

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF MARTIAL ARTS INTERNATIONAL CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS



PREAMBLE:

The purpose of the American Institute of Martial Arts International shall be to establish a harmonious relationship among martial artists and to provide quality services to all it's members. To promote martial arts throughout the institute and to establish a global network system for the promotion of all martial art styles. All officers agree to abide by this document and shall in good faith exercise to their fullest the capacities, responsibilities, and privileges of their respective office in the development of the International. With in this document the American Institute of Martial Arts International shall also be recognized as the Institute, the International, Organization, or AIMA.

Michael Albenze
President

Joseph Bonacci
Founder

Max Ciscell
Director

Constructed and Established 1998

Last Update: November 2006

Article 1:

The purpose and powers of the International shall be set forth in the constitution and bylaws.

Article 2:

The physical address of the International headquarters shall be established by the Founder, Director, and President.

Article 3:

Memberships shall consist of the following:

- A. Individual membership (Annual and Lifetime)
 - B. Affiliate membership (Charter and Organizations)
 - C. Associate membership
 - D. Honorary membership
- 3.A-1) Individual membership into the AIMA shall be open to any individual of good character, reputation, and of sound mind who has an interest in furthering their martial arts.
 - 3.B-1) Affiliate membership under the charter school heading is available for any authentic martial arts school with a physical address other than a private residence and with an active enrollment of 10 or more members in the International.
 - 3.B-2) Organization membership shall be granted to any authentic martial arts organization that has been officially recognized by the AIMA board of advisors.
 - 3.C-1) Associate membership shall be granted to any association deemed to be in good standing with the AIMA board of advisors that is willing to endorse, enhance, promote, or contribute to the interests of the International.
 - 3.D-1) Honorary membership shall be open to an individual who has rendered distinguished service to the martial arts or the general welfare of the AIMA International. Honorary membership must be approved by the Executive board.
- E. Every member shall be expected to assist in the expansion, development, and promotion of the Institute.
 - F. Members shall safe guard and promote all activities of the organization.
 - G. All registered members shall renew on an annual basis except for lifetime and honorary members.
 - H. Membership may not be extended to anyone convicted of a felony or having a history of acts of violence or mental instability.

Article 4:

Parliament Authority

In the event of a dispute, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the all organized meetings of this Institute.

Article 5:

Officers

- A. Executive board
 - 5.A-1) Founder
 - 5.A-2) Director
 - 5.A-3) President
 - 5.A-4) Vice President
 - 5.A-5) Executive Vice President
- B. Board
 - 5.B-1) Treasurer
 - 5.B-2) Executive Secretary
 - 5.B-3) Legal Advisor
 - 5.B-4) Public Relations
 - 5.B-5) Intercollegiate
 - 5.B-6) Police Liaison
 - 5.B-7) Historian

- C Representatives
 - 5.C-1) Regional
 - 5.C-2) State
 - 5.C-3) Assistant State
 - 5.C-4) International
- D. Advisors
 - 5.D-1) Chairman
 - 5.D-2) Technical
 - 5.D-3) Legal
 - 5.D-4) Associates

Article 6:

Duties of the Officers

6.A Executive board:

Executive board shall be the sovereign governing body of this Institute. They shall constitute, amend, and enforce all particulars within this document. The executive board shall meet at least annually for an open forum to all active members. This meeting may be held via interactive web forum discussion. A physical engagement of the Executive Board shall be posted on the web sight at least one month prior. The Executive board shall be appointed by the Founder of the American Institute of Martial Arts or his successor. The executive board reserves the right to replace or fill any officer's position with a member of the executive board, with the exception of legal advisor, in the presence of a vacancy. They shall make a reasonable attempt with in a reasonable amount of time to find a candidate that meets the requirements set forth in this document for that particular vacancy. Any officer of the executive board may hold a position outside that of the executive board as long as he or she is capable of meeting the requirements outlined for that position.

6.5A-1) Founder shall have the authority to carry out all duties and business on behalf of the International. The founder shall make all necessary provisions for the orderly transaction of his or her position/authority, in the event of their death.

6.5A-2) Director shall assist the founder and president in all activities. He shall help coordinate, control, and exercise all general supervision with in the International.

6.5A-3) President shall have the authority to carry out all duties and business on behalf of the International and shall coordinate, control, and exercise all general supervision with in the International. The president shall organize and conduct meetings in conjunction with the executive board.

6.5A-4) Vice president shall assist the president in coordination, control, and shall assist with general supervision of the International. Vice president shall exercise direct supervision over regional representatives, and their respective territories. Vice president shall organize regional meetings at least twice a year when feasible. These meetings may proceed via open live forum on the web.

Article 7:

Duties of Board

7.A Board

Board members shall assist the Executive board in the execution of established articles, and duties related as outlined in this document. The board shall have the right to submit articles for review, amendments, additions, and eradication. All submissions must carry a majority vote before the executive board will review the request and carry forth a vote. Board members must attend the annual executive board meetings via the declared medium. A board member may be used to hold another office as long as it is in a lower capacity than their current office and they meet the general requirements to do so.

7.5B-1) Treasurer

The Treasurer shall assist the President in all aspects of momentary duties and functions related to the AIMA International budget. They shall document the collection of all membership fees, certifications, ID expirations, packet distributions, and all duties related to proper historical value concerning members. The treasurer shall maintain an accurate mailing list.

7.5B-2) Executive Secretary

Executive Secretary shall be appointed by the president and assist the president on all matters concerning the International. He/she shall issue all correspondence, memoranda, and minutes as requested by the executive board members. He/she shall maintain current duplicates of all records, lists, and correspondences related to the international and its affiliates.

7.5B-3) Legal advisor

Legal Advisor must be a practicing attorney recognized by the governing bar association of the United States of America. Under the direction of the executive director they shall advise the executive board on all legal matters pertaining to the immediate business of the International. They may be used to interpret legal issues for officials and affiliates in good standing with the International under the direction of the executive board. Legal advisor shall follow through with all matters that may endanger the reputation of the International. The director or president must review all information requests for legal assistance from any member of the International outside the parameters of the executive board. In the event of the legal advisor vacancy, an outside practicing attorney may be contracted to handle any and all legal aspects of this institute.

7.5B-4) Public Relations Officer

Public Relations Officer shall Have the duty of organizing all media propaganda, information, press releases, etc. They shall aid in marketing programs, and design of visuals. They shall help to promote the Institute in all aspects and act as liaison between other organizations requesting an interaction with the AIMA. They shall interact with the official AIMA webmaster.

7.5B-5) Collegiate Chairperson

A Collegiate Chairperson must hold a minimum of AA degree in any recognized United States college. It is recommended that the degree be held in a physical education instruction type program. He/She shall oversee the particulars of all college run clubs, sporting events, special education programs, and instructors. The Collegiate chairperson will liaise with the Public Relations Officer regarding any requests for grant funded programs within a college institute.

7.5B-6) Police Liaison

The Police Liaison will function to provide support, certification, research and development to all policing agencies. At the time of this document the PSDI (Police Self Defense Institute) under the direction of Joseph Bonacci, serves as the governing body controlling all aspects of police related agenda.

7.5B-7) International Instructor Trainer

The Instructor Trainer shall have completed the International Instructor Certification Course at the Chief Instructor level as well as received training at the Instructor Trainer level. International Instructor Trainers shall promote certification recognition at all levels, and maintain current annual updates on the Instructor Certification Course outlines. All official AIMA Instructor certifications will be authorized by a recognized Instructor Trainer.

Article 8:

Duties of Representatives

8.5C-1) Regional Representative

Regional representatives shall be in control of districts assigned to them by the Vice President. It shall be their responsibility to oversee the State Representatives, and assist them in meeting their assignments. They shall keep accurate quarterly statistics of AIMA memberships within their districts and forward it to the Vice President's office. The Regional Representative shall be responsible for organizing one event per year. The proceeds of this event will be forwarded to the AIMA Headquarters for use to promote the AIMA International Banquet event.

8.5C-2) State Representative

State representative shall assist in helping meet the needs of all chartered schools within their state. It shall be their responsibility to promote enrollment into the AIMA International organization at all levels. State Representatives report directly to the Regional Representative. State Representatives shall keep accurate quarterly reports of all AIMA members within their state and forward them to their Regional office.

8.5C-3) Assistant Representative

Where deemed necessary an Assistant shall be appointed to help a State Representative accomplish their respective tasks.

Article 9:

Duties of Advisors

9.5D-1) Chairman

The Chairman shall oversee the board of Advisors. He/She shall be a 10th Dan (grade) and maintain a reputable list of promotional consultants of various styles that will enable all AIMA members to seek qualified ranking status in their particular style. The Chairman shall function directly under the Executive Board.

9.5D-2) Technical Advisor

The technical Advisor must be of no less rank than 7th Dan (grade) and shall assist the Chairman in maintaining a reputable list of technical experts in various styles that may be used as consultants for promotional requests from AIMA members and non members.

9.5D-3) Associate Advisor

An Associate Advisor must be of no less rank than 5th Dan (grade). They shall be an integral part of the Advisory board and may be used as a first choice promotional advisor if a submitted request falls within their particular field of practice. Associate advisors are the promotional backbone within the AIMA international.

Article 10

Yudansha Declarations

10.A-1) Official AIMA International Ranking

All AIMA Internationally recognized Yudansha shall have completed an International Instructor Certification course at the minimum of "Instructor" level before they will receive a Dan grading. The official AIMA Yudansha certification is not a "rank recognition" certification. The AIMA International ranking certification is the only official certification to recognize the Yudansha as an official instructor with the AIMA. A rank recognition is not recognized as such.

10.A-2) Rank Recognition at Yudansha level

A rank recognition certificate may be acquired through our advisory board. A rank recognition is designed to lend credibility to an already existing rank that has been verified by our advisory board members.

10.A-3) Rank Promotion at the Yudansha level

A rank promotion certification may be acquired through our advisory board. A rank promotion certification will be rewarded after the research parameters have been met. A rank promotion certification does not declare an individual to be a recognized AIMA International instructor, however it is not to say that the individual is not capable of instructing under their own style and organizational requirements.

10.A-4) International Instructor Certification

A formal AIMA International Instructor Certification may be acquired by attending the certification course. The detailed parameters of the instructor levels are outlined in the course curriculum. To state in this official declaration an internationally recognized instructor at the Sensei level must be at least a 3rd Dan (grade) with a minimum of 1 year experience and 300 hours logged at the assisting level (Sempai).

10.A-5) Official AIMA Sensei title (or equivalent)

The set standard for AIMA recognition at the Sensei level is Sandan. In special circumstances the Executive board reserves the right to award the title of Sensei at the Nidan level. It should be understood that the ranking of 3rd Dan does not automatically make one eligible for the title of Sensei. The title of Sensei is an earned title separate from the 3rd Dan grading. Foremost the parameters of section 10.A-4 must be met.

10.A-6) Parameters for Rank Advancement

The parameters for rank advancement shall be established by this International for the recognition of all Yudansha levels, titles, and awards within the AIMA Internationally recognized instructors and assistant instructors. For individuals of various styles seeking rank recognition outside of this organization's parameters the individual seeking rank advancement will conform to the guidelines of the most appropriate style standard recognized by the advisory board members. The Technical advisor shall help oversee the standards appropriated.

Article 11

Membership Privileges

- A Representing the International
 - 11.A-1) Understanding the rules
 - 11.A-2) Inappropriate action
 - 11.A-3) Identification
- B Wearing the AIMA Patch
 - 11.B-1) Yudansha placement
 - 11.B-2) Mudansha placement
 - 11.B-3) Optional placement
- C The International Uniform
 - 11.C-1) Requirements
 - 11.C-2) Authorized patches
 - 11.C-3) Authorized belts

Article 11 A Representing the International

11.A-1) Understanding the rules

All members shall understand the international rules for good standing. Any member may have their AIMA recognition and privileges revoked if they are found to be in violation of the rules of good standing.

11.A-2) Inappropriate action

Inappropriate action means but is not limited to; malicious willful demonstration or misuse of skills in any environment. Non-justified insubordination to a senior instructor in public or in private. Slander, defamation of character, or abuse of any AIMA member or affiliate. Any criminal act deemed detrimental to the integrity of the AIMA International, it's affiliates, and associates. Any use of drugs or misuse of alcohol while representing the AIMA. Let it be known that lack of regular attendance at your school does not justify inappropriate action but may subject the member to educational updates as the individual's instructor or this organization sees fit to maintain a good standing.

11.A-3) Identification

All official members shall receive at a minimum a certificate of membership and an ID card. All ID cards and some certificates carry with them an expiration date for the member's convenience for renewal. It is requested that all members try to carry their ID card with them to all functions hosted by an AIMA school or affiliate.

Article 11 B Wearing the AIMA Patch

11.B-1) Yudansha placement

All black belt ranks of various schools or organizations may if they so choose, wear the AIMA patch on the left breast. All official AIMA members at an officially supported AIMA school at the black belt level are required to wear the AIMA patch over the left breast signifying their loyalty to the AIMA.

11.B-2) Mudansha placement

All ranks under black belt of various schools or organizations may if they so choose, wear the AIMA patch on the right sleeve. All official AIMA members at an officially supported AIMA school under the rank of black belt shall wear the AIMA patch on the right sleeve.

11.B-3) Optional placement

All members that are not directly functioning under the guidelines of the AIMA international may choose to wear the AIMA patch on their uniform as long as they conform to the guidelines listed in 11.B-1,2. No modifications may be made to the position of the AIMA patch should it be chosen to be worn on the uniform.

Article 11 C The International Uniform

11.C-1) Requirements

For a member of the AIMA to be qualified to wear the official dress of an internationally recognized Instructor they must have completed an International Instructor Certification course at the Instructor-Sensei level. They must be activity functioning as a full time primary instructor with at least 10 AIMA recognized students under them. They must continue to attend available Instructor update courses at least once every two years. Finally all AIMA members that do qualify to wear the International uniform must have the privilege awarded to them by no less than a Master Instructor with the AIMA international.

11.C-2) Authorized patches

All International Uniforms shall conform to the standard set forth by the executive board. No unauthorized patches will be worn. No unauthorized placement of acceptable patches will be allowed. All purchases of International uniforms shall be made through the headquarters of the AIMA International to assure correct patch placement.

11.C-3) Authorized belts

While wearing the International Uniform all belts shall conform to the standard set forth by the executive board, and the advisory committee. For ranks of Nidan through Sandan the belt will be solid black with "American Institute of Martial Arts" in Kanji on one side and the member's name in Katakana on the other. The stitching shall be Yellow/Gold. No pins, stripes, tags or other paraphernalia shall be attached to the belt. At the rank of Yondan the current belt may be worn or the basic "Renshi" belt of Red over White on one side with a solid black backing. If inscription is desired it shall comply with the above standard. At the 5th through 6th Dan levels the Red and White block "Master's" belt may be worn. All inscription shall meet the basic standard. At the level of 7th Dan and above the request for optional belts must be submitted to the executive board.

Article 12.1

Opening an official AIMA school

- A For the purposes of stating what constitutes an official AIMA school the parameters will be no less than naming the school or facility American Institute of Martial Arts or using the AIMA name or initials as a primary means to describe the school. Using the American Institute of Martial Arts name, initials, or logo as a primary means of documentation, or certification to promote rank advancements, events, gatherings or primary advertisement.
- B For a member to open a new AIMA school the member must be recognized by the executive board as a person capable of running an official school and representing the AIMA International.
- C A submission for AIMA school acceptance must be submitted to the State representative when applicable. The state representative shall forward the request through the chain of command with his or her comment regarding the request. This information shall be reviewed at the executive level.
- D Before a candidate may qualify to open a new AIMA school they must first acquire an International Instructor Certification at the Chief Instructor level, and be well versed in teaching all three levels of educational learning (cognitive, associative, and autonomic). Exceptions to the rule will be college accredited courses that are relative to A.A. or B.A. in education. or recognized courses in law, military, police and fire that carry a minimum of 360 basic hours of education.
- E For purposes of credibility all AIMA school owners should be at least 3rd Dan level.

- F Once accepted, the AIMA school owner must comply with all AIMA international rules and conduct.
- G All Dues, Fees, and Certifications must be kept up to date to continue using the AIMA declarations, logos, products, web resources, etc.
- H Any certificate, patch, or product that carries the AIMA logo, name, insignia or suggests affiliation with the AIMA International will be approved by the AIMA International. All AIMA items are to be purchased through the International for authentication.

Article 12.2

Opening an AIMA Affiliate School

- A Affiliate schools are those that Charter or Organize under the American Institute of Martial Arts International but still maintain their individual identity in the areas of promotion, advertising, certification, gathering, buying and selling except where permissible as stated in this article.
- B Charter schools may use the AIMA logo as a means of a secondary support in the areas of in house logo display such as on walls, windows, or boards. The AIMA logo may be submitted for approval for use on any advertisement item to promote not for profit events, and charitable events. The AIMA logo may be used as a "member of" statement on for profit advertisements that have not been purchased from the international such as in the case of individual designs, but only after approval of the advertisement from the international. Our objective is to make sure the AIMA logo does not appear on any misleading or controversial items of advertisement, and if used as a primary means of advertisement the AIMA international is compensated for the support.
- C The official AIMA patch may be worn on a charter school member's uniform as a secondary "affiliate" organization patch as long as it is never affiliated with what would be considered a controversial item, patch ,or tag on any item. The AIMA patch, if worn must conform to section 11B.1,11B.2 of this constitution.

Article 12.3

Usage of the official American Institute of Martial Arts International web site.

- A The official web site is the only web site that will represent the International on a specific level of intent. Personal web pages, business web pages, or school web pages of a for profit or non profit status must submit a request for approval of any usage of the AIMA international logos, designs, advertisements, or other written articles, messages, or images that may be used to describe the International, or affiliates thereof in any way.
- B Intent to use, or display a web page as an American Institute of Martial Arts web page other than as described in Article 12.4 will be considered subversive and shall direct the Interactional to seek legal advice and possibly take legal action as allowed to the full extent.
- C Misuse of privileges that have been granted concerning the usage of the official web site, or any of the items affiliated, or representing the AIMA International shall enact immediate termination of granted privileges pending the completion of an investigation of the International board at the executive level.

Article 12.4

Directives for web site usage.

- A AIMA Banners may be used on individual web pages as long as the web site does not carry any immorally suggestive material, or links of a sexual or violent nature.
- B AIMA official logos may be used on web sites to state a "proud member of" statement as long as there is a link provided with the logo that directs to the International. All applicable fees, and membership status must remain current to use the logo as a member of.
- C Written articles, letters, images, or statements may be used on an individual web site as long as written permission has been obtained from the International or as outlined in the purchase of an AIMA school membership agreement.

Article 12.4

- D Specific membership packages are available on the International web site. Outlines regarding usage levels will be provided for all membership levels. These privileges may change from time to time. The purchased usage agreement package will remain in effect throughout the life of the agreement regardless of current changes, upgrades or updates.
- E Any usage of the AIMA material in conjunction with material that is deemed offensive, violent, or sexual in nature is strictly prohibited.

Article 13

Membership dues

- 13.A-1) Individual Membership
- 13.A-2) Charter School Membership
- 13.A-3) Associate Organization Membership
- 13.A-4) Honorary Membership

13.A-1) Individual Membership

Cost is \$35.00 annually. Member shall receive an ID card, certificate and patch. They shall be eligible for rank promotion and/or recognition through the International or directly through their respective chartered school.

13.A-2) Charter School Membership

Cost is outlined on the AIMA International web site based on access level. The Charter school must enlist at least 10 individual memberships at a discounted rate of \$25.00 per membership. The Charter school shall receive a rank recognition certificate, ID card, and patch for the primary instructor. All individual memberships shall receive the standard items listed above. Charter school members shall have the right to request rank recognition at the Kyu level and Dan level. They may purchase AIMA kyu rank certificates for their own use, certificate seals, and dan rank certificates under the guidelines listed on the request forms. All charter school members may use all aspects of the AIMA-USA web sight materials as outlined in their respective package level.

13.A-3) Associate Membership

Cost is \$100.00 annually. All associate memberships must receive approval by the executive board. Associative memberships may use the offices of the AIMA International for guidance requests, promotional support, and event sanctioning.

13.A-4) Honorary Membership

All honorary memberships shall be awarded by the executive board only.

Article 14

- A Failure to comply with any section of this document in whole or in part could subject the member to a non compliance status and all privileges, and recognition could be revoked. All grievances that may arise shall be brought in writing before the executive board for review.
- B If a member is found in violation or under a failure to comply status, all fees, dues, and expenses paid or owed are non-refundable.
- C During a grievance or investigation all privileges may be revoked based on the level of infraction. After an investigation is completed and the member is absolved. the member shall have all privileges reinstated with no back services, fees, or dates owed to the international's expense.

Article 15

A signed and dated copy of this constitution will be kept at the AIMA headquarters.