

New Member Information Packet



“the concept of kendo is to discipline the human character through the application of the principles of the katana”

<http://www.DFWKIK.org/>



Dallas Fort Worth Kendo & Iaido Kyokai
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DFWKIK Mon



The Mon of the Dallas-Fort Worth Kendo and Iaido Kyokai reflects the dojo's philosophy, attitude, and spirit. Our Mon *is* symbolic, illustrating a path to a unified spirit. The lines converging on the Lone Star represent the merging of our members' diverse backgrounds, and every member of our dojo contributes in his or her own way to our common goals. This philosophy grows strong by practicing Kendo and Iaido!

The Lone Star represents the best of Texas culture. Texas has always been a place of migration and change, providing the opportunity for individual growth and development. The Dallas-Fort Worth Kendo and Iaido Kyokai follows this tradition by providing a place for learning positive values by disciplining the human character through the application of the principles of the katana.

Because of this spirit, the Dallas-Fort Worth Kendo and Iaido Kyokai is dedicated to the growth of Kendo and Iaido. And this Mon is a reminder that for us, each day -in our work, our play, and our practice -we represent the positive values and long-standing traditions of Kendo and Iaido.



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An Article On Giri

Written By Kim Taylor Sensei
Presented in *The Iaido Newsletter* #35 July -1993 A

GIRI *by Kim Taylor*

A lot of the problems and conflicts involved in the study of budo could be eliminated if everyone had a good idea of the responsibilities of both student and teacher. To that end, here is something to read and consider. Comments on these views would be most welcome from readers.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR

1. LEARNING: There's no point being at class if you're not there to learn. Learning implies studying the curriculum of the school. Some students come to class with an agenda, they want to learn to defend themselves or "get fit." This is fine if they quickly learn the true purpose of budo. Keiko... learning and practicing.

PAY ATTENTION: Pay attention to the instructor, shut up and listen. Paying attention means trying to understand what is being shown and said, not thinking about the next meal or beer. It means being quiet and listening when the instructor speaks and refraining from telling everyone what "so and so" said or "how we do it in my club."

NO HORSEPLAY: Most injuries are the result of horseplay, of not paying attention. Bumping into other students or a wall is simply lack of awareness and attention.

CONCENTRATE: The first and only thing students should concentrate on is the curriculum. If you are thinking about the benefits of practice (looking good, getting in shape etc.), you are not learning.

NO OUTSIDE DISTRACTIONS: Keep the outside life outside the dojo. Budo is a lifelong practice, if you have a problem that will last less than a year, nobody wants to hear about it in class. A permanent problem such as the loss of an arm is a different thing - that affects your training, but your arguments with your spouse or your boss are simply not going to be important in six months.

NO DISRUPTIONS: A rule of thumb is to create no distractions for the class. Complaining demands that someone else pay attention and try to fix your problem. Fussing with equipment, standing and stretching, talking to yourself, practicing something else, or any of the other little things you might do destroy the concentration of the class. Of course, your concentration is already gone.

REGULAR ATTENDANCE: Obviously, missing a class means you don't learn, it also means you don't care. Missing class without good reason, (and not telling your instructor first) is simply rude, especially if classes are small and there's a chance sensei will end up alone. It's bad discipline to decide not to go at the last moment, part of the lesson of budo is dragging your butt out there when you don't want to.



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NO LATE ARRIVALS: Being late for class may be worse than missing it. Coming in late disrupts the class, and implies you find your time more valuable than sensei's. If it is, consider another hobby. There's no excuse for being late, but if it's unavoidable, come in quietly. Wait for the teacher to admit you, warm up and join in. Coming late to avoid warm-ups is just not getting it.

EXTRA PRACTICE: It is sensei's job to present the material; it's your job to learn it. Those who don't practice outside class when needed, keep the rest behind. Sensei must teach the whole class, if there's uneven effort, there's no progress.

NO SLACKING OFF: At a certain point, students lose their fear of the instructor and begin to take it easy. Standing around thinking, talking or watching does not get the job done.

SKEPTICISM: The most important learning tool may be skepticism.

Faith vs. questioning: blind faith doesn't assist learning. Copying a move with no idea of what it means is blind faith. This causes a search for the "true meaning" two generations down the road. Students must question why each movement is performed.

Questioning vs doubting: on the other hand, it's not for students to doubt the movement. The kata are included in the school for a reason, find the reason, don't doubt the move. If you have a better move, found your own art. If you know a counter, congrats and so what?

Trust vs. faith: trust in your teachers and their teachers is not faith. Rely on the obligations of your instructors to keep them from lying or injuring you. Remember, trust is earned, faith given.

2. PERSONAL HYGIENE: Students must maintain a level of cleanliness. This should be obvious, but look around in any class. Finger and toenails must be clean and short to avoid injury. Hair must be under control so as not to blind the eyes at the wrong instant. The uniform must be clean and repaired. Students should be clean in body; grimy hands or smelly pits are distracting and show lack of concern for others.

NO DRINKING BEFORE CLASS: Students must never come to class after drinking, too dangerous for everyone. Sensei can't tell if you had one beer with your dinner, or sixteen with your buddies by the smell of your breath. Have none.

3. DOJO DUTIES: Students should get to class early. Contrary to popular myth, class does not include the time spent sweeping the floor. Students should make each class flow as easily as possible. Have the room setup, swept, and repairs to equipment made before the scheduled start time. If this is impossible due to other classes, all students should be ready to move in quickly and do what is needed. Because you always start 10 minutes late is no reason to show up 10 minutes late still tying your belt. If you arrive to see your instructor sweeping you should feel shame. Even if sensei wants to do it, you do it first, it's your job not his.

4. RELATIONSHIP TO INSTRUCTOR:

HERO WORSHIP: Refrain from indulging in hero worship. Sensei is not a god or even a superior human. Claiming your teacher has supernatural power does nobody any good.



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The highest praise for sensei IS respect as a teacher . Worship of a "budo saint" simply means you are still a child. On the other hand, if sensei starts to believe the worship, progress in the art will surely be stalled.

BE AN ADULT: Don't look for a parent or therapist. Putting sensei into either role makes teaching difficult and opens the way to complications on the personal level. Sensei's job is to teach budo, not straighten out your life, that is your job. Giving control of your life to someone else is simply asking to be abused.

NO PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS: Don't get involved with the instructor. You can't learn budo from a lover. The teacher/student relationship is not equal, but a healthy personal relationship must have equality. Rarely can you be lovers at home, teacher and student in the dojo.

NO PERSONAL FEES: It is not up to students to pay for the instructor's new roof. A new roof on the dojo is another matter. Instructors who make a living by teaching should include all the money they need in the monthly dues. Special charity dues rapidly become habit forming.

5. RELATIONSHIPS WITH FELLOW STUDENTS: Be careful getting involved with other students. Budo is for life, relationships often for a week. The end of a couple means tension and discord which, when brought into the dojo, disrupts the class. Broken relationships usually mean one or both partners leaving the dojo. **NO EGO.** Each class will have students whose personalities clash. Students must work to prevent this. Personality clashes mean ego. The ego has no place in the dojo.

6. DUTY AND LOYALTY: Beyond these responsibilities, students have no inherent duty or loyalty to either the art or the instructor. A student must earn the privilege of being loyal to an art or a school through many years of hard work. In the old days, a samurai (or a western knight for that matter) did not have the luxury of simply giving his loyalty to any daimyo he chose, that loyalty was requested by the lord after the samurai had proved himself worthy of the request. Paying money to an instructor does not entitle the student to the highly reciprocal duties, responsibilities and benefits of fealty.



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Commands For Practice

IAIDO

keito stand at attention (sword in taito position)
katana-ni taishite rei bow to sword
batto draw sword from saya

BEGIN EXERCISES & PRACTICE

yame end/stop
kiotsuke attention
chakuza be seated to seiza
katana-ni taishite rei bow to sword
sensei-ni rei (senseis gata-ni rei) bow to sensei(s)
otagai-ni rei bow to the members
shin zen-ni rei (kamjza-ni rei) bow to shrine or front of dojo
keiko owari practice is over

KENDO KATA

shin zen-ni rei (kamiza-ni rei) bow to shrine or front of dojo
otagai-ni rei bow to other members

BEGIN KATA

yame end/stop
kamae stand at chudan position
sonkyo crouching position
osami-to return bokuto to side
otagai-ni rei bow to other members
shin zen-ni rei(kamjza-ni rei) bow to shrjneor front ofdojo

KENDO

kiotsuke attention
chakuza be seated to seiza
seiza sit at attention
mokuso begin meditation
mokuso yame end meditation
shin zen-ni rei (kamiza-ni rei) bow to shrine or front of dojo
sensei-ni rei (senseis gata-ni rei) bow to sensei(s)
otagai-ni rei bow to other members
men tsuke put men and kote on

BEGIN PRACTICE

yame end/stop
kiotsuke attention
chakuza be seated to seiza (remove kote)
seiza sit at attention
men tore take men off
mokuso begin meditation
mokuso yame end meditation
sensei-ni rei (senseis gata-ni rei) bow to sensei(s)
otagai-ni rei bow to other members
shin zen-ni rei (kamiza-ni rei) bow to shrine or front of dojo
keiko owari practice is over



Dallas Fort Worth Kendo & Iaido Kyokai New Member Information Packet

Membership Dues & Fees

To: All Members, Dallas/Fort Worth Kendo and Iaido Kyokai

From: David Cooper

Date: July 2003

Subject: Membership Dues and Fees – Effective September 2003

Your Kendo and Iaido membership extends to 3 organizational levels:

1. **National** - All United States Kendo Federation (**AUSKF**)
2. **Regional** - Southwest Kendo and Iaido Federation (**SWKIF**)
3. **Local** - Dallas/Fort Worth Kendo and Iaido Kyokai (**DFWKIK**)

Membership dues are vital, since it represents our primary source of working capital throughout the year! Unlike other martial arts, which may have several "National" organizations representing its U.S. membership, Kendo in the continental United States is recognized by only one organization – The All United States Kendo Federation. Membership in the AUSKF offers numerous benefits. The Kendo or Iaido rank you receive from examining AUSKF officials is recognized by the International Kendo Federation (IKF), the governing body that oversees Kendo and Iaido worldwide. Your "Menjo" or ranking certificate is your international "ID", which offers you instant status and credibility when training abroad. AUSKF members also have the opportunity to attend nationally sanctioned meetings, seminars, and tournaments.

Membership in the Southwest Kendo and Iaido Federation (SWKIF) allows your participation in regionally sponsored tournaments, seminars, promotion examinations, and other activities involving the AUSKF. Your SWKIF dues also goes towards defraying travel and lodging costs for visiting Sensei and other guests invited for specialized training or promotional examination. Similarly, travel and lodging costs of SWKIF members attending AUSKF sponsored activities are covered or subsidized, upon approval by the regional board of directors. (Note: Members in the SWKIF must also be members of the AUSKF).

Your monthly Dallas/Fort Worth Kendo and Iaido Kyokai (DFWKIK) dues offers membership benefits similar to that of the SWKIF. In addition facility rental fees, expenses for organized dojo training seminars or tournaments are also covered or subsidized with local club dues. Kendo equipment such as Bogu (armor) are purchased and kept on hand. This allows new students the opportunity to use the club's Bogu while they prepare to order their own equipment. (Note: There is a small rental charge for using the club's Bogu. We also ask that the borrower be responsible for proper equipment care and promptly returns it to the club upon receiving their own Bogu, or in situations where he or she stops training or leaves town.). The following are current membership dues and fees effective September 2003:



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- 1. National** - The All United States Kendo Federation (AUSKF)
Includes insurance premium

\$25.00 - Annual dues, 17 years and under (unranked and Kyu)
\$40.00 - Annual dues, 17years and under (Dan ranks)
\$40.00 - Annual dues, 18 years and over (Kyu to -Dan)
- 2. Regional** - Southwest Kendo and Iaido Federation (SWKIF)

\$10.00 - Annual dues, 17 years and under
\$25.00 - Annual dues, 18 years and over
\$5.00 - One time initiation fee, new members only
- 3. Local** - Dallas/Fort Worth Kendo and Iaido Kyokai (DFWKIK)

\$25.00 - One time initiation fee, new members only

Adults (18 and over):
\$45.00 - Monthly dues

Children (Under 18):
\$30.00 - Monthly dues
Under 10 - Free with an adult family member

\$90.00 – Maximum per immediate family
- 4. Club Bogu & Iaito** - rental fees (if available)

\$5.00 – Monthly fee

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your membership, please discuss this with the club's treasurer or secretary. Please submit check/cash to the DFWKIK Treasurer. Prepaying your monthly dues and facilities fee (i.e. quarterly, semi-annually, etc.) is acceptable and encouraged. Please note that inactive members for 6 months or longer will need to pay SWKIF and DFWKIK "initiation" dues, to regain active status.

First Monthly check should include the \$25 initiation fee.

Make check payable to: "DFWKIK"

Please note the reason for payment in the memo section of your check.
DFWKIK dues established 7-22-03 per DFWKIK Board of Directors.