



SAUK Charter

Revision: 1

Date: 18 March 2014

Name and Identification

The name of the organisation shall be "Shodokan Aikido UK" and may be abbreviated to "SAUK". "UK" is an abbreviation for "United Kingdom" meaning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

General

Aikido is a Japanese martial art as synthesised by Morihei Ueshiba and practiced in a variety of methods around the world.

Shodokan Aikido is the name of the aikido training methods promoted by the Shodokan Aikido Federation as established by Kenji Tomiki and headquartered at the Shodokan Hombu Dojo in Osaka, Japan.

Nature, Aim, and Objective

The nature of the organisation is an association of member clubs, each practising Shodokan Aikido, held together by the common belief of promoting Shodokan Aikido within the UK.

The aim of the organisation is to promote Shodokan Aikido by the following objectives:

- Practicing and teaching the aikido methods as given by the Shodokan Aikido Federation.
- Grow a stable population of Shodokan Aikido members within the UK by encouraging a life-long study of aikido, fostering competent teachers, and supporting new clubs.
- Providing those services best run on a national level, including such items as: organisation of national competitive and social events, common insurance agreements, aikido examinations, support to new clubs, and so on.

SAUK expressly do not desire to interfere in the day-to-day running of individual clubs, nor regulate individuals.

Membership & Membership Fee

The membership of the organisation shall comprise aikido clubs only. No individuals shall take membership.

Qualification of membership shall be the payment of the membership fee, the demonstrable support and progression of the organisation's aims of promoting Shodokan Aikido. A club's chief instructor shall be of recognised grade within the association or, if transitioning to the Shodokan Aikido system, shall be demonstrably working toward recognised grade competence.

Further, for practical reasons, each member club shall take insurance via the organisation.

Membership may be revoked if agreed by the Rijkai. An initial communication shall be made to the member club outlining the reasons and the intent to revoke membership. This initial communication shall be done in writing by the Chairman on behalf of the Rijkai. A final communication indicating revocation of membership shall be sent to the revoked member club not earlier than four weeks after the initial communication. Any correspondence between the member club and the Chairman on this matter shall be made available to the organisation.

Grounds to revoke membership shall include:

willful disregard of working with or toward the aim and objectives of the organisation

not paying membership fee

lack of compliance to the insurance requirements or not taking insurance via the organisation

and the like

The organisation's membership fee shall be written in policy and shall be determined so as to not be considered to financial burden a member club.

Organisation Structure and Leadership

The organisational structure is described below.

President

The President of SAUK shall be the Technical Director of the Shodokan Aikido Federation, currently Tetsuro Nariyama.

The President is a figurehead for the organisation, advising on technical matters but not operational running of the organisation.

Non-executive Director

The Non-executive Director shall be Phillip Newcombe, recognised as a global figure in Shodokan Aikido with strong historical ties to the founding, nurturing, and development of Shodokan Aikido in the UK.

The Non-executive Director provides, at their discretion, a maturity of perspective on the SAUK vision, direction, and advice on furthering SAUK aims. The Non-executive Director is outwith the Rijkai and shall not partake in the formal decision-making process of the Rijkai.

Rijkai (board of directors)

The Rijkai comprise individuals of SAUK, 4th dan and above in the practice of Shodokan Aikido, as recognised by the organisation.

The Rijkai steers the organisation to achieve its aims by providing vision, direction, decision making, and management of policy and funds. Note that all members of the Rijkai may vote and all votes are considered equal.

Within the first year of an individual's inclusion to the Rijkai, the individual demonstrate their understanding of the aims and principles of the organisation by signing the master copy of this constitution, as held by the Secretary.

Chairman

The Chairman is elected from the Rijkai.

The Chairman shall represent the organisation where required, chair Rijkai meetings, AGMs, and provide other services typically required by that office. Note that as a member of the Rijkai, the Chairman may vote on any matter and is equal to any member of the Rijkai.

Treasurer

Elected from within the organisational membership by the Rijkai. The Treasurer is not required to be a Rijkai member.

The Treasurer shall provide the services as typically responsible of that office, including the day-to-day management of funds and the reporting of the accounts.

Secretary

Elected from within the membership by the Rijkai. The Secretary is not required to be a Rijkai member.

The Secretary shall provide the services as typically responsible of that office, including the preparation of minutes and scheduling of meetings, and liaising with other functional organisations that does not necessarily require representation of the Chairman.

Members

The member clubs of the organisation. At a meeting, each member club shall be represented by the chief instructor and one other individual from that club.

Financial Structure and Reporting

The organisation shall be run on a non-profit basis. All incoming finance received by the organisation is to be used solely in pursuit of its aims, administration, and the like. Any surplus revenue from day-to-day operation shall be put back into the organisation to achieve its aims.

The Treasurer is responsible for the finances of the organisation. All monies shall be banked in an account held in the name of the organisation. At the AGM the Treasurer shall present a statement of annual accounts. Annual accounts shall be audited if deemed necessary.

Member representation and decision-making process

The organisation encourages any and all matters arising from within the membership to be voiced at a meeting.

A meeting would typically be either an AGM or EGM and any view from within the membership may be presented. Decisions required by the organisation shall take place by vote and voting shall be limited to the Rijkai. This process is considered to provide a pragmatic representational process balancing individual member visibility with maturity and constancy of governance for the organisation as a whole.

Meetings

Meetings shall be held to provide a representational discussion forum and transparency of decision-making. Meetings shall be qualified by requisite attendance and shall be minuted. Minutes shall be made available to all members of the organisation.

Meetings shall typically comprise the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or Extraordinary General Meetings (EGM).

Affiliations and Organisational Membership

For technical aikido matters, the organisation shall be affiliated to the Shodokan Aikido Federation.

For domestic compliance processes, general promotion of aikido in the UK, and recognition by Sport England, the organisation shall maintain membership with the British Aikido Board (BAB).

Grade recognition

An individual member's progression in Shodokan Aikido is measured by the achievement of grades within the organisation's syllabus. The syllabus is defined by the SAF.

Only dan grade recognition is an item for the organisation, as it inherently informs the capability of club instructors, the quality of instruction, and qualification of Rijkai members. Kyu grade recognition shall be an item for individual clubs.

If a new individual of a member club holds an aikido dan grade that has been granted from outside the organisation, the recognition of that grade shall be decided by the Rijkai.

In general, it is the responsibility of club instructors to ensure the competence of their individual student membership. It is the desire of the organisation to encourage promotion wherever an individual has achieved the required skills and attendance.

Dissolution

Any proposal to dissolve the organisation may be tabled by any member at a meeting. This specific item must be passed with at least a two-thirds majority of the Rijkai, whether or not in attendance at that meeting.

If so passed, the Secretary shall proceed to realise the assets of the organisation and discharge all debts and liabilities, after which the remaining assets will not be paid to or distributed among members but shall be given or transferred to some other voluntary group having similar objects to those of the organisation. This group shall be determined by vote of the Rijkai at the same time as the agreement to dissolve the organisation.

Amendments to the constitution

Any change to this constitution shall only be made by two-thirds or greater majority vote of the Rijkai in attendance at a meeting. The "before and after" wordings of the relevant section(s) shall be minuted.

Declaration

The organisation's constitution is agreed as declared by the Rijkai as the key individuals steering the organisation.



The _____ club and its chief instructor
_____ hereby agree to abide by the Shodokan
Aikido Charter.

Signed _____

Print name _____

Date _____