

International Karate Organization

Official Bylaws

November, 2011

International Karate Organization

KYOKUSHINKAIKAN HONBU

IKO Kyokushinkaikan

Official Bylaws

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International Karate Organization Kyokushinkaikan Official Bylaws

-Official Regulations-

The International Karate Organization and the Kyokushinkaikan follow the Karate way of building character and training the mind and body to contribute to society, based on Sosai Mas Oyama's Kyokushin spirit "Keep one's head low (modest), eyes high (ambitious), reserved in speech (mind one's language) and kind in heart (treat others with respect and courtesy). Treat others with kindness; filial piety is the starting point, (serve your parents well)."

We in Kyokushin Karate-Do do not promote or practice discrimination or prejudice based on ethnicity, race, nationality, politics, philosophy, religion, sex or age and recognize that everyone has the same rights. Our greatest pursuit is to reach for the goal of international friendship and world peace.

1. Name of this Organization:

The name of this Organization is the "International Karate Organization" (IKO). The IKO and the Kyokushinkaikan are synonymous because the two have the same purpose, which is to promote and popularize Kyokushin Karate-Do.

2. Founder and President:

The Founder:

The Founder of the IKO Kyokushinkaikan and of Kyokushin Karate-Do was **Sosai Masutatsu Oyama** 1923-1994

The President:

The President of the International Karate Organization and the President of Kyokushinkaikan are one in the same.

The President of the IKO Kyokushinkaikan is **Kancho Shokei Matsui**.

3. IKO Honbu (Headquarters):

The worldwide headquarters of the International Karate Organization Kyokushinkaikan is the IKO Honbu.

IKO Honbu operates direct branch schools (dojo) of Kyokushin Karate in Japan and internationally, and administers all official business of the Kyokushinkaikan via Domestic (Japan) and International Departments. IKO Honbu is located in Tokyo, Japan:

The IKO Honbu Main Branch Dojo is located in Tokyo, Japan at:

2-38-1, Nishi Ikebukuro, Toshima-ku, Tokyo, Japan 171-0021

The IKO Honbu Main Administrative Offices are located in Tokyo, Japan at:

2-16-9 Higashi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan 150-0011

The contact numbers for the Offices of the IKO Honbu are:

81-3-5766-3500 Tel // 81-3-5766-5540 Fax

The Official Website for the IKO Kyokushinkaikan is: **[http:// www.kyokushinkaikan.org](http://www.kyokushinkaikan.org)**

4. The Purpose:

The purpose of the IKO is twofold:

- (1) To contribute to society through the wisdom of Kyokushin Karate-Do.
- (2) To attain the goal of world peace by promoting international friendship.

5. The Activity:

The activity of the IKO is twofold:

- (1) To spread the spirit and technique of Kyokushin Karate Do all over the world.
- (2) To develop Kyokushin Karate-Do by holding promotional events such as tournaments & demonstrations.

6. IKO Membership:

- (1) There are no distinctions based on ethnicity, race, nationality, politics, philosophy, religion, sex or age.
- (2) Upon enrollment, a new member will receive the qualifications of an IKO member and those of a Dojo Student.
- (3) A new member must pay the IKO Kyokushinkaikan membership fee to the IKO Honbu.
- (4) New members must obtain an official IKO membership registration card from the IKO Honbu, available through their Branch Chief.
- (5) IKO Membership is considered current if the member consistently supports the efforts of the Branch to the best of his/her ability; as determined by the Branch Chief.

7. Regions of the IKO:

The IKO has divided the world into ten Regions. All regions are under the direct control and management of the IKO Honbu which supervises these regions with the counsel of the International Committee acting as an advisory body. The ten regions are as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Japan | 6. Russia |
| 2. South Pacific | 7. South America |
| 3. Europe | 8. Central America |
| 4. Middle East | 9. North America |
| 5. Africa | 10. Asia |

8. The IKO International Committee / Purpose & Duties:

(1) The Purpose:

The IKO International Committee is an advisory body of the IKO Kyokushinkaikan established in 1994 in order to faithfully execute the primary goals of the IKO.

The IKO International Committee works supportively with the IKO Honbu International Department to oversee the ten Regions as outlined above.

(2) The International Committee Chairman:

The International Committee Chairman shall maintain order and evenhanded mediation of all worldwide regional Branches and members. With the assistance and advice of the entire International Committee, he shall make recommendations for IKO Honbu efficient management pertinent to each specific region.

9. The IKO International Committee Members:

Chairman-

Shihan Yuzo Goda

Representative-	Shihan Peter Chong
Representative-	Shihan Seiji Isobe
Representative-	Shihan Kenny Uytendogaardt
Representative & General Secretary -	Shihan Katsuhito Gorai

10. Appointment of IKO International Committee Representative:

International Committee Representatives are appointed solely by IKO Honbu. The IKO Honbu reserves the right to remove, replace or appoint additional members as they see fit, or in case of the following circumstances as determined by the IKO Honbu:

- (1) If they hinder their region's or the IKO's effective management.
- (2) If they stain the honor or otherwise malign the IKO and/or Kyokushin Karate.
- (3) If it is determined that they are no longer able or suited to fulfill their appointed duties.
- (4) If they breach a material provision of these Official Bylaws.

11. Regional Organization and National Organization:

There may be regional and/or national organizations under the direct control and supervision of the IKO Honbu and the IKO International Committee in order to oversee all the IKO Branches in each region.

- (1) Duties: Regional and national organizations must faithfully follow the course indicated by the IKO Honbu.
- (2) Chairman: Chairmen for regional and national organizations ("area chairmen" or "country representatives") are appointed solely by the IKO Honbu. The IKO Honbu reserves the right to remove, replace or appoint a new regional and/or national chairman as they see fit.
- (3) Bylaws: All regional or national organizations' Bylaws must be established in conformity with the Official IKO Bylaws as set forth within. Any and all regional or national Bylaws must be ultimately approved by the IKO Honbu.
- (4) All IKO Branches must abide by the Bylaws set forth by the IKO Honbu and by their regional and/or national organization.

12. Branch Qualifications:

Branch Chief is appointed solely by the IKO Honbu. A Branch must be an active, operating Dojo of the IKO. It must possess and display an Official Branch License and the Branch Chief must possess an Official Branch Chief's Certificate.

13. Appointment of IKO Branch Chiefs:

The qualifications necessary to be appointed to the position of IKO Branch Chief are:

- (1) Recommendation by the International Committee Representative.
- (2) Superior leadership abilities, good personality and exceptional ideology of Kyokushin Karate-Do.
- (3) Excellent business management skills.
- (4) Significant training experience at the IKO Honbu in Japan or extensive international seminars with renowned and respected IKO Kyokushinkaikan affiliates.
- (5) Ideally, must possess a Third Dan Black Belt or above, or have otherwise substantially contributed to the IKO Kyokushinkaikan, their country or region, to be determined by the IKO Honbu.
- (6) IKO Honbu remains the supreme authority in the appointment and discharge of an IKO Branch Chief.

14. Duties of an IKO Branch Chief:

- (1) Must be a model human being, a respected member of and an exceptional Instructor for the IKO Kyokushinkaikan.

- (2) Must formally register all students directly with the IKO Honbu and provide them an official IKO Membership Card immediately upon their enrollment.
- (3) Must report all matters concerning their Branch and affiliate Dojos to the IKO Honbu a minimum of once annually by means of their Annual Report to both the IKO Honbu International Department and their International Committee Representative.
- (4) Must personally operate one or more Dojos in home country with classes for members meeting at least 3 times a week and have a student base of 300 or more members.
- (5) Must reside in the country to which he is appointed.
- (6) Must actively participate in and support regional and national tournaments or seminars.
- (7) Must personally host at least one local event per year such as a tournament, demonstration, seminar or camp.
- (8) Must attend the World Tournament and International Branch Chief Conference every four years as physically able.
- (9) Must possess and display in view of his/her members, a Branch Chief's Certificate issued from the IKO Honbu and relinquish it upon termination of his/her duties or the dissolution of the Branch.
- (10) Must maintain a current and operational telephone number and FAX as well as an "E-Mail" account in order to conduct daily operations with the IKO Honbu; and must advise their Regional /Area Chairman, National Chairman (Country Representative), country's Branch Chiefs, the IKO International Department and the IKO Honbu of any changes to their contact information.
- (11) Due to IKO policy concerning certain styles or systems of martial arts, the Branch Chief must not professionally affiliate themselves, their Dojos or members, with any other martial arts style without prior consultation with and permission of the IKO Honbu, or risk revocation of his/her Branch Chief Certificate or expulsion from the IKO.
- (12) Regarding their own and their member's participation in certain styles or systems of martial arts' events such as championships, competitive displays, promotions and the like, the Branch Chief must attain written approval from the IKO Honbu or risk revocation of his/her Branch Chief Certificate or expulsion from the IKO.
- (13) The IKO Branch Chief is responsible to uphold the guiding principles of the IKO for all their Branch membership. Should Branch members act inappropriately, or otherwise malign or disregard IKO policy, it is the duty of the IKO Branch Chief to investigate and immediately consult with International Committee Representatives and IKO Honbu or risk revocation of his/her Branch Chief Certificate or expulsion from the IKO.

15. Branch Operations / Members Protocol:

- (1) All new members signing on to train with a Branch Chief shall begin from white belt level, be registered with the IKO Honbu and issued an official IKO Membership Card.
- (2) Branch Chiefs must abide by the Bylaws set forth within as well as by their regional and/or national organization (if applicable).
- (3) IKO members switching schools or Branches, temporarily or permanently, must obtain a formal letter of recommendation from their previous Branch Chief in order to apply to train at a new school or Branch. In addition, they must have their valid IKO Membership Card and Dan or Kyu Certificate, or certified copy, in order for their rank and affiliation to be verified through the IKO Honbu. If they do not possess these items, they may be entirely refused entry.
- (4) If the IKO member, who switches schools or Branches, intends to operate an IKO affiliate school in the new area, he/she must apply to IKO Honbu directly for authorization and if approved, must abide by the IKO Bylaws as well as regulations set forth by the area's regional and/or national organization.

16. Branch Operations / Gradings:

- (1) The Branch Chief must hold Kyu/Dan gradings not more than four times per annum.

(2) All members registered to the Branch must test at their current Branch's scheduled grading periods and not venture outside of their area to test. As an exception, a member may test at another Branch if he/she obtains prior written approval from both his/her Branch Chief and the other area's Branch Chief.

(3) All Branch students must be registered members of the IKO and their Kyu certified through IKO Honbu. The Branch Chief shall register members and certify students' ranks with official certificates available from IKO Honbu or the member's rank will not be recognized by the IKO Kyokushinkaikan and the Branch Chief risks repercussion.

(4) Only IKO-Registered and Certified 1st Kyu students are eligible to test for IKO Black Belt.

17. Branch Operations / Relationship with Dojo Operators under their Supervision:

Branch Chiefs must provide ample support in establishing and maintaining the superior quality of all Dojos under their supervision and ensure that affiliates operate as legitimate schools of the IKO Kyokushinkaikan according to the Official Organization Bylaws and Technical Rank Syllabus for instruction, operation, etiquette and grading.

18. Dismissal of an IKO Branch Chief / Dissolution of a Branch:

(1) An IKO Branch Chief may be dismissed and their Branch Chief Certificate revoked under the same circumstances as listed for International Committee Representatives, (article #10), or for not fulfilling, or flagrantly disregarding, the duties of an IKO Branch Chief, as determined by the IKO Honbu, under the regulations set forth in these Official Bylaws. The individual, though no longer a Branch Chief, may or may not be permitted to continue to operate an IKO Dojo, or to continue his membership status with the IKO Kyokushinkaikan, at the sole discretion of the IKO Honbu.

(2) The Branch itself may or may not continue to retain association with the IKO Kyokushinkaikan; its members could be assigned to another Branch Chief's supervision, or additionally be entirely dismissed as determined by the IKO Honbu.

(3) Upon dissolution of a Branch, the Branch Chief must immediately surrender all IKO Kyokushinkaikan official materials and membership records to IKO Honbu.

19. Dojo Operator Qualifications:

IKO Dojo Operators may be appointed either by his/her Branch Chief or IKO Honbu, and should possess the following:

(1) Superior leadership abilities and good personality.

(2) Ideally, should be an individual of 21 years of age or older, with a background in Kyokushin Karate-Do of at least five years and the rank of Sho Dan or above.

(3) Must be thoroughly proficient in the techniques outlined in the Official Technical Rank Syllabus and be of excellent quality as an Instructor.

20. Dojo Operator's Duties and their Relationship with their Branch Chief:

(1) Must register all students to IKO Honbu via their Branch Chief immediately upon enrollment.

(2) Must maintain an open line of communication and good working relationship with their Branch Chief, fellow Dojo Operators in their area, and other Branches and Dojo Operators of the IKO.

(3) Must, along with their students, support their Branch Chief's annual events and functions to the best of their ability.

(4) Must offer their services to assist preparation of a tournament or seminar in association with their Branch Chief's schedule of events annually.

(5) Must coordinate with their Branch Chief to provide regularly scheduled grading periods for their students to advance.

1) All grading periods must be personally overseen by, or authorized by their Branch Chief.

2) Dojo Operators are authorized by their Branch to instruct students and prepare them for advancement; Dojo Operators are not authorized to grade students and award IKO ranks; however, their input is essential to the Branch to view student progress and commitment.

(6) Must abide by the Official IKO Bylaws as well as any regional or national Bylaws set for their area.

21. Dismissal of Dojo Operator / Dissolution of the Dojo:

(1) An IKO Dojo Operator may be dismissed under the same circumstances as listed for IKO Branch Chiefs (article #18), or for not fulfilling, or flagrantly disregarding, the duties of an IKO Dojo Operator. The dismissal of an IKO Dojo Operator can be recommended by his/her Branch Chief, but the decision to dismiss and expel a Dojo Operator from the IKO Kyokushinkaikan rests solely with IKO Honbu.

22. IKO Kyokushinkaikan Trademarks and Logos:

All IKO Kyokushinkaikan Trademarks and Logos, in whatever form, belong solely to the IKO Honbu and may not be used for any purpose without Official License or express written permission of the IKO Kyokushinkaikan.

IKO Honbu remains supreme authority in all matters concerning
The IKO Kyokushinkaikan and all its member affiliates