



Protocols to Observe in the Practice

The purpose of kyudo is the moral cultivation of the person through honest and sincere application to the training. As a member of a dojo, the student becomes part of a training regime where personal indulgences and behaviour are subordinated to the practice. The value of this regime should be recognised as part of the student's own discipline and not misunderstood as something imposed and authoritarian. To help you develop the right attitude and behaviour for kyudo practice, here are a few protocols to be observed:

1. Attend all practices that are required and notify the dojo of absences in advance. Take great care to attend special events such as the opening and closing of the year, as well as the monthly meetings and special training events.
2. Always arrive on time to help in the cleaning and the preparation of the practice area and to be ready to start the training at the designated time
3. Remove shoes and line them up in the correct way (defune). Do not have bare feet in the practice area
4. On entering the practice area regard it as a dojo and greet your teacher, seniors and other members. Leave your own opinions and notions outside.
5. If late, seek out the teacher, or senior person responsible for the practice, and make your apologies.
6. Have a regard for cleanliness and wear dogi or clothing that is appropriate. Remove all ornaments or decorations that will be a distraction, or compromise safety
7. Have a regard for your own equipment and that which is on loan. Make sure that it is clean and properly maintained. Respect the equipment of others. Treat it as your own.
8. Before changing, the practice area must be prepared first, followed by stringing the bow and preparing arrows. Check that your equipment (or that which is on loan) is safe and properly prepared for use.
9. Having changed, gather in the correct way and order to make the formal greeting to start training. Do not keep the teacher, or person responsible for leading the practice, waiting.
10. Obey without question the instructions of the teacher and seniors at all times
11. Do not instruct others unless requested to do so, and then apply the instruction in the correct way. Do not add your own interpretation.

12. Always be alert and consider the safety of others and yourself.
13. Do not talk unnecessarily or in a loud voice
14. Do not proceed to the shooting line, if arrow collectors are waiting.
15. During arrow collection, archers on the shooting line should wait in dozukuri until instructed to continue and have the responsibility to stop shooting when safety is an issue.
16. Collect arrows at the appropriate time, following the correct procedure, and do not spend unnecessary time in the matoba. Remove arrows with care and do not place on the ground.
17. Do not shoot arrows at a makiwara or target outside of formal supervised practice and training sessions without the explicit permission of the teacher
18. Do not visit, or train in another dojo without the explicit permission of the teacher
19. When visiting another dojo, do not shoot unless invited to do so, and refrain from using the rear mato (ouchi) as this is traditionally the target allocated to the dojo teacher
20. Application for all seminars and examinations must have the approval of the dojo teacher, and the correct application procedure followed.
21. When visiting an outside event, remember that you represent your dojo, and behave in an appropriate way.
22. Visitors to the dojo are always welcome. However, because of insurance cover, and to assure a visit is appropriate, if dojo members wish to bring someone to visit, please make this request to the secretary in the first instance.
23. Do not purchase equipment without seeking advice. The selection might not be suitable and out of respect for the dojo, advice should always be sought.
24. For grading and attendance to seminars, ungraded members of the dojo will be invited to join when the time is right. Graded members should still seek advice for grading. As dojo members it should not be thought of as a personal choice.