

# Safety Advice?

## Carrying of Weapons?

Following the legislative changes and justified concerns about the 'Unlawful carrying of knives' the following advice dictates good practice and is recommended by the Great Britain Tang Soo Do Association to all its members.

N.B. It is essential that responsible martial artists do not put themselves at risk of prosecution when carrying a weapon and also of at least similar importance a martial artist must not discredit his or her chosen style. In our case Tang Soo Do.

The Criminal Justice Act 1988(Offensive Weapons) and subsequent amendments in 1996 & 2008 lead to the Association making the following recommendations to all its members. These recommendations should be followed without exception

1. Only first Dan (Black Belts) or higher rank should ever have a knife in their possession in a public place.
2. Only second Dan (Black Belts) or higher rank should ever have a sword in their possession in a public place.
3. In all cases without exception these weapons will have safety blades constructed of an aluminium alloy, and have a dulled blade with no sharp edge.
4. The knife/sword should be of a traditional design, as used by our style of martial arts practitioners i.e. A ceremonial tanto or sword.
5. The carrying of other knife or sword types may mean that the martial artist would not receive support from either the W.T.S.D.A. or G.B.T.S.D.A., if they had to defend themselves against action by the police.
6. The martial artist should be able to prove that he/she was going to or from a training class. Exceptions would include going to or from a demonstration, a tournament or a training seminar/clinic.
7. The weapon should be sheathed preferably in a second zipped container or pouch. If this pouch was fitted with a lock the martial artist could reasonably demonstrate that the weapon would be inaccessible in a hostile situation. i.e. He or she could prove that the blade could not readily be brought into use if the martial artist had to defend themselves.
8. At all times when carrying a weapon to and from a training venue the martial artist should be in a position to prove that they are a 'bona fide' member of the World Tang Soo Do Association. i.e. Carry their licence and make sure it is current.
9. If travelling by car the weapon should be in the bottom of a sports bag and in the locked boot of the car.
10. The Association also recommends that juniors under the age of 17 years, although holding a rank of second Dan, should only use a wooden bokken (training sword) until they are eligible to own a safety weapon.