



***Code of Conduct For Members
24-04-2022***



Introduction

Southampton Kendo Club aims to bring kendo to everyone who wants to study it. To train kendo safely we need to behave with respect and consideration for each other. To ensure we have a common understanding of what is expected we have created this code of conduct. Repeated or egregious breaches will result in you being expelled from the club.

Absolutely no harassment or bullying will be tolerated, verbal or physical. Absolutely no discrimination based on protected characteristics (real or perceived) will be tolerated.

1. General Behaviour

- a) Be considerate of your fellow members' safety.
- b) Respect and be tolerant of people's differences in our club and not discriminate against anyone else on the grounds of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion or ability.
- c) Report any incidents of harassment or bullying (including sexism, homophobia and transphobia) to a coach, even if you're just a witness.
- d) Treat your fellow members with respect and appreciate that everyone has different levels of skill and talent.
- e) Make our club a welcoming and friendly place to be.
- f) Support and encourage your fellow members. Tell them when they've done well and be there for them when they're struggling.
- g) Be a good sport, play by the rules and have fun.
- h) Make it to practices on time and if you're running late, let a coach know.
- i) Get involved in club decisions, it's your club too!

2. Entering the dojo

- a) Use appropriate changing facilities; do not get changed in the dojo.
- b) Remove shoes before entering the dojo.
- c) Rei to the dojo on entry and exit. If you are unable to bow (e.g. because of religion, health or other reasons), then an appropriate sign of respect must be demonstrated.

3. During the session

- a) Follow the coaches instructions, unless you feel something is unsafe.
- b) If you feel something is unsafe let the coach know.
- c) Let the coach know if you need to stop at any point.
- d) Let the coach know if you need to leave the dojo at any point before the end of the session.
- e) When training with a partner, rei to each other before starting and after finishing each exercise. If you are unable to bow (e.g. because of religion, health or other reasons), then an appropriate sign of respect must be demonstrated.



- f) Do not swear in the dojo.
- g) Do not smoke, including e-cigarettes/vaping, in the dojo.
- h) Do not consume alcohol or illegal substances before practice or in the dojo.

4. Safety Checks

Prior to training, you must check the following:

Equipment:

- a) Is your clothing fitting correctly?
- b) Are your himo (chords) correctly tied?
- c) Is your bokken in good condition, i.e. no splintering or chipping?
- d) Is your shinai in good condition, i.e. no cracks or bends?
- e) Is the tsuru secure?
- f) Is the shinai undamaged (take or any other part split/torn)?

Personal:

- a) Are you fit to train (not ill or inebriated)?
- b) Does your hair obscure your vision?
- c) Are finger and toe nails adequately trimmed?
- d) Have you removed any jewellery, i.e. earrings, necklace, watch, rings?
- e) Do you have injuries requiring consideration?
- f) Are any injuries correctly dressed etc?
- g) Do you have enough space to practice?
- h) Are you in anyone's way?
- i) Do you know what forms the people around you are practising?
- j) Will your activities interfere with anyone else?

5. Visiting other clubs

- a) Let the Dojo Leader know your intentions.
- b) Contact the other club in advance, before visiting. You can ask the Dojo Leader for an introduction if they don't already know you.
- c) Be aware, other clubs will have different policies and safety standards.
- d) When visiting another club you are representing Southampton Kendo Club. You will still be expected to follow this code of conduct.

6. Our responsibility

As a member taking part, we understand you have the right to:

- a) Enjoy the time you spend with us and know that you're safe.
- b) Be told who you can talk to if something's not right.
- c) Be listened to.
- d) Be included.
- e) Be involved and contribute towards decisions within the club.
- f) Be respected by us and other members and be treated fairly.
- g) Feel welcomed, valued and not judged based on your race, gender, sexual orientation, religion or ability.



- h) Be encouraged and develop skills with our help.
- i) Be looked after if there's an accident or injury and have your next of kin / emergency contact informed if needed.

7. Governing Body

All members must ensure they have current membership of the BKA, which provides insurance for all our members.

8. Club fees

All members will need to pay an attendance fee each month (details on our website). If any member has difficulties please tell us. We will not prevent any member from practising due to financial difficulties. If any member has not discussed with us, is not paying fees and is no longer a member of the BKA, it will be assumed they have abandoned membership.

Concerns, Complaints and Safeguarding

If you would like to report any concerns, complaints or incidents, even if you're just a witness, please contact one of our coaches. If you don't feel comfortable talking to our coaches, you may contact the British Kendo Association or the leader at any other BKA club.

All complaints will be taken seriously. All complaints will be investigated. Anyone reporting, and any victims, will be protected from retaliation.

- a) If the report only involves members of SKC, we will investigate internally.
- b) If the report involves a member of another club, the leader of the other club will be approached.
- c) If the report involves any coach or officer, of our club or another, then the British Kendo Association will be approached.

You can contact us at complaints@southamptonkendo.co.uk (goes to all safeguarding officers and the dojo leader), or speak to us privately in person.

You can contact the BKA at complaints@britishkendoassociation.com

For reports of criminal behaviour, these should also be reported to the police.

If anyone's safety is in immediate danger, call the police on 999.