Before You Buy Gi Gear: Nine Things Nobody Tells You

Most advice about uniforms starts with weave and weight, and that is useful. But the little surprises are what trip people up. Nobody mentions that your gym might ban your favorite color. Nobody says a new GI can arrive on a Tuesday and miss your Thursday class because you forgot to count shipping days. If you plan to ***buy gi*** gear for the first time, these nine quiet lessons can save you money, time, and a few awkward moments on the mat. Think of this as a note from a friend who has already made the mistakes so you do not have to.



1. A Belt Comes With the Story

Your gi is only the jacket and pants. The belt is its own small piece, and it tells everyone in the room where you are on your path. White is the usual starting color.

Here is the part people forget. A belt needs to match your rank, and it needs to wrap around your waist twice with a knot that stays put. Some of our listings include a free gi bag and belt while supplies last, and you pick the belt color when you choose your size. Read each listing to see what comes in the box.

2. The Number on the Tag Is About Weather, Too

You will see a number called GSM. It means grams per square meter, which is a plain way to say how thick the cloth is. A bigger number means heavier cloth, and heavier cloth tends to last longer.

What nobody says is that weight also changes how you feel in class. Thick cloth can feel like a winter coat in a hot room. Light cloth feels breezy but can wear out sooner. Our men's jacket is a 450GSM pearl weave, which sits in a steady middle. Think about where you train and how warm the room gets before you decide.

3. Your Shape Matters More Than Your Size

Two people can both be six feet tall and need very different gis. One is narrow and long. The other is broad and strong. A size chart is a starting point, not a promise.

Use the Chart the Smart Way

Write down your height and weight, and check them against the chart. Our men's sizes run from A00 to A6. If you sit between sizes, ask about custom sizing, which is made to order.

Be Honest About Arms and Legs

Sleeves that cover your knuckles hand your partner a free grip. Pants that pool at your feet trip you up. Notice where your own body is long or short, and let that guide you.

4. The Rules Might Not Be Yours to Choose

If your gym or event has color rules, they win. Most places accept white, blue, and black. Our men's range also comes in brown, green, navy blue, and yellow, so you have choices once your coach says what is allowed.

A Two-Minute Fix

Ask your coach before you order. If you plan to compete, ask which rule book your events follow. Our grey gi listing says it is IBJJF standard-compliant, which means it is made to be legal under that group's rules. Each listing has its own notes, so read the one you like.

5. Your Gi Is Only Half of the Picture

Here is where many new students go wrong. They spend all their time picking the jacket and then show up with no mouthguard or sandals. A good ***bjj outfit*** has a few small partners that keep class smooth. A belt, a mouthguard, and sandals for walking off the mat make a solid base. Later, a rash guard, grappling shorts, and spats come in handy for no-gi days. You can find a wide range of bjj outfit pieces at our shop for men, women, and kids, so you can round out your kit slowly without running to five different stores.



6. Pants Take the Hardest Hits

People fuss over the jacket, but the pants work just as hard. Knees slide on mats, and cuffs get stepped on. When you shop, look at what the pants are made of.

Our gi pants are cotton twill with a cotton drawstring, and they are ripstop. That means extra threads are woven in a pattern, so a small tear does not run all the way up the leg. The jacket also has a stiff, thick collar and reinforced stitching where gis wear out first.

7. Washing Wrong Costs You the Gi

A great gi can be ruined in a few bad laundry days. The fix is simple.

What Helps

- Cold water, under about 30°C (86°F).
- A mild soap.
- A separate wash from colored clothes.
- Open air for drying, out of harsh sun.

What Hurts

- Bleach and fabric softener, which wear threads down.
- Hot dryers, which shrink and weaken cloth.
- Washing after every tiny sip of water. Too many cycles thin the fabric.
- Leaving a sweaty gi in a sealed bag overnight.

The cloth on our gis is pre-shrunk, so it is made to keep its size better than cloth that is not. Still, gentle care keeps it strong.

8. Shipping and Returns Deserve a Spot on Your Calendar

This is the one that surprises people most. A gi does not appear the next day.

Count the Days

We ship inside the United States. Regular orders usually go out in about five to seven days, and custom gear takes around one to two weeks. Orders of $300 or more ship free, and you get a tracking number once your package is on the way. If you have an event coming up, order a few weeks early so you can wash the gi and try it on.

Know the Fine Print

Regular items can be returned under our refund policy, which lists the time limit and the valid reasons. Custom gear cannot be returned, so double-check your size and colors for those orders. If you have questions, our team is available 12 hours a day, six days a week, at support@bjiujitsu.com.

9. Reviews Tell Stories Product Pages Cannot

A product page tells you what a brand wants you to know. Reviews tell you what real people learned. Look for details about comfort, stitching, and shipping. Our grey gi listing shows a 4.8 rating across 46 reviews, and many customers mention comfort, tough stitching, and value. One customer said shipping was a little slow, which is a good reason to order early.

Also check the price. Our men's gis run from $79 to $109 depending on size, and the grey gi has shown a price from $79, down from $90. A fair price matters, but a fancy tag does not mean a better fit for a beginner.

A Short Note to the Nervous Beginner

If you are reading this with a tape measure around your neck, take a breath. Nobody expects you to know everything. Ask your coach about colors. Measure yourself twice. Read the listing from top to bottom. Give shipping enough time. And treat your gi kindly after every class. Do those five things, and you will walk into your first rolls feeling ready, not rushed. The rest, you will learn on the mat, one round at a time.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does IBJJF standard compliant mean on a gi?

It means the GI is made to follow the rules of that large federation for events. Our grey gi listing says it is IBJJF standard compliant. Always read your event's rule book to be sure.

How many gis should a beginner own?

Most beginners start with one and add a second later, so they can wash one while they train in the other. Start with a gi that fits well, and add more as you train more.

Can I get a gi in a custom size?

Yes. Our men's sizes run from A00 to A6, and made-to-order custom sizing is offered for builds that sit between sizes. Custom gear takes about one to two weeks to ship and cannot be returned.

Do you ship outside the United States?

Our shop ships inside the United States only. Check the shipping policy for the latest details before you order.

Is there free shipping?

Yes, on orders of $300 or more. You also get a tracking number once your package is on its way.