

Revision to AIKIDO WORLD HEADQUARTERS' INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS

Introduction : International Regulations and Hombu Recognition

The Aikido World Headquarters' International Regulations were first promulgated by Hombu – Aikido World Headquarters in 1980 as rules to deal with matters relating to the propagation and development of Aikido throughout the world. Hombu Official Recognition is given to Aikido organizations according to the provisions set forth in the International Regulations.

Revisions:

Hombu recently applied revisions to the International Regulations, and the revised Regulations became effective on the 1st of October, 2000. Major modifications were made to the provisions relating to Hombu Recognition. Until now it has been stipulated that Hombu Recognition should be given only to one organization in a given country. However, taking into consideration many factors such as the rapid expansion of the Aikido population in many countries, the birth and growth of new Aikido organizations in the last two decades, etc., it has been decided that Hombu Recognition may be given to more than one organization in a given country.

Hombu Recognition (Article 2):

An Aikido organization which has been given Hombu Recognition is authorized to conduct Kyu/Dan grading examinations for its members, forming a relevant Grading Committee consisting of qualified members (Article 2.3). In this case, such power is given to the organization itself and not to any individual member of the organization. If a member of the Grading Committee leaves the organization, he is no longer authorized to conduct grading examinations. The conditions to acquire Hombu Recognition are listed in Article 2.1. Acquisition of Hombu Recognition by any Aikido organization does not mean that it becomes a representative of Hombu or that it is affiliated to Hombu. Any Aikido organization of the world is independent of Hombu legally and organizationally. Also Hombu Recognition does not mean that the relevant organization can enjoy an exclusive position to propagate Aikido in a given country. Hombu Recognition does not have any political implication. It is a vertical relation between Hombu and each Aikido organization for the purpose of instruction and grading of Aikido.

International Aikido Federation and Hombu Recognition

Hombu Recognition is one of the necessary conditions to become a member of the I.A.F. However, Hombu Recognition does not mean that the relevant organization automatically becomes a member of the I.A.F. The I.A.F. and Hombu-Aikido World Headquarters are separate bodies supporting each other, and both organizations have different regulations, rules, etc .

AIKIKAI FOUNDATION – AIKIDO WORLD HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS

[Promulgated : Showa 55 (1980) May 10]

[Revised : Showa 63 (1988) December 1]

[Revised : Heisei 12 (2000) October 1]

Chapter 1 : GENERAL PRINCIPLE

Article 1 : AIM

1. The Aikikai Foundation - Aikido World Headquarters, in order to spread Aikido in countries throughout the world and to have a system which works smoothly, hereby lays down International Regulations.
2. The Aikikai Foundation – Aikido World Headquarters shall be referred to hereinafter as the Hombu.

Chapter 2 : RECOGNITION BY THE HOMBU OF AIKIDO ORGANIZATIONS IN A GIVEN COUNTRY

Article 2 : HOMBU RECOGNITION

1. The Hombu will give Hombu Recognition to an Aikido organization which it judges to have satisfied the following conditions. If more than one Aikido organization exist in a country due to national law and/or rules or any other reason the Hombu admits as appropriate, Hombu Recognition can be given to those organizations.
 - (1) The relevant Aikido organization has been established legally and has had more than five years of substantial Aikido activity since it's establishment. It is not a single dojo of an individual person.

(2) The relevant Aikido organization has more than one affiliated dojo open to the public, and holds activities throughout the year.

(3) The head of management or the chief of Aikido instruction of the relevant Aikido organization (hereinafter referred to as the Person in Charge) is 4th dan or above. The Person in Charge is a permanent resident of the country of that organization.

(4) The relevant Aikido organization has more than one holder of 2nd dan of Aikido or above, who will assist the Person in Charge in establishing the committees for instructing and dan/kyu grading examination.

(5) The relevant Aikido organization has established a Headquarters, Regulations and a Directing Committee.

(6) Issuing of Hombu Recognition to the relevant Aikido organization will not cause any confusion or problem in the organization's country.

2. An Aikido organization which has been given Hombu Recognition will represent its country in international Aikido activities. If more than one Aikido organization with Hombu Recognition exists in a country, those Aikido organizations should, if necessary, coordinate and cooperate with each other for domestic and international Aikido activities as appropriate in an amiable and timely manner based on the Aikido spirit established by the Founder of Aikido.

3. An Aikido organization which has been given Hombu Recognition may be eligible to perform the following activities. The extent of possible activities depends on the dan rank of the Person In Charge.

- (1) Issuing of kyu grades (See Article 14)
- (2) Examination of dan grades (See Article 9.1)
- (3) Application for the registration of dan grades (See Article 8)
- (4) Application for the examination of dan grades (See Article 9.1)
- (5) Application for the recommendation of dan grades (See Article 9.2)
- (6) Certification of instructors (See Article 17)
- (7) Receiving assistance from the Hombu
- (8) Joint activities with the Hombu concerning Aikido

4. With respect to an Aikido organization which has not been given Hombu

Recognition in accordance with Article 2.1 because it does not satisfy the

conditions for Hombu Recognition, the Hombu will, if it deems necessary, give instruction to enable it to fulfill the conditions for Hombu Recognition, and assistance in developing the organization.

Furthermore, matters concerning dan grades, are subject to the provisions of Article 6.1. In this case, “Hombu Recognition” is to be read as “subject to the provision of Article 2.4, and examination for dan grades will be conducted by the Hombu or a person delegated by the Hombu.

Article 3 ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES

To an Aikido organization which has been given Hombu Recognition, a Certificate of Hombu Recognition will be issued through established procedure.

Article 4 MATTERS TO OBSERVE

1. An Aikido organization which has been given Hombu Recognition must adhere to the following principles.

(1) An Aikido organization which has been given Hombu Recognition must respect and follow the spirit of Aikido established by the Founder, Ueshiba Morihei, and basic principles concerning the dissemination of Aikido established by the Hombu.

(2) Dan grades are legitimated by the Doshu of Aikido. 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 the 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.

2. An Aikido organization which has been given Hombu Recognition must submit to Hombu a written agreement mentioning (1) through (6) of the Article 4.1 above.

Article 5 CANCELLATION OF HOMBU RECOGNITION

In a case where an Aikido organization with Hombu Recognition violates the provisions of these Regulations and creates serious obstacles for the dissemination of Aikido by the Hombu, the Hombu will, both verbally and in writing, urge the adherence to the provisions of these Regulations. If the organization does not demonstrate to do so, Hombu Recognition may be cancelled. The qualifications of the Aikido organization (Chapter 4) will cease to exist.

Chapter 3 : DAN GRADES AND KYU GRADES

Article 6 DAN GRADES

1. Dan grades are awarded to Aikido practitioners who belong to Aikido organizations with Hombu Recognition in accordance with their general ability and achievements or accomplishment.
2. Dan grades are from 1st dan to 8th dan.

Article 7 LEGITIMATION

Dan grades are legitimated by the Doshu of Aikido.

Article 8 APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

1. Dan grades must, in all cases, be applied for to the Hombu.
2. Dan grades become valid after they have been registered at the Hombu.

Article 9 QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONDUCTING EXAMINATIONS AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

1. An Aikido organization with Hombu Recognition, when its Person in

Charge is 6th dan or above, may conduct examinations from 1st dan to 4th dan. When the Person in Charge is 4th dan or 5th dan, it may conduct examinations from 1st dan to 3rd dan. In the case of a 4th dan examination, an application to Hombu must be made. and the examination will be conducted by the Hombu or a person delegated by the Hombu.

3. With respect to 5th dan and 6th dan, decisions will be made by the Hombu. However, if the Person in Charge of an Aikido organization with Hombu Recognition is 6th dan, an application for recommendation up to 5th dan can be made to the Hombu . If Person in Charge is 7th dan, application for recommendation up to 6th dan can be made.

3. Discussions relating to 7th dan or above are settled separately.

Article 10 METHOD OF EXAMINATION

The method of dan grade examination is based on the Examination Regulations of the Hombu. However, some changes are to be allowed if there is a reason for them.

Article 11 ADMISSION TO THE HOMBU

All practitioners of Aikido must become members of the Hombu at the time of the registration of the 1st dan grade or earlier.

Article 12 DAN GRADES CERTIFICATES

1. Dan grade certificates are issued when an application for registration is made through the established procedure.

2. Dan grades certificates are written in Japanese.

Article 13 INTERNATIONAL YUDANSHA CERTIFICATION

1. Yudansha must possess an International Yudansha Certificate issued by the Hombu.
4. International Yudansha Certificates are sent together with the dan grade certificates.

Article 14 KYU GRADES

With respect to kyu grades, an Aikido organization with Hombu Recognition may conduct examinations and can issue kyu grade certificates.

Chapter 4 : QUALIFICATIONS OF INSTRUCTORS

Article 15 QUALIFICATIONS OF INSTRUCTORS

1. With respect to an Aikido organization with Hombu Recognition, the qualifications for instructors are as follows :
 - (1) Shihan
 - (2) Shidoin
 - (3) Fukushidoin
2. The titles for instructors' qualification are written in Japanese.

Article 16 SHIHAN

1. The Hombu examines and appoints Shihan from among persons who are 6th dan or above, and who are proficient in practice and instructing.
2. To the appointed person, a Certificate of Appointment is awarded by the
Hombu.

Article 17 SHIDOIN AND FUKUSHIDOIN

1. An Aikido organization with Hombu Recognition is to have a system for qualifying Shidoin and Fukushidoin.

- (1) Shidoin are persons of 4th dan or above
- (2) Fukushidoin are persons of 2nd dan or 3rd dan

2. An Aikido organization with Hombu Recognition can issue a Certificate of Appointment to those whom it has appointed Shidoin and Fukushidoin.

3. An Aikido organization with Hombu Recognition must report to the

Hombu the name and dan grades of those whom it has appointed Shidoin and Fukushidoin.

Chapter 5 : SUPPLEMENTARY RULES

Article 18 INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE, DAN/KYU EXAMINATION

COMMITTEE

An Aikido organization with Hombu Recognition must inform Hombu of the establishment of an Instructing Committee and a Dan/Kyu Examination Committee, in accordance with Article 4.3.

Article 19 DAN GRADING EXAMINATION

If an Aikido organization with Hombu Recognition conducts dan examinations in accordance with Article 9.1, and problems arise for some reason, it is to receive instruction from the Hombu.

ADDITIONAL RULES

1. The status of Aikido organizations which were regarded as if they were Aikido organizations with Hombu Recognition before these Regulations were amended will not be affected.
2. These regulations will be in effect from the date of amendment, October 1, 2000.