

HORIUCHI KODENKAN

DOJO RULES

Welcome to the Horiuchi Kodengan. The Horiuchi Kodengan is what is considered to be a “koryu gakkou” or a school of old traditional ways. The word “KO” in Japanese means “old or traditional”. “DEN” means to transmit, or pass on and “KAN” means the place or building. The HORIUCHI KODENKAN is simply translated into “the Horiuchi place or building to pass on the old or traditional way.

At the Horiuchi Kodengan our primary goal is to teach BUDO (the martial way) through a proven methodical system that has stood the test of time....JUJITSU.

Many have asked what are the difference between a traditional and a non-traditional dojo? OK, keep in mind that some words in Japanese have no true English equivalent, or it takes many English words to translate properly the concept of one Japanese word.... but for explanation sake I’ll do my best....

Let’s take a simple example like the traditional bow before you enter the dojo. Many believe that the dojo is sort of like a gymnasium, or training hall filled with a multitude of exercises and drills to bring students to their physical potential. Although this may be true in a great many dojo nowadays, here at the Horiuchi Kodengan that is a far leap from our expectations. The “Dojo” or place of training during feudal times usually occurred in open fields (sorry no mats back then) and on the open dirt. These places were for many reasons, hidden and kept secret within the estates of noble lords, or within the sanctuary of temples and shrines. If you were a samurai learning the art of Jujitsu back then, how “respectfully” you entered the dojo truly mattered. If your bow looked respectful as you entered, you were allowed to practice.... if it looked disrespectful, you were reprimanded severely sometimes to the point of death. No bits of discussion, no excuses. In old Japanese culture how you reflected your character to others, told the story of whether you were committed, dedicated and loyal to the way.

Many of the traditions like the “ojirei” or traditional bow came from a showing of extreme respect to many of the nobles, lords, priests and warlords of that time that helped to teach the old ways.

So in answer to the question...a dojo that teaches the BUDO, its history, concepts, culture and importance of “the old traditions” to the study of today, clearly separates the traditional from the non-traditional dojo.

At the Horiuchi Kodokan we place very little importance on competition, promotions, belt color, rank, and tournaments.

On the contrary, we are a 100% self defense school and place extremely high value on commitment, promptness, awareness, composure, respect and a pure dedication to the study of the way.

In your own personal commitments to learning the way please keep these beliefs in mind....

**That to be successful in life, it requires... DISCIPLINE.
It requires discipline to be... honest, compassionate, respectful, courageous, patient, and forgiving.**

We also believe:

That to accomplish this Discipline within your lifetime.... Your CHARACTER must be built FIRST.

If your character is built firmly you WILL BE successful in dealing with whatever life has to offer you.

**Jujitsu is simply.... a very old and tested vehicle to practice the BUDO.
The by-product of all of this practice IS the “Building of Character”**

**The body follows the mind, and the mind is controlled by the spirit.
How these three react with the world around you... is a pure reflection of your Character.**

The road to building ones character is long, tedious, and very difficult. So, if Jujitsu is truly the vehicle, and the road is really hard, it is often much more enjoyable to ride side by side with others who have the same goal.

With these things in your mind you should do very well to learn the rest.

The Horiuchi Kodokan has put together a few dojo rules to help initiate your entry into the study of Kodokan / Danzan ryu Jujitsu.

GUESTS

1. Please no eating, drinking or reading during class.
2. Guests are always welcome and should remain respectfully quiet outside the training area (mat area) during class.
3. Please no photographs, video, or recording is allowed during class.
4. Please **NO TALKING TO STUDENTS** during class time. Within the Kodokan it is the student's responsibility to do their very best at every single moment, every second, and at every breath. This practice is very exhausting and easily distracted.
5. ALL GUESTS should STAND and BOW respectfully during the opening and closing of class.
6. It is believed that all lessons are considered privileged even the one being watched. All guests and observers should be attentive and observant. *Please refrain from talking.*
7. Parents/Guardians please don't sign in or make payments for your child. Please allow them the chance to sign in and make the payments on their own.
8. Please silence all cellular phones during class time.
9. Please bow upon entering the dojo, and upon entering the mat area.
10. Please allow all students to dress themselves before and after class.

STUDENTS

1. The practice of Horiuchi Kodengan Jujitsu outside of the dojo is **strictly prohibited**.
2. Please Bow upon entering the dojo, and upon entering the mat area.
3. Please keep good hygiene. Showering before class time is always encouraged.
4. Bathroom / Changing areas are available, but please keep in mind that all common areas are shared and part of the school so please be respectful and clean up well after yourself.
5. All dues and fees **MUST** be paid **PRIOR** to your class attendance. Prepayments are always accepted.
6. Please place your footwear backwards against the edge of the mat upon entering the mat area.
7. Class starts exactly on time please **use the bathroom and/or drink water prior to the start of class. Eating and drinking are not allowed within the dojo.**
8. All students should be **dressed and ready for practice 5 mins before class starts.** Quiet stretching, and meditation prior to class is encouraged. No playing of any kind is allowed in the dojo. If you arrive early please help to set up the mats and homework completion is highly encouraged. Study hall is available for jujitsu students only.
9. If you are late for class please **DO NOT** enter the practice areas. Sit quietly in seiza (kneeling) at the corner of the mat until invited to participate.
10. All students should be seated in line-up formation 1-minute prior to start of class.
11. When being given instruction by sensei all students should kneel and remain kneeling in seiza. When instruction is done all students should bow (rei) stand up and begin practice immediately.

12. It is believed that knowledge, and experience within the Horiuchi Kodenkan is achieved through physical PRACTICE, much repetition, and NEVER through talking. Talking should be kept to a very minimum upon the mat.
13. Please don't stand around during class, you should always be practicing. If you need a rest go to the side of the mat and sit in seiza (kneeling). Lying down on the mat is considered disrespectful.
14. As time is very limited please refrain from asking questions during class, please feel free to ask questions after class time.
15. There are many forms of proper etiquette within the dojo if you are unsure watch carefully and ask a senior student.
16. All changing of keikogi **MUST** be done at the dojo. Please do not wear your keikogi **TO** or **FROM** the dojo. All keikogi must be **concealed**. Please **bring a gym bag or backpack to store all keikogi**.
17. ALWAYS BE OBSERVANT watching, practicing, and doing is both "The Lesson" and the "Test" of a good student.
18. The dojo should be **respected as a temple or a church**.
19. Many people over thousands of years gave up their very lives so that you may freely learn this art, please **show some respect and enter with a serious composure**.