



National Women's Martial Arts Federation

Policy on Girls at Special Training

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Page 1 of 1

The NWMAF mission is to promote the involvement of women and girls in the martial arts. We therefore welcome girls at Special Training (ST) and other NWMAF-endorsed events as active participants. We recognize that the needs of our younger participants may differ from those of adults, and believe that careful attention to the needs of all members can create positive learning and training environments for everyone. To help create those positive learning environments, the following policies are to be followed by the NWMAF Board and those involved with planning any Special Training youth program:

- Girls 6-12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult chaperone (18 years or older) when attending ST. In general, an individual adult should be responsible for no more than 6 girls, although the NWMAF Board may make exceptions on an individual basis. The NWMAF Board should establish a clear procedure for advertising this policy in all camp material.
- Girls and boys who are younger than 6 years of age are welcome at ST as non-training participants, and must be supervised at all times by a responsible caregiver. Childcare arrangements will be made for every camp and may involve an additional fee.
- Classes are open to all participants at Special Training, regardless of age, unless specified in the class description in the camp book. Those involved with planning any Special Training youth program should ensure that enough classes are open to girls to allow their full participation.
- While girls benefit from training with adults, they can also benefit from training with their peer group. For many, in fact, ST offers the only such opportunity they regularly encounter. Those involved with planning any Special Training youth program should, therefore, make every effort to provide one or more such opportunities at each camp.
- Teen-aged girls often find themselves "in between" at Special Training: too old to be considered "girls" and clearly not adults. To the extent possible, those involved with planning any Special Training youth program should make every effort to provide one or more opportunities for teens to train together in an environment of mutual support.
- Regardless of age, all ST participants are expected to conduct themselves according to the highest standards of behavior. All participants are to be treated with respect and courtesy, regardless of their age. No participant should feel marginalized because of her age.

Revision Control Table

Date Editor	Changes Made and reason
May 3, 2009 Resolution 2009-013 April R Miller Events Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum age changed from 5 to 6 to align with ongoing procedures ▪ "ST Planning Committee" replaced with "those involved with planning any Special Training youth program" to reflect change in ST planning process ▪ "Onsite childcare arrangements" changed to "Childcare arrangements" to reflect the multiple childcare options offered.