

SHIODA INTERNATIONAL AIKIDO FEDERATION (SIAF)

BYLAWS

A. MISSION STATEMENT

Yasuhisa Shioda will protect each SIAF member's right and privilege to continue the work of his father, the late Gozo Shioda, by supporting the worldwide growth of aikido through the Shioda International Aikido Federation (SIAF).

The SIAF seeks to ensure and protect each member's right to operate independently in the development and growth of aikido. To this end, the SIAF provides an institutional framework that offers guidance and standards, mentoring and training, in Japan and internationally, and formal dan, instructor and dojo certification of its members.

Importantly, the SIAF offers an opportunity for its members to maintain a direct association with the Shioda family and Gozo Shioda's legacy.

The SIAF provides to its members:

- Registration and certification of dojo, dan ranks, kyu ranks, and instructor qualifications.
- Upon payment of initial dojo or individual registration fees (whichever applies) free membership thereafter.
- Support and sponsorship of instructional programs and tours by member instructors.
- Instructor advice, guidance, training and mentoring.
- Access to historical aikido records and other pertinent information.
- Teaching materials, including books and videos.

B. REGISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION

1. Dan Registration and Certification

The SIAF will provide official dan certification for its eligible members in accordance with these bylaws.

A Dan Certificate will be issued personally by Yasuhisa Shioda from the SIAF headquarters in Tokyo, Japan upon his acceptance of a formal recommendation by a qualified SIAF instructor.

Dan Certificates may also be awarded, with the permission of Yasuhisa Shioda, by qualified recommending instructors acting as representatives of Yasuhisa Shioda.

The Dan Certificate is an official, permanent record of the holder's formal SIAF rank, and all Dan Certificate holders will be officially registered with the SIAF in Tokyo, Japan.

To recommend a Dan Certificate, the qualified instructor must (1) ensure that the appropriate application form (supplied by the SIAF) is completed, signed and submitted to the SIAF, and (2) ensure that the required fee is paid.

The recommended *minimum* average times between gradings are as follows, but they may vary (be longer or shorter) at the sound discretion of the grading instructor:

- 1st Kyu to Shodan 6 -- 12 months
- 1st to 2nd Dan 1 year
- 2nd to 3rd Dan 2 years
- 3rd to 4th Dan 2 years

- 4th to 5th Dan 3 years
- 5th to 6th Dan 4 years

6th Dan and higher will be determined at the discretion of the SIAF in consultation with the recommending instructor.

2. Transfer of Dan Rank

Any yudansha who wishes to transfer rank from another style may do so with the approval of the SIAF by submitting an application on the SIAF dan application form, and may purchase the appropriate Dan Certificate for a fee of 10,000 yen. Note: Dan Certificates are not included in the cost of an SIAF dojo registration but must be purchased separately.

3. Special Belt Award

Yasuhisa Shioda, in his sole discretion, may award certain dan candidates either of two special, honorary belts. The Kohaku Obi has a combination of red and white colors; and the Aka Obi is entirely red. The color white symbolizes the purity of spirit encouraged in aikido practitioners, and red signifies the intense desire and commitment to train, and the sacrifices made to do so, a sense of “training until you bleed.” These special belts are also part of the special belt system used in Judo.

To be eligible to be considered for the award of either special belt, a candidate must hold a qualifying dan rank granted through the SIAF, must be an SIAF member in good standing, and must complete the requisite SIAF dan application form and pay the required upgrade fee.

The Kohaku Obi may be awarded to an SIAF 6th dan who applies for 7th dan, or an SIAF 7th dan who applies for 8th dan.

The Aka Obi may be awarded to an SIAF 8th dan who applies for 9th dan, or an SIAF 9th dan who applies for 10th dan.

A person who transfers rank from other arts, styles or aikido organizations, and who has not yet received a qualifying SIAF dan rank, is not eligible for the award of either special belt.

4. Instructor Registration and Certification

All dan-ranked SIAF members are eligible to receive instructor certification, which will provide evidence of formal recognition by the SIAF of the certificate holder's qualification and authority to grade SIAF members. Applicants must complete the requisite application form and pay the required fee.

Each Instructor Certificate will be issued personally by Yasuhisa Shioda from SIAF headquarters in Tokyo, Japan upon his acceptance of formal application by an eligible dan-ranked SIAF member. The Instructor Certificate will be officially registered with the SIAF and it then serves as the official, permanent record of holder's grading authority

The holder of an Instructor Certificate may grade SIAF members to the level specified on the certificate. Generally, an instructor will be permitted to grade through two levels below the instructor's dan rank. For example, a 2nd dan instructor may grade all levels through 1st kyu, and a 6th dan may grade all levels through 4th dan. All dan ranks issued by qualified instructors must be registered with the SIAF.

Following initial registration, an SIAF instructor of 3rd dan and above who wishes to upgrade to the next instructor level must demonstrate his or her contribution to the development of a significant number of students who have achieved SIAF dan ranks and engagement in activities showing clear and consistent effort to promote and foster of the growth of aikido.

5. Transfer of Instructor License

An instructor who is not currently certified by the SIAF and who wishes to transfer his or her instructor level from another style or organization may apply for an SIAF instructor license, provided, however, that the SIAF reserves the right to determine, in its sole discretion, which license level, if any, is appropriate considering the applicant's experience and background in aikido, knowledge of SIAF techniques and principles, commitment to the promotion of the growth of aikido, and apparent ability to grade members in the aikido style offered by the SIAF. The SIAF further reserves the right, within its sole discretion, to require an eligibility examination of the applicant so as to ensure the applicant's qualification to grade SIAF members.

6. Dojo Registration and Certification

Any SIAF instructor may register a dojo with the SIAF, and official SIAF dojo status will be granted upon acceptance by Yasuhisa Shioda of a formal application for a Dojo Certificate and a payment of the applicable registration fee.

Each Dojo Certificate will be issued personally by Yasuhisa Shioda from the SIAF headquarters in Tokyo, Japan, and will serve as a permanent record of official SIAF dojo registration. Records of each certified dojo will be maintained at the SIAF headquarters.

7. Kyu Certification

The SIAF will recognize all kyu ranks of SIAF members certified by qualified instructors and will endorse kyu certificates upon request and purchase as indicated below.

8. Recognition of Existing Qualifications

Any dojo, dan or kyu rank, and instructor authority previously issued, registered and certified by Gozo Shioda, and any pre-existing aikido organization or federation or dojo formed or headed by Gozo Shioda, will be automatically recognized by the SIAF, and an application for SIAF registration and certification will be automatically accepted. Any dojo qualified in this manner will receive from the SIAF a gift of a lifetime dojo certificate, which will be processed when an instructor applies for a further dan or instructor certificate. However, yudansha or instructors with such existing qualifications who seek upgrades in dan rank or instructor authority must follow standard SIAF application procedures.

Other aikido certifications held by SIAF members will be considered for recognition on a case-by-case basis.

C. FEES AND PAYMENTS

1. Fee Amounts

Fees for SIAF certificates are listed below. The cost of shipping and handling, as indicated must be added to all fees. Applications for certificates of any type will be accepted and processed only upon payment of the required fees and costs.

2. Dan Fees

The fees for Dan Certificates are those applied in Japan and are shown on the table below. If grading is administered by an international SIAF instructor outside Japan, the instructor may keep 60% of the fee and must remit 40% (plus the cost of shipping and handling) to the SIAF. If Yasuhisa Shioda, or another instructor from the SIAF headquarters personally administers the grading, 100% of the fee (plus the cost of shipping and handling) will be retained by the SIAF.

(Add 10% up to a maximum of 7,000 yen to all fees for handling)

<u>DAN RANK</u>	<u>FEE*(Total)</u>	<u>FEE*(60%)</u>	<u>FEE*(40%)</u>
Shodan	¥12,000	¥7,200	¥4,800
2 nd Dan	¥25,000	¥15,000	¥10,000
3 rd Dan	¥40,000	¥24,000	¥16,000
4 th Dan	¥60,000	¥36,000	¥24,000

5 th Dan	¥90,000	¥54,000	¥36,000
6 th Dan	¥120,000	¥72,000	¥48,000
7 th Dan	¥150,000	¥90,000	¥60,000
8 th Dan	¥200,000	¥120,000	¥80,000

3. Instructor License Fees

(Add 10% up to a maximum of 7,000 yen to all fees for handling)

<u>Dan Rank</u>	<u>Grading Responsibility</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>License fee</u>	<u>Upgrading Fee</u>
1 st	4 th kyu	1	¥20,000	-
2 nd	1 st kyu	2	¥25,000	¥5,000
3 rd	1 st dan	3	¥30,000	¥5,000
4 th	2 nd dan	4	¥40,000	¥10,000
5 th	3 rd dan	5	¥70,000	¥30,000
6 th	4 th dan	6	¥120,000	¥50,000
7 th	5 th dan	7	¥190,000	¥70,000
8 th	6 th dan	8	¥280,000	¥90,000

4. Dojo Registration Fees

Except for a dojo entitled to automatic registration with the SIAF as provided in Section B-8, above, a dojo may be registered for a one-time fee of 20,000 yen (plus 10% for shipping and handling).

5. Dan Transfer Certificate Fee

Any yudansha who wishes to transfer rank and purchase an SIAF certificate to verify that rank may do so, if approved by the SIAF, upon payment of 10,000 yen (plus 10% for shipping and handling).

6. Kyu Certificate Fee

Kyu certificates may be purchased by certified SIAF instructors in groups of five certificates for 5,000 yen (1,000 yen each), plus 10% for shipping and handling.

7. Orders and Payments

Dojo, dan and instructor certificate requests will be accepted and processed only upon receipt by the SIAF of the required completed application and payment of the required fees and costs according to the following procedure:

1. Send the completed application to the SIAF by email, and include the applicant's preferred e-mail address.
2. The SIAF will send an invoice for payment to the applicant's e-mail address.
3. Pay the invoice using either of the following methods:
 - **Pay through PayPal.** This is the SIAF's preferred method and is the fastest and most secure method. Note: No PayPal account is required. You may pay through PayPal with a valid credit card if you do not have an account.

or

- **Pay by check made payable to SIAF** in an amount converted from yen to the currency of the applicant's country at the conversion rate existing as of the date of the check. **NOTE:** If this method is used, Japanese banks will charge 5,000 yen for processing and there will be a delay of approximately 3 weeks to complete the transaction. If paying by check, the amount must include (1) the SIAF fee required, (2) 10% up to a maximum of 7,000 yen for handling, and (3) 5,000 yen for Japanese bank processing.

8. Forms

Application forms for dan, instructor or dojo registrations and for upgrades may be downloaded from the SIAF site upon e-mail request for instructions as to how to access the forms.

9. Contact

- **Shioda International Aikido Federation (SIAF)**
Yasuhisa Shioda, President
- **Website:** <http://www.gozoshioda.com/>
- **E-mail:** info@gozoshioda.com