



The British Council for Chinese Martial Arts

A Sports Council Recognised National Governing Body

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

The BCCMA are totally committed to providing equality of opportunities in the context of Chinese Martial Arts but recognizes that some Chinese Martial Arts activities may not be appropriate to everybody. However Chinese Martial Arts systems are sufficiently diverse and rich in content that it should be possible, with some provisos, to cater for most prospective members.

Activity in our sport is actively encouraged, neither, race, age, sex, social and economic background or disability, should be a bar against active participation. It is the aim of our Coaching program to encourage and foster an ethos of providing an opportunity for all members to achieve their maximum potential, with the only constraints being their interest and ability.

Due consideration must be given to one's personal skill and ability to professionally look after people with particular special needs. This must be judged on a case by case bases and an assessment of the would-be participant's individual needs. Willingness to comply with the legislation must not put the health or welfare of that individual at risk by inadvertent or misguided care. Also you need to remember that you have a Duty of Care to each and every student that is training with you and you must consider seriously whether the acceptance of special needs students' within the class structure, will take a disproportionate amount of time for that individual and prevent you exercising your Duty of Care to the remainder of your class.

However depending on the severity of the disability coaches and students are encouraged to integrate special needs students, into a normal class structure providing the above mentioned statements have been considered.

Serious Existing Medical Conditions & Blood Disorders

Students with heart disorders and chronic asthma can practice certain qigong techniques and a soft system of martial arts (Taiqi or Wuqi etc) which helps to improve their respiratory and cardiovascular system. Subsequently any strenuous exercise, which is prominent with other system of martial arts, is to be avoided.

- Students with severe Blood disorders (Haemophilia, HIV & Aids and Hepatitis). Haemophilia is an inherited disorder whereby the blood clots very slowly and in severe cases, spontaneous bleeding can occur. The danger is not necessarily from surface cuts or abrasions, but from the continuous hemorrhaging in joints and tissue caused by strenuous exercise. Aids and Hepatitis are contagious when in contact with sufferer's blood. In general martial arts is a contact sport and the acceptance of potential students with these blood disorders should be limited to non-contact tijiquan or wuqi or similar activities only.
- Where special access facilities are necessary to enable severe physical disability (wheelchair bound) special needs access, then there is a provision in the legislation that allows noncompliance with the act on the basis that it is unreasonably cost prohibitive for each individual club to provide such facilities.