

## FOR ALL TEACHERS OF IYENGAR YOGA

### CONSTITUTIONAL AND CONTRACTUAL RULES ON TEACHING

Since 2004 all UK teachers who are qualified to teach the Iyengar method of yoga are required to hold (and use) the Certification Mark (CM). This is a world wide signifier of a qualified and currently registered Iyengar Yoga teacher. Although at the time of writing there are still some national Associations that have not yet registered the CM, it is operative in the United States, Australia, South Africa and in Europe.

The IYA (UK) is the licence holder in the UK and is therefore responsible for the administration of the CM on behalf of Yogacharya BKS Iyengar who owns the trade marks that make up the Certification Mark. The aim of the CM is to show that the teacher who displays the CM logo can meet the highest possible standards for the teaching of Yoga according to the methods and philosophy of BKS Iyengar. It is a "kite mark" for Iyengar Yoga so the public will know what they are getting. It is there to protect BKS Iyengar's name and reputation and at the same time it protects us as Iyengar Yoga teachers. We have worked hard to get our qualifications and now no one without our training can make a false claim to be an Iyengar teacher and bring all our reputations into disrepute.

As holders of the CM we are entering into a contract with the IYA(UK) (as the representative of Yogacharya BKS Iyengar) to uphold the standards of Iyengar Yoga. Therefore we are required to sign a Sub Licence Agreement to abide by the rules of the contract and the rules of the IYA(UK). The licence to use the CM has to be renewed annually by paying a fee but also by seeing that we do indeed abide by the rules of the contract, that we are members of the Association and therefore that we abide by the rules of the Association.

At the moment these rules are to be found in different documents attached to the constitution so for your convenience what follows is a summary of the rules relating to what we may teach and when. It is also a guide to where these rules can be found.

First, look in your contract. There in the Sub Licence Agreement on page 2 is the clause 1c) where it says that we agree to teach yoga *"only in accordance with the IYENGAR method without mixing other styles of yoga or other disciplines"*. So we agree when we sign the contract not teach other forms of yoga or to mix our teaching with other forms of yoga. Please note the word *only* plainly states that we may not teach other methods of yoga and still call ourselves Iyengar Yoga teachers. A more complete definition of what this means can be found in Appendix F of the Standing Orders attached to the IYA (UK) Constitution on the web site ([iyengaryoga.org.uk](http://iyengaryoga.org.uk)). This is what it says; *"Iyengar Yoga teachers are committed to teaching only one form of yoga, i.e. Iyengar Yoga according to the methods of Yogacharya BKS Iyengar. In addition Iyengar teachers do not introduce anything into the Iyengar method from another discipline or activity. It is a mark of integrity in Iyengar teachers that they do not mix the stream of learning that they are responsible for passing on."*

Finally as teachers we must stay within the syllabus we are trained in. In other words, we cannot teach beyond our Certificate Level. These rules are to be found in Appendix C of the Constitution in clause 1 b) where it is stated, *"each Certificate has a separate syllabus and members are expected to adhere to the syllabus appropriate to their Certificate"*. In addition, Introductory teachers can conduct general classes within the Introductory syllabus, but in Clause 2, a) viii) it is explained that *"before the teaching of individual pupils, specialised classes or the training of teachers is undertaken, higher certificates are required."* Introductory teachers can teach the Introductory poses to children, but must first obtain enhanced disclosure – contact the main office to find out about this.

The Constitution of the IYA (UK) itself is our version of the international constitution that has been approved and presented to us and to all other national Iyengar Yoga Associations by Yogacharya BKS Iyengar himself.

*Ethics and Certification Committee*  
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