

DOJANG ETIQUETTE

(Norms for expected behavior)

The Dojang is the place where we cleanse and enrich our minds and bodies. This enrichment can only be accomplished in an environment that is replete with feelings of respect, gratitude, the right attitude, and positive mutual support.

Ringling the Gong

At the start and end of class, there is a traditional ringing of the gong. This signifies to the students that it is time to stop talking/training and line up traditionally. The message conveyed by ringing the gong is an “awakening” to living in the present.

Lining Up Traditionally

When facing the instructor: the highest ranked student stands to the right and front of the room.

The lowest ranked student, therefore, stands in the back, left side position.

All others line up from right to left (between the highest and lowest ranked students) based on Rank (highest to lowest). Junior ranks line up to the left of similarly colored belt adults.

Bowing

The bow is simple; it is a pure demonstration of human respect; nothing more, and nothing less.

The bow is the most important movement in the martial arts because it is the one physical action that wholly represents the intent of our training – to peacefully resolve conflict by understanding the importance of other human beings.

When bowing, say silently to yourself – “You are more important than I am”.

When to Bow

1. Upon entering and exiting the Dojang.
2. Before each training session – to the instructor as directed by the highest ranked student. The class should bow first to the highest ranked participating Black Belt student, then separately to each Black Belt in descending rank. The teaching Black Belt is the last to be bowed to – as directed by the Highest Ranked Student. This approach may be replaced, at the discretion of the lead teacher, by “Bow to all Black Belt Instructors”, if the number of Black belts is prohibitive.
3. Bow whenever requesting or receiving help from an instructor.
4. Bow whenever greeting a Black Belt in or out of the Dojang.



DOJANG ETIQUETTE: DURING CLASS

1. When responding to the teacher in the affirmative or following assistance or correction by the teacher, the student should respond by saying “ooh!” or “Thank you Sensei.”
2. The instructor is referred to as Sensei or Sa Bum Nim (or other rank appropriate names—i.e., Grand Master) at all times, in or out of the Dojang (unless otherwise directed).
3. Refrain from leaving the Dojang during class without first obtaining permission from the Sensei.
4. There should never be conversation of any kind while the Sensei is demonstrating. When training with your partner, please keep conversation to an absolute minimum.
5. Refrain from arguing about a technique. If there is a problem that cannot be resolved, ask the Sensei for assistance.
6. Don't interrupt another student's training to ask for assistance. Wait until the Sensei is available to help.
7. When receiving personal instruction, remain quiet until the Sensei has completed his/her explanation, then bow and acknowledge.
8. It is inappropriate for a student (including Black Belts) to offer instruction when he or she is not formally teaching the class or has not been specifically requested to assist by the Sensei. This is an essential point to your personal development, and should be followed carefully, particularly among those who assist or teach in other classes.
9. When sitting in the Dojang during a formal class – always sit in either seiza (sitting on knees) or in the half – lotus (cross legged) position.
10. Be aware of your tone of voice and body language during all Dojang interactions.
11. If you believe that a technique is being interpreted incorrectly by the sensei--the best approach is to ask the Sensei, discreetly, during or after class, for clarification.
12. Always act respectful to the other students in class regardless of rank. If Dojang Etiquette is being violated by a student during class – it is the responsibility of any Black Belt to make a respectful correction – avoiding embarrassment of the student.
13. During sparring class – Students must wear complete and appropriate safety equipment to participate—mouthpiece, head protection, hand pads, foot pads, shin pads, groin or breast pads (as appropriate), and rib protection.

DOJANG ETIQUETTE: PREPARING FOR CLASS

1. Always make yourself aware of any needs of the Sensei prior to the start of class. Bricks, boards, Weapons, Pads, Mats, books, notes or anything else the Sensei may require. These must be attended to properly and placed appropriately.
2. If you are teaching a class – you should arrive ~15-30 minutes before class begins.
3. As a student, always arrive at the Dojang with plenty of time to stretch, warm up and socialize before class begins. Do not practice on the Heavy Bag prior to class.
4. If you are late to class – you must line up in the back row. It is important not to disrupt the line as established.
5. Refrain from eating or chewing gum while on the Dojang floor.
6. Make sure your mind is positive as you enter the Dojang. Any negative feelings you may be harboring must be left outside the Dojang. (“Please leave your ego at the door.”)
7. No rings, watches, or jewelry of any kind should be worn during practice.
8. If you are ill, do not attempt to train or teach in the Dojang.
9. Your body and your feet must be clean and kept before stepping on the Dojang floor.
10. All street shoes must be lined up neatly at the entrance to the Dojang. Only specific Dojang shoes will be allowed on the floor.
11. Always enter the Dojang with an empty mind. If you think you know already, it will be difficult for you to learn. Think like a beginner – have “an empty cup!”
12. Refrain from training or teaching when you have ingested any type of drug or alcohol.
13. The student must demonstrate patience and never ask to test, or request rank promotion.
14. Any questions pertaining to training should be referred to the Black Belt instructor(s).
15. Always make it your priority to greet the teaching Sensei upon entering the Dojang.
16. Always make sure your Do Bohk is clean and pressed prior to class. Black belt students may choose the color of their Do Bohk for class. For all formal rank advancement testing both students and instructors must wear their formal black pants/white top – with black trim. For students under the rank of Black Belt – only a white uniform (top / bottom) is appropriate.
17. For students (of rank) transferring from an outside martial arts school – they will be allowed to wear their outside rank and uniform until they are ready for their first rank promotion test. Thereafter, they will be required to wear a white student uniform and their new rank (from our school).
18. If you become injured during class -please immediately inform the teaching Black Belt. The teaching Black Belt should inform SBN Dado or GM Foley of the occurrence as soon as reasonably possible.



DOJANG ETIQUETTE: IN AND AROUND THE DOJANG

1. Always see that the Dojang waiting room and bathrooms are kept clean. Make sure the toilet paper is kept well supplied.
2. Make sure all water bottles and trash are picked up from the waiting room and outside. Sweep the Dojang floor following each class. This is part of your training!
3. There is no smoking or vaping in or around the Dojang.
4. Do not wear heavy scented perfume or cologne in the Dojang.
5. Don't compare one instructor with another. Every Sensei has something unique to share with you. Your job is to discover it. Also, do not criticize other instructors, whether they are from other schools or your own school.
6. Any instructor or student who is invited to teach or attend an outside martial arts school must first obtain permission from his/her Chief Instructor. When returning from this school – The first opportunity must be taken to report the results of their experience to the Black Belt Instructor.
7. Students / Instructors are not encouraged to participate in tournaments or other competitions without first obtaining permission from their Black Belt Instructor.
8. If you have a problem with an individual teacher or student – go directly to them with your concerns. Do not communicate negative feelings to others – this will only create a negative environment. Be open and honest – “Deliver your mail to the correct address—and be open to receive your mail”
9. If you anticipate a prolonged absence from class – please inform the Black Belt Instructor.
10. When wearing a shirt under the Do Bahk top – it should only be a black or white collarless shirt and should be tucked in the pants. Sweatpants or equivalent should not be allowed to show beyond the leg cuff of the Do Bahk pants.
11. If a student desires to wear a scarf or headband to control perspiration during class, it should be simple and without symbols of any kind. No hats or visors are appropriate during class—unless the class is held outdoors.
12. During class, when not actively participating or when waiting to participate, students should stand quietly and pay close attention to the Sensei. Students should only sit when directed to do so by the Sensei.