



TERMS & CONDITIONS OF SHINTEN BUDO INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP



I hereby accept the following conditions of my membership of Shinten Budo International:

1. SBI and Member Clubs

- 1.1. I recognise and accept that each local club is accredited to Shinten Budo International (SBI), as a governing body for Shotokai Karate-do and Kobudo.
- 1.2. I recognise and accept that membership of SBI affords me a licence and insurance to practice. I further accept that such a licence and insurance remains the property of SBI and may be revoked by SBI at any time, at their discretion.
- 1.3. I recognise and accept that membership of SBI allows me to choose a 'base club' where my day-to-day training shall take place. Such a base club must be accredited by SBI for my membership, insurance and licence to remain valid.
- 1.4. I recognise and accept the authority and guidance of the Chief Instructor (or their representative) of my base club in all matters of my day-to-day training in the arts of Shotokai karate-do and/or kobudo.

2. Club Authority

- 2.1. In all points raised below & all matters pertaining SBI-accredited clubs, I accept that the Deputy Chief Instructor will carry the full authority of the Chief Instructor of the local club in his/her absence.
- 2.2. The grades of proficiency that I may be awarded from time to time are a privilege, not a right, granted at the discretion of the instructors and examiners. The Chief Instructor of my base club, as the highest technical authority in the club, may therefore alter my grade/rank at any time (up or down) without prior notice at his/her sole discretion.

3. Behaviour & Discipline

- 3.1. I promise not to use knowledge/skills that I am taught except in defence of life, honour or truth and, even then, as a last resort when all other options have been exhausted.
- 3.2. I promise never to do anything that may bring shame, disrespect or dishonour to my teacher, my club or myself.
- 3.3. I promise not to damage any equipment or item belonging to my base club or SBI.
- 3.4. I promise not to damage the training venue of my base club or any other SBI-accredited club.
- 3.5. I accept that no photographic, videographic or media material may be obtained in SBI clubs or during club events without the prior permission of the Chief Instructor.
- 3.6. I accept that in all matters pertaining to my training and discipline, the Chief Instructor's decision is final and cannot be appealed.

4. Finance issues

- 4.1. I accept that class fees are payable in full prior to the start of each training session. Once paid, I accept that such fees are non-refundable.
- 4.2. I understand that the latest fee rates and acceptable methods of payment can be obtained from the Chief Instructor or their representative.
- 4.3. I acknowledge that any alternative payment structure must be accepted in writing either by the Chief Instructor, Deputy Chief Instructor or Club Treasurer.
- 4.4. I promise to pay any fees due by me to the club on time and without delay. I recognise that if payment is late without a reason, submitted in writing, that is acceptable to the Chief Instructor or their representative, I may be liable to incur penalty charges (compounded daily) on any outstanding fees or dues. If this delay persists beyond a month, either my membership may be terminated or the rate of penalty charges may rise further from the 31st day of delay onwards.
- 4.5. I acknowledge that all arrears are due within 5 working days from the date of any written notification by the club to the student (or student's guardian). I accept that if arrears are not paid within the 5 working days, my membership may be immediately suspended and that, if I still cannot clear the arrears within 2 weeks from the date of the written notification by the club, my membership may be terminated. I understand that if I should wish to resume training after this point, I will have to apply as a new student (i.e. licence/insurance/membership fee will be due etc.).
- 4.6. I understand that all payments are non-refundable. Furthermore, I understand that if a cheque is dishonoured by the bank then I may be liable to pay the club or SBI a handling fee.

5. Liability

- 5.1. I accept that the practise of any martial art/combat sport may involve the risk of serious injury.
- 5.2. I accept that it is my responsibility to ensure that my licence and insurance are up-to-date at the time of any practice that I take part in.
- 5.3. I accept that it is my responsibility to look after my personal belongings during practice sessions.
- 5.4. I acknowledge that SBI or its accredited clubs do not accept any responsibility or liability for any theft, loss or damage of any of my personal belongings.
- 5.5. I further acknowledge that, if I should steal, lose or damage any equipment or item(s) belonging to SBI or its accredited clubs, I am responsible for the cost of replacing such item(s).
- 5.6. In the case of children under the age of 18 years OR vulnerable adults, I accept that my Legal Guardian is responsible for my supervision and care at all times until a licenced/insured teacher is available who accepts the responsibility of acting in *loco parentis*. Failure to undertake such supervision on the part of my Legal Guardian may jeopardise my membership/licence/insurance within SBI and my base club.

6. Licence/Membership Status

- 6.1. If I am granted a licence to practice, I accept that this is always the property of SBI which may be given to me for safekeeping. I will willingly surrender it immediately upon request by the Chief Instructor at all times.
- 6.2. I promise to inform SBI (in writing within 5 working days) if any of my details held in the membership application/record should change.
- 6.3. I accept that the terms and conditions of membership as well as any fee structure may, from time to time, change according to the changing needs of the club. I understand that, if this should happen, I will be given prior written notice of these changes.
- 6.4. I may request withdrawal of my membership of SBI or my base club by giving one month's notice to the Chief Instructor or Chairperson, in writing. This one month may be used by the Club Management Team to resolve any outstanding administrative matters.
- 6.5. I accept that if any of the points in these terms and conditions are violated by me, my membership of SBI or my base club may be suspended or terminated immediately without notice, at the sole discretion of the Chief Instructor or Deputy Chief Instructor.

7. Renewal of Membership

- 7.1. I recognise that my membership, if accepted, is only valid for the current training year based on the date of my signature below. During this period, I understand and accept that the following (amongst other things) will be assessed:
 - 7.1.1. Enthusiasm and motivation for the Art.
 - 7.1.2. Level of dedication and commitment to learning.
 - 7.1.3. Ability to integrate into the club, both as an individual and in terms of club policies.
 - 7.1.4. Particularly for children (though, to an extent, also for adult students), the ability to show good behaviour and appropriate respect towards their teachers and senior classmates.
- 7.2. I understand that only once a student reaches black belt standard will their annual membership application be considered for long-term status.
- 7.3. I understand that I may be required to complete this application form again at the start of each new club year or if the terms and conditions should change.

8. For all instructors/assistant instructors only, the following also apply:

- 8.1. I recognise that being a teacher is a high honour beyond measure & promise to carry the responsibility with humility, dedication and diligence.
- 8.2. I promise that any information given to me regarding students or martial arts will be held in confidence by me, never to be divulged except with the sole permission of the Chief Instructor.
- 8.3. I promise to uphold myself in an honourable and dignified manner, setting a shining example to all those around me (in particular my junior colleagues) of the highest virtues of Bushido. I further promise to adhere to teaching the principles & guidance laid out by the Chief Instructor.
- 8.4. I acknowledge that I am directly answerable to the Chief Instructor alone or, in his/her absence, to the Deputy Chief Instructor for all of my actions in and outside the club both as a practitioner and a teacher.

9. For all members of the management team only, the following also apply:

- 9.1. I recognise that, as a member of the management team, I may be privy to information not otherwise disseminated. As such, I promise to carry out my role in the management team with honour and dedication and never to use the information I am given except for the purposes of club administration as directed by the Chief Instructor.

- 9.2. I will follow the direction and lead of the Chief Instructor and, if any conflict or dispute should arise, I will defer to the final decision of the Chief Instructor as the highest technical authority and most experienced practitioner in the club.

My acceptance of the conditions laid down in this document is given freely and willingly, without any undue pressure.