

The Vision:

Traditional Martial Arts are disciplines that lead to a distinctive approach to life. The humility that results from martial training develops unique experiences of: friendship, community, selflessness, loyalty, confidence, identity, and a myriad of other values. Se-Jong Tae Kwon Do was envisioned and established in the martial tradition.

The Reality:

For the most part Se-Jong has been such an organization. In the past few years there have been indications that the foundational martial discipline is beginning to erode. Some members are confusing one or more of the resultant benefits of martial arts (i.e. friendship, socialization, etc.) with the art itself. This is insidious and it is beginning to impact the entire organization.

Indications:

1. Students in tests, seminars and Black Belt classes who do not understand even such basic concepts as: Stances, power, and precision of technique.
2. Black Belts who would be unable to protect themselves if necessary.
3. Instructors who do not know the curriculum (handbook).
4. Growing preoccupation with belt rank.
5. Students being encouraged to test because a “required” amount of time has been reached.
6. Students in Southwest PA who have never attended a seminar, Black Belt Class, or any other systemwide event.
7. “Active Black Belts” who have never attended a Black Belt Class.
8. Students who have never visited Se-Jong’s exceptional web site.

Significance:

Inevitably we must conclude that we as a group are losing our Martial identity. We are producing weaker martial artists. As this happens the insidious elements of ego, ambition, jealousy, negativity and the resulting politics are beginning to show themselves.

The Future:

I will shortly (hopefully) turn 65 years old. I have no idea how much longer the good Lord will allow me to stay here. Mr. Randy Mischech has been promoted to Senior Master Instructor, to insure strong continuous leadership for Se-Jong in the future. However, while here, I must take steps so that I may pass on the strongest, most viable organization possible. I am implementing the following changes to be effective as of June 24, 2007. (Note: The Board of Examiners will first sit for the June 24 test.) These changes will, in effect, shift the entire paradigm of Se-Jong.

The Solution (s):

1. I will, once again, be more involved in the leadership of Se-Jong.
2. Stricter adherence to the **handbook**.
3. Required attendance at an annual **Instructors Symposium** for those who wish to continue as Instructors, or those who wish Instructor certification.
4. Required attendance at an annual **Dan Symposium** held for Dan level students who wish to be considered for promotional testing. A **minimum** of three Symposiums (three years) will be required to be eligible to test for your next degree. I will determine the exceptions (if any) for 2008 and 2009 testing.
N.B. The Dan symposium is in addition to regular attendance at Black Belt class.
5. Annual systemwide **Candidate Testing** in the fall of every year for those Red Belts recommended for Candidacy by their instructors.
6. Beginning this year, 2007, there will be three systemwide tests. 1st Dan testing will be held June 24. Systemwide testing for Candidacy will take place on September 30. Testing for advanced Degrees will take place at the Gathering of the Clan on October 21.

7. **Board of Examiners:**

1. Officially represent me at any test.
2. The chair of the Board of Examiners must be notified of every test, and will help find Board members to attend if necessary.
3. At least one member of the board must be present at any official test, from Gup level through 6th Dan.
4. The Board of Examiners determine results of tests and will, in a timely manner communicate those results to the Instructor as well as any positive and negative criticism of the individuals tested.
5. If there is a tie among the Board of Examiners, the senior belt on the Board of Examiners has the final decision.
6. All elements of the evaluation have equal weight except Protocol. Protocol is the single most important element in Se-Jong.
7. Instructors may not test their own students. Although it is essential that they communicate any special circumstances, needs or insights to the Board members before the test.
8. Instructors will continue to sign and issue cards for all Gup level students through 1st Gup.
9. Board members will evaluate:
 - Protocol
 - Knowledge*
 - Power
 - Balance
 - Timing
 - Control
 - Movement
 - Confidence
 - Precision of Technique

*To evaluate Knowledge the evaluator must be at least two Dan levels above the testing student.

Instructors please note that beginning with their next test they must have at least one member of the Board of Examiners present. Mr. Vetovich will coordinate any problems you may have in acquiring an examiner.

Because our culture:

1. Shuns discipline and rejects challenge and selflessness.
2. Equates martial arts with either brutality or “feel good” social clubs.
3. Replaces the integrity of the individual with image self-gratification.

I am certain that the steps I am taking will result in the loss of students and the loss of schools. That is not my concern. My concern is to leave a system that produces the finest caliber of martial artist.

Se-Jong Board of Examiners: (Testing Board)

Mr. Randy Miskech, Senior Master Instructor, by right of Office.
Mr. Ron Vetovich, Chair
Mr. Bill Ross
Mr. Mark Elphinstone
Mr. Dave Malarik
Mr. Brendan Connolly
Mr. Dan Crytzer
Mr. Robert Sheehan
Mr. Joe Vucic
Mr. Michael Leightner