



Philosophy of the Belt System

In the beginning the late Grandmaster Hwang Kee only had White, Green, Red and Midnight blue (black belt). In the 1970's other colours were added to satisfy the Western society as they did not have self-ability to progress without the changes of belt. Through the Western influences you may see variations of colours within other Tang Soo Do organisations.

White Belt - 10th Gup

White Belt represents Snow, a primitive stage ready to learn and grow. It is the dormant stage of a new student, and the season is Winter.



White Belt Red Stripe - 9th Gup

White Belt Red Stripe represents the first stage in the journey the student has been introduced to the basic principles and movements of Tang Soo Do.



Purple Belt - 8th & 7th Gup

Purple Belt represents new growth, like the spring of the seasons. The students have new knowledge to grow, and a sense of Tang Soo Do direction is developed.



Green Belt - 6th, 5th, 4th Gup

Green Belt Represents the speedy development of youth as summer arrives, a sense of pride has come over the member.



Red Belt - 3rd, 2nd, 1st Gup

Red Belt represents power, stability, agility, weight and wisdom. The student begins to flower and bloom



Midnight Blue Belt (Black Belt)

Midnight Blue Belt represents maturity, respect & honour. It is the completion of a goal or one stage of life. It is a new pathway to higher ranks. It is like going from secondary school to college to become a master. The mind is clean and calm. Autumn is the season of midnight blue belt. During the autumn months the trees begin to lose their leaves which represents the knowledge being passed down to lower ranks. The roots of the tree are symbolic of the heritage and tradition of Tang Soo Do - binding all students of all ranks in a supportive and loyal brotherhood.

Our Tang Soo Do belt system in its progression from white to midnight blue represents the cycle of the seasons and the educational steps of learning. Each colour stands for a specific stage of achievement. In this way we realize an essential concept of Korean philosophy i.e. the which is born must grow, learn

and reach maturity. White belt is the first year of school and the midnight blue / black belt is a graduate.

