

Guidelines for Participation in the *Bujinkan*

The *Bujinkan* shall be open to only those who agree with and uphold the guidelines of the *Bujinkan Dôjô*. Those not doing so shall not be allowed to join. Specifically:

- (1) Only those who have read and agreed with these guidelines shall be allowed to participate.
- (2) Only those able to exercise true patience, self-control, and dedication shall be allowed to participate.
- (3) A physician's examination report shall be required. Specifically, individuals with mental illness, drug addiction, or mental instability shall be barred from joining. The necessity of such a report concerns individuals who may present a danger to others, for example, those with infectious diseases or illnesses, individuals with clinically abnormal personalities or physiology, and individuals lacking self-control.
- (4) Individuals with criminal records shall be turned away. Troublemakers, those who commit crimes, and those living in Japan who break domestic laws shall be turned away.
- (5) Those not upholding the guidelines of the *Bujinkan*, either as practitioners or as members of society, by committing disgraceful or reproachable acts shall be expelled. Until now, the *Bujinkan* was open to large numbers of people who came to Japan. Among them, unfortunately, were those committing violent drunken acts, the mentally ill, and trouble makers who thought only of themselves and failed to see how their actions might adversely affect others. Through their actions, such people were discarding the traditional righteous heart of the *Bujinkan*. From this day forward, all such people shall be expelled.
- (6) Regarding accidents occurring during training (both inside and outside the *dôjô*), one should not cause trouble to the *Bujinkan*. This is an extremely important point. Those unwilling to take personal responsibility for accidents occurring during *Bujinkan* training shall not be admitted. Reiterating for clarity, the *Bujinkan* shall not take responsibility for any accidents happening in the course of training, regardless of the location.
- (7) All those joining the *Bujinkan* must get an annual member's card. This card not only preserves the honor of the *Bujinkan* members, it indicates you are part of a larger whole—one whose members come together with warrior hearts to better themselves through training and friendship. It evinces the glory of warrior virtue, and embodies both loyalty and brotherly love.
- (8) The tradition of the *Bujinkan* recognizes nature and the universality of all human life, and is aware of that which flows naturally between the two parts:

“The secret principle of *Taijutsu* is to know the foundations of peace. To study is the path to the immovable heart (*fudôshin*).”

The Code of the *Dôjô*:

- 1) To know that patience comes first.
- 2) To know that the path of Man comes from justice.
- 3) To renounce avarice, indolence, and obstinacy.
- 4) To recognize sadness and worry as natural, and to seek the immovable heart.
- 5) To not stray from the path of loyalty and brotherly love, and to delve always deeper into the heart of *Budô*.

To follow this code is part of the *dôjô*'s guidelines.

Meiji 23 (1890) Spring, Toda Shinryuken Masamitsu
Shôwa 33 (1958) March, Takamatsu Toshitsugu Uou
Hatsumi Masaaki Byakuryu

(9) Initial training begins with *Taijutsu*

Kyu levels: beginners

First to Fifth *dan*: *Ten* (heaven)

Fifth to Tenth *dan*: *Chi* (earth)

Tenth to Fifteenth *dan*: *Jin* (person)

The eleventh to fifteenth *dan* are broken into *Chi* (earth), *Sui* (water), *Ka* (fire), *Fû* (wind) and *Kû* (emptiness); the *Happô Biken* will be taught at these levels. The fifth *dan* test shall only be administered by *Sôke*. True *Shihan* can be given fifteenth *dan*.

Recently, the *Bujinkan* has become truly international. Just as there are various time zones, so exist various taboos among the world's peoples and nations. We must respect each other, striving to avoid such taboos. We must put the heart of the warrior first, working together for self-improvement and for the betterment of the *Bujinkan*.

Those not upholding the above-mentioned guidelines shall be forced out of the *Bujinkan*.

The *Bujinkan Dôjô*

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Togakure Ryû Ninpô Happô Biken, 34th Grandmaster

Gyokko Ryû Kosshijutsu Happô Biken, 28th Grandmaster

Kotô Ryû Koppôjutsu Happô Biken, 18th Grandmaster

Shinden Fudô Ryû Daken Taijutsu Happô Biken, 26th Grandmaster

Kukishin Ryû Taijutsu Happô Biken, 28th Grandmaster

Takagiyôshin Ryû Jûtaijutsu Happô Biken, 17th Grandmaster

Kumogakure Ryû Ninpô Happô Biken, 14th Grandmaster

Gyokushin Ryû Ninpô Happô Biken, 21st Grandmaster

Gikan Ryû Koppôjutsu Happô Biken, 15th Grandmaster

All members should own every copy of the *Hombu's* publications, and read and re-read them consistently as part of your training. Reading them soon after you join, a year later, and then several years after that, will afford you with different interpretations and different feelings. The *Hombu's* publications also contain information concerning the worldwide practice of *Bujinkan Budô Taijutsu* and the various materials (printed, video, or otherwise) available for training.