

Seiwakai International, the JKF Goju Kai, and Seiwakai USA

There has been some confusion about Seiwakai International membership cards, Seiwakai International dan-grade certificates, JKF Goju Kai membership cards and certificates, and the role of Seiwakai USA. I sincerely hope that the information below clarifies these issues particularly for our newer members.



Seiwakai International Membership Cards

Seiwakai International membership cards are for all students, not just black belt members. Each sensei who is the chief instructor of a Seiwakai dojo can get these cards by requesting them from Vassie Shihan, Vice President of Seiwakai International. Once the cards are completed and returned to Vassie Shihan, they are sent to Japan where they are recorded, stamped, and returned to Vassie Shihan who then returns them to the chief instructor of your dojo.

Seiwakai International Dan-Grade Certificates

You must be a member of Seiwakai International to test for any dan-grade. If you pass your grading, your information is sent to Japan. If you are in the Pan American region, the certificates are sent back to Vassie Shihan who then sends it to the chief instructor of your dojo.

JKF Goju Kai Membership Cards and Certificates.

Seiwakai International is your guarantor for the JKF Goju Kai, consequently you must be a member of Seiwakai International to become a member of the JKF Goju Kai. Moreover, you must have a dan-grade in Seiwakai International to test for that equivalent dan-grade in the JKF Goju Kai. In other words, you cannot have a higher dan-grade in the JKF Goju Kai than you do in Seiwakai International. However, you can have a higher dan-grade in Seiwakai International than you do in the JKF Goju Kai.



The JKF Goju Kai cards and certificates are distributed and returned to you in a manner similar to the way Seiwakai International cards and certificates are distributed and returned.



Seiwakai USA

Seiwakai USA is the national representative for Seiwakai International and is a registered non-profit corporation. You must be a member in good standing of Seiwakai USA to be eligible to test for any dan-grade in Seiwakai International and the JKF Goju Kai. Most if not all national organizations have this requirement.

Dan-grade Transfers for Seiwakai International and the JKF Goju Kai

If you hold a dan-grade with your country's National Governing Body for karate (e.g. the USANKF, Karate Canada, or Federación Mexicana de Karate) you are able to apply for a dan-grade transfer of an equivalent grade (up to Godan) in Seiwakai International and the JKF Goju Kai. You still have to test before a Seiwakai and a JKF Goju Kai panel and pay all testing fees from Shodan to the dan-grade you are seeking. Receiving the equivalent dan-grade of your national certificate is not guaranteed. The panel could award you a dan-grade which is lower than the one on your national certificate.