

Q: What about the Sports Council requirements?

A: Requirements are not law and the sports council only operates via governing bodies. The Olympics are the only real value and this is a monopoly through the governing body membership. Management of your club/school/association is down to you and you can put your loyalties where you like, but if you have Olympic players you don't have a choice this membership has to be with a sports council governing body. You are tied to their terms of membership, their costs and other requirements. You may put your suitable players through the NGB's and the rest of your members through other groups providing better value for money. If the NGB's don't offer what you want at the right price go elsewhere, you have a choice.

Q: What about other bodies like the NCF & Skills Active?

A: These are essentially good groups that are funded by the sports council. They can help if you are with a governing body but you should go through the governing body as the correct chain of command. If you not with or do not have the governing body recognition they cannot help and wouldn't risk upsetting any funding source. Although they will listen and take your ideas into consideration of their own development, you will be unlikely to get any recognition.

Q: How can I tell if my qualifications are worth something?

A: They need to be part of the national qualifications framework. School, Colleges, Universities and reputable training organisations like Edexcel, Btec, SIA, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, St Johns Ambulance will all have accredited courses. The certification highlights the accreditation and which recognising body its with. If its issued by an association without no other reference it will not be recognised. Unfortunately there are some unscrupulous groups who would have you believe their accreditation is recognised so they can charge more money. The only certification worth having from a martial arts group is martial arts grades, they are not registered training providers approved by the correct authorities.

Q: Am I a pirate or an outlaw because I am not with the governing body?

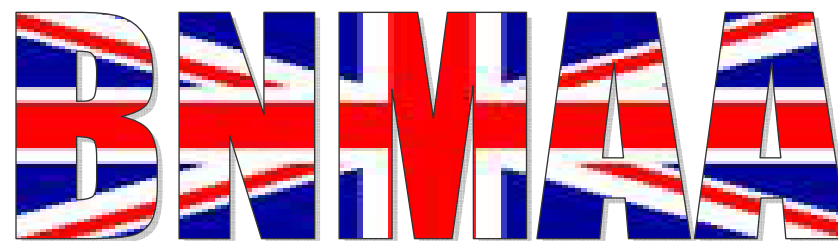
A: No.

Q: Why are there so many adverts/poster making outrageous claims that do my club damage?

A: If you have the evidence to prove your a qualified martial arts teacher, you have the same rights as anyone else who is a qualified teacher. Adverts that monopolise should be reported to the Advertising Standards Authority.

Q: Where can I get funding from?

A: Some sources of funding come through sponsorship, national lottery, charities and local councils. Sports Council funding is rare, but most likely for Karate only. Sports Council funding is only applicable for NGB members.



British National Martial Arts Association
National Governing Body

Know Your Rights

DON'T BE BULLIED

Martial Arts Organisations, Governing Bodies in Martial Arts

What can they make you have?

Who must you be a member of any organisation?

Are you breaking the law?

This leaflet explains what you need and not what many organisations say you must have
Legal Guidelines, European and UK Law

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BNMAA Contact Details



BNMAA Call Centre: 0871 990 3203
BNMAA HQ: 01375 411953



BNMAA Fax: 0871 990 3204



BNMAA:
12 Princes Ave, Corringham Essex SS17 7PU

Don't be duped, you have a choice. If anyone tells you a scare story or limits your choice CHECK IT OUT, NO ONE HAS A MONOPOLY, NO ONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROFITEER BY TELLING YOU LIES.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Q: Must I be a member of a governing body or sports council if I practice martial arts?

A: No, you have a choice.

Q: Must I purchase my membership from a governing body?

A: No, there are many martial arts not recognised by the sports council, but even if there is a governing body for your martial art, you do not have to be a member even if you are an instructor.

Q: Can a governing body or association tell me which associations I can affiliate to?

A: No, we live in a democracy and no one has a monopoly. You can join any group or association you like. There are European and UK Laws prohibiting restricted practice and when you are told who you can and cant hold membership with it breaks these laws.

Q: I have heard bad things about an association?

A: Scaremongering is a tactic used which is basically slander. Some groups use these scare-mongering techniques so you don't join a competitor. It is market manipulation in most cases and illegal. See if the person will put their claim in writing so you can take it up with the named association, if they cant put it in writing it is probably scare mongering.

Q: My local authority asked if I am a member of a governing body?

A: Even a local authority cannot insist you are a member of a governing body, if you can provide the evidence you can teach they by law cannot discriminate. For an easy life Many just join the main instructor and key members or competitors. The rest of the membership is often with a different association who offers more competitive prices and better support.

Q: Where can I get the qualifications I need?

A: Many organisations offer First Aid, Coaching, Child Protection, Health & Safety etc Your best bet is to get it via a national body like the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, St Johns, Btec, Ncfe, Mastarr because it meets the national curriculum standards and avoid who recognises what from martial arts governing bodies and the sports council, in many cases it's a fraction of the cost too.

Q: What can I do if an organisation, governing body or association is insisting on membership?

A: Simply refuse and ignore it, they cannot do a thing. Approach a no win no fee solicitor and show them any letters you have they will have a field day.

Q: What can I do if an organisation, governing body or association is telling me if I join another group my membership with them is void?

A: This falls under restricted practice laws and is illegal and you can sue them. Get evidence in writing and seek a solicitors advice.

Q: What about the Sports Council?

A: The Sports Council cannot insist on membership this is unlawful. If you have interest in the Olympics to gain access you will have to join a governing body approved by the sports council. Many just join the main instructor and key members or competitors. The rest of the membership is often with a different association who offers more competitive prices and better support.

Q: What can I do if an organisation, governing body or association is going to remove my grade if I join another group or association?

A: If you have paid for a grade or grading its yours. It cannot be taken away, even when a refund is offered you have a right to refuse.

Q: What due restrictions do a governing body have over me?

A: None, the governing bodies are not allowed to monopolise or profiteer martial arts. The martial arts instructors and clubs need to know that they have a choice to go where they like for what they need for their clubs, membership. Insurance, qualification etc etc.

Q: Can I create my own style or martial art?

A: Yes, it will have no governing body or sports council approval, but if you get teaching qualifications First Aid, Coaching, Child Protection, Health & Safety you can teach it safely you can produce the evidence you need to hire the local authorities premises.

Q: What do I need to teach martial arts?

A: By law NOTHING, however you do have a Duty of Care to anyone you teach. When problems arise (i.e Someone gets injured) when these problems are investigated they can end up in court and you can be sued. To get insurance you should meet a basic requirement and in the event of a claim they will usually want to see relevant first aid & coaching certification. You would usually have a martial arts certificate, black belt that shows you have had at least 3 years experience in the subject matter/martial art plus First Aid, Child Protection, Coaching, Health & Safety. Most responsible instructors will have this and a Criminal Records Check Enhanced Disclosure.

Q: Who regulates martial arts?

A: No one

Q: Monopolies in martial arts?

A: No one has a monopoly you are free to choose the group / association who offers you the best deal, sports council approval is irrelevant and not required.

Q: Who are my responsibilities with or to?

A: The people you teach and providing a safe and controlled environment.

Q: What are the legal requirements of an instructor in martial arts?

A: None, problems can arise if you are sued.

Q: What's my grade worth?

A: To you everything, to anyone else not much. Grades are a reference to your martial arts syllabus and how much you know of it. It isn't a reference to teaching.

Q: Can my organisation take my grade away?

A: No you have been tested and/or awarded it it is yours.