



Rising Sun Martial Arts

Student Guide



We welcome you as a student to Rising Sun Martial Arts and as a member of the American KOMBIDO Association (AKA). You are one of a very select group. Our school is composed of high quality men, women, and children of all races and creeds. Our pledge to students is that we will constantly be on guard to maintain an atmosphere that will upgrade our people both spiritually and physically. From the start, you will find our senior people anxious to help you grow. As you become more knowledgeable, you will also be expected to help new people who become a part of our family. From the very highest to the very least, always remember that our first responsibility is the constant uplifting of all our people, for we are indeed a family in the truest sense.

A.K.A. *All Rising Sun Martial Arts students must be members in good standing with the American KOMBIDO Association. It is the AKA that holds each student and their belt ranking on file as an American martial artist, therefore it is important to pay your AKA yearly dues on time every January, to respect the decisions of the AKA, and to always show pride in being an AKA member. It is the AKA that regulates and ensures that you receive quality martial arts instruction. Being a part of the AKA means that you are also able to visit and train at other AKA sanctioned schools across the country.*

Uniforms *Students are required to be in the proper uniform and expected to maintain their uniforms in a high quality condition at all times. This means no holes, frayed ends, etc. Also, they must be kept clean and fresh, and no one is allowed to leave uniforms or anything else at the school. **Nothing is to be sewn on or attached to the uniform except patches and insignias authorized by the AKA.***

Belt Rank Procedures *The belt and earned patch system in Rising Sun Martial Arts is as follows:*

There are ten ranks of black belt and ten ranks of belts below the rank of black belt, which are referred to as underbelts. The underbelts start at white, then run orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, 2nd red, 1st red, 2nd brown, and 1st brown. Within each belt level, there are two divisions; the lowest being "recommended" and the highest being "decided". Thus, a Greenbelt Decided has a higher rank than a Greenbelt Recommended. The highest underbelt would be 1st Brown Decided. If you have two people the same rank, the person who achieved the rank first is the senior. If both people made the rank the same day, the person who joined the school first would have seniority. If both joined the same day, decision on seniority and rank standings are to be decided by the Master.

The Black Belt ranks, sometimes referred to as the Dan ranks, from 1st to 5th Dan are earned ranks. All other ranks above 5th degree black belt are honorary and are granted because of past and current excellence, and continued efforts of an individual to advance the martial arts to an ever-expanding higher level. The test for 1st Dan is always given

partly in a group testing. A person receiving a Black Belt Recommended must be examined by the reviewing board of the AKA before their rank will become Decided. This review will not take place sooner than 9 months, but before 3 years of the date the recommended rank was earned. If a person has not upgraded any rank from recommended to decided within 3 years from the date rank was earned, they will automatically be reduced to the next lower rank... 1st brown decided. In very special cases, a waiver for a 1 year extension may be granted, but no further delay will be accepted. The test for 2nd thru 5th Dan are private tests and are given in accordance with policy set down by the reviewing board of the AKA. Kids and Juniors will have extra belt ranks in Red and Brown: 3rd red and 3rd brown. The highest rank for Kids will be 1st brown decided (with up to 6 silver "+", or 'tips'). The highest rank for Juniors will be 1st Degree Junior Black Belt Recommended (with up to six gold "+" tips). When a Kids or Juniors student is transferred into the next class level, they can be withheld from testing for up to 3 months, then allowed to test for the belt they hold in the lower level. Besides belts, there are various patches that must be earned. A student may not skip a patch and cannot test for a patch and a belt at the same testing.

Testing Procedures The first time a student tests under our system, they will be tested in an "open end" scoring method. This means they will be granted whatever belt they are capable of holding. After a person is tested the first time, they will be put into a "closed end" scoring method. This allows a student to advance no more than 3 divisions, which is 1 1/2 belt levels per test. For example, a greenbelt decided could at maximum move to purple recommended. This kind of advancement would be exceptional. The usual advancement would be moving forward either 1 or 2 divisions. A student is placed on the testing list and must test when they are judged ready for testing by the Master instructor. If a student is incapable of testing because of illness, they will be allowed to make up the test. If a student finds for any reason they cannot test on the test day assigned them, they should see the Master immediately and ask for a different test date. If a person has a good reason, in the eyes of the Master, then a new test date will be granted. It is expected that all students will make every reasonable effort to test on their regular test date. Testing fee's are **\$20.00** for each testing student. All test fees must be paid by the date of testing and all accounts must be paid before a student will be allowed to test. If a student changes belt colors, the school will furnish the belt. If a person is testing for Black Belt, the test fee is **\$55.00** plus the cost of board breaking materials (usually \$2.00 a board). All test fees are subject to change without prior notice.

Missed lessons We have designed our programs so all our students have a set schedule as to class attendance. There is no accumulation of missed lessons and the date to pay and amount of dues remains the same. If a student needs to miss a months worth of classes for any reason, they must continue to pay their dues for that month to hold their place as a current student, or drop out of classes. If dues are not paid each month within that month, the student will be removed from the active student files and considered inactive. That students spot will then be taken by a person from the waiting list. If an inactive student would like to become an active student again, they will have to contact the office, and ask to be placed on the waiting list. They will then have to wait for an opening to rejoin the school.

Payments and Dues All monthly dues are due the first class of each month. Any payment received **after the 15th** is considered late and will have a **\$5.00** late fee attached. If making payment after the 15th, you must include the late fee as it is being added to your account and you will be responsible for payment. Any account that has

gone for more than one month without payment will be considered inactive and the student removed from current student standings. If the student has attended even one class that month, your account will be charged for that month and payment will be due even if student is dropped as inactive the following month. Students are allowed to pay by check, as long as we never have a problem with the check. Any problem with a check must be redeemed for cash or money order and there is a **\$25.00** returned check fee that will be added. Thereafter, the student must pay all dues and fees by cash or money order.

Student drop-off Parents of younger students are encouraged, but not required to stay during their child's class time. Students are not to be dropped off, or to show up any earlier than **ten** minutes before their class. **Younger students must be accompanied in and out of the building by an adult.** They must be checked in and out at the sign in desk for each class. Once the child is checked in, they will not be able to leave the designated area until a parent has arrived to check them out. They will not be allowed to wait outside. Failure to comply will result in that student's dismissal. If someone other than the parent or older sibling will be picking the child up, it must first be cleared with the office. Students must be picked up no later than **ten** minutes after their class has ended. Instructors have to be able to focus on the current class's needs. Having unsupervised children in the school can certainly cause distractions. If a student cannot be picked up on time for any reason, the office must be notified immediately.

Instructor Knows Best Always show common courtesy and respect to your instructor. As a student or casual observer of class, you may develop opinions of your own concerning the progress and advancement of certain students in the school. It's very important that you focus only on your progress and advancement of that of your child. It is an exercise in frustration to compare yourself or your child, or to second guess the instructor when he advances a student. A professional black belt instructor knows right where he wants a student, and knows best about what each student needs on their road to black belt and beyond. Unless you have been teaching martial arts as long as your instructor, it's a good idea to just stay focused on your own situation and progress. If at any time a student or parent has a question or problem with the decision of the instructor, they are welcome and encouraged to speak with the instructor and inform them of their concerns. It is a good idea to always keep the lines of communication open between student and instructor. Your instructors are very concerned about your individual progress and want the best for you. For that reason, don't hesitate to call or speak with them if you ever run into a challenge with something, even your dues. Usually, the instructor will be happy to work something out with you. If you have any concerns, whether school related or personal, the instructors want you to know you can always come to them. As a member of this family, you will always be supported. That's part of the discipline and respect the martial arts teaches.

Free Sparring Free sparring is allowed **only under the instruction and control of a qualified Black Belt Instructor.** You are responsible to see that your free sparring partner is not hurt and that there is only light contact to the back pocket only. It is also your responsibility to maintain a good defense so you are not injured. We are all brothers and sisters here and we expect you to take your responsibilities as a martial artist seriously. Any deviation from sparring rules constitutes grounds for dismissal from the school. Students are required to wear protective gear while sparring. All other personal protective gear the student may wish to wear, such as athletic supporters or chest protectors may be purchase through the school, or purchased on their own.

School Dedication Rising Son Martial Arts does not permit students to attend another martial arts school at the same time that they are attending Rising Son Martial Arts. We have always encouraged our students to attend the martial arts school of their choice and we certainly respect their wishes. However, students should focus their training on one martial arts school at a time. The reason is that studying the martial arts is much like studying any other discipline. For example, it would be difficult for a person to study Chemical Engineering at the same time they are studying Manufacturing Engineering. Granted, both disciplines are engineering disciplines, but the disciplines are just as different as they are alike. Trying to study both at the same time would cause the student to split his attention and concentration in two different directions simultaneously. This would cause the student to suffer in both disciplines. We encourage and will always encourage our students to “master” one style before studying another. In fact, we require that a student choose which style that they want to study and then dedicate themselves to that task. If for some reason the student is unable to decide which style to study first, then we can assist the student in making a choice.

Respecting the Dojo All students and their guests are expected to show respect to the dojo and all it stands for. There are no shoes, food, drink, candy, or gum allowed on the dojo floor, and there is to be no alcohol or tobacco of any kind brought into the school ever. No playing is allowed in the general school area. We expect our people to treat our neighbors with respect. There is a spectator area provided for parents, friends, and relatives. In this area, conversation should be kept at a low level so as not to interfere with the instructor teaching the class or any other programs going on at the school. No distractions, such as running through the school or banging on the glass or dojo doors will be tolerated. Also, we ask parents not to leave children who are not students at the school. This causes many problems, as we do not have a babysitting service to watch over them. Children who are under good control of an adult are welcome. We also ask that students not bring their small children to class with them, as it is impossible to watch them from the dojo floor.

Guests Kombatido is for everyone, and is something anyone can learn to do. We always encourage our students to support their school by telling others about the great things that we can accomplish together at Rising Son Martial Arts. Our class list is reviewed each month for new openings from our waiting list. If you have a friend you want to get into the martial arts, you may invite them as your guest for a free class. After class, they will have the opportunity to be placed on our waiting list. Any guest trying a free class that is under the age of 18 must be accompanied by their legal guardian. If you know of someone who truly needs to be involved with us, let us know and we'll do our best to get them on board with us. The registration packet must be filled out and turned in to be placed on the waiting list. An associate will call when a spot is made available! Registration packets may be downloaded from our website.

For all important information and scheduled events, always check our website at www.cbmartialarts.org

**We are honored to have you as a member of our family at
Rising Son Martial Arts!**