



BRITISH KENDO ASSOCIATION HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER REPORT (2015 / 2016)



INTRODUCTION

Although not always apparent, safety is one of the most important parts of our association. It is normally integrated into the training regime and although not always apparent although we actually begin before we leave our home, eg checking and maintaining our equipment. During the practice of all three BKA martial arts I have been impressed by the high standard of safety management delivered by our coaches. This, in part, comes from the Japanese ethos of respect for one another as opposed to the movie version of '*death or glory*' approach that some may think fitting.

Having said all that you may ask, 'why so important?' and this is a fair question. Simply put, should we ever deteriorate into a situation where serious accident becomes the norm our insurers will most certainly raise their premium and we (as BKA members) will be faced with higher annual membership charges. If we encounter more frequent and serious cases the BKA and/or an individual may be subject to civil litigation, training facilities may be withdrawn by hall owners (removing the ability to train) and there will be a real possibility of negative publicity in the national press.

Don't be alarmed by this information it is only given to provide background information in support of our safety management system and to highlight the good work being done by our BKA officers, dojo leaders, secretaries and in turn you as a BKA member. We are all responsible for our own safety and that of anyone who may be harmed. We are a well managed, safe and dynamic organisation that takes pride in our achievements and one of these is safety. Thank you to those who support our safety management system and please, 'keep up the good work!'

ACCIDENT REPORTING

After last year's BKA AGM, Andy Watson (Iaido Bucho) created a really useful accident reporting system and database that enables BKA members to insert details of an accident electronically by using a phone, tablet or PC. This flexibility enables an accident to be reported quickly and with the minimum of fuss. Ideally the accident can be reported from the scene, removing the burden of paperwork and home time. The software takes the person reporting an accident through the system in an easily viewed manner and at the same time it logs the incident on a spreadsheet and sends an email to the BKA H&S Officer. This provides us with quick access to BKA accidents at all times and may support a case for reduced insurance fees. You will find a link on the BKA website.

Since the introduction of our electronic reporting system no accidents have been reported. This year has been either a bonanza of safe activities without any accidents or near misses, or we are not reporting our accidents. This is worrying because if we have a number of minor accidents and hopefully few (if any) serious ones, we will be able to demonstrate a safe level for our activities. However, the reverse is also true and whereas it is possible for all BKA Bu to operate without any accidents, professional experience tells me that taking account of the nature of our activities this is most unlikely.

IMPLEMENTATION

Throughout the year I have received requests for guidance and/or support, usually relating to BKA safety procedures, accidents and liability. I aim to answer all within a reasonable timescale although that said, at times business and family commitments preclude an immediate response. I have received a number of requests concerning insurance and as I do not have anything to do with this, suffice to say that it is a requirement, I pass these to the appropriate person.

BREXIT

Some may think that because we are leaving the EU that safety (as we know it) will be put into the waste bucket. Happily this is incorrect as safety has been part of the British culture for hundreds of years and the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 is firmly enshrined in British legislation. The risk assessment process was created by the UK and only a few years ago the EU failed in attempt to have it stopped. The short answer here is, go ahead with BKA safety policy as it stands and carry out your BKA activities with confidence.

Should you wish further information or assistance, please use the contacts section of the BKA website.

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