



Inner Circle Academy Child Safety Policy

Policy for interactions between unrelated adults associated with the club, and students

A Living Commitment to Protecting Our Students

1. Our Philosophy

Child safety is woven into every technique, drill, and interaction in our dojo. Because we train in close-contact jujutsu (locks, throws, grappling), we double down on consent, transparency, and boundaries—never assuming trust is earned by rank alone.

Key Alignment:

- Queensland's *Child Safety Standards*
- Our *Dojo Code*: Respect is non-negotiable.
- Our *Away Code*: Impeccable behaviour is non-negotiable.
- Our *Club Code*: Operating Rules, Etiquettes & Policies.
- Our *Training Methodology*: Safety and agency are part of the art.

2. Training methodologies require physical contact.

Because of the type of close quarter and immediate quarter martial art we practice physical contact is unavoidable.

Physical contact between students and instructors to students are mandated by the technique or learning methodologies.

Where the contact may be otherwise interpreted as a boundary violation it must be subject to permission by the student in every instance.

Physical Contact: Explicit Permission, Every Time

a. Instructor-Student Contact

- **No surprises:** Before adjusting stances, puppeting, or shadowing, instructors verbally ask permission (e.g., "*Can I guide your arms for this lock?*").
- **No pressure:** Students may refuse a technique without explanation (even if they consented previously). However, this must be done with respect and proper etiquette.
- **Alternatives:** If a student declines the physical contact, instructors demo on another student, use shadowing or use verbal cues.

b. Student-Student Contact

- **Drill-specific rules:** Partner drills mandate contact (e.g., locks, holds, groundwork), but:
 - Students may discuss with the instructor the use of alternative partners for specific techniques, however may not refuse an assigned partner simply for non-technique related reasons or personal preference reasons.
 - Students are encouraged to work with people of different sizes shapes and genders as this replicates closer to real world situations
 - Instructors monitor for discomfort (e.g., freezing, nervous laughter, flinching) those techniques with higher vulnerability factors.

c. Cultural/Familial Norms

- We work in a high physical contact setting. A trust is built up between instructor and students and student to student. This bond can accelerate learning and benefit the learner.
- Normal social physical contact including, familial norm, and culturally acceptable actions are permitted so long as they do not transgress into socially unacceptable boundary violations. All none-technique related contact should be:
 - Age-appropriate
 - Initiated by the child.
 - Transparent (done in open spaces).

3. Simple rules

- **Two-deep rule:** Never leave one adult alone with a child (e.g., post-class chats happen in view).
 - **Line of sight rule:** All junior students must be in line of sight to the parent / guardian at all times, (e.g. not allowed behind curtains)
 - **The Dojo Code:** The dojo code is a simple set of rules based on Japanese Dojo Etiquette that if adhered to will remove any issues of misbehavior.
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4. Supervised Roles: The Blue Belt Gateway

- **No on-mat unsupervised junior interaction** until a Blue Card is verified. All sessions are supervised by a Black Belt qualified instructor
 - **Black Stripe / Black Belt Training:** Child safety modules must be completed before assistant teaching.
 - **Adult, Instructor, Assistant Instructor Behaviour:** As role models, all adults associated with the club are held to a higher standard than socially normal. Behaviour is expected to be impeccable, especially in any out-of-dojō contact
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5. Digital Boundaries:

- **Zero direct messaging** with minors (all communication goes through parents).
 - **Social media:** No private chats or "friending" students under 18. Club accounts only.
 - **Exceptions:** If a minor messages an instructor, or request direct contact:
 - The parent/guardian must give express consent
 - The Parent Guardian must supervise the content of the contact (e.g., Show or CC the parent)
 - The content must be strictly logistical (e.g., "*Class is at 5pm—see your mum for details.*").
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5. Recognizing & Reporting Risks

a. Observable Signs (What We Can See)

- **Physical:** Frequent injuries, poor hygiene, flinching.

- **Behavioural:** Sudden withdrawal, aggression, or clinginess.
- **Verbal:** Indirect pleas ("*I hate going home*").

b. Response Protocol

1. **Document:** Record observations factually (no guesses).
 2. **Consult:** Senior instructors review patterns (3+ flags = action).
 3. **Report:** Escalate to Queensland Child Safety (*without* confronting families).
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6. Outside the Dojo: The Away Code

- **Club trips/tournaments:** Parents/guardians must attend or designate a proxy.
 - **No private rides:** Transport requires two adults or parent approval. All non related transport instances are subject to the "Ride Protocol"
 - Ride protocol – call or send a message to a parent/guardian upon leaving with estimated time of arrival.
 - **Social events:** No alcohol when minors are present.
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7. Continuous Improvement

- **Annual reviews:** Update policies with student/parent feedback.
- **Open-door policy:** Parents may audit classes or raise concerns anonymously.

Final Note

This policy isn't about distrust—it's about creating a space where kids can train hard without fear. By normalizing consent and vigilance, we honour the spirit of jujutsu: protection first.

Appendices:

- Queensland Blue Card link.
- Internal reporting form template.
- Emergency contacts (Child Safety Hotline, etc.).