



Equality Policy

Approved by:	BSJU Executive Board
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Introduction

The British Shuai Jiao Union (BSJU) is fully committed to the principles of equality of opportunity and is responsible for ensuring that no member or member of staff are unlawfully discriminated against because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation (together the 'Protected Characteristics')

In addition, the BSJU recognises that we live in a diverse society and will endeavour to ensure that all members are given the same opportunities regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds.

The BSJU will encourage partner organisations, including member association and schools, affiliated associations, suppliers, sponsors and customers, to adopt and demonstrate their commitment to the principles and practice of equality as set out in this Equality Policy

Purpose of the Policy

The BSJU recognises that individuals (and/or certain groups in our society who share one or more Protected Characteristics) may not have been able to participate equally and fully in sports related activities in the past. In some instances this may have been a result of unlawful discrimination.

This Policy has been produced to try to prevent and address any unlawful discrimination or unfair treatment, whether intentional or unintentional, direct or indirect, against members that may preclude them from participating fully in sports related activities.

Legal Requirements

The BSJU is required by law not to unlawfully discriminate against its members and recognises its legal obligations under, and will abide by the requirements of, the Equality Act 2010, and any equivalent legislation (as amended) in any UK jurisdiction, and any later amendments to such legislation or subsequent equality related legislations that may be relevant to the BSJU.

The BSJU will seek advice each time this Policy is reviewed to ensure it continues to reflect the current legal framework and good practice.

Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying and Abuse of Power

The BSJU recognises the following as being unacceptable:

- Unlawful discrimination which can take the following forms:
- Direct Discrimination: treating someone less favourably than you would treat others because of a Protected Characteristic
- Indirect Discrimination: applying a provision, criterion or practice which, on the face of it, applies equally to all but which, in practice can disadvantage individuals with a particular Protected Characteristic. Such requirements or conditions are lawful only if they can be objectively justified.
- Harassment which is engaging in unwanted conduct relating to a relevant Protected Characteristic or unwanted conduct of a sexual nature where the conduct has the purpose or effect of violating the recipients dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for the recipient, or any other individual affected by such conduct.
- Bullying: the misuse of power or position to criticise persistently or to humiliate and undermine an individual's confidence.
- Victimisation: subjecting someone to a detriment because he or she has in good faith taken action under the Equality Act 2010 (or equivalent legislation) by bringing proceedings, giving evidence or information in relation to proceedings, making an allegation that a person has contravened the Equality Act 2010 (or equivalent legislation) or doing any other thing for the purpose or in connection with the Equality Act 2010 (or any equivalent legislation).

The BSJU is committed to ensuring that its members are able to conduct their activities free from harassment. The BSJU regards discrimination, harassment, bullying or victimisation, as described, as serious misconduct. All complaints will be taken seriously and appropriate measures including disciplinary action may be brought against any member who unlawfully discriminates against, harasses, bullies or victimises any other person.

Reasonable Adjustments

When any decision is made about an individual, the only personal characteristics that may be taken in to account are those that are consistent with any relevant legislation and are relevant to the substance of the decision being made.

The BSJU recognises that it has a duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled persons.

The BSJU will consider all requirements and where possible will accommodate reasonable requests and will work with disabled members to implement any adjustments that will enable them to participate more fully in sports related activities.

Transsexual Athletes

The BSJU considers Shuai Jiao to be a 'gender affected' sport under the Equality Act 2010 and refers any transsexual athletes to its policy relating to participation by transsexual persons. The BSJU acknowledges that the science, and the legal

framework, in this field are developing. There are inherent difficulties in reconciling both inclusion and safety within Shuai Jiao Championships, and that the inclusion of transgender athletes, as in many sports, is not without challenge.

The BSJU will treat applications sensitively, on a case by case basis, without prejudice. This policy position is subject to change and will be reviewed as the position on transgender athlete inclusion in Shuai Jiao Championships emerges.

Responsibility, Implementation and Communication

The Executive Board of the BSJU is responsible for ensuring that this Equality Policy is implemented, followed, and reviewed when appropriate. The Executive Board is also responsible for ensuring that this Equality Policy is enforced and any breaches are dealt with appropriately.

A member of the Board will be appointed as 'Equality Champion' and will ensure that equality is included as an agenda item at Executive Board meetings when appropriate and that the Executive Board takes equality issues into considerations when making decisions.

The CEO has the overall responsibility for the implementation of this Equality Policy.

A member of staff will be designated as the Lead Officer by the Chief Executive, and will have the overall day-to-day responsibility for the implementation of this Equality Policy and for achieving any equality related actions resulting from it. The Lead Officer's work programme will be amended to reflect this. If required, an internal and/or external equality group will be created to provide additional support.

All members have the responsibility to respect, follow and promote the spirit and intentions of the Equality Policy. Individual work programmes for The BSJU staff will be amended to include equality related tasks where appropriate.

This Equality Policy will be implemented immediately following Executive Board approval.

Implementation

The BSJU will regularly review its employment practices to ensure continuing compliance with relevant legislation, and where possible good practice. All volunteer packs will contain a policy statement:

'Our policy is that no applicant for this post receives less favourable treatment than another on the grounds of race, colour, ethnic, racial or national origins, religion (or religious belief), sex, marital status, sexual orientation, age or disability. Further, no person will be disadvantaged by any condition or requirement that is not justified by the genuine needs of the role or the BSJU.'

No applicant for any post (including job applicants, consultant advisers and suppliers) will be placed at a disadvantage by requirements or conditions which are not necessary to the performance of the job or which constitute unlawful discrimination.

Consultants and advisers (and where appropriate suppliers) to the BSJU will be required to abide by this Equality Policy and it will be referred to in any service level agreements or contracts issued by the BSJU.

Communication

The Policy will be published on the BSJU website. Reference will be made to this Equality Policy in any code of conduct. This Equality Policy is for guidance only and will not form part of any contract but will be highlighted in all member and volunteer inductions. All members will be made aware of the Policy on joining and any update made to it through newsletter communications.

Each time this Policy is reviewed, The BSJU members will be consulted. Following consultation, a notice of the changes being made will be publicly available and a direct communication will be sent to all those who contributed to the consultation process (subject to Data Protection provisions).

The BSJU will promote continuing professional development for all members and staff to support equal opportunities within the organisation and, where appropriate, provide specialist facilities, equipment or training.

Actions

The BSJU will produce, maintain and monitor an Equality Action Plan to ensure the objectives of this Equality Policy are consistently delivered throughout all areas of the organisation.

The BSJU recognises that, in some cases, to further the principle of equality, an unequal distribution of resources may be required. If appropriate and proportionate.

The BSJU will consider positive action or may introduce special measures to assist any group with a Protected Characteristic which is currently underrepresented within any group of members.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This Equality Policy will remain in force until it is amended, replaced or withdrawn. A review of this Equality Policy will take place as and when required, but not less than once every three years (as a minimum).

The Equality Action Plan, created to ensure the objectives of this Equality Policy are delivered, will be reviewed by the CEO and the Equality Officer regularly, but in any event not less than once every 12 months.

On an annual basis, statistical, and if appropriate qualitative, information will be collected and a report will be produced by the CEO for the Executive Board. Once approved by the Executive Board the report will be published internally and externally, to show the impact of this Equality Policy and progress towards achieving the Equality Action Plan.

Complaints Procedures

To safeguard individual rights under this Equality Policy, any member who believes they have suffered inequitable treatment within the scope of this Equality Policy may raise the matter through the appropriate procedure (i.e. the employee grievance procedure for employees or the conduct and complaints procedure for members who are not employees).

Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any BSJU member who violates this Equality Policy under the employee disciplinary procedure or Conduct and Complaints Policy and procedures.

An individual raising an employee grievance will not be penalised for doing so unless it is untrue and not made in good faith.

As with all grievance and disciplinary procedures, the final point of appeal relating to this policy is the Executive Board appeals committee.