# DOJO ETIQUETTE (REIHO) AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The kendo dojo is a place of serious kendo study and practice. In the Dictionary of Kendo published by the All-Japan Kendo Federation, the dojo is defined as:

> *'. . . the place in which **budo** arts were studied (**shugyo**). This implies that **kendo** does not stop with the acquisition of techniques, but is inextricably linked with humanity and the problem of how one should live one's life. In other words, the **dojo** is a special place in which the practitioner is able to reexamine the self through the study of **kendo**.'*

Consequently, how we behave in the dojo demands a special kind of attention, and there are several rules and conventions which we need to learn. Even the smallest details can be important, and over time they become fully absorbed, seem quite natural, and contribute to a feeling of wellbeing when followed. These conventions allow us to practice discipline, humility, and respect. Please see below for the most important rules for our QUT dojo to follow:

## 1. Before practice

1.1. Arrive on time – if you are running late, contact the executive team or the sensei.
1.2. Remove shoes prior to entering the dojo, line them up tidily paired together outside.
1.3. Headwear (including headphones) are to be removed prior to entering the dojo.
1.4. Ensure your mobile device is turned off or on silent, unless there is a sufficient reason.
1.5. When entering, do not loiter/block the door. Pause in the doorway, bow to the shomen, and then go inside.
1.6. Ensure fingernails and toenails have been cut, and watches, jewellery and other accessories are removed.

## 2. Dojo organisation

2.1. The floor must be inspected for issues (debris, broken portions, spills) before and after training.
2.2. Sensei are to sit opposite the doors. Students are organised with most experienced members seated closest to the shomen, ascending in grade order (i.e. highest graded next to shomen, ungraded on opposite end). This applies for both set up of equipment and during seiretsu (lining up to start the session).
2.3. Sensei (particularly visiting sensei) have priority access to changing areas.
2.4. Assist in carrying communal club gear to and from the vehicle transporting it.
2.5. Upon locking up the dojo after training is finished, assist in shutting and locking all doors and turning off fans/lights.

## 3. Equipment management

3.1. Behave as if the shinai is a real sword, as it is still a weapon capable of being dangerous if misused.
3.2. Never step over a sword, bokken, or shinai. Always move around it and place it in a spot you can do so.
3.3. Maintain your shinai fastidiously, ensure there are no cracks/splinters, and that it is appropriately tied.
3.4. Keep your keikogi and hakama clean, neat, and ensure any damage is repaired. Correctly fold your keikogi and hakama after practice to maintain its shape.

## 4. Behaviour during practice

4.1. Inform the sensei or senior dojo steward about any injuries or problems you may have, or if you anticipate needing to leave prior to the formal end of practice.
4.2. Never stand with your back towards the sensei or instructor. You must know where they are at any time.

4.3. Be aware of any opportunity to learn or what could enrich your experience. Be ready to answer questions or follow instructions at any point. If a sensei or senpai comes to you, they should not expect to have to get your attention, as you should be actively engaged within the training environment.
4.4. During practice, do not discuss anything other than what is necessary for the activity.
4.5. Never talk over the sensei. If the sensei begins talking (i.e. teaching), please stop your conversation immediately.
4.6. Always be respectful of others through your words, actions, and attitude to kendo. Humility overshadows arrogance regardless of one's position within or beyond the dojo.
4.7. Issues within one's private life are not to pass the threshold of the dojo. If you are concerned about your ability to perform, please seek guidance from the sensei.
4.8. Interaction prior to and after training within the dojo should be respectfully quiet. Please talk and interact but be aware of and control your volume.

The conventions of how to behave in the dojo are based on Japanese traditions that have developed over many centuries and are practised in most dojos around the world. Practising these codes of conduct and etiquette so they become second nature will make travel to different dojos around the world much more enjoyable and importantly, you will be an exemplary representative of our QUT Kendo Club and its members. If you wish to seek clarification on these practices, do not hesitate to ask the sensei.

## Additional codes of conduct

Please also note that in addition to these general conventions and etiquette, QUT Kendo Club follows the codes of conduct for the Queensland University of Technology, QUT Guild, Queensland Kendo Renmei (QKR) and Australian Kendo Renmei (AKR). As members of these institutions, you are to ensure you act in alignment with their respective codes to ensure the safety of yourself and those around you. Breaches of these codes of conduct are taken seriously, and depending on results of a suitable investigation, procedures outlined within the applicable code of conduct may need to be applied. Please take the time to read and familiarise yourself with these documents using the links below:

**Australian Kendo Renmei (AKR) Policies and Rules:**
https://www.kendoaustralia.asn.au/content/?page_id=801

**Queensland Kendo Renmei (QKR) Administrative and Policy documents:**
https://qkr.asn.au/administrative-policy-documents/

**Queensland University of Technology Manual of Policies and Procedures:**
https://mopp.qut.edu.au/document/view.php?id=25

**QUT Guild Code of Conduct:**
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uyoJHaFE0gx-In2KAKW37Jv6RC_-hxX0/view?usp=sharing

Any concerns regarding this document ("Dojo Etiquette and Code of Conduct") are to be submitted to qutkendo@gmail.com

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