



BEING
A
BLACK BELT

6 FEBRUARY 2023

Responsibilities

1. It is important that students understand the responsibilities that are bestowed upon them should they become a Black Belt; they automatically become a role model. Wearing a Black Belt is not just about knowing katas, bunkais and kumites. The tangible evidence of being a Black Belt is in the way one thinks and conducts himself or herself, inside and outside the Dojo. Black Belts cannot demand respect, they must re-earn it every time they step on the Dojo floor. Being a Black Belt is displaying the right attitude:

- a. Lead by example.
- b. Show respect and courtesy to both seniors and students.
- c. Show humility.
- d. Maintain a good training ethic.
- e. Maintain an effective training schedule.
- f. Be willing and available to instruct students (at least once a week).
- g. Let's train hard together. "The answer is on the floor".
- h. Take appropriate corrective action without delay if there is student misbehavior, disrespect or lack of effort.
- i. Perform your assigned Dojo duties.

2. In recognition for the teaching and other duties performed by Black Belts, when a student is promoted to Black Belt, **he/she no longer pays the regular Dojo student session fees.**

3. It is inevitable that over time, life will bring new challenges such as schooling progression, work obligations, aging, medical or travel situations which will impact your commitment to the Dojo. When facing such challenges, discuss with the Chief Instructor how to best address the situation with respect to your Black Belt responsibilities.

Annual Japan Black Belt Dues

4. All Shorei-Kan Canada Karate Association Black Belts are required to pay the annual (calendar year) Shorei-Kan Japan Black Belt dues (see the Dojo website Programs/pricing page for the current dues). **The annual payment is due by 31 January.** The annual dues provide the following benefits:

- a. Membership in the Shorei-Kan Canada Karate Association.
- b. Continued registration as Black Belt with Shorei-Kan Japan.
- c. Picture on the Dojo website.
- d. Attendance in regular Shuswap Dojo classes, seminars, and events.
- e. Attendance in Shuswap Dojo Black Belt classes.
- f. Trip subsidies for Japan tournaments.

- g. Liability insurance coverage when teaching.
- h. Latest Association and Dojo information and correspondence.
- i. Eligibility for Black Belt testing based on the following training time frames:

BELT	TIME FRAME BEFORE TESTING ELIGIBILITY	NOTE
Shodan to Nidan	2 years	After Godan, testing is by invitation from Kaicho, Hombu Dojo Japan
Nidan to Sandan	3 years	
Sandan to Yondan	4 years	
Yondan to Godan	5 years	

5. As a further gesture of recognition for the contributions of the Black Belts to the Dojo, the Dojo will endeavour to cover the annual Japan Black Belt dues for Black Belts who will serve as instructors for all or part of the calendar year. This will be reviewed annually in January during the budgeting process and will be subject to the Dojo's financial health. Black Belts will be informed by mid-January whether or not the Black Belt dues will be covered by the Dojo.

6. If the Dojo is financially unable to cover the dues, Black Belt must pay the annual dues by the due date, otherwise all benefits cease. A Black Belt who will be partially active during a calendar year must continue to pay the annual dues to retain the benefits upon return during the calendar year.

7. If a Black Belt has not paid his/her annual dues by the due date, and decides to return to the Association/Dojo at a later date:

- a. He/she must pay the full annual dues for the year of return (regardless of the time of year (i.e., the dues are not pro-rated)).
- b. He/she loses any accumulated seniority at their current Black Belt level.
- c. Depending on factors such as length of absence, memory of the subjects, physical fitness status, etc., there is a minimum one year waiting period before the seniority clock restarts.

8. Should a Black Belt decide to leave the Association/Dojo permanently, out of courtesy, he/she needs to inform the Chief Instructor in writing, stating the reason for the departure. The Chief Instructor will in turn inform the President of the Shorei-Kan Canada Karate Association.

Jean-Luc Desgroseilliers
Chief Instructor