

GENERAL INFORMATION

Authentic Okinawan Karate and Kobudo  
sanctioned by The Okinawa Shorin Ryu  
Matsumura Kenpo Karate and Kobudo  
Association  
Urasoe City  
Okinawa, Japan

Welcome to our dojo. At the TEXAS KOBUKAN, we practice the art of karate as it is practiced on Okinawa today. Classes are structured for learning authentic Okinawan karate as a method of self-defense, fitness, and self-improvement.

Training is done in a traditional manner with emphasis on basic techniques, kata, kata bunkai (application of techniques), body conditioning, and sparring. Each class generally starts with warm-up drills and stretching followed by brief basic exercises. Class structure then can include an array of drills and techniques aimed at developing strong well-rounded karateka. Drills may include prearranged sparring, kicking pad and focus mitt drills, grappling, kata, bunkai and sparring. All classes foster a spirit of dojo community and friendship through training. **Students are expected to adhere to the dojo rules and dojo kun (listed at the end of this document) and act accordingly.** We want tough training with a safe, friendly atmosphere.

INTERESTED IN JOINING OR JUST WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Kids (age 7+)

Come a few minutes early to participate in one of our Kids Classes (no obligation trial lesson):  
**Monday through Thursday: 6:15 pm**  
**Saturday: 9:00 am**

Youth / Adults (age 13+)

Come a few minutes early to participate in one of our Adult Classes (no obligation trial lesson):  
**Monday through Thursday: 7:30 pm**  
**Saturday: 10:30 am**

**Private / Family lessons also available.**

HISTORY OF THE STYLE

At the Texas Kobukan, we practice Shorin Ryu Matsumura Kenpo. Shorin Ryu is a very old style of Okinawan karate from which many styles have developed. Perhaps the most famous practitioner of karate was “Bushi” Matsumura (1797-1889). One of Matsumura’s students was his grandson, Nabe (d. 1930’s) who, in turn, taught the most famous modern master, Hohan Soken (1889 -1982). One of Hohan Soken’s top students was Yuichi Kuda. O’shinshi Kuda passed away in 1999 but his son, Tomosada, has assumed the role of kaicho (president) for the Association. Each year, he travels to the U.S. to oversee and teach his many students here. Karatedo as Kuda shinshi teaches it is chiefly aimed at physical proficiency and self-improvement. The greatest attribute of a karateka, according to Kuda shinshi, is to be gentle hearted yet strong if needed.

ABOUT THE HEAD INSTRUCTOR

**Robert A. (Bob) Finley** began his training in martial arts in 1970 while in college at Texas A&M University. He achieved a black belt (shodan rank) in Isshinryu karate in 1972. While at A&M, he was President and Chief Instructor of the Isshinryu Karate School 1973-1974. After graduation in 1974, he studied Tae Kwon Do for two years in Houston, Texas. In 1994, Bob moved to Duncanville, Texas and began studying Shorin Ryu Matsumura Kenpo. He is currently honored to hold the following ranks, titles, and/or certifications\*

- Godan Renshi (5th Degree Black Belt)
- Yondan (4th Degree Black Belt) Kobudo
- Kiyoushi
- Instructor License

In addition, Mr. Finley has taught martial arts classes as a contractor for the Dallas Independent School District.

INSTRUCTORS / BLACK BELTS

Please see our website for information on the following dojo instructors and black belts:

Jecku Jacob	Sandan
William Glynn	Sandan
Rick Labrum	Nidan
Flora Labrum	Nidan
Sarah Jones	Nidan
Anna Schmidt	Shodan
Dion Coleman	Shodan
Jonathan Labrum	Shodan

All ranks, titles, and/or certifications issued by Kuda Tomosada from the International Headquarters of the Okinawa Shorin Ryu Matsumura Kenpo Karate and Kobudo Association Headquarters.

THE CLASSES

Immediately upon arrival, students are expected to remove their shoes and change into their gi’s (or appropriate clothing for beginners). When asked to do so, everyone is to line up to prepare for class. Class will then begin as instructed. Classes will focus on basic techniques of punching, blocking, kicking, footwork, and choreographed fighting sequences known as kata. Through diligent practice in these areas, the student will develop fitness and proficiency in self-defense. As students become more proficient, more complex kata and methods of self-defense are explored. Study of Kobudo (ancient weapons) generally begins at the rank of 6th kyu (green belt).

SEMINARS

Each year, usually in early September, the Kaicho of Matsumura Kenpo, Kuda Tomosada, travels to the US to teach seminars around the US. All Association members in good standing are encouraged and welcome to attend the seminars.

FEE SCHEDULE

**Student Monthly Tuition: \$80 per month¹**

**Notes:**

1) For each additional student from the same family the monthly fee is reduced \$10, through the 5<sup>th</sup> student.

There is also an **annual registration fee of \$40** for the first family member (\$25 for additional family members).

PROMOTIONS AND PROMOTION FEES

Students are promoted based on work ethic and progress in technique, kata and attitude. Each student is considered individually for promotion and there is no comparative progress assessment.

**Promotion Fees:**

<b>10<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>*</b> , 9 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup>	\$12.00 each
<b>7<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>*</b> , 6 <sup>th</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$17.00 each
<b>4<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>*</b> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> to 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 1 <sup>st</sup>	\$22.00 each
<b>Shodan</b>	\$40.00

**\*Note: add \$5.00 for belt color change**

BELT COLORS

Belt colors used at the Texas Kobukan are those authorized by the Matsumura Kenpo Association and are as follows:

- 10 Kyu White
- 9-7 Kyu Yellow (w/one to three green stripes)
- 6-4 Kyu Green (w/one to three brown stripes)
- 3-1 Kyu Brown (w/one to three black stripes)
- Shodan – Yondan – Black belt with no stripes on the belt. May have kanji for Matsumura Kenpo on one side and either name or rank (in kanji) on the other side.
- Godan/Rokudan, Renshi – Black Belt with one gold stripe on both ends of the belt. Kanji for Renshi on one side and Matsumura Kenpo on the other.
- Nanadan/Hachidan – Kyoshi – Black Belt with two gold stripes on both ends of the belt. Kanji for Kyoshi on one side and Matsumura Kenpo on the other.
- Shihan – may wear red and white belt or black belt as described above. Red and white belt has kanji for the wearer’s name on one side and Matsumura Kenpo on the other.
- Kudan/Judan – Black Belt with three gold stripes on both ends of the belt. May also wear a solid red belt.

UNIFORMS / WHAT TO WEAR

New students should wear loose fitting workout clothes until they have purchased a gi. New students wishing to continue training must purchase a gi by the end of two week’s training. All other students are required to wear a traditional white karate gi with the Association patch on the left breast. Only black belt students can wear a combination of black and white gi’s. Students may obtain their own gi, or may order one through one of the Texas Kobukan instructors.

Since karate is a contact endeavor, all students must remove any jewelry prior to training. Once students obtain their first belt (9<sup>th</sup> Kyu - yellow), they will start sparring during class. For sparring they are required to wear protective feet and hand equipment, as well as a protective mouthpiece. Male students will also need a protective athletic cup.

## RANK REQUIREMENTS OF MATSUMURA KENPO

The following times in rank are minimum. Exceptions can be made according to individual progress.

### White Belts

**From 10 - 9 Kyu:** Minimum of 40 hrs actual training time; Ability to name and execute basic techniques; Fundamental knowledge and demonstration of dojo etiquette; Knowledge of dojo history

### Yellow Belts

**From 9 - 8 Kyu:** Minimum of 40 more hrs actual training time; **Naihanchi Shodan Kata**

**From 8 - 7 Kyu:** Minimum of 40 more hrs actual training time; **Pinan Nidan**

**From 7 - 6 Kyu:** Minimum of 60 more hrs actual training time; **Pinan Shodan**

### Green Belts

**From 6 - 5 Kyu:** Minimum of 60 more hrs actual training time; **Niseidi Shodan, Naihanchi Nidan**

**From 5 - 4 Kyu:** Minimum of 60 more hrs actual training time; **Niseidi Nidan, Bo Kihon No Kata**

**From 4 - 3 Kyu:** Minimum of 80 more hrs actual training time; **Pinan Sandan; Niseidi Sandan; Tunfa Kihon No Kata**

### Brown Belts

**From 3 - 2 Kyu:** Minimum of 80 more hrs actual training time; **Paisai Sho, Pinan Yondan; Sai Kihon No Kata**

**From 2 - 1 Kyu:** Minimum of 80 more hrs actual training time; **Naihanchi Sandan; Pinan Godan; Kama Kihon No Kata.**

**From 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu – Shodan:** Minimum 3 years total training; **Paisai Dai, Nisedi Yondan, Bo Jitsu**

### Black Belts

**Shodan - Nidan:** Minimum 1 Year at Shodan rank; **Chinto; Nisedi Godan; Kuda Nu Nitambo; Renshi No Tonfa**

**Nidan - Sandan:** Minimum 2 Years at Nidan rank; **Gojushiho; Matsumura No Paisai; Kobukan Nichogama; Sakagawa No Kun**

**Sandan - Yondan:** Minimum 3 Years at Sandan rank; **Kushanku; Sukuga No Sai; Kobukan Eaku;**

**Yondan - Godan:** Minimum 4 Years at Yondan rank; **Rohai; Kobudi Sho; Kuda Nu Nichogama**

**Godan - Rokudan:** Minimum 5 Years at Godan rank

The requirements above are general guidelines. Some student's time in rank may vary according to several factors as determined by the instructor.

## DOJO RULES

1. Students should arrive for class in time to be dressed and prepared to line up at the class start time, and be ready to focus on Matsumura Kenpo practice.
2. Before stepping on the main dojo floor, remove shoes and change into the proper clothing.
3. If you arrive after class has begun, change into your gi and warm up and wait for the shinshi to signal you to come onto the main floor and join the class.
4. Always bow when entering and leaving the main floor.
5. Always show courtesy to all.
6. Always bow when seeing the black belts for the first time each day, regardless of whether they have changed into their gi or are in the main dojo area.
7. Whenever a black belt comes onto the main floor, all students shall come to attention.
8. Address your instructor as Sensei, Shinshi, Mr. or Ms.
9. When answering, please do so with a yes/no sir/ma'am.
10. Do not leave the main floor area without the instructor's permission (except emergencies).
11. While practicing, students should refrain from unnecessary talking.
12. Practice only katas that you have been assigned in class.
13. Corrections should be left up to the shinshi unless otherwise specified.
14. Keep uniforms clean and presentable / obi (belt) worn & folded properly.
15. Gis should be worn only at the dojo, at demonstrations, and when practicing at home or elsewhere. They should not be worn at other times, except when traveling to and from the dojo. Belts should only be worn when training (not when traveling to and from the dojo).
16. Keep fingernails / toenails neatly trimmed
17. No profanity will be allowed
18. No jewelry will be worn in class
19. Bottled water may be carried across the main dojo floor. No food or other liquids are allowed in the main floor area (may be left in the front waiting area).
20. Any student who uses karate without just provocation will be expelled from the class.

## MATSUMURA KENPO DOJO KUN as Authored by Kuda Yuichi (10 Oct. 1928 – 27 April 1999)

- Those who practice Karate must always be polite and not be selfish.
- Of course behave properly towards Senseis and Seniors, but also towards colleagues and juniors.
- When training in Kata or Kumite, always bow in the beginning and at the end.
- Kata is the base of Karate. Do not rush to a hasty conclusion. Train hard and study the Kata and the Kumite.
- Waza (technique) will be ever changing, so you must give a spirited effort and strive to advance your own abilities.
- When you train, you must concentrate your mind for making the waza, faster, stronger, and more correct, but do not become emotional (excited).
- Do not lose the concentration of your mind and effort. Keep learning and studying the main thread of Karate. Karate training has no limits.
- Always conduct yourself correctly, and always swallow your hot blood (temper).
- Those who train Karate should not be conceited. It leads to easy falls and loss of correct thinking. If you become conceited, you should be conscious that progress of techniques and personal virtue will be lost. You must keep a beginner's fresh spirit forever.
- Karate is a way to discipline both the mind and body, and to keep humanitarianism for a complete character to build a great person.
- The way of Karate is Budo (Martial Art). You cannot achieve the culmination of it without training properly according to these directions.
- To master the way is not a race against others. Race against yourself.

*Note: All class schedules, fees, etc. are subject to change without notice. Please check our website [[texaskobukan.com](http://texaskobukan.com)] for the most current information.*

## Karate Instruction



**TEXAS KOBUKAN LLC  
223 S CEDAR RIDGE DR  
DUNCANVILLE, TX 75116**

(NW corner of Cedar Ridge and Wheatland)

### Class Times

**Kids (7 – 12 years old):**

Monday through Thursday: 6:15 - 7:15 pm,  
Sat: 9:00am – 10:15 am

**Youth / Adults\* (13+ years):**

Monday through Thursday: 7:30 - 8:45 pm,  
Sat: 10:30am – 12:00 noon

\* Based on skill level, attitude, etc. students younger than 13 may be invited to participate in the adult class.

\*\* Combined Advanced Kids and Adult class

### Contact Information:

Bob Finley 214-773-0221

Email: [info@texaskobukan.com](mailto:info@texaskobukan.com)

Web: [www.texaskobukan.com](http://www.texaskobukan.com)