



B.W.F.

BRITISH WADO FEDERATION

Guidelines to check if you current Enhance DBS is acceptable.

CHAIRMAN

PAUL ELLIOTT 8TH DAN KYOSHI

LEAD DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING WELFARE OFFICER

ELIZABETH RAYMAN

BRITISH WADO FEDERATION IS AFFILIATED TO



INTERNATIONAL WADO FEDERATION

BRITISH WADO FEDERATION



If you're teaching karate—especially to children, teens, or vulnerable adults—having an **enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check** is crucial for several reasons. Here's a breakdown of why, especially when connected to a karate governing body, and whether a DBS from another organisation is enough:

Why is an Enhanced DBS Important for Karate Instructors?

1. Legal Safeguarding Requirements:

If you're working with children or vulnerable adults in the UK, you're legally required to have a DBS check (usually an **enhanced** one) to ensure you're suitable for that role.

2. Trust and Safety:

Parents and students need to trust that instructors are safe and vetted. An enhanced DBS shows you've been checked for both criminal convictions and other safeguarding concerns (like being barred from working with children).

3. Governing Body Requirements:

Most national karate organisations (like the **British Karate Federation, EKF**, or **WUKF**) require instructors to have a current enhanced DBS through **their own channels or approved partners** to:

- Standardize safeguarding
 - Keep a central record
 - Ensure compliance with sport-wide safeguarding policies
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Will a DBS From Another Group Do?

Maybe—but it depends. Here's how to think about it:

• If it's portable (via the DBS Update Service):

You can sometimes use a DBS from one role for another **if**:

- It's the **same level of check** (Enhanced)
- It's for a similar **workforce** (i.e. children/vulnerable adults)
- You're signed up for the **DBS Update Service** (a £16/year subscription)

- **However**, many **karate governing bodies require you to get your DBS through them** or have theirs verify an existing one. This is for quality control, record-keeping, and ensuring safeguarding consistency.
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So What Should You Do?

If you're teaching under a specific karate association or applying to one:

- **Check their policy** on DBS checks.
- If they require it through their system, even an enhanced DBS from another group might not be enough.
- If you're already on the DBS Update Service, you may be able to share your certificate and allow them to verify.



If you're teaching karate under the **British Karate Federation (BKF)**, obtaining an **Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check** is essential for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. This requirement aligns with the BKF's commitment to ensuring a safe environment for all participants.

Why is an Enhanced DBS Check Important?

1. **Safeguarding Compliance:** An Enhanced DBS check is mandatory for individuals working with children or vulnerable adults. It helps ensure that instructors are suitable to work in such settings.
2. **Trust and Safety:** Parents and students need to trust that instructors are safe and vetted. An Enhanced DBS check provides this assurance.
3. **Organisational Policy:** The BKF requires all affiliated clubs and instructors to have a current Enhanced DBS check, which is part of their safeguarding policy.

Will a DBS from Another Organisation Suffice?

Possibly, but it depends on the circumstances. If you have an Enhanced DBS check through another organisation, you may be able to use it, provided:

- **Same Level of Check:** The check is Enhanced. [Welsh Karate Governing Body Ltd+7instructor.bmaba.org+7Welsh Karate Governing Body Ltd+7](https://www.welshkarategoverningbody.org.uk/instructor)
- **Same Workforce:** It covers children or vulnerable adults. [bikokarate.co.uk+1instructor.bmaba.org+1](https://www.bikokarate.co.uk/instructor)
- **DBS Update Service:** You are subscribed to the DBS Update Service, allowing the BKF to verify the check.

However, many organisations, including the BKF, prefer or require that DBS checks be processed through their own channels to maintain consistency and control.

Next Steps

1. **Contact the BKF:** Reach out to the BKF to confirm their specific requirements and whether your existing DBS check is acceptable.
2. **Apply for a DBS Check:** If needed, apply for an Enhanced DBS check through your local council or the BKF's designated process.
3. **Subscribe to the DBS Update Service:** Consider subscribing to the DBS Update Service (£16/year) to allow future employers or organisations to verify your DBS status online.

By ensuring you have an up-to-date Enhanced DBS check, you demonstrate your commitment to providing a safe and trustworthy environment for your students.