

**GUIDELINES FROM THE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT UNIT FOR THOSE
WISHING TO COACH/TEACH MARTIAL ARTS (September 2007)
In association with Telford & Wrekin Martial Arts Advisory Group (WMAG)
and the Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board (SCB)**

These guidelines refer to minimum requirements to use/hire any Telford & Wrekin facility and associated bookings of venues. Schools are at their own discretion to contract and employ whom they see fit. However, they will only use WMAG Card Holders. Minimum requirement criteria must accompany any application form. For the record the position is as follows:

□ **ANYONE** wishing to book a sports hall/community centre/school etc for a martial arts club, individual instruction or a competition activity of any sort should have a **WMAG card**. That is without question, and is **Council Policy**, each card holder has a credit card size ID card which should be insisted upon at the point of booking, so that it may be viewed. For the avoidance of doubt this Policy follows **Sport England guidelines** and if their policy changes then this is flexible to change also. Some people who practice martial arts may disagree with this but that is our current stance

□ **ALL CURRENT WMAG CARD HOLDERS ARE NAMED AND LISTED AT ALL LEISURE/COMMUNITY CENTRE RECEPTIONS AND WITHIN THE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT UNIT THIS IS REGULARLY UPDATED.**

□ At the present time we **do not allow KickBoxing** in our facilities. The reason for this is that until Sport England recognise KickBoxing as a sport, then we will not allow its operation. This may change as discussions have been taking place for some years, but safety is our prime concern and if new guidance is given by Sport England then we will accommodate any change.

□ **WMAG cardholders must be present** to instruct their class, as in most cases they are the insurance holder. If they are unlikely to be present due to illness/holiday, then a substitute cardholder must be present who has been given a WMAG card. Instructors are clear on this point, as it avoids people booking up premises and the potential of leaving unsuitable individuals alone with children

□ If a group/individual wish to run a tournament, current advice is that it should meet the Governing Bodies own criteria, Telford & Wrekin hiring policy as well as any facility risk assessments. The very nature of Martial Arts means that injury is possible, and **Governing Body approved events have strict criteria** and high safety standards, such as Doctors being present. Cardholders should be aware of this.

- These guidelines are to help individuals and avoid any confusion. From 2008 there will be changes to the minimum criteria through the Vetting and Barring Scheme due to be introduced in October 2008. At that point policy and criteria will change. Please apply to Joe Bates in the Sports Development Unit (382331) for the criteria and form.