

6 Important Questions to ask a Karate School

(Page Numbers reference the book "*Why Martial Arts Matter*" go to for more Information)

1. What Style of Martial Arts do you teach? (Page 22)

- A. Does the school train you for and go to tournaments?
- B. How many tournaments a year does the school go to and are students encouraged to go, or do you train just for street self-defense. (These are 2 different things)

2. Does your school make you sign a Contract? (page 36)

- A. If Yes, *Why*?

3. How's it determined when a student Belt Tests? (page 37)

- A. Is it based on individual effort only?
- B. Does everybody set their own pace and test when they are ready?
- C. Is there a schedule students are on for testing?

4. Do you have a Black Belt Club? (page 35)

- A. How is it determined when a student is ready to go from one program to the next and what are the associated costs?
- B. What is the average time it takes before they are ready for the new program? (If the answer is – "it depends" ask "On Average")
- C. What happens if the student decides to stay in the current program?
- D. Can that "Program" simply end?

5. What are all the required things that must be purchased in the first couple of years and what are the costs? (page 37)

- A. Many schools have "Hidden Fees or Add-Ons" that they don't disclose, so ask about all required thing that can cost money. (Mandatory – Uniforms, Training Equipment, Sparring Gear, Weapons, Special Clinics, Up Grade Programs) These can exponentially increase the yearly fees!

6. Is the chief instructor the owner? (Page 32)

- A. What year did the school first open?
- B. Have you been teaching the same style since the school first started?
- C. Is the chief instructor the original chief instructor and if not how many have there been and how long did each stay?
- D. What happens if the chief instructor decides to leave, who will fill his spot?

What Important Topics to Know/Look for when Choosing a Karate School.

(Page Numbers reference the book "*Why Martial Arts Matter*" go to for more Information)

1. Is the School: Self-Defense or Sport Martial Arts.(Page 22)

- A. Self-Defense styles are designed to protect you from bullies, attackers, rapists, multiple opponents, or in any situation where you find yourself in trouble. **(Shaolin Kempo Karate, Krav Maga)**
- B. Sport Martial Arts means any style that trains you for competition where the rules, techniques, and strategies are designed for getting points, winning matches, and earning trophies/prize money.
(Tae Kwan Do, Jiu-Jitsu, MMA)

2. Does the school have Contracts? (page 36)

- A. No Contracts: A school that lets you pay monthly along with other options.
- B. Yes Contracts: Schools that make you sign binding contracts.

3. How's the curriculum taught: Traditional Method or Rotating Curriculum? (page 37)

- A. Traditional Method: Advancement is it based solely on individual effort with no one size fits all testing schedule. All material is taught in the same order from beginner to advance.
- B. Rotating Curriculum: Everybody learns the same material at the same time. Testing is based on schedule.

4. Does the school have a Black Belt Club? (page 35)

- A. The Black Belt Club is an upgrade program schools use to get a lot of their students to increase the monthly fees. Many schools have low prices to start, so they sign up all the "price shoppers" and then shortly after they raise the prices.

5. What are all the required things that must be purchased in the first couple of years and what are the costs? (page 37)

- A. Many schools have "Hidden Fees or Add-Ons" that they don't disclose, so ask about all required thing that can cost money. (Mandatory – Uniforms, training equipment, sparring gear, Weapons, Special Clinics, Up Grade Programs) These can exponentially increase the yearly fees!