



Black Belt Manual

Foreword:

Firstly, on behalf of your fellow black belts, welcome to the next step on your path through the Hapkido way. Now that you have learned all your 1st Dan techniques, the time has come to progress to the next level of your development. The time is now for you to realise your new position within your club, and to accept not only your new privileges, but also your new responsibilities. In essence, black belts are expected to become ambassadors of correct Hapkido manner, maintaining and consistently, actively promoting said manner at all times. This is the beginning of your journey to becoming a Hapkido instructor.

Manner:

Regarding manner, it is important to remember that those guidelines laid out in your colour belt manual still apply. If you need to, please review this manual at any time. However, now that you have attained your black belt you are responsible for promoting and maintaining manner at all times within the gym.

Firstly, before class starts you are responsible for ensuring that there is no rowdiness on the mats. The mats are a place of training. Rowdy behaviour needs to be curbed and directed off the mats.

Secondly, if you are in the dojang and a 4th Dan or Master enters prior to class beginning, it is the responsibility of the highest belt in the room to call the room to attention and bow, greeting the aforementioned Instructors and Masters.

Thirdly, if you are the highest belt in the room and there are three minutes before class, it is your responsibility to call the class to attention and fall into line. Then, have them check their uniforms to ensure they are correct before the Instructors or Masters enter to take the class. Inspect the students ensuring that their uniforms and belts are correct. Be sure to check that their belts are not crossed in the back, and that their knots are tied correctly. Finally, check that students' undershirts (and training shirts if they are not wearing a complete dobok) are tucked into their pants.

The closing of the class should mirror the start of the class with the highest belt calling the students to attention, face the mirrors, fix their uniforms, and fall into line. The highest belt must then call on the Instructors or Masters to close the class.

Following the class, it is the responsibility of the black belts to ensure that the gym is cleaned and closed. This entails returning any training equipment to their locations, turning off fans, closing windows etc. If needed, black belts should pack up the mats and return to their original locations too.

The combined goal of all of the above is to ensure that black belt interaction is always seen in a positive light. All parties need to be seen to be in cooperation in helping colour belts to develop along their personal Hapkido journey.