

GO SHIN KAI

ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

VERSION: 1.0
DATE: 31 MAY 2016

**THIS ASSOCIATION IS NAMED GO SHIN KAI, WHICH CAN BE TRANSLATED
AS ASSOCIATION OF HARMONIOUS SPIRIT**

Headquarters: c/o Samurai Judo Club, Zortech Avenue, Kidderminster, DY11 7DY
Lead Principal: Michael F. Smith, 6th Dan
Chairman: Stephen Brignall, 2nd Dan
Treasurer/Registrar: Eric Weir, 1st Dan

CONTENTS

Aims	3
Aikido Teaching Principles	3
Objectives	3
Aikikai Foundation Affiliation and Regulations.....	4
Legal Compliance.....	4
Constitutional Principles.....	5
Club Membership	5
Appointment of Officers	5
Term of Office	5
Officers	6
Membership and Voting Rights	7
Examinations	7
Qualification of Instructors.....	7
Founding Clubs	8

AIMS

1. The primary aim of this Association is to bring together like-minded dojos, clubs and clusters of clubs under a common set of Aikido Teaching Principles and Constitutional Principles that reflect the underlying principles of Aiki (Harmony) and the principles of Aikikai Foundation, Aikido World Headquarters, Tokyo (Hombu).
2. This Association is led by the Association's Principals and it reflects their individual experience but these individuals are not the primary focus of the Association. Individual Principals will inevitably come and go but the Constitution of this Association will enable the succession and development of future Principals that adopt the same Aikido Teaching Principles that this Association holds as fundamental to O Sensei's Aikido.
3. The focus of this Association is therefore to propagate the stated Aikido Teaching Principles to encourage its member dojos, clubs and individuals to maintain the Founder's legacy in Aikido, Aiki Ken and Aiki Jo.
4. This Association aims to follow the example in Aiki set by the UKA's first Principal, Mr William Smith Sensei, M.B.E.
5. To ensure that the clubs and dojos associated with this Association adopt this Constitution as their own and adhere to its Aims, Teaching Principles and Objectives.

AIKIDO TEACHING PRINCIPLES

The Aikido teaching principles of this Association are:

1. To develop Aikido according to the principles defined by Founder Morihei Ueshiba and by his successors as approved by the Aikikai Foundation, Aikido World Headquarters, Tokyo.
2. The propagation of Aikido as taught by the Founder, O Sensei is therefore of the utmost importance.
3. Aiki Ken and Aiki Jo are fundamental aspects to the Founder's Aikido and cannot be separated from the Aikido Taijutsu (body art).
4. To perpetuate the legacy left by the Founder as taught by his descendants, his direct Uchi Deshi and representatives of Hombu.
5. Teachers will endeavour to teach and will be taught how to teach according to these principles.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Association are:

1. To form a teaching approach that enables the foundations of O Sensei's Aikido, Aiki Ken and Aiki Jo to be passed on to future generations of Aikidoka.
2. To engender an attitude that an individual's Aikido is eventually unique but its underlying foundations are common. As such, students can learn new technical Aikido from anyone but the foundations must be understood first and maintained. The objective is to teach these foundations and allow students to grow from them whilst ensuring they can themselves pass on these foundations to others.
3. To allow students to develop their Aikido and to allow it to evolve without jeopardising Objectives 1 and 2.

4. To recognise that the Association Principals are Senseis in the true sense being a few steps ahead of their students but their responsibility is to lead them in the right direction rather than for personal gain.
5. To see the accomplishments of students as a whole and that Aikido technical ability is only a part of their development towards the principles of Aiki.

AIKIKAI FOUNDATION AFFILIATION AND REGULATIONS

This Association is applying for recognition from Aikikai Foundation, Aikido World Headquarters, Tokyo (Hombu).

This Constitution herein formally states its adherence to [Hombu International Regulations \(Revised October 2000\)](#) and, in particular in accordance with Article 4, Paragraph 2, agrees to the principles stated in Article 4 Paragraph 1:

- (1) An Aikido organization which has been given Hombu Recognition must respect and follow the spirit of Aikido established by the Founder, Morihei Ueshiba, and basic principles concerning the dissemination of Aikido established by the Hombu.
- (2) Dan grades are legitimated by Aikido Doshu. An Aikido organization which has been given Hombu Recognition must hold in esteem the Aikido dan grades legitimated by the Doshu. The members of that organization must obtain dan grades to be legitimated by Doshu and registered at the Hombu regardless of a situation in which national dan grades are issued by the country or government due to the national legislation or some other reason.
- (3) An Aikido organization which has been given Hombu Recognition shall establish a teaching system and examination structure for dan and kyu grades, such as an Instructing Committee and a Dan/Kyu Examination Committee.
- (4) An Aikido organization which has been given Hombu Recognition must keep close contact with and cooperate with the Hombu and also with the instructor(s) dispatched by the Hombu staying in its country. Also it shall coordinate and cooperate with the Hombu regarding the acceptance of instructor(s) to be dispatched by the Hombu for a short period.
- (5) An Aikido organization which has been given Hombu Recognition shall keep contact, coordinate and cooperate, as appropriate, with other Aikido organization(s) in its country to promote friendly relations. Also it is recommended that a type of umbrella organization for those Aikido organizations should be established.
- (6) An Aikido organization which has been given Hombu Recognition shall abide by the provisions of this Regulation in addition to the items mentioned above.

LEGAL COMPLIANCE

This Association is a member of the British Aikido Board (BAB), which is recognised by Sport England , as a governing body for Aikido in the United Kingdom.

The BAB advises member Associations on all relevant UK and European legislation and procedures and develops appropriate policies and codes of practice, which GSK adopts. It provides GSK with Insurance cover for members, instructors and Associations.

BAB also provides a Nationally recognised Coaching Scheme and Coaching Awards in conjunction with Sports Coach UK.

All Go Shin Kai teachers must have the legal prerequisites to teach in their dojos:

1. Hombu Yudansha Certificate
2. Personal Indemnity Insurance Certificate
3. Dojo Insurance Certificate
4. BAB Coaching Certificate at the appropriate Level
5. First Aid Certificate.

CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES

1. This Association actively applies the principle of Equal Opportunity for all members.
2. The Association Principal and Deputy Association Principal shall be 4th Dan or above and shall be elected by the Yudansha of this Association.
3. The Officers of the Association are elected at Annual General Meetings by the members of the Association (see below).

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

The following Aikido clubs that will be included affiliated through this Association are:

- The Kidderminster Aikido Club, Worcestershire
- Gloucester, Stroud and Tetbury Dojos, Gloucester Aikido Club, Gloucestershire
- Bloomsbury Aikido Club, London
- West Heath Aikido Club, West Heath, Birmingham, West Midlands
- Zan Shin Kai Aikido Club, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, West Midlands

Other clubs and dojos may request to be affiliated on submission of a request to the Association registrar and, as long as they accept this constitution, affiliation will not be unreasonably withheld.

All individual members of all clubs and dojos over the age of 16 years affiliated with this Association shall have the right to vote at Association Meetings called to discuss and put motions to the membership for agreement.

All individual members agree to abide by the code of conduct and dojo etiquette followed by traditional Aikido dojos: showing support and respect for their teachers and their fellow practitioners.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

TERM OF OFFICE

The Officers of the Association shall be elected to office by election by the membership and shall hold office for a term of 3 years.

On the expiry of their term, the office shall put to the membership for the election of a new officer. The current officer may stand again and continue in office if voted to do so by the membership.

OFFICERS

The following are the primary Officers of the Association:

1. Lead Association Principal
The Lead Association Principal shall be 4th Dan or above and shall be elected by the **Yudansha** that are members of the Association. This officer shall ensure that Aims, Teaching Principles and Objectives of the Association as defined in this Constitution are followed by all affiliated clubs and dojos. The Lead Association Principal shall act as the Association representative to the Hombu.
2. Deputy Association Principal
The Deputy Association Principal shall be 4th Dan or above and shall be elected by the **Yudansha** that are members of the Association. The deputy shall support the Lead Association Principal in fulfilling their role and shall deputise for the Lead Association Principal in Hombu and Association matters.
3. Association Shidoin and Fukushidoin
The Lead Association Principal shall appoint Shidoin and Fukushidoin to ensure that the Association Constitution is cascaded to all affiliated clubs and dojos. Each affiliated club shall have a local Shidoin or Fukushidoin and shall be able to grade to a rank specified by the Lead Association Principal. The grading authority of Shidoin shall be consistent with Hombu Regulations.
4. Chair
(The Association Principal and the Deputy Association Principal, while in office, may not simultaneously take up the office of Chair)
The Chair shall be elected by the **Members** from the members that propose themselves for election at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) called by the members for this purpose. The chair shall act as a representative of and an ambassador for the Association. The Chair shall call and preside over Association meetings. The Chair shall not vote except in the event of a tied vote. In such an event, the Chair will have the casting vote.
5. Membership Secretary
The Membership Secretary shall be elected by the **Members** from the members that propose themselves for election. The Membership Secretary shall keep the records of individual members of the Association, ensure that the dues payable to the Association are made and that BAB insurance is provided to each individual. The membership secretary shall take minutes of Association meetings and circulate them to the membership.
6. Registrar
The Registrar shall be elected by the **Members** from the members that propose themselves for election. The Registrar shall keep a record of the clubs and dojos affiliated to this Association and ensure that BAB insurance is provided for each dojo and teacher. The Registrar will accept requests from clubs and dojos to affiliate with this Association and call a meeting of the Officers to vote on their request. A club or dojo shall be recommended for affiliation by a majority vote.

Elected Officers are elected by the **Members** for their term by a majority of members that vote and must step down once their term has completed. They may offer themselves up along with alternative candidates for re-election by the members of the Association.

Additional officers may be defined as the need arises from time to time and shall be elected according to the principles defined in this constitution.

This Constitution shall be binding on the Association Officers and shall only be altered by consent of the majority of the individual members present at a Association general meeting.

MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING RIGHTS

Members of Clubs affiliated to the Association are automatically members of the Association and are granted voting rights.

All Members of the Association are entitled to vote at general meetings, with the exception of the Chair, who has the casting vote. Voting shall be carried out by the members at AGMs or EGMs and shall be by done in person by a show of hands or by the member sending a proxy vote to the Chair in writing by email or post.

Association General Meetings shall have a quorum of the Chair, the Lead or Deputy Association Principal, three other Yudansha and at least three other members over the age of 16 years.

EXAMINATIONS

Examinations will be based on the [Hombu Examination Regulations](#) and according to Hombu International Regulations (Revised October 2000) Articles 9 to 14 inclusive.

Grading examinations may take place within a student's own dojo or at a Go Shin Kai course at the discretion of the student's instructor.

Dan Grading shall be carried out by a Grading Committee appointed by the Lead Principal, which shall comprise of the following in accordance with International Regulations (Revised October 2000) Articles 9 regarding the level of grade being examined:

1. Lead or Deputy Lead Principal or a Shido-in specifically appointed by the Lead Principal for that specific Grading
2. Another Shido-in or Fukushido-in
3. The student's instructor if not one of the above

Kyu Grading shall be carried out by a Go Shin Kai Shido-in or Fukushido-in together with the student's instructor if not a Shido-in or Fukushido-in and they shall grade to the level agreed by the Lead Principal.

QUALIFICATION OF INSTRUCTORS

Shido-in shall be appointed by the Lead Principal on application by the individual. They must fulfil the following prerequisites according to Hombu International Regulations (Revised October 2000) Articles 17:

1. 4th Dan or above
2. BAB Coaching Award Level 1
3. Attendance at Go Shin Kai Teaching Courses annually held by the Lead Principals and other Shido-in and Fukushido-in
4. Demonstrate their ability to teach Aikido to the Principals, Shido-in and Fukushido-in.
5. Have been Fukushido-in for two years

Fukushido-in shall have 2nd or 3rd Dan and shall also fulfil items 2 to 4 above. They shall have two years' experience of running a club or assisting in running a club.

Three Teaching Courses shall be prepared and held annually and Shidoin and Fukushidoin shall attend regularly.

FOUNDING CLUBS

The following clubs have declared themselves and their members through their appointed representatives to be affiliated with this Association:

1. The Kidderminster Aikido Club, Worcestershire
2. Gloucester, Stroud and Tetbury Aikido Clubs, Gloucestershire
3. Bloomsbury Aikido Club, London
4. West Heath Aikido Club, West Heath, Birmingham, West Midlands
5. Zan Shin Kai Aikido Club, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, West Midlands

This Association Constitution is approved by the leaders of the Founding Clubs as testified below.

1. Mike Smith, 6th Dan, The Kidderminster Aikido Club, Worcestershire
2. Dennis Cantillion, 6th Dan, Gloucester, Stroud and Tetbury Dojos, Gloucester Aikido Clubs, Gloucestershire
3. Barbara Sotowicz, 5th Dan, Bloomsbury Aikido Club, London
4. Paul Wilkes, 6th Dan and Roger Douras, 6th Dan, West Heath Aikido Club, West Heath, Birmingham, West Midlands
5. Patrick Palmer, 4th Dan, Zan Shin Kai Aikido Club, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, West Midlands

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