



SHUSWAP DOJO

BEING
A
BLACK BELT

6 OCTOBER 2025

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 cover the annual Japan Black Belt dues for all Dojo Black Belts. This is with the understanding that Black Belts will attend classes (both sessions) on a regular basis and serve as instructors. Black Belts who are unable to attend classes on a regular basis, can voluntarily reimburse the Dojo in full or in part at the end of the calendar year.

6. In order for the Dojo to know how many Black Belt dues to cover, Black Belts need to complete the Returning Black Belt registration form (form and deadline available on website).

7. Should a Black Belt decide to leave the Association/Dojo permanently, 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