



BEING
A
BLACK BELT

11 JANUARY 2022

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. Take appropriate corrective action without delay if there is student misbehavior, disrespect, or lack of effort.
- h. Perform your assigned Dojo duties.

2. 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 Black Dues

3. 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. Instead, Black Belts pay annual (calendar year) Shorei-Kan Japan Black Belt dues (see the Dojo website for the current dues). **The annual payment is due by 1 March.** The annual dues provide the following benefits:

- a. Membership in the Shorei-Kan Canada Karate Association.
- b. Continued registration as Black Belt.
- c. Picture on the 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 timeframes:

BELT	TIMEFRAME 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	

4. If a Black Belt does not pay his/her annual dues by the due date, 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.