KENNY KIM JIU-JITSU ACADEMY

MINOR ATHLETE PROTECTION POLICY

A practical youth-safety framework for jiu-jitsu academies, coaches, parents, and guardians

CORE PRINCIPLE	Trust is important. Boundaries are essential. Adult-minor interactions should be **observable, interruptible, professional, and transparent.**

1. One-on-One Contact

Avoid isolated one-on-one contact between an adult coach/staff member and a minor. Individual lessons, meetings, and conversations should occur where another adult can see, hear, enter, or interrupt. Parents/guardians should be welcome to observe individual training. Closed-door or secluded meetings with minors are not appropriate except for a genuine emergency.

2. Electronic Communication

Texts, emails, team-app messages, video calls, and social-media DMs with minors should be open and transparent. Include a parent/guardian or another authorized adult whenever a coach communicates directly with a minor. Communication should remain professional and sport-related. Do not use disappearing or secret-message features.

3. Transportation

Parents/guardians should arrange transportation whenever practical. Coaches should not routinely transport an unrelated minor alone. Team travel should include another authorized adult or an appropriate group arrangement. Any exceptional one-on-one transportation should require advance parent/guardian knowledge and written consent, with itinerary and contact information shared.

4. Tournaments, Camps & Overnight Travel

Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to attend tournaments and travel with their children. A coach should not share a hotel room, bed, or private sleeping space with an unrelated minor. Minors should lodge with a parent/guardian or in an approved, appropriately supervised arrangement. Travel meetings should occur in common/public areas, not privately in a coach's hotel room. Room checks should involve two adults.

5. Changing Areas, Bathrooms & Recovery

Respect privacy in locker rooms, bathrooms, showers, and changing areas. Adults should avoid being alone with a minor in these spaces. Hands-on treatment, massage, recovery work, or medical-type interaction should involve appropriate consent and another adult present while preserving the athlete's privacy and dignity.

6. Physical & Emotional Boundaries

Coaching contact must have a legitimate instructional, safety, or sport purpose and remain appropriate to the athlete's age and circumstances. Sexualized comments, flirting, hazing, grooming behavior, requests for secrecy, inappropriate gifts, favoritism used to create dependency, or retaliation for setting boundaries are unacceptable.

7. Parents & Guardians

Stay involved. Know who communicates with your child, how they travel, where they sleep, and who supervises them. Ask questions and listen when your child says an interaction felt uncomfortable. A respected belt, title, reputation, friendship, or years of trust should never replace reasonable safeguards.

8. Reporting & Response

Any immediate danger or suspected child abuse should be reported promptly to the appropriate authorities as required by law. Academy leadership should have a clear internal reporting channel, document concerns, prohibit retaliation, and avoid amateur investigations that could interfere with authorities. When unsure about legal reporting duties, obtain qualified local guidance.

THE STANDARD: Good coaches do not resist appropriate boundaries - they help create them. The goal is not to eliminate trust. It is to build a system where a child's safety never depends on trust alone.

Implementation: Adapt this framework to governing-body rules, insurance requirements, and state/local law; train staff; communicate it to families; and review it regularly. Educational template - not legal advice.

Reference framework: U.S. Center for SafeSport Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP), including guidance on observable/interruptible interactions, electronic communications, transportation, lodging, changing areas, and training/treatment settings.

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