



DBS QUICK FACT SHEET: England and Wales

What Is A DBS Check (formerly a CRB check)?

A DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) Check is a report on a person's criminal history. There are different versions available – **Basic, Standard, Enhanced** and **Enhanced plus Barred List** depending on the level of vetting required. Each check will search for an applicant's criminal record, searching various types of register. The level of check you can request is determined by legislation (it's not a personal choice!)

Basic Disclosures are typically used when recruiting to fairly standard roles – such as visa applications, alcohol / premise licenses etc. An individual can apply direct to the DBS for a Basic Disclosure for themselves. A basic disclosure will only search unspent convictions.

For aikido instructors working with children this level of check is not sufficient.

Standard Disclosure: A Standard DBS check will contain details of both spent and unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings that are held on the Police National Computer, which are not subject to filtering. Whilst this is a much more thorough check, **it will not be sufficient for those who are regularly coaching children** and individuals cannot apply for a Standard Disclosure themselves.

For aikido instructors working with children this level of check is not sufficient.

Enhanced Disclosure: An Enhanced DBS Check shows similar details to a Standard DBS Check but will contain more information, which can be necessary for some roles.

An Enhanced Disclosure is the minimum requirement for an aikido instructor working with children

In addition to convictions, cautions and reprimands, an Enhanced DBS check may also show information held by local police forces. For example, if a person has received a fine or penalty, this will show on an Enhanced DBS Check.

Enhanced Disclosure with a Barred List Check: This level of check is required for those who are working in Regulated Activity. It will show if someone is legally barred from working with children. An individual cannot apply for an Enhanced DBS Check – it has to be done through a recognised organisation.

Anyone employed to be a coach or instructor of children's aikido whose duties include teaching, training, or instructing children, or providing advice or guidance to children relating to their physical, emotional, or educational well-being, is eligible for an Enhanced DBS check with a Children's Barred List check if they meet the frequency condition for Regulated Activity.

The "Regulated Activity with children" frequency condition is met if either of the following apply:

- The instructing happens on more than 3 days in any period of 30 days, or
- once overnight between 2am and 6am with the opportunity for face-to-face contact with children.

If the coach does these activities more than once, but not often enough to meet the frequency condition, they are eligible for an Enhanced DBS check but without any Barred List check.

Welfare Officers, Class Assistants, Class Helpers are likely to come into the same classification as Coaches or Instructors.

Important note: Anyone in regulated activity must have their DBS check processed and cleared as part of their recruitment BEFORE they start their role.

Also, anyone who manages someone in Regulated Activity is also eligible for the same level of DBS check.

Supervision

The level of supervision can also determine if someone is in Regulated Activity. It is perhaps highly unlikely that supervised coaching during an aikido session would meet the DBS legal guidance on *effective* supervision, which is as follows:

“... day-to-day supervision that is reasonable in all the circumstances, for the purpose of protecting any children concerned.”

The Alliance requires all Association Safeguarding Officers to use the DBS Eligibility Checking Tool to ensure that they request the correct level of check for their staff or volunteers.

References

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-guidance-leaflets/099ae5f8-8a84-4224-bf1d-03187cbf9657#coaches>

Eligibility checking tool

<https://www.gov.uk/find-out-dbs-check>