

**WORLD TAEKWONDO ASSOCIATION**  
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**SPECIAL NEEDS POLICY**

The World Taekwondo Association and its Affiliated Members acknowledge the importance in providing support to students with Special Needs (S.N.) However, the WTA is not obliged to accept all individuals into its classes. If it is not in an individual's best interests, or the group's best interests then the individual would not be allowed to access the group. All efforts would be made to implement strategies to support the individual to access the group where possible.

**AIMS**

- 1) Instructors should endeavour to identify students who are deemed to have S.N. with the support of parents/carers and external professionals where appropriate.
- 2) Provisions should be made to enable the best learning and instructional approaches to S.N.
- 3) S.N. students should be challenged to learn at their own best rate of progress.
- 4) Provide ongoing monitoring through the grading system.
- 5) Full inclusion in regular classes and gradings to be encouraged.
- 6) Provide guidance and training for instructors.

**STUDENTS TO BE CONSIDERED AS SPECIAL NEEDS**

- 1) Students identified by parents/carers professional bodies as having learning difficulties.
- 2) Students identified as having physical disabilities that may hinder progress.

**ADMISSION INTO CLASSES OF STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

- 1) When a prospective student has been identified as S.N. the Class Instructor should deem whether it would be safe for the student to train and the safety of other students should be considered also.
- 2) A covering letter from a professional body e.g. doctor, teacher etc could be requested.

**GUIDELINES**

- 1) By assessing need the identification of support required for that individual to access Taekwondo tuition/coaching in the class will be made.
- 2) Risk assessments should be carried out. This assessment should be carried out with the family/carers of the individual. If the risks outweigh the benefits to the individual it may be deemed inappropriate for that individual to access the group. Any risk assessments implemented would need to be agreed by all parties and reviewed regularly.
- 3) Inclusion in the Grading System is paramount. The WTA reserves the right to amend and carry out grades for students deemed to have SN. Inclusion in regular grading exams is important, but if it is deemed to be in the best interests to the individual alternative arrangements can be made.
- 4) Instructors must inform the WTA of any Dan Grade candidates who are deemed as SN with covering documentation prior to a Dan Grade Assessment so that suitable arrangements can be made.