

## Union Karate-Do

## The Importance Of Joining A Certified BMABA Club



A Statement By Gary Blake UKD Chief Instructor

Instructor standards are essential to meet insurance, legal and ethical requirements. Belonging to a regulatory body such as the BMABA provides transparency for everyone that the instructor/club has taken the time and care to ensure that levels of regulation are met as set out and advised by a governing body. This ultimately provides protection for its members and their students.

As requirements change over time it is important to receive updates and guidance from an organisation that is committed to keeping its members at the forefront of development. Instructor insurance is important as it is impossible to foresee any accidents or claims that may be borne even after stringent risk assessments and coaching guidance. People whom are new to martial arts are vulnerable as the majority of their practise is coordinated via an instructor and as with anything that is new there will be uncertainties and risk factors. Measures must be in place to ensure the safety of students.

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Insurance is a responsibility as there may be a situation whereby somebody is entitled to compensation through possible negligence and the average instructor would not be able to make good a claim from their own pocket! It is also important for an instructor to remain "on side" by adhering to the constraints and procedures required to minimise the risk of an insurance claim having to be filed.

A DBS check at the required level for the audience being taught is also essential. It provides evidence that the instructor coaching is not barred from doing so under certain circumstances. It also shows that the regulatory organisation has taken a duty of care to ensure that there are no potential risks to students or members of the public associated with the practises of the instructor whom has been deemed suitable and sanctioned to represent the governing body also other people associated with the organisation.

A safeguarding qualification is also important as it is the responsibility of an instructor to be aware of their duty of care also it may be seen that the recipient has the awareness and knowledge to observe and process any possible signs of abuse towards children and vulnerable adults. Showing that an instructor accepts responsibility for obtaining a qualification should also endorse the confidence of students, parents and guardians of the safety of people whilst under the supervision of the instructor.

An up to date first aid qualification is also essential as in the event of an injury it is crucial that the patient has the best possible chance of minimal complications and a full recovery, this could be anything from a small injury to a life threatening situation. Essentially martial arts is a contact activity and the risk of an injury though minimal is present, therefore the instructor whom is responsible for the class must have a duty of care to provide immediate support to anyone whom requires first aid within the teaching environment, also awareness of how to provide potential lifesaving support until the emergency services arrive.

It is important that an association and insurance supplier have confidence that the instructor has mitigated all possible factors that could potentially affect the well-being of a student or member of the public within the environment that they are coaching. All factors such as risk assessments of training venues, procedures to be followed relating to safeguarding and protocol should any complaints arise are important for the safe operation of a club. These elements reflect on an instructor's desire to show professionalism directed towards their governing body and members of the public whom engage with all organisations involved as well as showing a willingness of acceptance by the instructor to show a duty of care.

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Martial arts have evolved over time but so has social science. What may have been acceptable once may not be so in current times. The practise of martial arts was once deemed disreputable, it was perceived as the infliction of damage upon a fellow human being and also the student's blind dedication towards a "superior one" was assumed. This misconception has nowadays gradually been transformed into the recognition of an art form promoting and aiming towards the betterment of the practitioner also their desire to create peace and harmony with their fellow human beings and environment. This was also the true aim of traditional martial arts but in this modern age accountability has become not only an ethical responsibility but a legal requirement. Therefore guidance and regulation from a reputable governing body is essential in maintaining the prestige and recognition of the art that an instructor should perceive as being their privilege to have attained supported authorisation enabling them to represent their predecessors and pass on their knowledge to others in an ethical, safe and regulated manner ensuring the future enhancement of the lives of other people.

Union Karate Do is continually taking measures to ensure that these essential requirements pertaining to a safe environment for all students are adhered to.

"To begin your journey into the unknown, your first step is the most important and harrowing move you will make. Be sure to tread upon firm ground. It will always be safer to follow the proven path."

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