

WILKES MARTIAL ARTS BLACK BELT LEGION

The Black Belt Legion (BBL) is an elite group of Wilkes Martial Arts most dedicated and committed students with a common goal of achieving the most out of life and their Black Belt. The BBL was introduced in 1998 to assist these selected students with their commitment to Black Belt. It is a great honor and a privilege to be nominated and accepted. BBL members are recognised by the green and orange BBL patch on their left sleeve and by the exclusive Black Belt Legion T-Shirt, which means they have taken on the commitment to Black Belt and beyond.

In order to be nominated, you must first meet specific criteria. (These are discussed by the senior instructors at our weekly student progress and assessment meeting.)

Firstly, you must have already demonstrated the first level of commitment before being eligible for Black Belt Legion membership. As such, only students who have been training for 6 months or longer, ie Yellow belt and above, can be nominated.

Secondly, in assessing your commitment, your attendance will be reviewed. Every student, not just BBL applicants, are graded by the head instructors each week at the weekly student progress and assessment meeting. Every student of Wilkes Martial Arts is graded for commitment as A, B or C, based on their lesson attendance.

A student: Attends 8 or more lessons a month (two lessons each week)

B student: Attends 5 - 7 lessons a month

C student: Attends 4 or less lessons a month

To be accepted into the BBL you must consistently hold an A or B grade. C students will need to demonstrate a higher level of dedication before a nomination will be announced. This is achieved by improving their attendance to an A or B consistently for 3 months or more.

Upon being nominated, your black envelope will include a Black Belt Legion Agreement, stating that you will continue your training through to Black Belt. Your Black Belt target date will be set, signed by you, witnessed by an Instructor and signed by the Master Instructor. You will receive a laminated copy to frame and mount in a prominent location at home, where it will be seen as a daily reminder of your mission and goal. Following this important milestone, you will know with certainty, that you are 'in till Black' and will be a Black Belt within 4 years or less, depending on the belt you are accepted into the BBL. There will be no more 'mind games' on cold nights or hot days as to whether to attend training or stay home.

The BBL was created with one purpose; to help you with your commitment to achieving your Black Belt. BBL students appreciate and respect the BBL because many of us know that we have started other activities, sports and hobbies in the past, or have set ourselves goals, but have not had the commitment, dedication or 'follow-through' to see them to completion. Our statistics show that close to 100% of students who are accepted into the Black Belt Legion become Black Belts. Otherwise, only about 5% achieve Black Belt. The reason so few non-BBL students make it to Black Belt is not due to lack of ability or skill, but due to lack of dedication and commitment.

On a deeper level, the BBL is to help you achieve your personal best in life. As a BBL member, set Black Belt excellence as your personal goal. This means that you will not only strive to become a high quality Black Belt, but also aim for that same level of excellence in all areas of your life such as at home, health and nutrition, school and work, education and learning, and also finance and investment. Martial arts is about achieving your personal best in all areas of your life.

Being a part of the Black Belt Legion means that you are constantly striving forward, improving your technique and application or 'Bunkai'. And remember, hills and valleys are a normal part of motivation and your martial arts journey. When you are on a motivation high (Hill), it is easy, progress is smoother and life seems simpler. Remember to enjoy these times but also know that a 'valley' can come at any moment. Valleys come in many guises, it could be your training, family, work or just a rough patch in life. Striving for excellence requires you to be self aware and please remember, all of this is normal. We have all been through our own hills and valleys. When this happens, let Mr. Wilkes know and together with your fellow students and instructors, we will help you through the valley towards your next hill.

If you have any questions about the Black Belt Legion, please speak to me as I am always happy to help. Also, if you are interested in being considered for the Black Belt Legion, please let me know as I like to know what your goals are every step of the way whilst training with me and the team.

Your Friend,

Sensei David Wilkes
Head Instructor



This is a Black Belt School.