



# WAKO British Columbia

A Provincial Affiliate of WAKO Canada

## SAFE SPORT COMMITMENT STATEMENT

WAKO British Columbia's vision is to inspire all persons to embrace the exciting challenge of the activity of kickboxing. The sport is one of the fastest growing pursuits for both recreational participation and competition.

In pursuit of that objective, WAKO BC places the highest priority on ensuring there is a safe, professional, inclusive and respectful environment for all participants. It's WAKO BC's goal and commitment to be a leading safe sport organization amongst combative sport associations in the province. We will ensure that every individual is treated with respect, dignity, and fairness in alignment with our core values, whereby all participants are entitled to feel and know they are safe, and in a zero-tolerance environment that is free from all forms of misconduct, which also includes maltreatment.

## SAFE SPORT PROGRAM

Our Safe Sport Program has been established to ensure that we are providing the safest possible environment for all participants involved in kickboxing as recreational participants or competitors. This Safe Sport Program promotes awareness, fairness, equity, transparency, prevention and the appropriate timely response and resolution of reported violations to the Safe Sport Program, and policies and procedures thereunder.

Critical to creating and maintaining a safe environment includes the establishment of preventative measures and having accessible reporting and resolution mechanisms in place to provide fair and equitable treatment of all components our Safe Sport Program. This includes the fair and impartial management of complaints of misconduct, incidents of injury, and general disputes.

The purpose of this document is to clearly communicate the key principles of our Safe Sport Program and commitment to everyone's safety. The safe sport rules, policies, procedures, and guidelines listed here apply to all WAKO BC clubs, coaches, athletes, officials and recreational members. All WAKO BC clubs, coaches, athletes, officials and recreational members as a condition of membership must agree to and must comply with our Safe Sport policies.

WAKO BC has appointed a member of the Board of Directors to be the Safe Sport point of contact. Their role is developing an education program with the support of the WAKO BC Board. The individual will also be the contact person for all complaints from members of the association.

WAKO BC is aligned with and accepts all language contained in the British Columbia Universal Code of Conduct (BC UCC). A copy of the code can be found at the following link:

<https://viasport.ca/resources/bc-universal-code-of-conduct/>



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## SAFE SPORT REQUIREMENTS

1. To be in compliance with our Safe Sport Program the following individuals must have reviewed, signed and submitted the Code of Conduct agreement –  
  
Board Members – Athletes – Coaches – Officials – Parents/Guardians – Participants
2. Vulnerability Sector Police Screens are in place for all members with leadership responsibilities including coaches, club owners, officials and parent/guardians in PSO roles.
3. A province wide education system is established by WAKO BC for all clubs about safe environment policies and practices.
4. Ensure that child sexual abuse awareness information including signs to look for, grooming behaviors, power imbalance situations, isolation tactics, and a lack of oversight involving children and adults.
5. Ensure that all injuries, incidents, accidents, bullying, complaints are documented using the Safe Sport Reporting protocol.

## REPORTING

Items to report include acts, conduct and/or behaviors that result in or have the potential to result in physical or psychological harm, which for the purposes of WAKO BC Safe Sport Policy include: maltreatment (behaviors, acts and/or conduct of abuse including physical, psychological, and sexual; neglect; grooming; and interference or manipulation with the processes related to the implementation of our Safe Sport Program, including retaliation, aiding and abetting, failure to report maltreatment of a minor, failure to report inappropriate conduct, and intentionally filing a false allegation) abuse of authority, bullying, harassment, and discrimination, all as defined within our Safe Sport Policy.

Any individual can report by using the reporting form and emailing them directly to the SAFE SPORT reporting officer. The Board of WAKO BC has made a commitment to ensure that all cases will be dealt immediately.

All reporting documents are confidential and will only be reviewed by the WAKO BC Safe Sport reporting officer. Any investigation will follow the WAKO BC discipline policy. The appropriate authorities will be communicated if required by the nature of the reporting.

To report any incident please use the SAFE SPORT REPORTING document on our website and email the completed form to the 2024/2025 WAKO BC Safe Sport Officer - Nicole Sawin - [nicole@connectionmartialarts.ca](mailto:nicole@connectionmartialarts.ca).