

Fluid Adaption Martial Arts

Knowledge Series

2. Senjo



The Knowledge Series

The Knowledge Series are intended as brief reflective texts on topics related to the practice of Fluid Adaption martial arts. These texts are intended to provoke thought and discussion amongst members.

All members are encouraged to write and publish under the Knowledge Series heading. Please forward all drafts to Mitch at mitch@fluidadaption.com

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Introduction

This second edition of The Knowledge Series, builds from the concept of The Dojo and proposes a platform for group organisation known as Senjo. In doing so, it seeks to expand on the document *Fluid Adaption – Laying the foundation for a straight path* (November 2014, page 6)¹ in which the following was stated:

Splitting and forming new martial arts is a natural and positive process that has occurred since martial arts were first began. This process of splitting has enabled further growth and development of martial arts over time, as martial artists adapt the practice of martial arts to the changing social context in which they exist. A resilient style/organisation therefore incorporates and harnesses this tendency for growth by incorporation of splitting into their organisational design. It takes a fearless and open organisation that can hold the tension between the need for centralised control and individual adaptive expression. Fluid Adaption seeks to be such a martial arts organisation.

This edition of the Knowledge Series lays down a framework that supports a resilient Fluid Adaption that can hold and harness the tendency for growth through diversification. This framework we choose to call the Senjo, and as such we humbly acknowledge the influence of Soke Bob Jones and members of the Bob Jones Corporation who were first to refer to the concept of Senjo as both a ceremony and philosophical framework for the martial arts.

The Fluid Adaption Senjo

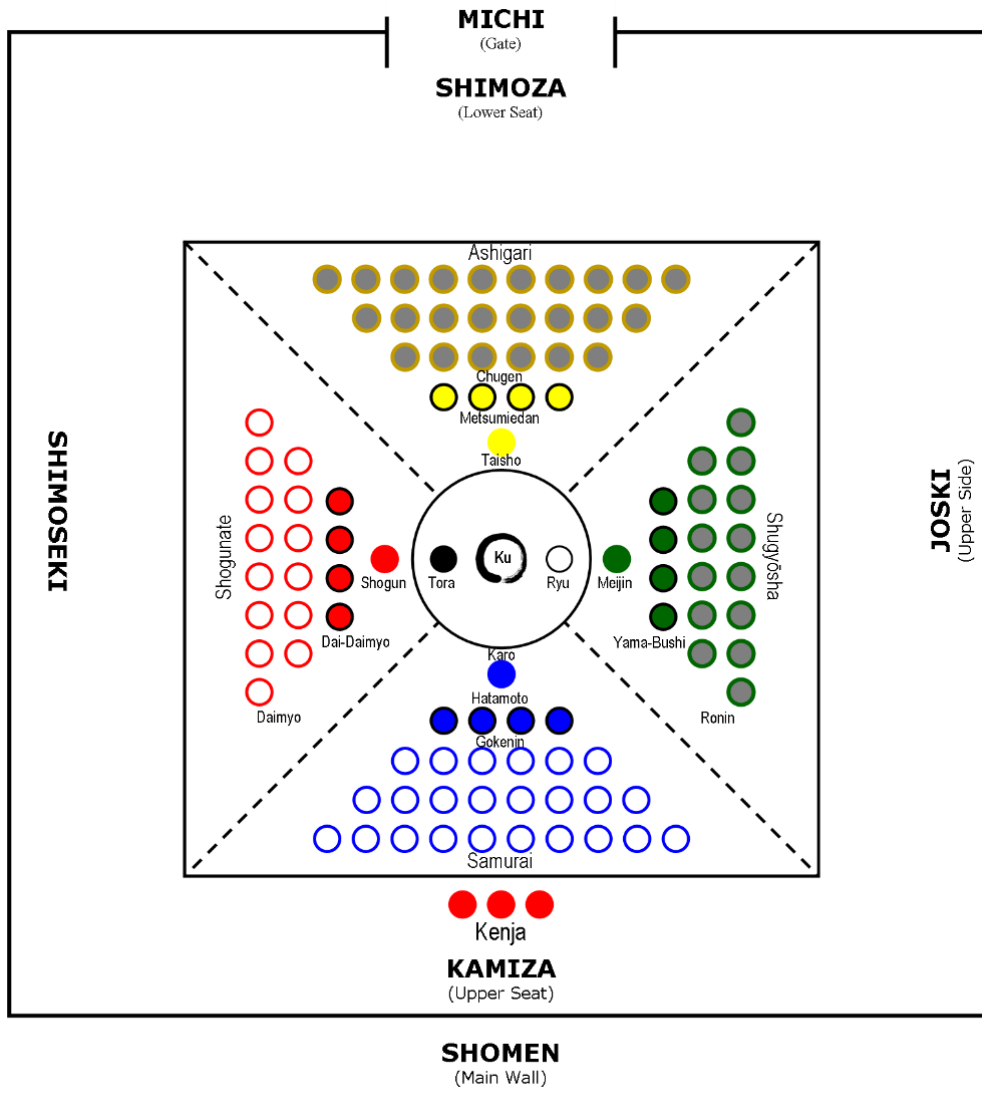
Building from the general concept of the BJC Senjo and mirroring the organisation of the Fluid Adaption Dojo, Senjo provides an integrated philosophical and organisational structure that guides the maturation of students in the martial arts and facilitates grading for rank.

Functioning as an order of battle, the main purpose of Senjo is to immerse practitioners into the principles and practice of Fluid Adaption via the grading process, thereby ultimately guiding members, our organisation, and our community more broadly towards living in harmony with nature as ultimately expressed by the outcome goal, 'Fluid Adaption'.

The Senjo design that follows emerges from an understanding of natural systems as generally expressed in philosophical systems such as Taoism. The rituals of bowing that constitute the Senjo Ceremony are attached in Appendix 2. A map of the Senjo without the Dojo frame is Appendix 3. The template for a Senjo Order of Battle is Appendix 4.

¹ <http://fluidadaption.com/resources/20141114%20-%20Fluid%20Adaption%20-%20laying%20the%20foundation.pdf>

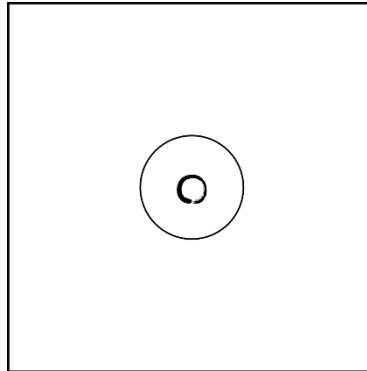
Floor map of the Senjo.



Fluid Adaption Senjo Design

Key Features of the Fluid Adaption Senjo design.

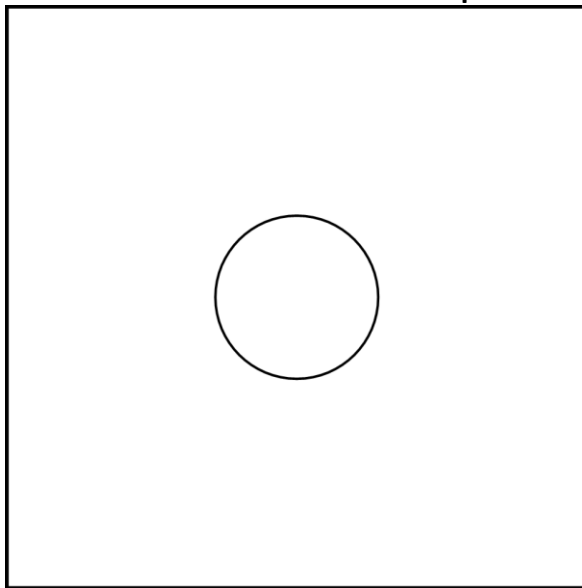
Circle's & Square



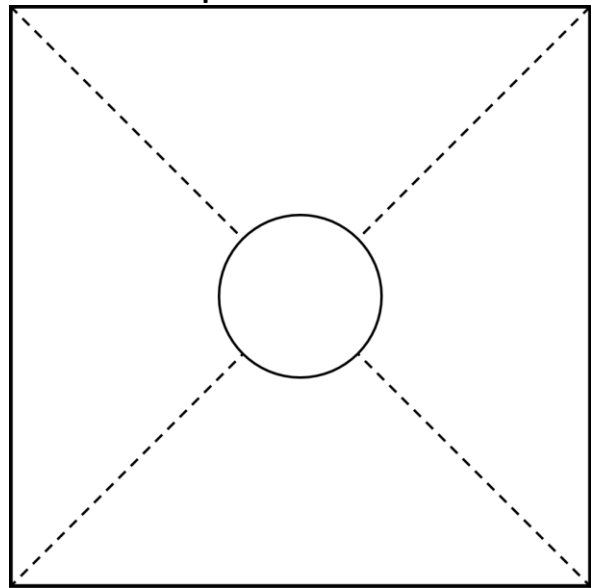
Shape	Name	Description
Centre Circle	Ensō	<i>Circle</i> , symbolizes absolute enlightenment, strength, elegance, the universe, and <i>mu/ku</i> (the void), and so is symbolic of the spiritual world, the interconnectedness between all things and the principles of adaption. Enso represents both birth and death, the beginning of end of Fluid Adaption practice.
Outside Circle	Maru	<i>Circle</i> , an extension of the centre and represents spiritual awakening in Fluid Adaption as expressed by the training goal 'no mind-fluid body'. As such Maru is a place of honesty and adaptability in everyday life. Further the circle holds the opposites of the Tiger and Dragon, symbolic of In (Yin) and Yo (Yang). The tiger and dragon beautifully symbolize the yin yang (duality) of the universe and the male and female energies.
Outside Square	Heiho	<i>Square</i> , Symbolic of the physical world and the way of tactics and strategy. Heiho also expresses the 8 collective virtues of bushido by its 4 flats and 4 corners.

Centre, Square, & Quadrants

Centre Circle and the Outer square

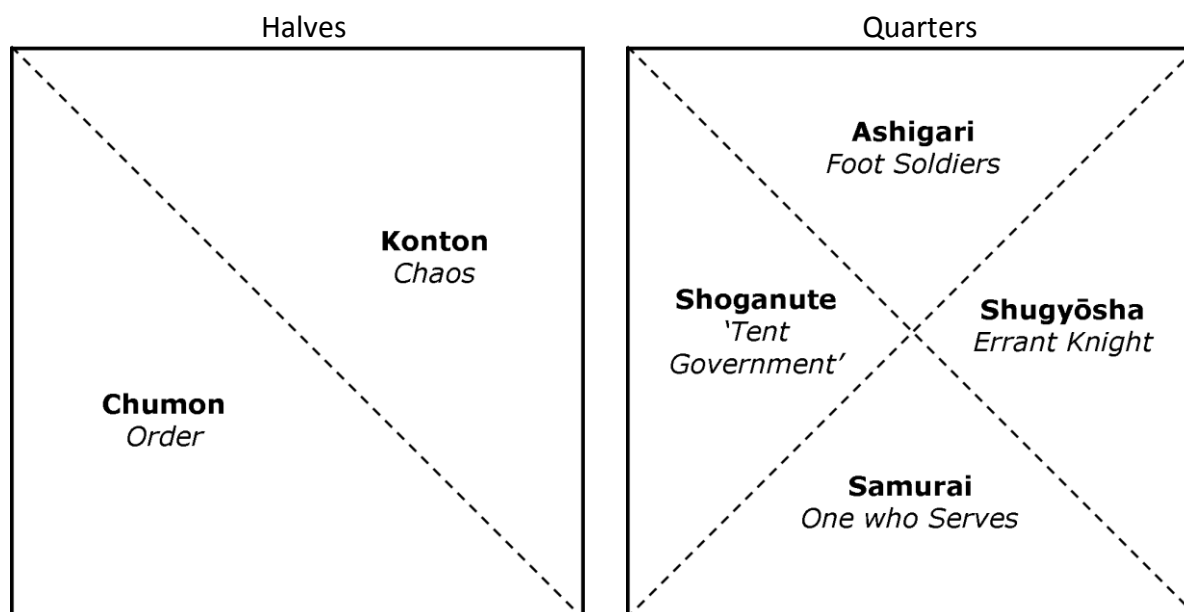


Four quadrants and Centre



Elements	Relationships
Enso/Maru and the Outer square	The centre and circumference of the Senjo are one in the same and suggest both the limits in Fluid Adaption along with the dynamic flow of energy from outside in and inside out. This also suggests Senjo as a mandala (magic circle) with grading representing a process of internal alchemy (transformation of the individual). The concept of centre and circumference is also a key aspect of all Fluid Adaption non-linear drills.
Four quadrants and Centre	<p>Archetypally the centre and four quadrants represent the theory of 5 elements and associated process of harmonious relationship and rivalry, again consistent with mandala design and process related to internal alchemy. Further, they represent the four directions of a compass, which together with the centre suggest concepts such as centring, positioning, direction, balance, and awareness.</p> <p>The quadrants are organised both as opposites (in rivalry) as Fighter vs Warrior and Leader vs Pilgrim as such they represent the tension that that produces energy in Fluid Adaption. They also suggest a positive and expansive flow of energy (harmonious relationship) in the clockwork direction, with the potential for the polar reversal of energy, as suggested by the Tora, as dark in the light side, and the Ryu, as light in the dark side.</p> <p>Further, the opposite quadrants of the Ashigari and Samurai suggest the virtuous path of Bushido leading directly to the centre of the Senjo. The quadrants of Shoganute and Shugyosha suggesting alternative paths into the centre. The Ashigari and Samurai paths also suggests an awakening of the smaller Self (personal), while the Shoganute and Shugyosha paths suggest an awakening of the greater Self (collective).</p>

Halves & Quadrants



Shape	Name	Description
Top side of the Outside Square diagonally halved.	Konton <i>Chaos</i>	<i>Chaos</i> , the half of the battlefield from which chaos emerges. The dark side of Senjo. The Quarters of Ashigari and Shugyōsha.
Bottom of the Outside Square diagonally halved.	Chumon <i>Order</i>	<i>Order</i> , the half of the battlefield from which order emerges. The light side of Senjo. The Quarters of Samurai and Shoganute.
Top Quarter	Ashigari <i>'Foot Soldiers'</i>	<i>Light feet or Foot Soldiers</i> . This quadrant is for the fighters and emerging warriors of Fluid Adaption under the rank of Nidan. It is also representing the bringing of darkness into the Dark diagonal half of Senjo. Ashigari positions are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Taiso <i>'General'</i> – commander in charge of the Ashigari. 2. Metsumiedan <i>'Emerging Warriors'</i> – fighters awarded the rank of Nidanho 3. Chugen <i>'Emerging Fighters'</i> – students ranked Shodan (1st Degree Black Belt) & below.
Right Quarter	Shugyōsha <i>'Knight Errant'</i>	<i>'Knight Errant'</i> , a warrior who wanders the land practicing and honing his skills without the protection of his family or school. This quadrant represents the

		<p>peak of darkness in the Senjo, from which new knowledge and skills emerge.</p> <p>Shugyōsha positions are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meijin '<i>Artful Person</i>' – a holder of wisdom attained through experience, one who leads by their example of excellence in the martial arts. 2. Yamabushi '<i>Warrior Monks</i>' – martial arts pilgrims fearlessly seeking deeper knowledge of the martial arts. 3. Ronin '<i>Masterless Warriors</i>' – Free of obligation and able to pursue their own path towards excellence and self-enlightenment through practice of the martial arts.
Bottom Quarter	Samurai ' <i>One who serves</i> '	<p>'<i>One who serves</i>', the seasoned warriors class of Fluid Adaption holding the rank of Nidan and above. It is also representing the bringing of lightness into the Light diagonal half of Senjo.</p> <p>Samurai Positions are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Karo '<i>Clan Elder</i>' – a most trusted warrior, a role model in warrior virtues, valued for their wise counsel and leadership. 2. Hatamoto '<i>Senior Vassals</i>' – Experienced warriors who display strong warrior virtues, protectors of the fighting spirit and upper vassals to Shogunate. 3. Gokenin '<i>Junior Vassals</i>' – Warriors serving under Daimyo of the Shogunate.
Left Quarter	Shogunate ' <i>Tent Government</i> '	<p><i>Tent Government.</i> This quadrant is occupied by the club instructors of Fluid Adaption. This quadrant represents the peak of lightness in the Senjo.</p> <p>Samurai Positions are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shogun '<i>Field Marshal</i>' – Leading Club Instructor. 2. Dai-Daimyo '<i>Great Warlords</i>' – Established Club instructors with seasoned warrior students. 3. Daimyo '<i>Warlords</i>' – Club Instructors with emerging fighters.

Key Senjo Positions

Position	Title	Function
1	Ku <i>Void</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The position of Ku is not occupied by a warrior during the Senjo Ceremony, as it represents a transcendent reality, that which transcends the duality of the physical world and of time and space (relationship). - Ku represents the principles of Fluid Adaption which give form to the physical expression of Fluid Adaption in practice.
2	Tora <i>Tiger</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Tora acts as a counter balancing force in relation to the leadership of the Ryu. - Consults with the Ryu on all matters pertaining to Fluid Adaption. - Appoints and mentors the Senjo positions of Taiso and Mejin. - Encourage the highest standards of martial arts practice. - Function as the Chanter on grading day.
3	Ryu <i>Dragon</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinates the Senjo Ceremony and warrior training - Appoints and mentors the Senjo positions of Kora and Shogun. - In consultation with the Tora and Four Pillars, awards rank and title based on merit to the members of Fluid Adaption. - Provides inspired leadership to the members of Fluid Adaption. - Cultivates continuous growth and renewal of practice.
5	Karo <i>Clan Elder</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitors and advocates on matters related to the development of Fluid Adaption practice, especially in relation to moral/ethical issues to ensure that the highest standards are maintained. - Provides consultation to the Ryu as requested on matters of awarding rank and title, especially for ranks above black belt. - Leads and mentors the development of Samurai.
6	Shogun <i>Field Marshal</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitors and advocates on matters related to the development of Fluid Adaption practice, especially in relation to the instruction of Fluid Adaption. - Provide consultation to the Ryu as requested on matters of awarding rank and title, especially for the awarding of teaching titles. - Lead and mentor the development of Daimyo.
7	Meijin <i>Artful Warrior</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitors and advocates on matters related to the development of Fluid Adaption practice, especially in relation to the development of specialist skills and knowledge. - Provides consultation to the Ryu as requested on matters of awarding rank and title, especially on quality of performance

		<p>and on awarding of honour grades.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead and mentor the development of the Shugyōsha.
8	Taiso <i>General</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitors and advocates on matters related to the development of Fluid Adaption practice, especially in relation to the emergence of warriors and overall fighting ability of students. - Provides consultation to the Ryu as requested on matters of awarding rank and title, especially for ranks below Black Belt. - Leads and mentors the development of the Ashigaru

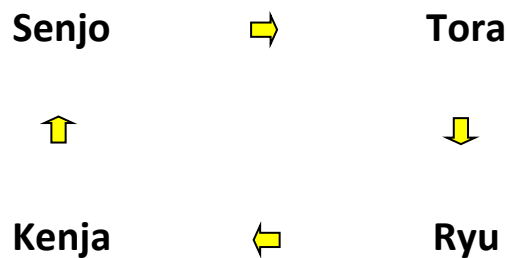
Emergence & Renewal

A key function of Senjo is to ensure the continued growth of Fluid Adaption and facilitate power sharing between its senior members. The process for ensuring that there is sharing of power and consequently constant renewal of Fluid Adaption is as follows:

Cycle of Leadership Succession

1. The positions of Ryu (Dragon) and Tora (Tiger) can only be held for one calendar year.
2. Every year the Ryu retires and is replaced by the Tora who now becomes the Ryu for the coming year.
3. The Ryu upon retirement nominates the next Tora.
4. The Ryu then retires for one year to the position of Kenja (Sage) outside the Senjo Square in front of the main wall and acts a witness to the Senjo Ceremony.
5. After the year as Kenja, the member returns to inside the Senjo square to a position nominated by the incoming Ryu.
6. After 12 months the they again able to be nominated for the position of Tora again

This process is cyclic as follows...



Or to put it another way, from Senjo emerges the Tora, who then becomes the Ryu, who after 12 months retires to the Kenja and nominates the next Tora, who then after a year as Kenja returns back to the Senjo for at least 12 months before being eligible again to be nominated for the position of Tora.

Appointment of Other Key Positions - The Four Pillars

In no particular order, the Kora, Shogun, Taiso, and Mejin are the four pillars of Senjo. Like all other positions in Senjo, these positions are subject to change according to who is in attendance on the day. However generally speaking the positions of Mejin, Kora, Shogun, and Taiso are appointed at the commencement of each year. The Ryu appoints the Shogun and Kora, while the Tora appoints the Taiso and Mejin. There is no restriction on how often a member serves in one of these four positions.

Other

Retirement of the Ryu is dependent on the nominated warrior accepting the nomination to the position of Tora for the coming year. Should the warrior not accept then the incumbent Ryu and Tora will be required to continue service in their respective roles for another year.

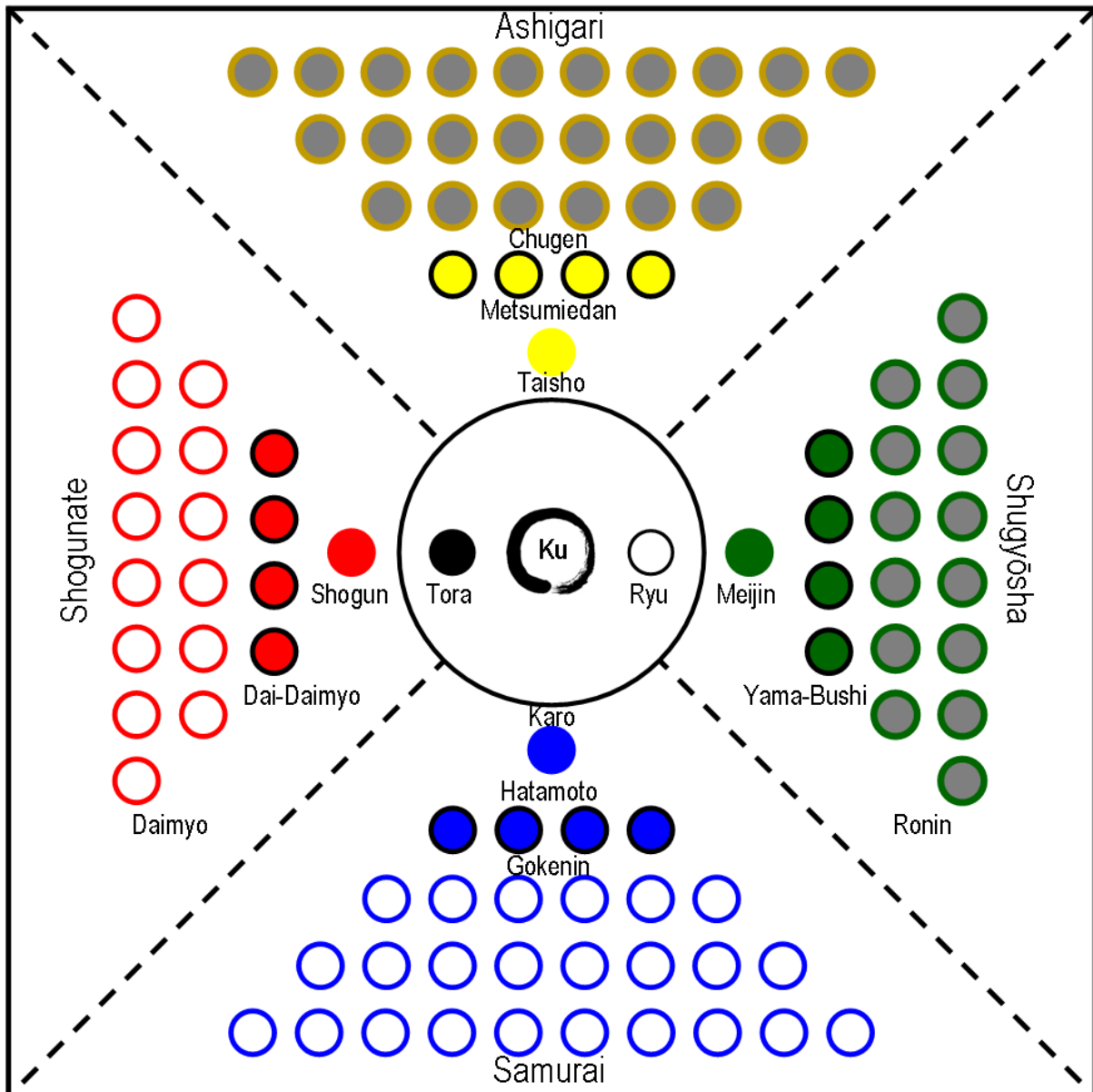
In the absence of the Ryu or Tora at any given Senjo during the year the Kora fills in for that position and nominates another warrior to fill their position on the Senjo floor as Kora.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Senjo Opening & Closing Ceremony

Command	Called by	Action
Shugo Senjo <i>Battlefield line up</i>	Taiso <i>(General)</i>	- Everyone takes their standing position for Senjo on the floor
Seiza <i>Kneeling position</i>	Taiso <i>(General)</i>	- Everyone adopts kneeling position, beginning with the Ryu and Tora, in a wave from inside out.
Mokuso Hajima <i>Begin meditation</i>	Taiso <i>(General)</i>	- Eyes closed, hands resting on lap, mediation.
Mokuso Yame <i>End meditation</i>	Taiso <i>(General)</i>	- Eyes closed, hands resting on lap, mediation.
Shomen Mawatte <i>Turn to face the main wall</i>	Ryu <i>(Dragon)</i>	- Ashigari remain where they are, everyone else turns to face the front
1. Shomen Ni Rei <i>Bow to the spirit of those warriors who have gone before</i>	Ryu <i>(Dragon)</i>	- Ryu and Tora full bow. - Four Pillars 45 degrees half bow.
Enso Mawatte <i>Turn to face the centre</i>	Ryu <i>(Dragon)</i>	- Everyone returns to face the main wall
2. Bushido Ni Rei <i>Bow to the warrior's path on which we all tread</i>	Tora <i>(Tiger)</i>	- Ryu and Tora full bow. - Four Pillars 45 degrees half bow.
3. Enso Ni Rei <i>Bow to centre, the eternal moment from which everything emerges</i>	Kora <i>(Clan Elder)</i>	- Ryu and Tora remain upright. - Four Pillars 45 degrees half bow.
4. Ryu Ni Rei <i>Bow to the principle of Light and Order</i>	Mejin <i>(Artful Warrior)</i>	- Ryu remains upright. - Four Pillars 45 degrees half bow. - Everyone else full bow.
5. Tora Ni Rei <i>Bow to the principle of Darkness and Chaos</i>	Shogun <i>(Field Commander)</i>	- Tora remains upright - Four Pillars 45 degrees half bow. - Everyone else full bow.
6. Senjo Ni Rei <i>Bow to the battlefield and the principles and practice of adapting fluidly.</i>	Taiso <i>(General)</i>	- Ryu and Tora remain upright. - Four Pillars 45 degrees half bow. - Everyone else full bow.
Kiritsu <i>Stand Up</i>	Taiso <i>(General)</i>	- Everyone returns to standing positions

Appendix 2 - Fluid Adaption Senjo Map



Fluid Adaption Martial Arts

Senjo - Order of Battle

THE WARRIOR'S PATH (Year) – (PHASE)

Grading Preparation Training Day

(Day, Date, Start & Finish Times)

(Venue)

(Address)

Maru (Outside Circle)	Ryu (Dragon)	
	Tora (Tiger)	

Samurai (Warriors)	Kora (Clan Elder)	
	Hatamoto (Senior Vassals)	
	Gokenin (Junior Vassals)	

Shoganute (Tent Government)	Shogun (Field Marshal)	
	Dai-Daimyo (Great Warlords)	
	Daimyo (Warlords)	

Ashigari (Foot Soldiers)	Taiso (General)	
	Metsumiedan (Emerging Warriors)	
	Chugen (Emerging Fighters)	All ranks under Nidanho (Probationary Second Degree Black Belt) line up according to rank.

Shugyōsha (Errant Knights)	Mejin (Artful Warrior)	
	Yama-Bushi (Warrior Monks)	
	Ronin (Masterless Warriors)	