

The Budō Charter(Budō Kenshō)

Budō, the Japanese martial ways, have their origins in the age-old martial spirit of Japan. Through centuries of historical and social change, these forms of traditional culture evolved from combat techniques (jutsu) into ways of self-development (dō).

Seeking the perfect unity of mind and technique, budō has been refined and cultivated into ways of physical training and spiritual development. The study of budō encourages courteous behaviour, advances technical proficiency, strengthens the body, and perfects the mind. Modern Japanese have inherited traditional values through budō which continue to play a significant role in the formation of the Japanese personality, serving as sources of boundless energy and rejuvenation. As such, budō has attracted strong interest internationally, and is studied around the world.

However, a recent trend towards infatuation just with technical ability compounded by an excessive concern with winning is a severe threat to the essence of budō. To prevent any possible misrepresentation, practitioners of budō must continually engage in self-examination and endeavour to perfect and preserve this traditional culture.

It is with this hope that we, the member organisations of the Japanese Budō Association, established The Budō Charter in order to uphold the fundamental principles of budō.

ARTICLE 1:OBJECTIVE OF BUDŌ

Through physical and mental training in the Japanese martial ways, budō exponents seek to build their character, enhance their sense of judgement, and become disciplined individuals capable of making contributions to society at large.

ARTICLE 2:KEIKO(Training)

When training in budō, practitioners must always act with respect and courtesy, adhere to the prescribed fundamentals of the art, and resist the temptation to pursue mere technical skill rather than strive towards the perfect unity of mind, body and technique.

ARTICLE 3:SHIAI(Competition)

Whether competing in a match or doing set forms (kata), exponents must externalise the spirit underlying budō. They must do their best at all times, winning with modesty, accepting defeat gracefully, and constantly exhibiting self-control.

ARTICLE 4:DŌJŌ(Training Hall)

The dōjō is a special place for training the mind and body. In the dōjō, budō practitioners must maintain discipline, and show proper courtesies and respect. The dōjō should be a quiet, clean, safe, and solemn environment.

ARTICLE 5:TEACHING

Teachers of budō should always encourage others to also strive to better themselves and diligently train their minds and bodies, while continuing to further their understanding of the technical principles of budō. Teachers should not allow focus to be put on winning or losing in competition, or on technical ability alone. Above all, teachers have a responsibility to set an example as role models.

ARTICLE 6:PROMOTING BUDŌ

Persons promoting budō must maintain an open-minded and international perspective as they uphold traditional values. They should make efforts to contribute to research and teaching, and do their utmost to advance budō in every way.

Member Organisations of the Japanese Budō Association

- **Zen Nihon Jūdō Renmei (All Japan Judo Federation)**
- **Zen Nippon Kendō Renmei (All Japan Kendo Federation)**
- **Zen Nihon Kyūdō Renmei (All Nippon Kyudo Federation)**
- **Nihon Sumō Renmei (Japan Sumo Federation)**
- **Zen Nihon Karatedō Renmei (Japan Karatedo Federation)**
- **Aikikai (Aikikai Foundation)**
- **Shōrinji Kempō Renmei (Shorinji Kempo Federation)**
- **Zen Nihon Naginata Renmei (All Japan Naginata Federation)**
- **Zen Nihon Jūkendō Renmei (All Japan Jukendo Federation)**
- **Nippon Budōkan (Nippon Budōkan Foundation)**

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<https://www.nipponbudokan.or.jp/english/budochater>

The Budō Charter for Young People

Budō, the martial ways of Japan, are forms of traditional culture that hold in esteem a traditional martial spirit passed down since ancient times. Through the practice of budō, the student learns correct manners, refines his or her technical skills, and develops the mind and body to become a virtuous human being.

The student of budō does not only focus on the lesser goals of technical skill or winning competitions, but strives to understand the true ideals of budō and cherish its traditions.

The following articles outlined in the “Budō Charter for Young People” must be upheld by young practitioners in order for them to benefit from their study and to appreciate the ideals of budō.

Article 1: Objective

Endowed with a strong sense of justice, courage, consideration for others, and healthy bodies and minds achieved through training in the techniques of budō, we will aspire to become people useful to society.

Article 2: Keiko- Practice

When training in budō, we will abide by the traditional forms of etiquette and the lessons of our teachers. We will practise the fundamental techniques as accurately as possible, trying to learn not only the techniques, but will strive to strengthen our bodies and minds to the best of our abilities.

Article 3: Shiai- Competition

In matches (shiai) and demonstrations (embu) we will make every effort to demonstrate the skills we have acquired in the course of our training. We will do so with an earnest and dignified attitude, without becoming obsessed with winning or losing.

Article 4: Dōjō- Training Hall

The dōjō is a place where we learn our skills and cultivate strength in body and mind. We must follow the rules, behave in a polite manner, and keep the dōjō clean and safe.

Article 5: Peers

We must treasure the friendships we make in the dōjō, and co-operate and support each other. Let us enjoy our training together and strive to make friends with all those around us.

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- **Nippon Budōkan (Nippon Budokan Foundation)**

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The Definition of Budō

Budō is a form of Japanese physical culture that has its origins in the ancient tradition of bushidō – literally, “the way of the warrior.” Practitioners of budō develop technical martial skills while striving to unify of mind, technique and body; to develop their character; to enhance their sense of morality; and to cultivate a respectful and courteous demeanour. Thus, budō serves as a path to self-perfection. Budō as a general term refers to the modern Japanese martial arts disciplines comprised of jūdō, kendō, kyūdō, sumō, karatedō, aikidō, shōrinji kempō, naginata, and jūkendō.

The Philosophy of Budō

Budō, the martial ways of Japan, have their origins in the traditions of bushidō—the way of the warrior. Budō is a time-honoured form of physical culture comprising of jūdō, kendō, kyūdō, sumō, karatedō, aikidō, shōrinji kempō, naginata and jūkendō. Practitioners study the skills while striving to unify mind, technique and body; develop his or her character; enhance their sense of morality; and to cultivate a respectful and courteous demeanour. Practised steadfastly, these admirable traits become intrinsic to the character of the practitioner. The Budō arts serve as a path to self-perfection. This elevation of the human spirit will contribute to social prosperity and harmony, and ultimately, benefit the people of the world.