

Seiwakai USA Policies and Procedures

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I: Membership – Seiwakai USA is Non-Profit Corporation and membership is open to all students without regard to race, gender, age, sexual orientation, or national origin.

A. **Seiwakai USA Membership** consists of an elected Board and other Members in Good Standing.

B. **The Board** (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Directors) must be Members in Good Standing. The duties, responsibilities, and term of office of the Board are delineated in the Seiwakai USA Bylaws.

C. **Members in Good Standing**

1. Must hold the grade of Shodan or above in Seiwakai International.
2. Must be members of Seiwakai International and the Japan Karatedo Federation Goju Kai. (Membership cards are verification of this.)
3. Regularly attend one or more of several seminars taught by the President or a Vice President of Seiwakai International.
 - a. USA/Pan American training seminar
 - b. Seiwakai International training seminar in Japan,
 - c. Seminars sponsored by Seiwakai USA member dojos
 - d. Goshukan Canada Seminar
 - e. Seiwakai Mexico Seminar
 - f. Certificates of attendance will serve as verification.
 - g. Dojo Instructors are encouraged to bring students to any and all of these Seiwakai Seminars
 - h. Zoom Seminars taught by the President or a Vice President of Seiwakai International can also fulfill this requirement.
4. Must be current with all Seiwakai USA dues/fees.

D. **Member dojos**

1. Member Dojos' instruction must be consistent with the Seiwakai International syllabus.
2. Neither Member Dojos nor their instructors may increase the fees or add additional fees to any Seiwakai USA event, Seiwakai International event, Seiwakai International certificates, or grading fees.
3. Member dojos are authorized to promote their students to any kyudansha grade, junior black belt grades (below 15 years of age), and Dojo black belt grade (provided that there is the intent to grade for that dan grade with Seiwakai International within a reasonable period of time.)
4. Member dojos assume all day-to-day activities, internal grading fees, and dues of their students as they see fit.
5. Member Dojos may also instruct in supplementary arts such as kobudo, jiu-jitsu, etc.

E. **Member-at-Large** is a designation which is available for Members in Good Standing who are not part of a Member Dojo. To become a member-at-large, a request must be sent to the Board of Directors, which must be approved by a majority vote. The annual fee for membership shall be \$50 annually which covers both the member at Large fee and the annual membership dues/fee. (See I.H.2 &3)

F. **Voting Members** are Members in Good Standing who are Sandan or above in Seiwakai International. They elect the Board and may also vote on issues that the Board brings before them. A list of voting members will be maintained by the Board.

G. Members in good standing use of Seiwakai USA Trademarked Material

1. Seiwakai USA is a Non-Profit Corporation, and as such has Trademarked its name and logo.
2. All dojo members in good standing may use the trademarked name and logo for the purpose of branding, advertising, and promoting their dojo after first notifying the Board.
3. Unauthorized use of Seiwakai USA trademarked material by individuals and dojos who are **not** members in good standing shall be subject to legal recourse.

H. Members' Dues/Fees Structure

1. **Member Dojo** \$100/year and includes head instructor's membership dues/fee
2. **Sandan and above** \$25/year
3. **Shodan and Nidan** \$10/year
4. **Hardship** – Dojos and/or individuals experiencing economic hardship may request assistance from the Board.
5. **Payment of Dues/Fees** – Notice of all membership dues/fees (dojo and individual) will be sent out by the Treasurer of Seiwakai USA by March 15th of each calendar year, and they are to be paid by April 15th of each calendar year (as per Seiwakai USA Bylaws). A grace period of 30 days may be granted by the treasurer if the dojo head or member contacts the treasurer asking for additional time.
6. These dues/fees are to be deposited by the treasurer in an account and in a manner consistent with the Seiwakai USA Bylaws.

II. Expenditures of Members' Dues/Fees.

A. Expenditures of dues/fees are to be used specifically for the benefit all Seiwakai USA members and dojos including but not limited to:

1. Website creation and maintenance
2. Newsletter software and expenses
3. Branding and marketing materials

4. Membership fees for three (3) JKF Goju Kai Regional Dojo (See II.D)
 5. Maintenance of our Non-Profit Corporation status
 6. Trademarking of our Non-Profit Corporation's name and logo
 7. Other expenditures that benefit all Seiwakai USA members and dojos
- B. Any other expenditures and operating expenses of Seiwakai USA shall be considered on a case-by-case basis and voted on by the Board.
- C. All expenditures of more than \$100 require Board approval. A simple majority is needed to approve.
- D. All member dojos in good standing are also members of their JKF Goju Kai Regional Dojo – East, Central, or West. Each dojo's JKF Goju Kai Dojo membership is with the dojo closest to your location. (See 2.A.4 above)

III: Shinsa Panel and Shinsa Policies

- A. **Yudansha Promotions** must be conducted by a Shinsa panel that meets the requirements of Seiwakai International and is approved by Seiwakai USA.
- B. **Shinsa Panel Qualifications** – Under most circumstances there are at least five (5) members on a Seiwakai Shinsa panel. A Shihan or Sensei is qualified to serve on a Shinsa panel if they are at least two dan grades higher than the person testing. (E.g., a sandan can serve on a shinsa panel for a shodan, and a godan can serve on a shinsa panel for a sandan. This may be waived or altered by Vassie Naidoo Shihan or another officer or director of Seiwakai International.)
- C. **Shinsa Panel** – All qualified Seiwakai USA Shihan and Sensei shall serve on Shinsa panels of **only** those candidates for Shodan and above who are members in good standing, and are members of Dojos in good standing, or a Member-at Large in good standing with Seiwakai USA or other Seiwakai national organizations.
- D. **Members who are not in good standing** may apply for grading with the following stipulations.
1. All delinquent and current dues and fees must be paid to be eligible to grade.
 2. The applicant must wait the amount of time that the member and/or dojo was not in good standing with Seiwakai USA or other Seiwakai national organization **plus** one additional year.
 3. This may be appealed to the Board if extenuating circumstances have prevented the payment of dues/fees. This includes but is not limited to financial hardship, health issues, work demands, school demands, and living abroad.
- E. **Time and age requirements for Dan grades** must be met (unless waved by a Seiwakai International officer or director).

1. Shodan – minimum of 3 years of training (minimum of age15)
2. Nidan – minimum of 2 additional years of training after Shodan
3. Sandan – minimum of 3 additional years of training after Nidan
4. Yondan – minimum of 4 additional years of training after Sandan
5. Godan – minimum of 5 additional years of training after Yodan
6. Rokudan – minimum of 6 additional years of training after Godan (minimum of 35 years of age)
7. Nanadan – minimum of 7 additional years of training Rokudan (minimum of 42 years of age) Grading is by invitation only.
8. Hachidan – minimum of 8 additional years of training after Nanadan (minimum of 50 years of age) Grading is by invitation only.

IV: Disciplinary Procedures for Individual Members in Good Standing

- A. All members of Seiwakai USA (including Board of Directors members) may be disciplined for any action which is deemed by the Board to be inconsistent with the standards of Seiwakai International.
- B. Allegations may be brought before the Board by any member in good standing and shall require documentation.
- C. The decision whether to discipline and/or terminate the membership of an accused person shall be made by the Board within 30 days of receiving allegations, viewing supporting evidence, and hearing from both parties. The decision will be determined by a Board vote requiring a 5-member majority.
- D. **Major Infractions** are subject to discipline up to and including termination from the Seiwakai USA and Seiwakai International. These infractions include but are not limited to:
 1. **Repeated** examples on any social media platform that show irresponsible behavior or attacks on the character of other Seiwakai International members
 2. Serious criminal behavior
 3. Child abuse
 4. Sexual abuse
 5. Sexual Harassment
 6. Any **legal conviction** for child abuse, sexual abuse, or any felony is cause for immediate dismissal.
- E. **Lesser Infractions** – Allegations of lesser infractions may be brought before the Board by any member in good standing and shall require documentation.
 1. The Board may vote to reprimand the accused and require cessation of lesser offensive actions.

2. Failure to comply with a formal Board reprimand for a Lesser Infraction may result in immediate dismissal and termination of the membership in Seiwakai USA of the guilty party.
- F. Decisions of the Board in disciplinary matters must be approved by an official of Seiwakai International (officer or director) and thereafter may not be appealed.
- G. Members who are terminated on disciplinary grounds from Seiwakai USA will also be terminated from Seiwakai International.

V: Disciplinary Procedures for Member Dojos

- A. Member Dojos may be disciplined or terminated for:
1. Non-payment of annual dues for more than one year.
 2. Continually and willfully ignoring protocol required of a Japanese Karatedo organization.
 3. Teaching other than Goju-Ryu Karatedo as taught by Seiwakai International as their **primary** martial art. (Also see I.G.5)
 4. Failure of the Dojo Head to comply with Section III.

VI: Procedures for Accepting New Dojos, Instructors, and Yudansha for Seiwakai USA Membership. Seiwakai USA is a Karatedo organization with the highest standards and is open to Dojos seeking a high standard of martial arts education and advancement. The following membership requirements shall be observed.

A. Application for Membership

1. The Head Instructor shall send a letter of intent to join Seiwakai USA including Instructor's bio with training and grading history.
2. Photos or copies of the Head Instructor's Yudansha promotion certificates, names, and ranks of Dojo Instructors and/or Assistants, if applicable.
3. The Head Instructor shall provide copy of Letter of Resignation from previous Kai (organization).

B. Requirements for Newly Accepted Dojos

1. Seiwakai USA respects and acknowledges all incoming Yudansha current ranks, however they must re-test for Seiwakai ranking after a minimum of one year of membership.
2. It must be noted that in rare instances, after grading, the rank awarded may be lower than the rank held upon joining.
3. The new Dojo will adapt its katas and basics to the Seiwakai methodology.

4. Instructors, Yudansha, and senior students are expected to attend the annual (November) Seiwakai USA Training Seminar at the USA Hombu Dojo, or another seminar as stated in Section I.C.3
5. Yudansha members shall join Seiwakai International and the JKF Gojukai. Kyudansha age 15 years and older shall be encouraged to join Seiwakai International.
6. Pay the \$100 annual dojo membership dues/fees upon acceptance, and each year thereafter.

VII: Amending of Seiwakai USA Policies and Procedures. These Policies and Procedures shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors every three years and may be amended, revised, or deleted as the Board sees fit to improve Seiwakai USA and its operations.

- A. Proposed amendments to the Seiwakai USA Policies and Procedures shall be sent to Dojo Heads and Members-at-Large for a review period of two weeks. The Dojo Heads and Members-at-Large shall disseminate the revision(s) to all members in good standing of their dojo.
- B. After comments or objections are received and addressed, the Board shall vote on each proposed change to the Seiwakai USA Policies and Procedures and each change shall be approved or denied by a simple majority vote by the Board.
- C. The Revised Seiwakai USA Policies and Procedures shall be made available to all members in good standing. Dojo heads and members-at-large will be emailed a copy of the revision(s) and it is their responsibility to disseminate the revision(s) to all members in good standing of their dojo.

VIII. Primacy – All Seiwakai Policies and Procedures are designed to supplement and to be consistent with the letter and intent of the Seiwakai USA Bylaws. In the case of a contradiction or discrepancy, the Seiwakai USA Bylaws take precedent.

IX: Approval and Adoption of Seiwakai USA Policies and Procedures

These 2022 Seiwakai USA Policies and Procedures have been reviewed and approved by a majority of the Board of Directors vote on this 21 day of August 2022.



President of the Board