

BKA HEALTH & SAFETY

Introduction – our overall H&S state remains good. With one or two exceptions, our respective arts are managed to a very high standard of safety, albeit this is within the ethos of the Art and in many cases is not apparent to those being trained – a credit to the sensei and coaches of our three Bu.

POLICY - During the reporting year our H&S Policy has been amended as follows:

- a. **BKA MEDICAL POLICY** – Two members with medical conditions focused our attention on the need to provide an appropriate procedure to manage medical conditions. Our aim was to ensure fairness to all concerned, eg the individual, Dojo Leader, Coaches and Dojo members and the resultant document has been promulgated on the BKA website.

- b. **IAIDO** – One restriction, requiring amendment to Our Iaido Generic Risk Assessment (GRA) for Iaido was amended to include the requirement for the enforcement of a 3m distance from anyone practicing with a shinken. I emphasise this is a requirement by our insurers, not H&S. In my view, our RA process manages this appropriately. I am not criticising our insurers, simply helping our members to understand the differing approach to risk.

IMPLEMENTATION – Throughout the reporting year I have fielded numerous interesting and sensible questions from Dojo Leaders regarding the formation of new dojo and the registration procedures, medical questions that for obvious reasons I cannot divulge but generically speaking these featured, pregnancy, hearing internal medical equipment and aggressive behaviour. In all cases confidentiality was adhered to and all questions were answered to the satisfaction of the person asking.

ACCIDENT REPORTING - As with previous years, our reported accidents are low. Although this is a good sign, it does make trend analysis difficult albeit I would rather we had a trend of no accidents than a wealth of information.

OUR WAY FORWARD – Acknowledging that we are keen to practice our Martial Arts as opposed to shuffling paperwork around, my ongoing objective is to keep our documentation and procedures as straight forward and simple as is realistically possible. I have provided a H&S insertion to the Coach, Level 2 material to the Iaido and Jodo Bu and hold the Kendo documentation at the ready.