



Tomodachi Daiko Membership Requirements and Expectations

The Essence and Element of Taiko

The essence of taiko is not only the skillful playing of percussion instruments, but also the discipline of mind and body in the spirit of complete respect and unity among the drummers. It is also the ultimate challenge of reaching the point of unity of the drummer's spirit with the drum.

WAZA – Tanaka sensei believes in preserving the oral tradition of passing songs on through words. Taiko songs are not learned through a notated score. Playing taiko is an act of communication. By speaking the song, the spirit of the song can be conveyed. Ultimately, the sound of the drum must communicate this spirit. The voice is also used extensively in performance. Throughout the song, the voice is used for encouragement, communication and expression.

KARADA – Physical strength and endurance is important. Dojo members repeat basic drills over and over. However, strength training is never separated from training of the spirit. “When you have played with all your strength and you feel tired, that is when you can truly begin to play, tapping into the energy deep within you,” teaches Tanaka Sensei.

REI – Basic communication always begins with a greeting. Students learn the importance of greeting their instructors and each other when meeting or taking leave, with an energetic “Ohayo gozaimasu / Konichiwa / Konbanwa” or “Arigato gozaimahsita.” Taiko students always bow to their teachers and when entering or leaving the dojo, a place of study and discipline. The bow and the audible greeting convey appreciation and respect. The attitude is vital when approaching the drum.

San Francisco Taiko Dojo Grand Master Seiichi Tanaka

Tomodachi Daiko Member Requirements and Expectations

As a member of Tomodachi Daiko, you are an ambassador from Anchorage, Alaska, of traditional taiko drumming and of the Japanese culture where taiko originated. It's vital for each member to understand and exhibit the spirit of unity and harmony inherent in taiko drumming while developing an appreciation of the culture of Japan. A member of Tomodachi Daiko should strive to think of the group first and self second. As such, you are expected to follow these requirements:

Class policies:

- No running, playing on metal bars, or with any other gym equipment.
- Chewing gum is not allowed during any practice or performance.
 - It is a safety hazard and will be taken seriously.
- Water is the only drink allowed in the gym at any time.
 - Food and other drinks are NOT permitted in the gym at any time.
- Students must listen to instructors.
 - Students must remain focused and respectful of instructors and assistants by not talking during instruction.
 - Disobedient behavior will be met with disciplinary actions¹.
- Members are expected to be quiet while instructors talk during practice times. Any time an instructor is addressing the group all members are expected to listen and be silent.
- Students must be courteous and respectful of one another always. **Comments and constructive criticism about other students or any Tomodachi Daiko matter should be directed to the instructors.**
- Instructors, assistants and all players are expected to show up for class 5 minutes early.
 - If you will be late, a text or call prior to class would be appreciated.
 - All players must get out their own equipment, even if late.
 - If assistance is required, instructors and assistants will provide assistance to the best of their abilities, but only in instances where the person is physically unable to get out equipment.
 - Instructors will grant access to taikos once other parties have exited the gym area due to permit restrictions.
- Shoes must be taken off before entering the gym.
- Member is expected to bow upon entering AND exiting the gym.
 - Students are expected to say “Ohaiyou Gozaimasu” to all instructors and senpai when first entering the dojo, and “shitsureishimasu” whenever they exit the dojo.
- Bachi are for playing taiko only. Any misuse of bachi will result in disciplinary action¹.
- Players are expected to show up to class in proper attire. Any of the following articles of clothing are accepted:
(Note: If an instructor feels you have dressed improperly in any way, they will be obligated to ask that you sit down part/all of class. Repeat attempts to wear such clothing may result in disciplinary action¹.)
 - T-shirt/ long sleeved shirt
 - Tank top
 - Sweatpants (pajamas and pajama pants are not acceptable attire for class)
 - Shorts/ pants made from stretchy but NOT sheer fabric.
 - Wristwatches, sunglasses including polarized glasses, and jewelry (earrings, necklaces, bracelets) are prohibited during class, practice and performances.

Ear protection is an optional personal choice; however, large headsets are discouraged during class and practice and prohibited during performances. Discrete ear plugs are permitted at any time. Alternatives to tabi or bare feet are permitted upon agreement with instructors..

- What you learn during classes at Tomodachi Daiko may not be taught to non-members. Disciplinary actions¹ may follow.
- Students must attend at least 6 classes per semester.
- Any student who does not meet this requirement will not receive make up lessons² for the rest of the semester.
- Violence will not be tolerated.
- Suspicion of bullying will be met with immediate instructor intervention. ALL instructors and parents will be notified within 24 hours.
- Any comments or concerns may be addressed with instructors before or after class.

¹Disciplinary actions fall into instructor's discretion. All disciplinary action will be documented and submitted for review between instructors.

²Instructors can offer makeup lessons either during class or at a scheduled time. However, instructors are under no obligation to provide make up lessons. Lessons given on scheduled times outside of class are subject to additional fees. Charged lessons may occur only after both parties have agreed to a scheduled time as well as pay for that session. Consent of this situation is only valid to those 18 years of age or older, or by parent/ legal guardian of the player.

Performance:

Performance participation is not mandatory. Staging is the instructors' decision.

Therefore, performers should never insist on specific placement or inclusion. Attendance at practice before a performance is mandatory unless excused by an instructor in advance of the practice. Only members may perform unless invited by instructors.

A Performer's uniform includes the black Tomodachi Daiko logo t-shirt or t-shirt sold by TDI and black pants (no strips) and white clean tabi or bare feet and white bow headband, Happi coat. All attire must be clean and presentable. Issued gear is to be cleaned, if needed, before being returned as soon as possible to the performance manager. Performers are responsible for the care and cleaning of all uniform items provided.

All performers must load and unload to transport the taiko drums and equipment's for the performance from/back to Sand Lake School. Tomodachi Daiko strongly believes that transporting the taiko and equipments is a vital part of each performance. Therefore, until unload them, we have not completed our performance. If you are unwilling to do so, please reconsider your commitment of performing. If you have a legitimate reason why you cannot help with transporting, please let the instructors or performance manager know in advance of performance. Repeated instance of not helping may result in you not being included in future performances.

Volunteer:

Tomodachi Daiko is a non-profit organization supported by all its members and volunteers reflecting unity in the work as well as the fun of taiko. A Tomodachi Daiko volunteer freely gives their time, energy, money, goods, services and/or expertise as they can without an expectation of a reward or anything in return. Your pure contribution is truly appreciated by all of Tomodachi Daiko. Your donations may qualify you for a tax deduction because Tomodachi Daiko is a charitable organization with 501(c)(3) status.

Confidentiality:

The taiko art form has many deeply rooted traditions, which continue in Tomodachi Daiko. Tomodachi Daiko encourages its membership to learn, grow and explore taiko through workshops and exchanges of a temporary nature with other taiko groups. The instructors are available to assist to discuss with workshop training with you. The pieces and forms learned while a member of Tomodachi Daiko or its affiliates may not to be passed on without express permission from instructors. Members may not to perform, display, teach or publicly exhibit this art form as taught by Tomodachi Daiko to non-members without permission. Members may only receive permission to perform or teach these pieces and forms from instructors. Members may not belong to another taiko group, informal or formal, while a member of Tomodachi Daiko. Information concerning Tomodachi Daiko, its affiliates, programs and operations is also considered confidential and may not be shared.

Miscellaneous:

Parents/guardians are expected to support the youth members of Tomodachi Daiko by providing transportation to and from class, practices and performances in addition to the transportation of equipment for performances. Any request for performance by Tomodachi Daiko should be directed immediately to instructors or performance manager. Tomodachi Daiko reserves the right to cancel a membership.

By signing below you have read and agree to the policies written in this document titled. This document is valid through the course of the 12 classes following the registration date for this semester.

Player's Name

Player's Signature

Date

Parent/ Legal Guardian Signature (If under 18)

Date