, or formal accusation; any conviction or plea; any registry listing; any restraining or protective order; any sanction imposed by another sport governing body; or any termination from a coaching, teaching, or athlete-supervisory role for cause. Failure to disclose is a separate violation of this Policy under Section 6 and may itself ground disqualification.

Confidentiality of Screening Information

Information obtained through background screening is confidential and is shared only with the Safeguarding Officer, the Background Check Committee, and other authorized personnel as required for case handling, audit, or legal compliance. Where an applicant disputes a screening result, the burden is on the applicant to contact the reporting agency to resolve any error; SJJIF and its affiliated Federations are not responsible for errors or omissions reported by external screening providers.

Background Check Appeal Panel

An applicant who is denied membership, accreditation, or a coaching/officiating role on the basis of background screening — and who has resolved any factual error with the reporting agency — may appeal the screening decision (as distinct from any disciplinary outcome under Section 12). The appeal is heard by a Background Check Appeal Panel constituted as follows:

- The Panel comprises at least three (3) volunteer members, none of whom is an employee of SJJIF or of the affiliated Federation handling the screening. Members are appointed by the SJJIF Safeguarding Commission for staggered terms.
- To preserve impartiality, the Panel does not know the identity of the appellant. The screening provider or SJJIF prepares a redacted file using a case number, removing the appellant's name and direct identifiers, and the Panel reviews only the redacted record together with the appellant's written submission. The Panel may request additional information through the SJJIF Safeguarding Commission, which routes the request to the appellant without disclosing the appellant's identity to the Panel.
- The Panel applies the criteria in this Section 13.2. Automatic Disqualifiers are not subject to discretionary appeal — the Panel may correct only where the underlying record is shown to be inapplicable to the appellant (for example, mistaken identity), not where the Panel disagrees with the disqualifying weight assigned by this Policy.



- The Panel's decision is final. There is no further appeal within SJJIF or the Federation. A subsequent material change in circumstances (for example, expungement of a disqualifying record) may be the basis for a new application but is not the basis to reopen the prior appeal.

Information about how to file a Background Check Appeal is provided in writing to every applicant whose screening results in a denial, together with the deadline for filing. There is no fee for a Background Check Appeal.

13.3 Awareness and Communication

SJJIF and every Federation will:

- Publish this Policy on their website in clear, accessible language.
- Distribute age-appropriate information to athletes, parents, and coaches at the start of every season and event.
- Display visible safeguarding posters with reporting contact information at every sanctioned event and at affiliated academies (Appendix F).
- Conduct an annual safeguarding briefing at every Continental and World Championship technical meeting.

13.4 Athlete and Parent Empowerment

SJJIF affirms that every athlete has the right to:

- Train and compete in a safe and respectful environment.
- Say NO to any contact, communication, or instruction that feels wrong, threatening, or sexual.
- Be heard and believed when they raise a concern.
- Be supported throughout any reporting or investigation process.
- Be free from retaliation for speaking up.

Parent and guardian empowerment runs in parallel: parents have the right to observe training, to be informed of any private or one-on-one activity involving their child, to withdraw any consent they have previously given, and to communicate concerns directly through any reporting channel without retaliation.

14. Safeguarding at Events — Mandatory Requirements

Every SJJIF-sanctioned event must build safeguarding into its planning and operations from the outset. The Local Organizing Committee is accountable to SJJIF for compliance with the requirements in this Section, and a failure to meet them is itself a federation-compliance issue under Section 15.



14.1 Pre-Event Requirements

- Designate an Event Safeguarding Officer with the authority, training, and resources to act on safeguarding matters before, during, and after the event.
- Conduct a written safeguarding risk assessment, including identification of high-risk areas (locker rooms, weigh-in zones, lodging, transport routes), and document the mitigations in place.
- Brief all volunteers, judges, referees, coaches, and event staff on this Policy, on the reporting channels, and on the Event Safeguarding Officer's role and contact information.
- Confirm screening and training compliance for all credentialed adult personnel; persons without current screening and training are not credentialed.
- Develop arrangements for participants with additional vulnerabilities — Minor Athletes, athletes with disabilities, para-athletes accompanied by Personal Care Assistants, and athletes traveling internationally without a parent or guardian.

14.2 On-Site Requirements

- Display visible safeguarding posters at the venue, in registration and weigh-in areas, in athlete lounges, and on the event credentials, with the contact information for the Event Safeguarding Officer and SJJIF reporting channels (Appendix F).
- Provide a private, accessible, and clearly identified location at the venue where any participant may speak with the Event Safeguarding Officer.
- Implement controlled-access procedures for warm-up areas, mat-side, and athlete lounges; non-credentialed adults are excluded from minor-athlete spaces.
- Provide separate, monitored changing areas for minors and adults (Section 8.4).
- Ensure that medical, physiotherapy, and recovery services for minors are delivered consistent with Section 8.5 (observable, two-deep, draped, with consent).
- Maintain communication between the Event Safeguarding Officer and the venue's security and medical leads throughout the event.

14.3 Post-Event Requirements

- Submit a written safeguarding report to SJJIF within fourteen (14) days of the event, including: the safeguarding risk assessment, any reports received during the event, any provisional measures imposed, and any incidents referred to law enforcement.
- Retain all event safeguarding records (consent forms, incident reports, screening confirmations) consistent with the retention periods in Section 12, Step 10.
- Where an incident occurred, follow up with the affected participant(s) to confirm any continuing support needs are addressed.



15. Federation Compliance, Data Reporting, and Consequences

Affiliated Federations are not passive recipients of this Policy — they are accountable for its implementation within their jurisdiction. SJJIF tracks compliance through annual reporting, periodic audit, and the consequences set out in this Section.

15.1 Federation Obligations

- Adopt this Policy or a substantially equivalent local policy within twelve (12) months of its effective date and provide SJJIF with the adopting instrument.
- Designate and resource a Federation Safeguarding Officer, and notify SJJIF of any change in that designation within thirty (30) days.
- Maintain accessible reporting channels and publish them on the Federation's website and across its events.
- Implement screening and training in accordance with Section 13.
- Cooperate with SJJIF on cross-jurisdictional matters, including providing requested information promptly and giving effect to mutual-recognition decisions under Section 12, Step 8.
- Refrain from any conduct prohibited under Section 6 — including aiding employment of banned persons, willful tolerance, and interference with investigations.

15.2 Annual Compliance Report

Every affiliated Federation must submit an annual compliance report to SJJIF on or before March 31 of each year, covering the prior calendar year. The report must address each of the items below; SJJIF provides a template form.

- Identification and contact details for the Federation Safeguarding Officer.
- Number of registered Adult Participants and Minor Athletes (broken down by role: athlete, coach, official, staff, volunteer).
- Confirmation that all coaches, instructors, and adults with Regular Contact with Minor Athletes are current on required training (Section 13.1) and screening (Section 13.2), with totals.
- A description of how Minor Athlete training and parent training were offered during the year, with totals reached.
- Any policy updates, structural changes, or governance decisions affecting safeguarding.
- Aggregate safeguarding data, as set out in Section 15.3.



15.3 Annual Aggregate Data Reporting

Each Federation must include in its annual compliance report aggregate, non-identifying data on safeguarding activity in the prior calendar year. This data is used by SJJIF to identify trends, allocate education and support resources, and monitor systemic risk. No personally identifying information about complainants, victims, witnesses, or accused persons is reported in this aggregate data.

Reports of emotional or physical misconduct

- Total reported incidents of alleged emotional misconduct.
- Total reported incidents of alleged physical misconduct.
- Total number of investigations of alleged emotional misconduct opened during the year.
- Total number of investigations of alleged physical misconduct opened during the year.
- Total number of violations of emotional misconduct adjudicated, separated between matters adjudicated at the Federation level and matters adjudicated at the local academy or club level.
- Total number of violations of physical misconduct adjudicated, separated between Federation level and local academy or club level.

Reports of MAAPP (Section 8) violations

- Total reported incidents of alleged violations of the Section 8 Minor Athlete Protection Standards, broken down by policy type (e.g., one-on-one, locker rooms, electronic communications, transportation, lodging, photography, individual training sessions, manual therapy).
- Total number of investigations of alleged Section 8 violations opened during the year.
- Total number of Section 8 violations adjudicated, separated between Federation level and local academy or club level.

Reports of sexual misconduct and child abuse

- Total reported incidents within the categories of sexual misconduct, exposing a minor to sexual content, grooming, and child abuse.
- Total number of these matters referred to law enforcement or to a recognized external safeguarding authority (such as the U.S. Center for SafeSport).
- Total number of these matters in which provisional measures were imposed.
- Total number of permanent ineligibility decisions taken during the year (Track 3).

Where a matter is the subject of an active investigation as of the reporting deadline, it is counted in the appropriate "reported" and "under investigation" categories without disclosure of facts that would identify the parties or compromise the investigation.



15.4 Audit

- SJJIF may conduct, at its discretion, a safeguarding audit of any affiliated Federation.
- The Federation must cooperate, providing all reasonably requested documents, training and screening records, anonymized case files, and reporting-channel data.
- Audit findings, including any required corrective actions and timelines, are provided in writing to the Federation. Repeat or unaddressed findings escalate under Section 15.6.

15.5 Annual Academy and Club Compliance Certification

Compliance with this Policy is verified at every level of the SJJIF ecosystem, not only at the Federation level. Every affiliated academy, club, and training site must annually certify compliance to its national or regional Federation; the Federation in turn includes those certifications in its annual report to SJJIF (Section 15.2). The certification cascade works as follows:

- Each year, on or before a date set by the affiliated Federation (and no later than September 30), the head coach or designated administrator of every affiliated academy must certify in writing to the Federation that, for the academy: (a) all coaches, instructors, and adults with Regular Contact with Minor Athletes are current on required training (Section 13.1) and screening (Section 13.2); (b) the Responsible Adult under Section 10.6 is identified and accountable; (c) one-on-one interactions, locker-room arrangements, electronic communications, transportation, lodging, photography, and manual therapy at the academy comply with Section 8; (d) Section 7 (Appropriate Physical Contact) has been communicated to all instructors and athletes; (e) the visible reporting poster (Appendix F) is displayed; and (f) parent consent forms (Appendix M) are on file where applicable.
- SJJIF provides a standard certification form. The form is signed by the academy's head coach or designated administrator and returned to the Federation Safeguarding Officer.
- A Federation may inspect the underlying records of any academy that submits a certification, and any academy that does not submit a certification by the deadline is treated as non-compliant. Persistent non-compliance triggers escalation under Section 15.6.
- False certification is itself a violation of this Policy under Section 6 and may result in sanctions against the certifying individual, the academy, or both.

15.6 Consequences of Non-Compliance

A Federation that fails to comply with this Policy may, depending on the nature and severity of non-compliance, face one or more of the following consequences:

- Formal written notice and a corrective-action plan with defined milestones.
- Loss of the right to host SJJIF-sanctioned events for a defined period.
- Loss of voting rights at the SJJIF Congress.



- Suspension of recognition by SJJIF.
- Termination of affiliation, with SJJIF reserving the right to recognize a successor body within the same territory.

Decisions under this Section are subject to the right of appeal under the SJJIF Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Regulations.

16. Global Alignment and Cooperation

This Policy is part of a larger international framework for athlete safeguarding. SJJIF aligns its policy and practice with the following sources, and commits to ongoing cooperation with the bodies that maintain them:

- The IOC Consensus Statement on Harassment and Abuse in Sport (2016), and the IOC Framework for Safeguarding Athletes and Other Participants from Harassment and Abuse in Sport.
- The IOC Olympic Movement Medical Code.
- The IOC Safeguarding Toolkit for International Federations and the IOC athlete safeguarding e-learning courses.
- The U.S. Center for SafeSport SafeSport Code, Practices and Procedures, and the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) — to which SJJIF activity in the United States must conform.
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- The International Safeguarding Children in Sport guidelines.
- National safeguarding authorities and child-protection legislation in the jurisdictions where SJJIF activity occurs.

Where any of these sources is amended, SJJIF will review this Policy at the next regular review cycle (Section 17) and incorporate the change as appropriate. Where a national authority introduces a stricter requirement applicable to a Federation in its jurisdiction, the Federation implements the stricter requirement and notifies SJJIF.

17. Implementation and Review

17.1 Effective Date

This Policy is effective on the date adopted by the SJJIF Board of Directors and supersedes all prior SJJIF safeguarding policies. References to prior policy in any other SJJIF document are read as references to this Policy.



17.2 Implementation Period

Affiliated Federations have twelve (12) months from the effective date to bring their local policies, training, and screening programs into alignment with this Policy. The Quick Reference, How to Use, Section 5 (Core Principles), and Section 11 (Reporting) take effect immediately upon adoption — every Federation must publish reporting channels and core principles to its members on the effective date.

17.3 Review Cycle

SJJIF will review this Policy at least every two (2) years, and earlier if any of the following triggers an interim review: a change in the IOC framework or the U.S. Center for SafeSport requirements; significant new national legislation in any jurisdiction with substantial SJJIF activity; a serious incident that exposes a gap in this Policy; or a recommendation from the SJJIF Safeguarding Commission. Reviews are conducted with input from affiliated Federations, athletes, parents, and qualified external safeguarding professionals.

17.4 Amendment

Material amendments to this Policy require approval by the SJJIF Board of Directors. Non-material clarifications, corrections, or formatting changes may be approved by the SJJIF Safeguarding Commission and reported to the Board. Every amendment is published with an effective date and a brief description of the change.

18. Final Statement

Every athlete who steps onto the mat — whether a child taking their first class, a competitor on the world stage, or a lifelong practitioner — has the fundamental right to train, compete, and grow in an environment free from abuse, harassment, and fear. The SJJIF and all affiliated Federations carry the responsibility to protect that right, consistently and without exception, in every academy and at every event.

Safeguarding is not a policy on paper — it is a standard of behavior lived daily. It requires awareness, honesty, and the courage to act when something is not right — even when it is uncomfortable, even when it involves respected individuals, and even when certainty is not complete. Protecting the community is not optional; it is a duty.

Professors, coaches, and team leaders hold a position of trust and influence. With that comes the ongoing responsibility to actively seek knowledge, deepen understanding, and continuously improve their ability to protect their students, their team, and themselves. Knowing what not to do is as important as knowing what to do. Through education and accountability, they safeguard not only individuals, but also the integrity and longevity of their academies and the sport itself.

This Policy provides the structure. The people who lead, teach, and represent Jiu-Jitsu give it meaning give it life.



Sport Jiu-Jitsu International Federation

Athlete Safeguarding Policy & Protection Framework

Version 1.0



Appendix A — Reporting Workflow

This appendix sets out the standard reporting workflow once a report is received by a SJJIF or Federation Safeguarding Officer. Step numbers correspond to Section 12 of the main Policy.

Stage 1 — Intake (within 24 hours)

1. Receive the report through the online form, email, in-person.
2. Acknowledge receipt to the reporter (where the reporter is identified) and provide a brief overview of the process and available support.
3. Document the report on the official SJJIF Reporting Form (Appendix B), preserving the reporter's words wherever possible.
4. Assign a unique case identifier and create a secure case file.
5. Determine immediate-safety needs; if a child is in danger, contact emergency services.

Stage 2 — Initial Assessment (within 72 hours)

6. Determine whether the conduct alleged would, if proven, meet a criminal threshold or trigger mandatory reporting under local law.
7. Confirm that any required reports to law enforcement and child-protection authorities have been made.
8. Determine appropriate jurisdiction (SJJIF, Federation, or external body such as the U.S. Center for SafeSport) and route the matter accordingly.
9. Apply provisional measures under Section 12, Step 4 where the alleged conduct, if proven, would create continuing risk.
10. Notify the relevant Continental Federation, National Federation, and academy as set out in Section 12, Step 3 — in parallel, with documentation of every notification.

Stage 3 — Investigation

11. Convene the Case Management Group (Section 12, Step 4).
12. Plan the investigation: identify witnesses, evidence sources, and external resources required.
13. Conduct trauma-informed interviews of complainant, witnesses, and accused, in that order where practicable.
14. Gather documentary, electronic, and physical evidence.
15. Re-evaluate provisional measures every thirty (30) days; lift, modify, or extend as warranted.
16. Prepare a written investigation report applying the preponderance-of-the-evidence standard (Section 12, Step 5).



Stage 4 — Decision and Communication

17. The Case Management Group deliberates and issues a written decision setting out findings, sanction (if any), reasoning, and appeal rights.
18. Communicate the decision to the complainant, the accused, and the relevant Federation, in language appropriate to each audience and consistent with confidentiality obligations.
19. Update the SJJIF Safeguarding Register in accordance with Section 12, Step 6 listing rules.
20. Where an appeal is filed (Section 12, Step 7), forward the case to the independent appeal body.

Stage 5 — Closure and Follow-Up

21. Confirm any conditions imposed (training, counseling, supervised return) are entered on the compliance schedule.
22. Offer continuing support resources to the complainant; conduct a brief check-in 30, 90, and 180 days after closure.
23. Archive the case file consistent with the retention rules in Section 12, Step 10.
24. Where the case has revealed a systemic gap, document a recommendation for the next Policy review (Section 17.3).

Appendix B — Safeguarding Incident Reporting Form

Important Notes Before You Begin

- You may complete this form anonymously. If you provide contact information, we can follow up; if you do not, we will still investigate to the extent we can.
- You do not need to be certain. "Something didn't feel right" is enough to report.
- You do not need to investigate or confirm anything yourself.
- If a child is in immediate danger, contact local emergency services first (911 in the U.S., 112 in the EU, local equivalent) before completing this form.
- In the U.S., allegations of sexual misconduct may also be reported to the U.S. Center for SafeSport at uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern.

Submit completed form by email to safeguarding@sjjif.com or through the online form on the SJJIF website. The Safeguarding Officer will acknowledge receipt within 24 hours.



Section 1 — Date and Reporter

Date of report:

Your name (optional):

Your role (parent, athlete, coach, official, witness, other):

Best way to reach you (optional — phone or email):

Best times to reach you / time zone:

Section 2 — Person(s) Affected

Name(s) of the person(s) you believe has been harmed:

If a minor, include age and parent/guardian where known.

Their role in Jiu-Jitsu (athlete, coach, official, other):

Federation, academy, or club:



Section 3 — Person(s) of Concern

Name(s) of the person(s) you believe is responsible for the conduct:

Their role (coach, official, athlete, parent, other):

Federation, academy, or club:

Section 4 — What Happened

Describe what happened in your own words.

Include what you saw or heard, what was said, and how the affected person reacted. There is no "right" way to write this.

Date(s) and approximate time(s) of the incident(s):

Location(s) of the incident(s):

Was the incident a single event or a pattern? If a pattern, when did it start?



Section 5 — Witnesses and Evidence

Names and contact information of any witnesses:

Any messages, screenshots, photos, videos, medical reports, or other evidence — describe what you have:

Have you (or anyone) reported this to anyone else? If so, to whom and when?

Section 6 — Safety

Is anyone in immediate danger right now? If yes, describe.

If yes, please contact local emergency services.

Is there a safety concern about the affected person continuing to attend training, events, or any other SJJIF activity?

Section 7 — Law Enforcement

Has this been reported to law enforcement or child-protection authorities? If yes, where and when, and what (if any) case number was provided?



Section 8 — Anything Else We Should Know

Use this space for anything you want the Safeguarding Officer to know that did not fit into the boxes above.

Section 9 — Confidentiality and Acknowledgment

By submitting this report, you acknowledge that the SJJIF Safeguarding Officer will treat the report as confidential and share information only with those who need to know in order to investigate and respond, or as required by applicable law. Reports submitted in good faith are protected from any retaliation under Section 11.5 of this Policy.

Signature (or initials, if anonymous):

Date:



Appendix C — Internal Incident Response Template

This template is for the use of SJJIF and Federation Safeguarding Officers to ensure consistent documentation and response to every report. It is filled in by the Safeguarding Officer and is held confidentially in the case file.

Part 1 — Case Identification

Case identifier (assigned by Safeguarding Officer):

Date and time of intake:

Receiving Safeguarding Officer:

Reporting channel used (online / email / in-person / phone / other):

Part 2 — Triage Decisions

Summary of allegation (one paragraph):



Assessed severity (low / medium / high / critical) and reasons:

Mandatory reporting trigger? (yes / no, with citation to applicable law)

Date and time of any law-enforcement notification:

Date and time of any child-protection authority notification:

Date and time of notification to U.S. Center for SafeSport (if applicable):

Date and time of notification to Continental Federation:

Date and time of notification to National Federation(s):



Date and time of notification to relevant academy / LOC:

Part 3 — Provisional Measures

Provisional measures imposed:

List each measure, the date imposed, the duration, and the basis.

Date provisional measures communicated in writing to the accused:

Schedule of 30-day review:

Public listing on SJJIF Safeguarding Register? (yes/no, with reasoning)

Part 4 — Case Management Group

Members of the Case Management Group (with relevant qualification):



Conflict-of-interest declarations recorded:

Chair of the Case Management Group:

Part 5 — Investigation Plan

Witnesses to be interviewed (priority order):

Documents and electronic records to be obtained:

External investigators or experts (if any):

Anticipated timeline:



Part 6 — Findings

Summary of findings:

Standard of proof applied (preponderance of the evidence):

Sanction imposed (if any):

Date decision communicated to complainant, accused, and Federation:

Part 7 — Closure

Appeal filed? (yes/no, date)

Conditions of any sanction tracked on compliance schedule:

Follow-up dates with complainant (30 / 90 / 180 days):



Lessons learned / recommendations for next Policy review:

Date case file archived:

Appendix D — Safeguarding Officer Training Manual

This Manual is the minimum curriculum that every SJJIF, Federation, or Event Safeguarding Officer must complete before assuming the role. Each module includes objectives, key content, required reading, and an applied exercise.

Module 1 — Foundations of Safeguarding

Objectives

- Understand the moral and legal basis for safeguarding in sport.
- Recognize the heightened risks present in close-contact sports such as Jiu-Jitsu.
- Articulate SJJIF's commitments under this Policy and the principles in Section 5.

Key content

- History of safeguarding in international sport (IOC Consensus Statements 2008/2016).
- Power Imbalance and the coach–athlete relationship.
- The intersection of legitimate technical instruction and misconduct (Section 7).

Required reading

- Sections 1, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of this Policy.
- IOC Consensus Statement on Harassment and Abuse in Sport (2016).

Applied exercise

Identify three coach behaviors common in Jiu-Jitsu instruction that are legitimate, and three that would cross the line into misconduct. Explain the criteria you used.



Module 2 — Recognition of Abuse

Objectives

- Recognize behavioral, physical, and contextual indicators of harassment, abuse, neglect, and grooming.
- Differentiate signs that require concern from normal athlete behavior.

Key content

- Indicators by category — psychological, physical, sexual, neglect, bullying, hazing, cyber, grooming.
- Stages of grooming and how they present in a training environment.
- Special vulnerability of minors, para-athletes, and athletes traveling internationally.

Applied exercise

Review three case studies (provided separately) and identify the indicators present, the level of risk, and the recommended next step.

Module 3 — Receiving a Report

Objectives

- Conduct a respectful, trauma-informed first conversation with a complainant.
- Document a report accurately without leading the complainant.
- Determine immediate-safety needs and mandatory-reporting obligations.

Key content

- The four "do nots": do not investigate, do not promise confidentiality you cannot keep, do not contact the accused, do not delay law-enforcement reporting where required.
- Trauma-informed practice and basic active-listening skills.
- Use of the Reporting Form (Appendix B) and Internal Response Template (Appendix C).

Applied exercise

Role-play exercise: receive a report from a parent who is upset and uncertain. Demonstrate listening, documentation, and safe routing.

Module 4 — Investigation Standards

Objectives

- Understand the structure of a Case Management Group and conflict-of-interest rules.
- Apply the preponderance-of-the-evidence standard correctly.



- Coordinate parallel processes — internal investigation, criminal investigation, external safeguarding body.

Key content

- Section 12 of this Policy in detail.
- The status-based response tracks (under investigation / arrested or charged / convicted).
- The mutual-recognition rule (Step 8) and how to give effect to external decisions.

Applied exercise

Draft a provisional-measures notice to an accused coach following a credible report of grooming. The notice must state the general nature of the allegation, the measure imposed, the basis for the measure, and the right to be heard.

Module 5 — Confidentiality, Records, and Data Protection

Objectives

- Apply Section 12, Step 10 retention and storage rules.
- Recognize the limits of confidentiality and explain them honestly to complainants.
- Coordinate with national data-protection regimes (GDPR, LGPD, CCPA, etc.).

Key content

- Records-management lifecycle: intake → investigation → decision → archive.
- Conflict-of-interest disclosures by Case Management Group members.

Applied exercise

Audit a sample case file (provided separately) for retention compliance and identify any gaps.

Module 6 — Working with Vulnerable Groups

Objectives

- Adapt practice for Minor Athletes, para-athletes, and athletes with disabilities.
- Coordinate effectively with Personal Care Assistants and parents/guardians.
- Recognize cultural, linguistic, and accessibility barriers and plan around them.

Key content

- Age-appropriate communication.
- The Personal Care Assistant exception under Section 8.1, and how to verify it is properly documented.
- The exemptions and accommodations regime under Section 13.1.



Applied exercise

Draft a brief script (no more than 200 words) for an opening conversation with a 12-year-old athlete who has come forward to report a concern.

Appendix E — Code of Conduct Acknowledgment

This Acknowledgment must be signed annually by every coach, instructor, official, board member, employee, contractor, volunteer with Regular Contact, and Personal Care Assistant operating under SJJIF jurisdiction. Athletes and parents are encouraged but not required to sign.

Acknowledgment

I, the undersigned, acknowledge that I have received and read the Sport Jiu-Jitsu International Federation (SJJIF) Athlete Safeguarding Policy & Protection Framework, including the following provisions:

- Section 4 (Definitions of Misconduct and Key Terms).
- Section 5 (Core Safeguarding Principles).
- Section 6 (Prohibited Conduct).
- Section 7 (Appropriate Physical Contact in Jiu-Jitsu).
- Section 8 (Minor Athlete Protection Standards).
- Section 9 (Code of Conduct).
- Section 10 (Roles and Responsibilities), including my obligations as a Mandatory Reporter where applicable.
- Section 11 (Reporting System) and the contact information for the relevant Safeguarding Officer.
- Section 13.2 (Background Checks), including the Self-Disclosure Obligation.

Affirmations

By signing below, I affirm:

- I will conduct myself in accordance with this Policy at all times during in-program contact.
- I will respect the line between legitimate technical instruction and prohibited contact set out in Section 7, and will not use the close-contact nature of Jiu-Jitsu as cover for any conduct that would violate Section 6.
- I will report concerns through the channels in Section 11 without delay, and will comply with my mandatory-reporting obligations under applicable law.
- I will follow the Open and Transparent rule for any electronic communication with a Minor Athlete (Section 8.6).



- I will complete the required safeguarding training and background screening (Section 13) and will renew them on schedule.
- I will self-disclose, in writing and within seven (7) days, any arrest, charge, plea, conviction, registry listing, restraining order, or sanction by another sport governing body (Section 13.2).
- I understand that violation of this Policy may result in disciplinary action including suspension, permanent ineligibility, and referral to law enforcement.

Signatures

Full name (printed):

Role and Federation/academy:

Date:

Signature:

If signing for a minor (Acknowledgment by parent/guardian, optional): name, relationship, signature, date

Appendix F — Event Poster and Awareness Framework

Every SJJIF-sanctioned event must display visible safeguarding posters. The standard layout below specifies the required elements; LOCs may adapt the visual treatment to local language and event branding while retaining all required content. Posters must be visible at registration, weigh-in areas, athlete lounges, mat-side, and at any first-aid or medical station.



Required Poster Content

REPORT A CONCERN — SJJIF SAFEGUARDING

If something feels wrong, tell someone. You will be believed.

ON-SITE — Event Safeguarding Officer

SJJIF — safeguarding@sjjif.com — Online form at sjjif.com

EMERGENCY — Local police / 911 / 112 (or local emergency number)

U.S. Sexual Misconduct — U.S. Center for SafeSport: 720-531-0340

Reporting can be anonymous. You will be protected from retaliation.

Athlete-Facing Poster (Junior Athletes)

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE

You can say NO to anything that doesn't feel right.

You can stop any contact, anytime, even mid-technique.

You can tell a coach, a parent, or the Event Safeguarding Officer.

You will be listened to.

Nothing bad will happen to you for telling.

Where to go: [Location of Event Safeguarding Officer]

Who to ask for: [Name of Event Safeguarding Officer]

Parent-Facing Poster

FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

If you have a concern about your child or any other athlete:

- Listen to your child. Document what they tell you in their own words.
- Report through any of the SJJIF channels — you do not need to investigate first.
- If criminal, contact local law enforcement or child-protection authorities.



You can ask to observe any training session, private lesson, or interaction involving your child.
You can withdraw any consent you have given at any time, without consequence to your child.

SJJIF: safeguarding@sjjif.com

Display Requirements

- Posters must be displayed in the local language and in English.
- Posters must include the name and on-site location of the Event Safeguarding Officer in print large enough to be read from three meters.
- Posters must be in place before any athlete or volunteer arrives at the venue and remain in place for the duration of the event.
- LOCs are responsible for confirming posters are displayed at all required locations and for documenting compliance in the post-event report (Section 14.3).

Appendix G — Adult Participant Categories

This Appendix categorizes Adult Participant roles by whether they have Regular Contact with Minor Athletes and whether they hold Authority over them. The categorization governs which obligations under Sections 13.1 (training) and 13.2 (background checks) apply to each role. Where a person holds more than one role, the most stringent applicable category applies.

How to read this chart

Regular Contact (Section 4.2) — ongoing, direct, active engagement with one or more Minor Athletes during a 12-month period.

Authority (Section 4.2) — the power, based on the totality of the circumstances, to direct, control, give orders to, or make decisions for an athlete.

Any role with EITHER "Regular Contact" OR "Authority" requires the full safeguarding training (Section 13.1) and background-check screening (Section 13.2). Roles with neither still require the brief Volunteer Course before any interaction with Minor Athletes (Section 13.1).



Adult Participant Role	Regular Contact	Authority
SJJIF staff and Commission members	—	✓
SJJIF Board members	—	✓
Federation staff and board members	—	✓
Federation interns (with athlete contact)	✓	—
Local Organizing Committee staff (events)	✓	✓
Referees and event officials	✓	✓
Mat coordinators and table officials	✓	—
Coaches and head instructors	✓	✓
Assistant instructors	✓	✓
Assigned medical and physiotherapy personnel	✓	✓
Emergency-only medical personnel	—	—
Massage and recovery providers	✓	✓
Team managers and chaperones	✓	✓
Personal Care Assistants for Minor Athletes	✓	✓
Adult athletes who train regularly with minors	✓	—
Adult athletes who do not train with minors	—	—
Close-contact volunteers (regular event role)	✓	—
Administrative volunteers (no athlete contact)	—	—

This chart is not exhaustive. Where a role is not listed, the Federation Safeguarding Officer applies the definitions in Section 4.2 to determine the appropriate category. Where any doubt exists, the role is treated as having Regular Contact and Authority (the more protective category) until determined otherwise.

Appendix H — Timeline Summary

This Appendix consolidates the time-bound obligations under this Policy in one place. Where a deadline is shorter under applicable local law, the shorter deadline applies.



Reporting Timeline

Immediately	Where a child is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Where a Mandatory Reporter has reasonable suspicion of child abuse, contact law enforcement or child-protection authorities first, per Section 10.4.
Within 24 hours	Acknowledge receipt of any identified report. Notify the U.S. Center for SafeSport (or equivalent body) of any matter falling within its exclusive jurisdiction.
Within 72 hours	Complete initial assessment. Impose provisional measures where the alleged conduct, if proven, would create continuing risk.
Every 30 days	Review provisional measures and adjust as warranted (Section 12, Step 4).
Within 7 days	Self-disclose any new arrest, charge, plea, registry listing, restraining order, or external sanction (Section 13.2).

Federation Compliance Timeline

On effective date	Publish reporting channels and core principles to all members.
Within 12 months	Adopt this Policy or substantially equivalent local policy and notify SJJIF.
Annually by March 31	Submit annual compliance report and aggregate data (Sections 15.2 and 15.3).
Every 12 months	Offer training to Minor Athletes (subject to parental consent). Offer training to parents/guardians.
Every 12 months	Refresher training for Adult Participants with Regular Contact or Authority (Section 13.1).
Every 4 years	Adult Participants repeat the full SafeSport Trained Core Course or equivalent.
Every 24 months	Background screening for adults with Regular Contact with minors. Every 36 months for adult-only roles.
Annually	Cross-check Federation roster against SJJIF Safeguarding Register and U.S. Center for SafeSport Centralized Disciplinary Database (or equivalent national registers).



Records Retention Timeline

Indefinite	Reports involving alleged abuse of a minor, retained until the minor reaches age 25 plus 25 additional years, whichever is longer. Substantiated misconduct findings on the SJJIF Safeguarding Register.
7 years minimum	Reports made in good faith but not substantiated, retained for at least seven years from the date the case was closed.
5 years minimum	Training and screening records, retained for at least five years after the individual ceases to hold a SJJIF-affiliated role.

Policy Review Timeline

Every 2 years	Regular review of this Policy by SJJIF, with input from Federations, athletes, and external safeguarding professionals (Section 17.3).
Triggered review	Interim review when a change to the IOC framework, a U.S. Center for SafeSport requirement, or significant national legislation; a serious incident; or a Safeguarding Commission recommendation requires it.

Appendix I — Glossary

Selected key terms used throughout this Policy. Full definitions appear in Section 4.

Abuse of Process	Conduct that interferes with, obstructs, or attempts to influence a SJJIF safeguarding process or that of a recognized external authority.
Adult Participant	Any person aged 18 or older acting in a SJJIF-affiliated role, including coaches, officials, staff, volunteers, parents working with athletes other than their own child, and adult athletes.
Aiding and Abetting	Knowingly enabling another person to engage in conduct prohibited by this Policy, including allowing a banned person to coach, train, compete, or hold any role.
Authority	A position in which one person has the power or right to direct, control, give orders to, or make decisions for another.
Case Management Group	A panel convened to evaluate, investigate, and recommend action on safeguarding concerns.
Close-in-Age Exception	An exception to certain Section 8 standards where the Adult Participant has no Authority over the Minor Athlete and is not more than four years older.
Consent	A clear, knowing, voluntary, and active agreement to participate in a specific activity.



Covered Individual	Any person to whom this Policy applies.
Cyber Abuse	Use of any technology to harass, intimidate, threaten, or humiliate another person.
Dual Relationship	A relationship between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete that exists outside the sport program; recognized only with annual written parent/guardian consent and only as to specified Section 8 standards.
Emergency Exception	An exception applicable to Section 8 standards in genuine emergencies, requiring written documentation and notification.
Filing a False Report	Knowingly making a report believed to be false, with malicious intent. Good-faith reports later not substantiated are NOT false reports.
Grooming	A pattern of behavior used by an offender to gain access to and trust of a victim and prepare them for abuse.
In-Program Contact	Any contact or activity related to participation in SJJIF-affiliated Jiu-Jitsu.
Intimate Relationship	A romantic or sexual relationship, or a relationship combining features of one. Absolutely prohibited between an Adult Participant and any Minor Athlete, and prohibited where a Power Imbalance exists.
Mandatory Reporter	An individual required by this Policy or by applicable law to report a safeguarding concern.
Minor Athlete	Any athlete under 18 years of age, or any athlete recognized as a minor under applicable local law, whichever provides greater protection.
No Interference	The prohibition on SJJIF, Federations, and academies attempting to influence the outcome of any internal or external safeguarding investigation.
Observable and Interruptible	An interaction occurring in a setting where it can be seen by another individual and where another individual could enter or interrupt without barrier.
Open and Transparent	Electronic communication where the Adult Participant copies a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian, another adult family member, or another Adult Participant.
Personal Care Assistant (PCA)	An individual who assists an athlete with the activities of daily living and preparation for participation in Jiu-Jitsu.
Power Imbalance	A relationship in which one person holds authority, control, or responsibility for the wellbeing or advancement of another. Presumed in every coach–athlete relationship.



Prohibited Conduct	The consolidated list of conduct prohibited under this Policy, set out in Section 6.
Regular Contact	Ongoing direct and active engagement with one or more Minor Athletes during a 12-month period.
Retaliation	Any adverse action against a person for reporting, supporting a complainant, or participating in an investigation.
Safeguarding Officer	An individual designated to receive, document, and triage safeguarding concerns at SJJIF, at a Federation, or at an event.
Safeguarding Register	The SJJIF record of disciplinary outcomes; a public-facing subset prevents perpetrators from moving between organizations.
Stalking	A course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for safety or experience substantial emotional distress.
Threats	Any expression of intent to physically injure, harm, or endanger another person.
Willful Tolerance	Knowingly allowing prohibited conduct to continue while in a position of power or responsibility.

Appendix J — Resources and Contacts

SJJIF Reporting

- Online: SJJIF website "Athlete Safeguarding" page (anonymous option available).
- Email: safeguarding@sjjif.com.
- In person: any SJJIF or Federation Safeguarding Officer, or the on-site Event Safeguarding Officer.

External Safeguarding Authorities

- U.S. Center for SafeSport — uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern; phone 720-531-0340. Mandatory for sexual misconduct allegations involving SJJIF activity in the United States.
- International Olympic Committee Safeguarding — ioc-safeguarding@olympic.org. Resource for cross-jurisdictional matters and IOC framework guidance.
- Safe Sport International — safesportinternational.com. Independent resource for athlete safeguarding.

Emergency Numbers

- United States: 911 (emergency); 1-800-422-4453 (Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline).



- European Union: 112 (emergency); 116 111 (Child Helpline).
- Brazil: 190 (emergency); 100 (Disque Direitos Humanos / human rights and child protection).
- Other jurisdictions: contact local emergency services.

Educational Resources

- IOC Safeguarding Toolkit — olympics.com/ioc/safeguarding.
- IOC athlete safeguarding e-learning courses — onlinecourse.olympic.org.
- U.S. Center for SafeSport — safesporttrained.org (SafeSport Trained Core Course, refresher courses, parent course, youth courses, Health Professionals Course).
- UNICEF "International Safeguards for Children in Sport" — sportanddev.org.

Legal and Reference Sources

- IOC Consensus Statement on Harassment and Abuse in Sport.
- IOC Olympic Movement Medical Code.
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child & Declaration of Human Rights.
- UNESCO International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport.
- Council of Europe European Sports Charter.

Appendix K — Disciplinary Hearing Procedures

This Appendix establishes the procedural rules that govern any hearing that takes place under Section 12, Step 7 of this Policy — that is, the appeal of a final disciplinary decision issued by the Case Management Group. The same rules apply, with such adaptations as the Hearing Panel directs, where SJJIF or an affiliated Federation initiates a complaint against a Covered Individual that proceeds to a contested hearing rather than to informal resolution. Matters falling within the exclusive jurisdiction of the U.S. Center for SafeSport are not heard under this Appendix; they are heard under the Center's procedures.

Every Covered Individual, by virtue of accepting membership, accreditation, or any role within SJJIF, agrees to be bound by these procedures in lieu of any court of general jurisdiction. The procedures are designed to be fair, prompt, and proportionate — neither a courtroom trial nor a rubber-stamp.

K.1 Jurisdiction of the Hearing Panel

The Hearing Panel hears (a) appeals by a Responding Party of a final decision issued by the Case Management Group under Section 12, Step 6; and (b) original complaints referred to it by the SJJIF Safeguarding Commission where informal resolution has not been reached. The Hearing Panel does NOT hear:



- Field-of-play disputes (technical calls, illegal techniques on the mat, scoring) — these are governed by the SJJIF Rulebook and the relevant tournament-floor procedures, as set out in Section 4.1.
- Anti-doping matters — these are governed by the relevant national or international anti-doping authority.
- Matters within the exclusive jurisdiction of the U.S. Center for SafeSport or another competent safeguarding body — these are governed by that body's procedures, and SJJIF will reciprocally enforce the outcome under Section 12, Step 8.
- Athlete-eligibility questions unrelated to safeguarding (national-team selection, weight class, registration) — except where a sanction under this Policy has the incidental effect of disqualifying the individual.

K.2 Filing the Appeal or Complaint

A Responding Party who wishes to appeal a final decision, or any other party authorized to file a complaint, must submit a written filing that contains all of the following:

- A clear and concise statement of the grounds for the appeal — or, in the case of an original complaint, a statement of the conduct alleged to constitute a violation of this Policy.
- Identification of the specific provisions of this Policy alleged to be misapplied (for an appeal) or violated (for a complaint).
- A list of witnesses with knowledge of the matter, together with current contact information for each (name, phone, email, address) and a brief description of the subject matter of each witness's anticipated testimony.
- Current contact information for the filing party and any legal representative — including an email address suitable for the receipt of formal notices.
- Copies of, or references to, the documentary evidence on which the filing party intends to rely.
- A signed attestation in the following form: "I attest that the foregoing factual allegations are true and complete to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, and I understand that knowingly filing a false complaint is itself a violation of the SJJIF Athlete Safeguarding Policy and may give rise to civil or criminal liability under applicable law."

There is no fee to file an appeal or complaint under this Policy. Filings are submitted to the Director of Safeguarding at the address published with each decision and on the SJJIF website. A filing is deemed received when it satisfies all of the requirements above; an incomplete filing must be cured within seven (7) days of notice from the Hearing Panel Chair, failing which the filing is dismissed without prejudice to refiling.

Time limits. An appeal of a final disciplinary decision must be filed within twenty-one (21) days of the date the decision was issued (or, where the decision concerns an interim or provisional measure, within seven



(7) days — see Appendix L). The Hearing Panel Chair may extend this period only on a showing of good cause.

K.3 Service and Response

Service of the filing on opposing parties is effected by the Hearing Panel Chair or by the Director of Safeguarding, by email or registered mail, to the contact information on the recipient's SJJIF or Federation membership profile. Each party is responsible for keeping that contact information current; service to the registered address is good service even if the recipient has moved without updating the record.

- A respondent to a filing has fourteen (14) days from the date of service to file a written response, unless the Chair shortens the period for cause (e.g., where an interim measure is in place and an expedited timetable is necessary).
- The response must address the grounds raised in the filing, identify any witnesses to be called by the responding side, and include a signed attestation in the same form as the filing party's.
- Failure to respond within the time set does not result in default judgment but does forfeit the responding side's right to call witnesses or to introduce documentary evidence not provided to the Hearing Panel.

K.4 Composition of the Hearing Panel

The Hearing Panel is appointed by the Chair of the SJJIF Safeguarding Commission and consists of at least three (3) members:

- At least one (1) member is an athlete representative — a current or recent athlete in good standing who has not, within the previous five years, held a coaching, federation-leadership, or other authority role in SJJIF or any affiliated Federation. Where the matter concerns a Minor Athlete, the athlete representative is selected from among adult athletes who can speak knowledgeably to the protective concerns at stake.
- At least one (1) member has substantive safeguarding experience — Safeguarding Officer training (Appendix D), professional experience in child protection, or comparable qualification.
- The remaining member or members may be drawn from the Safeguarding Commission, from outside SJJIF (independent volunteers), or from federations other than the one most directly involved in the matter.

Every Hearing Panel member must be reasonably impartial and must declare in writing the absence of any actual or apparent conflict of interest with respect to the parties, the subject matter, or the relevant Federation. Conflicts include — without limitation — being named in the underlying complaint, being a witness to the alleged conduct, being a close relative or training partner of any party, being employed by or having an ongoing financial relationship with any party's academy, or having a publicly stated position on the underlying matter that would prevent impartial review. A member with any conflict must recuse and is replaced by an alternate appointed by the Safeguarding Commission Chair.



The Hearing Panel Chair is selected by the panel members from among themselves at the first preliminary conference, or in advance by the Safeguarding Commission Chair.

K.5 Preliminary Conference

Within fourteen (14) days of the Hearing Panel's appointment, the Chair convenes a preliminary conference (in person, by telephone, or by video) at which the Panel:

- Sets the date and format of the hearing.
- Sets deadlines for the exchange of documentary evidence and witness lists between the parties.
- Sets a deadline (and word limit) for the optional submission of pre-hearing briefs.
- Addresses any preliminary motions, including motions to exclude evidence, motions to consolidate related matters, or motions for protective orders concerning the identity of a Minor Athlete or other vulnerable witness.
- Confirms whether any party intends to be advised by legal counsel, and reminds the parties that counsel may advise (but not speak for or cross-examine on behalf of) the represented party at the hearing.

The Panel may impose reasonable procedural sanctions on a party that fails to comply with deadlines or directives — for example, exclusion of late-disclosed witnesses or evidence, or shifting of cost where bad-faith conduct is established.

K.6 Right to Counsel and Support Person

Any party to a hearing under this Appendix may be accompanied and advised by legal counsel, at the party's own expense, and — separately — by a support person, who may be a parent, family member, advocate, or other trusted individual. Counsel and support persons:

- May be present throughout the hearing (subject to the Panel's discretion to exclude witnesses who have not yet testified).
- May confer privately with their client/party at any time.
- May NOT speak on the party's behalf, examine or cross-examine witnesses, or address the Panel directly. The party speaks for themselves.
- Must adhere to the same confidentiality expectations as the party (see K.10 below).

Where the Responding Party is a Minor, a parent or legal guardian must be present in addition to any counsel or support person, unless the Hearing Panel determines that an alternative arrangement (e.g., a child advocate) better protects the minor's interests.



K.7 Conduct of the Hearing

Hearings are conducted fairly and orderly, but without the formalities of judicial proceedings. The order of presentation is as follows, with the Hearing Panel Chair authorized to set reasonable time limits for each phase:

25. The Chair opens the hearing, confirms appearances, and addresses any preliminary matters arising since the preliminary conference.
26. Each party makes a brief opening statement. Where the matter is an appeal of a final decision, the Responding Party (the appellant) goes first; the SJJIF designee responds. Where the matter is an original complaint, the SJJIF designee (or the Complainant, where applicable) goes first; the Responding Party responds.
27. The party with the burden presents its witnesses. Each witness is sworn (or affirms) substantially as follows: "I do hereby swear or affirm under penalties of perjury that the testimony I give shall be true and complete." In place of formal examination-in-chief, a witness may make a statement and then take questions. The opposing party may cross-examine each witness, subject to the Chair's authority to limit cross-examination to avoid harassment, intimidation, irrelevance, or repetition. The Chair may not, however, completely bar cross-examination. Re-direct examination is permitted.
28. The other side then presents its witnesses in the same manner.
29. Where the Complainant is a Minor Athlete or another particularly vulnerable witness, the Hearing Panel Chair may permit the lead investigator's report (or video-recorded forensic interview) to substitute, in whole or in part, for live testimony, and may take other measures consistent with trauma-informed practice — for example, a screen between the witness and the Responding Party, a remote video link, or a limited witness room.
30. Each side delivers a closing argument. Time limits are set by the Chair; the order is the same as opening.
31. Hearing Panel members may question any witness presented by the parties. The Chair directs the order of questioning and any follow-up questions by the parties.

Hearings may be conducted in person, by telephone, or by video conference. The Chair may direct that the hearing — in whole or in part — be conducted on the papers, on documentary evidence and oral argument only, except that the Panel will not consider any written submission that the opposing party has not had an opportunity to respond to.

K.8 Evidence and the Burden of Proof

Formal judicial rules of evidence do not apply. The Hearing Panel may consider any information that, in its reasonable judgment, would be useful in deciding the matter, except that:



- All lawful claims of legal privilege are respected — including attorney-client privilege, doctor-patient privilege, the privileges available to clergy, and any analogous privileges available under the law applicable to the parties.
- Evidence obtained by surreptitious recording in violation of applicable law, or in breach of a confidentiality order issued by any tribunal, is excluded.
- Evidence concerning the prior sexual history of a Complainant is excluded except where the Hearing Panel determines, in writing, that the evidence is directly relevant and that its probative value clearly outweighs the harm of admitting it.
- Hearsay is admissible but is given the weight it deserves having regard to the inability of the opposing party to cross-examine the original source.

Burden and standard of proof. SJJIF (or the party initiating the matter) bears the burden of proof, which is the preponderance of the evidence — that is, whether it is more likely than not that the alleged conduct occurred. This is the same standard applied by the U.S. Center for SafeSport, by Title IX administrative proceedings in the United States, and by most international sport disciplinary bodies. It is intentionally lower than the criminal "beyond reasonable doubt" standard. A criminal acquittal — or a decision not to prosecute — is not a finding that the conduct did not occur, and does not preclude a finding under this Policy.

K.9 Decision and Sanctions

Within twenty-one (21) days of the close of the hearing, the Hearing Panel issues a written decision that:

- Identifies the parties, the dates of any hearing, and the procedural history.
- Sets out the facts found, by reference to the evidence on which each finding is based.
- Identifies the specific provisions of this Policy that were violated (or, on appeal, that were misapplied).
- States the sanction imposed (or, on appeal, the modification or affirmance of the underlying sanction), with reasons.
- Sets out the further appellate pathway under K.11 below.

Available sanctions are those described in Section 12, Step 6 (Outcome and Discipline) — ranging from formal written warning, through mandatory education, suspension, permanent ineligibility, and public listing on the Safeguarding Register, to referral to law enforcement. The Hearing Panel applies the same proportionality factors as the Case Management Group: seriousness of the conduct, age and vulnerability of any victim, pattern or history of similar conduct, cooperation, and impact. In addition to the sanctions in Section 12, Step 6, the Hearing Panel may, where it finds that a party (or counsel) has acted in bad faith, order recovery of actual costs (excluding attorney fees) from the offending party.



K.10 Confidentiality of Proceedings

Hearings under this Appendix are closed and confidential. Only the Panel, the parties, their counsel and support persons, the witnesses (during their own testimony), and any neutral observer specifically approved by the Panel may attend. The Chair may direct, in the interests of justice or athlete welfare, that all or part of the record of the hearing — and the deliberations of the Panel — be kept confidential by the participants.

The decision itself is shared with the parties, with the SJJIF Safeguarding Commission, and (in the case of a sanctioned individual) with the affiliated Federation responsible for enforcement. Public publication is governed by Section 12, Step 6 (the Safeguarding Register Public Listing Rules); the underlying decision and its reasons are not made public except to the extent necessary to support the public listing.

Breach of this confidentiality obligation by a party, counsel, support person, or witness is itself an Abuse of Process under Section 6 and may be sanctioned under this Policy.

K.11 Further Appeal

A decision of the Hearing Panel under this Appendix is final within SJJIF, except that:

- Where the sanctioned individual is a member of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee or a member of an organization within its movement, the sanction may be appealed externally only as provided by the USOPC bylaws and SafeSport Code, and only where the sanction denies or threatens to deny the individual the opportunity to participate in a competition protected under those instruments.
- Where the sanctioned individual is subject to the jurisdiction of another competent international or national body whose rules provide for further review, that body's procedures govern.
- Nothing in these procedures prevents a party from seeking judicial review where applicable national law provides for such review of the decisions of a private association — but every party, by membership, agrees to exhaust the procedures of this Appendix before resorting to any external forum.

Time to file any external appeal is governed by the rules of the receiving body. SJJIF will, on request, provide a copy of the Hearing Panel's decision and the underlying record (subject to the confidentiality protections in K.10) to the receiving body.

Appendix L — Interim and Provisional Measures Hearing

This Appendix sets out the abbreviated procedure that applies where SJJIF or an affiliated Federation has imposed an interim or provisional measure on a Covered Individual under Section 12, Step 4 — for example, an interim suspension, an order limiting access to athletes, or a no-contact directive — and the Covered Individual seeks to challenge that measure pending the outcome of the underlying investigation.



This is not a hearing on the merits of the underlying allegation; it is a hearing on whether the protective measure is justified, given the information presently available.

L.1 When This Appendix Applies

This Appendix applies where a Covered Individual subject to a provisional measure under Section 12, Step 4 timely files a written request for review. The full hearing on the merits, if any, is held under Appendix K and is expedited where an interim measure is in place.

L.2 Notice and Time to Request Review

When SJJIF or an affiliated Federation imposes an interim or provisional measure, the affected Covered Individual is notified in writing — by email and, where reasonably possible, by a second method — at the contact information on the SJJIF or Federation membership profile. The notice:

- Identifies the measure imposed and its effective date.
- States the general nature of the allegation that has prompted the measure, subject to the protection of any Complainant's identity and the integrity of the underlying investigation.
- Identifies the SJJIF Director of Safeguarding (or the equivalent Federation officer) as the recipient of any request for review.
- States that any request for review must be filed in writing within seven (7) days of the date of the notice. The seven-day period runs from the date the notice is sent to the registered contact information; the Covered Individual is responsible for keeping that information current.

Where the Covered Individual is the subject of an active criminal investigation or pending criminal proceeding arising from the same conduct, and either declines to participate in the SJJIF review or is unable to do so without prejudicing their criminal defense, the seven-day period is stayed until seventy-two (72) hours after the conclusion of the criminal proceeding. The interim measure remains in force during the stay.

L.3 The Hearing Officer

Review under this Appendix is conducted by a single Hearing Officer appointed by the Chair of the SJJIF Safeguarding Commission. The Hearing Officer must:

- Be reasonably impartial and free of any actual or apparent conflict of interest with respect to the parties, the subject matter, or the relevant Federation.
- Have completed Safeguarding Officer training (Appendix D) or hold an equivalent professional qualification (e.g., a legal qualification combined with sport-disciplinary experience).
- Not be the same person as any member of the Hearing Panel that will, in due course, hear the matter on the merits under Appendix K.



L.4 Conduct of the Review

Reviews under this Appendix are designed to be prompt and proportionate. The following rules apply:

- The review is conducted by telephone, video conference, or — where requested by the Covered Individual and feasible — in person.
- The Hearing Officer asks the questions; there is no examination or cross-examination by the parties.
- Parties may submit written materials in advance of the review, including statements, supporting evidence, and submissions of counsel.
- The review is not a full trial of the underlying allegation. Except in exceptional circumstances, the review takes no longer than two (2) hours.
- The Hearing Officer may, but is not required to, take live testimony from the Complainant, the investigator, or other witnesses. Where the Complainant is a Minor Athlete or a vulnerable adult, live testimony is presumptively NOT taken; the investigator's report substitutes.

L.5 Standard of Review

There is a rebuttable presumption that the allegation, as presented, is true for the limited purpose of this review. The Covered Individual bears the practical burden of presenting any evidence to rebut that presumption. To confirm or modify the interim measure, the Hearing Officer must find, on the information presented, that any one of the following applies:

- (a) The interim measure is reasonably appropriate, given the allegations and the surrounding facts and circumstances as they appear to the Hearing Officer at this stage.
- (b) The interim measure is reasonably necessary to protect the safety or wellbeing of the Complainant, of one or more athletes, or of any other Covered Individual.
- (c) The allegations against the Covered Individual are sufficiently serious that the Covered Individual's continued participation would, pending resolution, be inconsistent with the values and purposes of SJJIF and this Policy.

The standard of review under this Appendix is intentionally lower than the preponderance-of-evidence standard that applies on the merits under Appendix K. This reflects the protective and provisional character of the measure: a Covered Individual whose interim measure is confirmed under this Appendix has not been found to have committed any violation; only that the measure is presently warranted.

L.6 Decision

The Hearing Officer may approve, reject, or modify the interim measure. The decision is announced orally at the close of the review and confirmed in writing within twenty-four (24) hours, or — where the Hearing Officer requires further consideration — issued in writing within seventy-two (72) hours of the close of the review, with reasons. The decision sets out, briefly:



- The measure under review.
- The information considered.
- Which, if any, of the standards in L.5 is satisfied.
- The disposition (confirm, modify, lift).
- Any conditions on the operation of the measure (e.g., that the Covered Individual may train at a non-SJJIF facility but may not have any contact with SJJIF athletes).

L.7 No Further Review of the Interim Measure

The Hearing Officer's decision on the interim measure is final and is not subject to further appeal within SJJIF — neither by the Covered Individual nor by SJJIF. A decision lifting an interim measure does not, however, preclude SJJIF from seeking a new interim measure on the same matter if material new information comes to light. A decision confirming an interim measure is not given any weight in the eventual hearing on the merits under Appendix K. Findings made for the purposes of this Appendix are without prejudice to the merits.

L.8 Effect on the Hearing on the Merits

Where an interim measure has been imposed and confirmed, the underlying matter is fast-tracked through Section 12 to the maximum extent feasible. The Case Management Group prioritizes investigative steps so that the matter can be resolved promptly. Where the matter proceeds to a hearing under Appendix K, the Hearing Panel Chair sets an expedited timetable, consistent with the parties' rights under K.5.

Appendix M — Parent and Guardian Consent Form

This Appendix provides the standardized consent form used across SJJIF, its affiliated Federations, and SJJIF-sanctioned events to document parental or guardian consent for the specific Section 8 (MAAPP) interactions that require it. The form is designed to be filled in once per twelve-month period for any Minor Athlete who will participate in any of the listed activities; consent for any individual activity may be withdrawn in writing at any time without giving reasons.

Affiliated Federations may translate this form into local languages and adapt the layout for ease of use, but the substance of each consent — and the requirement of a signed sworn statement — must be preserved. Completed forms are retained by the activity organizer (academy, coach, Federation, or LOC) for not less than three (3) years from the date of last activity, and are produced on request to the SJJIF Safeguarding Commission, to a Federation Safeguarding Officer, or to a competent investigative authority.



M.1 Information about the Minor Athlete and the Parent or Guardian

This Form is completed by the parent or legal guardian of the following Minor Athlete:

Minor Athlete — Full Name:

Minor Athlete — Date of Birth:

Minor Athlete — SJJIF/Federation Membership Number (if any):

Minor Athlete — Academy or Club:

Completed by:

Parent/Legal Guardian — Full Name:

Relationship to Minor Athlete:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

M.2 Consent — One-on-One Coaching, Instruction, or Mentorship

By initialing the box below, the Parent/Legal Guardian consents to the Minor Athlete participating in one-on-one In-Program Contact (training, instruction, or mentorship) with the Adult Participant or Adult Participants identified below. Such contact must remain Observable and Interruptible (Section 4.2 definitions) and must comply with Section 7 (Appropriate Physical Contact in Jiu-Jitsu) and Section 8 (MAAPP) at all times.

- Adult Participant(s) covered by this consent:

Name(s):

- Limitations or specific restrictions on this consent (if any):

Limitations:

Initial here to consent: _____



M.3 Consent — Travel and Transportation

By initialing the box below, the Parent/Legal Guardian consents to the Minor Athlete being transported in a private or shared vehicle by the Adult Participant(s) identified below, in connection with SJJIF-related training, competition, or events, where one-on-one transportation may occur.

- Adult Participant(s) and/or activity covered:

Name(s) and/or activity:

- Date or date range:

Dates:

Initial here to consent: _____

M.4 Consent — Lodging, Camps, and Overnight Travel

By initialing the box below, the Parent/Legal Guardian consents to the Minor Athlete attending an overnight camp, training, competition, or other activity at which the Minor Athlete will be lodged outside the family home. The Parent/Legal Guardian acknowledges that the Minor Athlete may share a sleeping room with one or more other athletes, with no more than three (3) years of age difference between roommates, and that no Adult Participant will share a sleeping room with the Minor Athlete except where a Section 8.1 exception applies and a separate consent under M.7 has been signed.

- Activity:

Activity name:

- Dates and location:

Dates and location:

Initial here to consent: _____

M.5 Consent — Individual Training Sessions and Private Lessons

By initialing the box below, the Parent/Legal Guardian consents to the Minor Athlete receiving individual training sessions or private lessons with the named Adult Participant(s), in line with Section 8.3 of this Policy. The Parent/Legal Guardian acknowledges the right to be present at any session as an observer; that the session will take place in an Observable and Interruptible setting; and that another Adult Participant in a monitoring role will be aware of the session.

- Adult Participant(s) covered:



Name(s):

Initial here to consent: _____

M.6 Consent — Manual Therapy and Recovery Modalities

By initialing the box below, the Parent/Legal Guardian consents to the Minor Athlete receiving manual therapy, taping, massage, or other therapeutic or recovery modalities (Section 8.5) from licensed providers identified by the Federation, academy, or Local Organizing Committee. The Parent/Legal Guardian acknowledges the right to be present in the room as an observer (except where competition-floor credentialing prevents) and to withdraw consent at any time.

Initial here to consent: _____

M.7 Consent — Dual-Relationship and Personal Care Assistant Exceptions

Complete this section ONLY if a Dual Relationship (Section 8.1) or Personal Care Assistant (Section 8.1) exception applies, and the Adult Participant will accordingly engage in one-on-one In-Program Contact with the Minor Athlete that would otherwise be limited under MAAPP. Each exception requires separately signed written consent and identification of the specific Section 8 standards to which it applies. Forms for these exceptions are available from the Federation Safeguarding Officer.

- Type of exception (Dual Relationship / PCA):

Type:

- Adult Participant covered:

Name and role:

- Section 8 standards covered by this consent:

Standards (e.g., 8.2 One-on-One; 8.7 Transportation; 8.8 Lodging):

Initial here to consent: _____

M.8 Acknowledgments and Sworn Statement

By signing below, the Parent/Legal Guardian acknowledges:

- That they have read the SJJIF Athlete Safeguarding Policy and have access to its full text on the SJJIF or Federation website.



- That they are advised — and the U.S. Center for SafeSport recommends — that they complete child-abuse prevention training before providing the consents above. The Center's free Parent Course is available at safesporttrained.org.
- That they understand any of the consents above may be withdrawn in writing at any time, without giving reasons, and that withdrawal of consent will be honored without retaliation against the Minor Athlete.
- That this Form is valid for twelve (12) months from the date of signing, after which a new Form is required.
- That if any contact information for the Parent/Legal Guardian or for the Minor Athlete changes during the period this Form is in force, they will promptly inform the Federation, academy, or LOC that holds this Form.

I, the undersigned, affirm under penalty of perjury that I am the parent or legal guardian of the Minor Athlete identified above, that I have the legal authority to provide these consents on the Minor Athlete's behalf, and that the consents I have initialed above accurately reflect my decisions.

Printed name of Parent / Legal Guardian _____	Signature of Parent / Legal Guardian _____
Date signed (DD / MM / YYYY) _____	Place of signing (City, State/Province, Country) _____



— END OF POLICY —

*Sport Jiu-Jitsu International Federation
Athlete Safeguarding Policy & Protection Framework — Version 1.0*