



Welcome to the **AMERICAN KOBUDO ASSOCIATION**.

The **AKA** currently offers training in two distinct systems: the **North American Nunchaku Association** offers a complete system in the training of the nunchaku and the **American Kobudo Association Bo System** offering a complete system in the training of several traditional staff weapons.

The **AKA** Bo System is a seven “kyu” (rank) system.  
The requirements are as follows.

- 7<sup>th</sup> Kyu – White Belt – Everyone starts at this rank.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Kyu – Yellow Belt – Bo Form 1 and Basic Techniques.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Kyu – Orange Belt – Bo Form 2 and Jo Form 1
- 4<sup>th</sup> Kyu – Purple Belt – Bo Form 3 – Jo Form 2 and Hanbo Form 1
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Kyu – Blue Belt – Bo Form 4 – Jo Form 3 – Hanbo Form 2 – Tekko Form 1
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kyu – Green Belt – Bo Form 5 – Jo Form 4 – Hanbo Form 3 – Tekko Form 2
- 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu – Brown Belt – Bo Form 6 – Jo Form 5 – Hanbo Form 4 – Tekko Form 3
- Shodan – Black Belt – Bo Form 7 – Jo Form 6 – Hanbo Form 5 – Tekko Form 4

The Weapons Used in the **AKA** Bo System are as follows.

**Bo** (Also known as Rokushaku Bo – which translates roughly to “six foot staff”) – For adults, the bo should measure between 5.5 feet and 6 feet in length. We prefer a bo which is tapered at each end and is a bit less than 1 inch in diameter at it’s center, although any size is acceptable for training.

**Jo** (Short staff) – Is usually not tapered and is roughly 46” to 54” in length and round. The Jo is usually about 1” in diameter.

**Hanbo** (Half-size staff) – Is usually not tapered and is roughly 36” long. The Hanbo is usually about 1” in diameter.

**Tekko** (Usually described as Okinawan brass knuckles) – We have a specially designed Tekko for use in the **AKA** Bo System which is approximately 4 inches long with a “side handle” that fits between your first and second finger and has a loop of rope that goes around your middle finger. Most of the techniques used with the tekko can be performed with a Yawara (pocket stick), chizikunbo or a kubaton. These weapons are all very similar and in some cases their descriptions are used interchangeably. Any of this type of weapon should work for the Tekko Forms.

**TESTING:** Students who are members of the North American Nunchaku Association or the American Kobudo Association may submit a test for review by filling out the test application, paying the appropriate testing and shipping fees (if applicable) and sending a video (CD or DVD preferred) to the Hombu Dojo (Main Office). **YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE AKA (or NANA) TO TEST.**

All tests will be reviewed by a Certified Examiner. Students who pass their tests will be awarded a certificate and belt (if applicable) along with a detailed review of their test.

Both systems are “cumulative knowledge” systems: meaning all previous requirements are expected not only to be remembered but to improve from rank to rank.

**NANA** only requires a previous rank’s requirements to be performed on a subsequent test if requested by the instructor. From Shodan (Black Belt) – ALL material must be performed.

In the **AKA** Bo System all previous forms must be formed on each test. In other words, a 4<sup>th</sup> Kyu test would need to show Bo Forms 1 through 3 – Jo Forms 1 and 2 as well as Hanbo 1. Previous requirements are expected to improve with each test.

In the **NANA** nunchaku System and **AKA** Bo System – only one test is allowed at a time.

Testing fees are as follows:

**NANA – 9<sup>th</sup> Kyu through 4<sup>th</sup> Kyu** - \$25.00 per test plus shipping fees if material are sent to the student. Belts are not included but may be purchased for \$5.00.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Kyu through 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu** - \$35.00 per test plus shipping fees if material are sent to the student. Belts are not included but may be purchased for \$5.00.

**SHODAN (Black)** - \$125.00 – belt included.

**AKA Bo System – 6<sup>th</sup> Kyu through 3<sup>rd</sup> Kyu** - \$25.00 per test plus shipping fees if material are sent to the student. - Belts are not included but may be purchased for \$5.00

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu** - \$35.00 per test plus shipping fees if material are sent to the student. - Belts are not included but may be purchased for \$5.00

**SHODAN (Black)** - \$125.00 – belt included.