TSDMA SOUTH
NEWSLETTER

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Shim Sa Results

We promoted 1 Cho Dan Bo, 8 gups, and 5 Little Dragons from two studios to new rank during our June Shim Sa.

ETTSD

CDB3: Noah Clendenin
7th Gup: David Woodby
8th Gup: Connor Thomas
9th Gup: Brandon Binkley, Joanna Kuyt
LD Purple: Isabel Jones
LD Orange: Garrett Mills
LD Yellow: Vincent Carhartt, Kendrick Ridley

NMAA

CDB1: Harley Smith
4th Gup: Logan Roberts
6th Gup: Grayson Morie
8th Gup: Kenneth Hatfield
LD Orange: Madison Embry

A special congratulations to Mr. Harley Smith, Newport Martial Arts Academy's first "home grown" Cho Dan Bo.

Others have transferred in, but he is the first who started there as a white belt and made it to black belt apprentice!

Tournament Update

RESULTS

Sat June 13, 2026

Jessie Thornton's 38th Annual Battle of Champions

Ringgold, GA

Congrats to Bethany Earley! It was her first tournament and she chose a big one! And she did so well! First in Weapons, First in Forms, Second in Sparring.

UPCOMING

Saturday Aug 1, 2026

Tennessee State Karate Championships

Upperman High School Gymnasium
6950 Nashville Hwy
Baxter, TN 38544
Approximately 3 hours

Tournament Begins: 9:00 AM
Event page:
https://www.facebook.com/events/961182952930835/

Calendar

General

- **Tue/Thu 4:45-5:15PM**, *Combined Class.* Open and free to all members, friends, and family.
- **Tue, Jul 28, 6:30PM.** F*ree Self-Defense* class @ETTSD. Open to all.
- **Sat, Aug 1,** 2026 Jack Scott UKS Tennessee State Karate Championships, Baxter, TN**.** See column 2.
- **Sat, Aug 8, 3PM.** Shim Sa.

East Tennessee Tang Soo Do

- **Thu, Jul 9.** Mat Chat
- **Tue-Thu, Jul 14-16**, Tip Testing

Newport Martial Arts Academy

- **Fri, Jul 3**, Closed for Independence Day
- **Fri, Jul 10, T**ip Test, Mat Chat
- **Fri, Jul 17,** Weapons
- **Fri, Jul 24,** Breaking

Seminars!

We are attempting something new!

We want to bring outside seminars to the studio for our students to get some exposure to other styles, different weapons, tournament techniques, and much more.

They will be held either on Mondays or Saturdays. Cost will vary from a donation up to $20, depending on the cost of the instructor, some of whom are coming from out of state.

Our first will be Mon, Aug 24 with Kajukembo Sifu Jude Gabaldon, who also trained with us for a while to experience another style.

More details next month!

Being a Good Karate Parent

An ongoing series, by East Tennessee Tang Soo Do instructors, on how to support children in martial arts. This month's column is an updated reprint from May 2017 by SBN Rivas.

Why Tournaments?

Tournament season is in full swing! You have been/will be hearing about them, being encouraged to attend them and have your children compete. We will run competition practice in class to hone skills and teach protocol. Why?

I believe a lot of good things come from tournament participation, both big open tournaments as well as smaller and Tang Soo Do tournaments.

Students will get to showcase their skills and find out where they need to improve to win. I have never seen kids more determined to perfect their forms and sparring techniques than after a tournament. If going to competitions is what makes a child enthusiastic about learning martial arts, then going to tournaments is what s/he should be doing!

Students will make friends and, in many cases, retain those friendships over years, because many of the same children attend many of tournaments we attend.

Students learn to lose. Some schools discourage competition, but I think that since we live in a competitive society, teaching children about competition, including losing, is an important part of martial arts.

For smaller and TSD tournaments, it is a family experience. Students are welcomed and nurtured, even in the ring.

If there were more TSD tournaments around, we would go to more. The closest one is about 2.5 hours away in Boone, NC. Others are in Fayetteville, NC, and we hope to go to at least one there this year. It is where Grandmaster Sgro, of Moo Yea TSD is located.

Many other tournaments we go to come from the All-Star Karate League (ASKL) schedule. This is a highly competitive open league based out of Atlanta that includes tournaments over a large swath of the U.S., from FL to WI!! The ones we go to are in TN and GA.

With open tournaments students get to see other styles, uniforms that do not look like theirs and to compete with their technique as much as their pattern. Since the judges do not know our forms, students with good form score well even if there are mistakes in the pattern.

These are more challenging tournaments since the divisions tend to be larger and the judges are not Tang Soo Do. However, these are the types of tournaments I came up the ranks with and they served me and my children (including Mr. Ian) well.

I hope you will consider allowing your child to compete in at least one tournament this year!

Mat Chat

You can find our full ***Mat Chat*** pages on our website. Select: ***Parents / Mat Chat***

This month:

Tenet/Code: Concentration (Tenet 2)

What does Concentration mean?

Concentration means Complete Attention. It is important because it lets you learn, understand and finish a task or job to the absolute best of your ability.

Learning to Concentrate

Lots of things take focus and concentration. School, karate, even picking up toys or putting away your things. Sometimes it's hard to concentrate and focus. Minds wander. This happens to all of us. Parents and teachers say "Focus" or "Focus and Finish". But how?

Terminology

- **First basic form** ~ *Ki cho hyung il bu*
- **Second basic form** ~ *Ki cho hyung ee bu*
- **Third Basic form** ~ *Ki cho hyung sam bu*
- **1st Peace and Confidence form** ~ *Pyoung ahn cho dan*
- **2nd Peace and Confidence form** ~ *Pyoung ahn ee dan*
- **3rd Peace and Confidence form** ~ *Pyoung ahn sam dan*
- **4th Peace and Confidence form** ~ *Pyoung ahn sa dan*
- **5th Peace and Confidence form** ~ *Pyoung ahn oe dan*
- **1st of Seven Stars** ~ *Chilsung il lo*
- **2nd of Seven Stars** ~ *Chilsung ee lo*
- **3rd of Seven Stars** ~ *Chilsung sam lo*