

INTERNATIONAL KARATEDO GOJUKAI ASSOCIATION (IKGA)

RULES AND REGULATIONS

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

The International Karatedo Gojukai Association (IKGA) was established in 1965 by Master Gogen Yamaguchi, the highest-ranking master (Saiko Shihan), and he served as its first president until he passed away on May 20, 1989. His instruction was offered in some twenty countries. With his death, one of his sons, Master Goshi Yamaguchi succeeded him as the second president and the highest-ranking master (Saiko Shihan) of the association in January, 1990. The honorary title of "Kensei" (the Saint of Karate) was conferred on the late Master Gogen Yamaguchi by the Japan Karatedo Gojukai Association, and it has been agreed ever since that he is called "Kaiso" (the founder).

AIMS AND VISION OF IKGA

The aims and vision of the Association are two-fold: (1) to promote and develop Yamaguchi Gojukai Karate Do initiated by Master Gogen Yamaguchi; and (2) to promote international friendship among its members through the training of Karate Do and help cultivate the character of the youth in the world so as to contribute to the promotion of world peace.

Anyone who (a) is ***interested in*** training in Yamaguchi Gojukai Karate Do and (b) is ***willing and able to conform to the Regulations of IKGA, including its stated Aims and Vision***, is eligible for membership.

I. STRUCTURE OF IKGA

The structure of IKGA shall be as follows:

- A. IKGA HEADQUARTERS**
- B. IKGA PRESIDENT**
- C. IKGA PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL (PC)**
- D. IKGA BLOCS**
- E. IKGA BLOC DIRECTORS**
- F. IKGA BRANCH CHIEFS/BOARDS**
- G. IKGA DOJOS**

A. IKGA HEADQUARTERS

DESCRIPTION

The IKGA Headquarters shall be at, or near, where the IKGA President resides.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. To issue stickers for individual annual membership.
2. To issue international membership cards.

3. To issue Instructors Certificates.
4. To issue Dojo Certificates.
5. To issue all Dan Certificates.
6. To issue all Certificates for Shihan titles.
7. The provision of grading tests.
8. Arrangements for tournaments and training seminars.
9. The publication of textbooks and materials.
10. The publication and dispatch of the IKGA newsletters.

B. IKGA PRESIDENT

DESCRIPTION

The IKGA President shall represent the Yamaguchi Soke (current heir of Kaiso Master Gogen Yamaguchi).

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. To sign and authenticate all IKGA Certificates and Certifications.
2. Together with the other members of the President's Council, the appointment of IKGA Bloc Directors.
3. The appointment of IKGA Vice Presidents.
4. To announce the President's successor.

C. IKGA PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL (PC)

DESCRIPTION

The President's Council (hereinafter referred to as the "PC") is the governing body of IKGA, and shall consist of the IKGA President described in I.B. above, and the Vice Presidents appointed pursuant to I.B.2 above.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The appointment of IKGA Advisers and Secretariat staff.
2. Together with the President, the appointment of IKGA Bloc Directors. A Vice President may serve concurrently as a Bloc Director. Provided, however, that such appointment must be approved by the other members of the PC, without consideration of the vote of the person to be so appointed.

3. In the event a Bloc has no Bloc Director, the President shall take responsibility for the Bloc or, at the President's sole discretion, appoint another member of the PC to oversee the Bloc.
4. A Vice President may not serve concurrently as a Bloc Director and as a Branch Chief, unless otherwise approved by the other members of the PC. Provided, however, that such appointment must be approved by the other members of the PC, without consideration of the vote of the person to be so appointed.
5. In the event of an impasse between PC members, the IKGA President shall have the deciding vote.

D. IKGA BLOCS

DESCRIPTION

IKGA members outside of Japan shall be grouped into regional blocs by the decision of the **PC** and jointly carry out the IKGA activities in each bloc. To ensure the smooth operation of the bloc-based activities, there may be **BLOC DIRECTORS** appointed by the **PC**. The Bloc Director shall coordinate IKGA activities within the respective bloc, and ensure that such activities are in the best interests of IKGA.

The blocs set forth below are as of December 1, 2008.

1. African Bloc (excluding those portions of North Africa traditionally falling within the Middle East)
2. Asian Bloc (Including the Middle East, and those portions of North Africa traditionally falling within the Middle East)
3. European Bloc
4. Oceania Bloc
5. North American Bloc
6. South American Bloc

E. IKGA BLOC DIRECTORS

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The appointment of Branch Chiefs and members of the Bloc Board
2. The supervision and regulation of the Bloc and exchanges among and between Branch Chiefs within the Bloc
3. The regulation of Instructors within the Bloc. Provided, however, that primary supervision of Instructors shall be the responsibility of the respective Branch Chiefs.
3. To keep details of all Branch Chiefs and Instructors within the Bloc.

4. To keep a current Dan Grading List for the Bloc.
5. To recommend candidates for the Shihan titles Kyoshi and Renshi within the Bloc.
6. The provision of application forms for Dan gradings, Instructor Certificates, Dojo Certificates, and Shihan title Certificates to applicants within the Bloc.
7. The collection of membership fees and Certificate fees on behalf of IKGA Headquarters. In the event of non-payment of a membership fee or a Certificate fee by an Instructor or student, the Branch Chief or Branch Board (as applicable) will be primarily responsible, and the Bloc Director will be secondarily responsible, vis-à-vis IKGA Headquarters.
8. All Dan gradings shall be at the discretion of the Bloc Director. Provided, however, that if the IKGA President disagrees with the Bloc Director's determination to carry out or not carry out a Dan grading, the IKGA President shall have veto power.
9. In the event of a dispute within a Branch, or between Branches in the Bloc, the Bloc Director will intervene to resolve the matter. In the event that the dispute involves the Bloc Director himself/herself, the dispute shall be escalated to the PC for resolution; provided that such dispute must be resolved by the other members of the PC, without consideration of the vote of the Bloc Director involved.
10. In the event it has been shown there was mismanagement or misconduct by a Branch Chief or Branch Board (as applicable) or a member of a Branch Board, the Bloc Director will have the authority to remove and replace the Branch Chief or the member of the Branch Board without the approval of the PC. Provided however, that in the event a prima facie showing has been made that such removal was arbitrary, retaliatory or otherwise not made in good faith, such removal shall be escalated to the PC for resolution, provided that such dispute must be resolved by the other members of the PC, without consideration of the vote of the Bloc Director involved.
11. The appointment of a Management Team or Executive Committee, of other equivalent thereof howsoever named, to assist with daily management of the Bloc.

F. IKGA BRANCH CHIEFS/BOARDS

DESCRIPTION

The IKGA members shall group themselves into national Branches, each of which represents IKGA in the respective countries, such Branch to be called, for example, "the IKGA of[Country]" or "IKGA [Country]". The management of a national Branch shall be undertaken by the local Board of Instructors presided over by the head of that national Branch, the "Shibucho" or Branch Chief. In the event that no Branch Chief has been appointed for the country, or the appointed Branch Chief has died, resigned or otherwise become unavailable, then the management of the Branch shall be undertaken by the members of the Branch Board. Provided, however, that Dojos in the U.S.A., which are all headed by Instructors who previously trained and taught in Blocs outside of North America, shall be under the administrative supervision of the North American Bloc and the managerial supervision of the IKGA President.

The management of the Branch shall be handled democratically and it shall represent the interests of all the local members.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The submission to the Bloc Director of annual reports on the management of the Branch and the Board of Instructors.
2. The submission of applications for the authorisation of local Dojos, the provision of Dojo Certificates, and the collection of fees.
3. The annual submission of membership lists, the distribution of IKGA membership cards, and the collection of membership fees. In the event of non-payment of a membership fee by an Instructor or student, the Branch Chief or Branch Board (as applicable) will be primarily responsible, and the Bloc Director will be secondarily responsible, vis-à-vis IKGA Headquarters.
4. The submission application forms for Dan gradings and Instructor Certificates to the Bloc Director, the provision of such Certificates to the applicants, and the collection of Certificate fees. In the event of non-payment of a Certificate fee by an Instructor or student, the Branch Chief or Branch Board (as applicable) will be primarily responsible, and the Bloc Director will be secondarily responsible, vis-à-vis IKGA Headquarters.

G. IKGA DOJOS

DESCRIPTION

Any Dojo belonging, or claiming to belong, to IKGA must be authorised by and registered with the IKGA Headquarters.

One of the privileges of IKGA member Dojos is the ability to use (a) the official name of IKGA and (b) the emblem of Yamaguchi Gojukai Karatedo. Provided, however, the situation for Dojos in the U.S.A. shall be as set forth separately. Those who withdraw from or are expelled from IKGA shall be prohibited from using either (a) the official name of IKGA or (b) the emblem of Yamaguchi Gojukai Karatedo.

All IKGA Dojos covenant and agree (a) not to challenge the validity of the trademark registration(s) of the Yamaguchi Gojukai Karatedo emblem in their respective country or territory, (b) nor to challenge the ownership of such trademark registrations(s) by the Yamaguchi Soke or IKGA Headquarters, as applicable, (c) nor to attempt to register any marks identical with or confusingly similar to the Yamaguchi Gojukai Karatedo emblem. Consideration for such covenant and agreement shall be acceptance of the Dojo's and its Instructors' membership in IKGA. All IKGA Dojos shall obtain the following covenant and agreement, in writing, from each of their Instructors and students:

I, [full name], covenant and agree (a) not to challenge the validity of the trademark registration(s) of the Yamaguchi Gojukai Karatedo emblem, in this nation or in other countries or territories, (b) nor to challenge the ownership of such trademark registrations(s) by the Yamaguchi Soke or IKGA Headquarters, as applicable, (c) nor to attempt to register, in this nation or in other countries or territories, any marks identical with or confusingly similar to the Yamaguchi Gojukai Karatedo emblem. Consideration for such covenant and agreement shall be acceptance of my membership in IKGA.

International Membership Cards

All IKGA instructors and students are required to possess (a) an IKGA international membership card issued by the IKGA Headquarters or (b) a passport issued by the IKGA national Branch for identification, either of which must include an IKGA sticker for the current year. Only the holder of a currently valid membership card or passport is eligible to participate in IKGA-sponsored programs such as examinations, seminars, championships.

II. INSTRUCTORS

A. QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Any IKGA member who holds the rank of Second Dan (Nidan) is eligible to teach, (a) upon the recommendation of the Branch Chief or Board, and (b) under the supervision of a Third Dan (Sandan) or above.

- Second Dan (Nidan) . . . Junior Instructor (*Jun-Shidoi*) – Must be under the supervision of a Sandan or above.
- Third Dan (Sandan) . . . Senior Instructor (*Shidoi*)
- Fourth Dan (Yondan) . . . Assistant Master (*Jokyo*)
- Fifth Dan (Godan), Sixth Dan (Rokudan), and Seventh Dan (Nanadan) . . . Master (*Shihan*) Renshi
- Seventh Dan (Nanadan) and Eighth Dan (Hachidan) . . . Master (*Shihan*) Kyoshi
- Eighth Dan (Hachidan) and above. . . Master (*Shihan*) Hanshi

All Sandan and above shall obtain an Instructor's Certificate from the Bloc Director, through their Branch Chief/Board, who will be responsible to collect the Certificate Fees.

Instructors shall be responsible to teach the IKGA technical curriculum, and to support all IKGA official events whenever possible.

III. GENERAL REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

A. DAN GRADING REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

1. GRADING TESTS

The grading tests for the varied levels may be carried out by Instructors of the following levels:

- Junior Instructors (*Jun-Shidoi*) . . . up to 1st Kyu (Ikkyu)
- Senior Instructors (*Shidoi*) . . . up to 1st Dan (Shodan)
- Assistant Masters (*Jokyo*) . . . up to 2nd Dan (Nidan)

- Masters (*Shihan*) . . . up to 3rd Dan (*Sandan*)

All Dan gradings must be carried out at the discretion of the Bloc Director.

All examinations for 4th Dan and above shall be in the presence of Saiko Shihan, or a high-ranking master appointed by Saiko Shihan, and conducted with the prior approval of Saiko Shihan or the Bloc Director (provided that Saiko Shihan does not disapprove of the examination), and must be in accordance with the official grading syllabus of IKGA.

2. GRADING REQUIREMENTS

- First Dan (*Shodan*) . . . Upon recommendation of the Branch Chief/Board.
- Second Dan (*Nidan*) . . . At least two years of regular training after the acquisition of First Dan.
- Third Dan (*Sandan*) . . . At least 23 years of age, and at least three years of regular training after the acquisition of Second Dan. Gradings for Third Dan and above must have the prior approval of the Bloc Director.
- Fourth Dan (*Yondan*) . . . At least four years of regular training after the acquisition of Third Dan.
- Fifth Dan (*Godan*) . . . At least five years of regular training after the acquisition of Fourth Dan.

These are recommended minimum periods, but may be varied at the discretion of Saiko Shihan upon the recommendation or request of the Bloc Director. The detailed qualifications for Sixth Dan (*Rokudan*) and above shall be specified elsewhere.

** A probationary system which involves such grades as *Shodan-ho* or *Nidan-ho* can be adopted at the option of the Bloc Director or, with prior approval of the Bloc Director, by a Branch Chief/Board, and the details for such shall be specified elsewhere.

All examinations for 4th Dan and above shall be in the presence of Saiko Shihan, or a high-ranking master appointed by Saiko Shihan, and conducted with the prior approval of Saiko Shihan or the Bloc Director (provided that Saiko Shihan does not disapprove of the examination), and must be in accordance with the official grading syllabus of IKGA.

All Dan Certificates must be issued solely by IKGA Headquarters, and must be signed by Saiko Shihan and the Bloc Director.

The fees for Dan Certificates, together with the application forms, shall be submitted to the IKGA Headquarters collectively by each national Branch or each Bloc Director. In the event of non-payment of a Certificate fee by an Instructor or student, the Branch Chief or Branch Board (as applicable) will be primarily responsible, and the Bloc Director will be secondarily responsible, vis-à-vis IKGA Headquarters.

The fees thus collected shall be distributed to (a) the IKGA Headquarters, (b) the Bloc and (c) the national Branch.

The fees for Certificates shall be fixed by IKGA Headquarters.

The Branch Chief/Board or the Bloc Director shall apply to IKGA Headquarters for the issuance of Instructors Certificates on behalf of qualified Instructors (*Shidojin*).

B. CERTIFICATION OF SHIHAN TITLES

Certificates of Shihan titles mean certificates of Renshi, Kyoshi and Hanshi.

Certificates of Shihan titles must be issued from IKGA Headquarters, in the name of Soke, Saiko Shihan.

A Fifth Dan holder, at least two years after the acquisition of Fifth Dan, shall be entitled to apply for the Renshi Shihan title after obtaining the recommendation therefor of the Bloc Director to IKGA Headquarters.

* A Seventh Dan holder who has obtained the Renshi Shihan title, shall be entitled to apply for the Kyoshi Shihan title after obtaining the recommendation therefor of the Bloc Director to IKGA Headquarters.

Only Saiko Shihan, at Saiko Shihan's sole discretion, can award the Hanshi title.

C. FEES

Fees may, and shall, be revised from time to time. The categories for fees are set forth below:

1. **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP**
2. **DOJO CERTIFICATES**
3. **INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATES**
5. **DAN GRADINGS**
6. **SHIHAN TITLES**

D. PROTOCOL

No Instructor may visit another country for the purpose of either teaching attendance at an IKGA function or event without (a) the prior approval of the Bloc Directors for the Instructor's Bloc and the Bloc to be visited, and (b) prior notification to IKGA Headquarters; provided, however, that this shall not apply to attendance at official Bloc functions or events of the Bloc to which the Instructor belongs..

E. CODE OF CONDUCT

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

In the event that a member of IKGA commits an act which causes or results in material harm or damage to the prestige or reputation of IKGA, or otherwise fails to comply with the Rules and Regulations of IKGA, IKGA shall have the right and obligation to take disciplinary action. Such

disciplinary action shall be proportional to the infraction or violation, and may include delays in gradings and promotions, the cancellation of such member's qualifications, licences and/or certificates, temporary suspension of membership, or permanent expulsion from IKGA. Suspensions and expulsions shall be subject to the following limitations:

1. A Branch Chief/Board or Dojo owner may suspend or expel any person lower than a Dan grade, so long as such expulsion or suspension is not arbitrary, retaliatory or otherwise not made in good faith.
2. A Branch Chief/Board or Dojo owner may **not** suspend or expel any IKGA Dan grade without the prior approval of both (a) the Bloc Director and (b) the PC.
3. A Branch Chief/Board may **not** suspend or expel a Dojo owner without the prior approval of both (a) the Bloc Director and (b) the PC.
4. In the event of a dispute between a Branch Chief/Board and a senior member or members concerning disciplinary action, the senior member/members shall have the right to appeal the disciplinary action to the Bloc Director to resolve the dispute amicably.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

1. In the event of an extended absence or sickness of a Bloc Director, the Bloc Director shall have the authority to appoint someone in the Bloc to serve as a temporary Bloc Director (to refer to themselves as "Temporary Bloc Director" or "Acting Bloc Director", but never simply as "Bloc Director"), and such temporary assignment, including the expected duration, shall be notified to IKGA Headquarters.
2. In the event of the death, retirement, suspension or expulsion of a Bloc Director, after consulting the PC for consideration of a replacement, the IKGA President will announce the official appointment of the new Bloc Director.
3. A Bloc Director shall make a recommendation for a new or replacement national Branch Chief within that Bloc to the PC, through IKGA Headquarters, and after consulting the PC for consideration of such candidate, the IKGA President will announce the official appointment of the new Branch Chief.
4. Each and every Bloc Director and Branch Chief, upon receiving a copy of these amended Rules and Regulations, shall read them thoroughly, and must acknowledge that that understand, accept and agree with these Rules and Regulations, including any amendments hereto, by signing and dating their copy and returning the copy so signed to IKGA Headquarters.

Inception of the IKGA statutes December 1st, 2008.

Amendments take effect as of April 17, 2020

By order of the IKGA President's Council

These amended Rules and Regulations may be executed by the IKGA President and the other members of the IKGA President's Council in one or more counterparts, each counterpart to constitute an original, and all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

[SIGNATURE PAGES FOLLOW]

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Goshi Yamaguchi', written over a horizontal line.

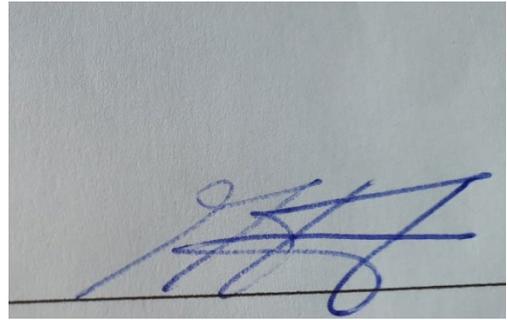
Name: Goshi Yamaguchi

Title: President

Paul Starling

By: _____

Name: Paul Starling
Title: Vice President

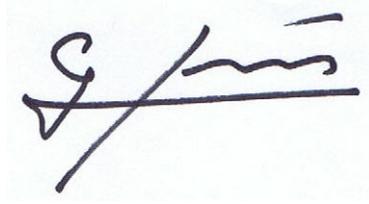
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By:

Name: Ingo de Jong
Title: Vice President

By:  _____

Name: Peter Brandon
Title: Vice President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Ramirez', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

By: _____

Name: Gonzalo Ramirez

Title: Vice President