

GDPR FOR MARTIAL ARTS CLUBS

How to protect student information and build trust through data responsibility.

As a martial arts club, you collect and store personal information — names, contact details, health info, photos, payment data. **Under UK law**, this makes you a data controller and means you must handle that information responsibly and securely.

The **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** ensures that people's personal data is kept safe, used fairly, and only stored for as long as needed. Whether you run a small dojo or a multi-location club, staying GDPR-compliant is essential for protecting your students, your reputation, and your business.

BENEFITS OF BEING GDPR-COMPLIANT:

- Builds trust with parents and students
- Protects you from legal issues or fines
- Demonstrates professionalism and responsibility
- Ensures you're prepared if any data is lost or stolen
- Helps you manage communication clearly and legally

WHAT COUNTS AS PERSONAL DATA?

For martial arts clubs, this can include:

- Names, addresses, phone numbers, emails
- Emergency contact info
- Medical conditions or allergies
- Photos and videos used for marketing
- Attendance or progress records
- Payment details

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KEY GDPR RULES TO REVIEW:

1. Only Collect What You Need

Only ask for information that's essential (e.g. health info for safety, contact info for communication).

2. Get Clear Consent

Always get permission before:

- Adding someone to an email/SMS list
- Taking or using photos/videos
- Storing medical information

✦ **Tip: Use tick boxes on your sign-up forms for consent.**

3. Keep Data Safe and Secure

- Use password-protected devices or software
- Avoid storing paper records long term
- Lock away printed documents or dispose securely

4. Let People Access or Remove Their Data

Under GDPR, students (or their parents) can:

- Request to see the data you hold
- Ask you to update or delete it

✦ **Tip: Keep this process simple and professional.**

5. Don't Keep Data Longer Than Needed

Remove or archive data from ex-students after a reasonable period (usually 1–2 years).

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ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE:

- ✓ Review your enrolment forms and add consent checkboxes
 - ✓ Update your privacy policy (and share it on your website)
 - ✓ Check how and where student info is stored
 - ✓ Train your staff on basic GDPR awareness
 - ✓ Ask your club software provider about data protection measures
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FINAL THOUGHT: PROTECTING DATA PROTECTS YOUR CLUB

GDPR isn't just about avoiding fines — it's about creating a culture of respect and trust. When students and parents know you take their information seriously, they're more likely to stay loyal, feel safe, and recommend your club to others.

With just a few simple systems in place, you can meet your legal obligations and improve your club's reputation at the same time.