



## **Aikido Yoshinkai Foundation (AYF) Bylaws**

The Aikido Yoshinkai Foundation seeks to promote the spirit of *budo* through Yoshinkan Aikido, a system of defense pioneered by Gozo Shioda after the Second World War.

*Budo*, commonly translated as “martial” art or way, is a form of traditional Japanese culture which has evolved from combat techniques to a way of self-development through physical and spiritual training. However, the term “martial” derives from the Latin “Mars”, the Roman god of war, and means inclined or disposed to war. In contrast, the Japanese concept of “*budo*” is quite different in that it promotes using the fighting arts to bring about peace, rather than perpetuating conflict.

In *budo*, therefore, peace is always the ultimate goal. Its philosophy, and that of Aikido, emphasizes courteous behavior, technical proficiency, the strengthening of the body and a striving towards moral excellence.

The AYF has drawn up the following bylaws to support instructors overseas in the dissemination of the principles of *budo* through Yoshinkan Aikido. The bylaws cover:

1. Instructors' licenses
2. Kyu and dan certificates
3. Dojo registration certificates
4. Shihan titles and application procedure
5. AYF membership
6. Visits by Honbu Dojo instructors
7. Support for overseas instructors
8. Fees and conditions

## 1. INSTRUCTORS' LICENSES

All Yoshinkan Aikido practitioners ranked shodan or above are eligible to be recommended as an AYF instructor and to receive an AYF instructor's certificate. Issued directly by the Chairman of AYF, these licenses are valid for life. Application forms can be found here:

<http://www.yoshinkan.net/03contentsE/applicationE.html#tab1>

Holders of these licenses are registered as instructors with the AYF. No annual registration is necessary.

Requirements are:

- ✓ Dan ranking in Yoshinkan Aikido
- ✓ Recommendation from an AYF instructor ranked 3rd dan or above

Instructors may grade students, obtain kyu and dan certificates from AYF, and open their own dojo. Upon recommendation, instructors may apply for upgrades certifying the grading responsibility of their rank as they themselves are promoted.

## 2. DAN AND KYU CERTIFICATES

All adult dan certificates will be issued solely by Honbu Dojo, the AYF headquarters in Tokyo, and individually signed by the Chairman. The certified person's name will be inscribed on the certificate at Honbu Dojo. All AYF dan gradings will be entered into the Yoshinkan records. Application forms for dan gradings can be found here: <http://www.yoshinkan.net/03contentsE/applicationE.html#tab1>

For kyu grades, instructors are authorized to issue certificates on their own paper. If preferred, blank kyu certificates can be purchased from Honbu Dojo. These are available in sets of ten and cost 5,000yen. All details, such as the students' name, kyu rank, the date and the instructor's name should be filled in by the examining instructor.

## 3. DOJO REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES

Only certified instructors are authorized to open and run a Yoshinkan Aikido dojo. All Yoshinkan Aikido dojos must be registered with Honbu. Honbu will provide registration certificates to instructors to prove that their dojos are officially recognized by the AYF, and will issue them with an official logo. (Please contact Honbu Dojo for a logo).

Registered dojos will be listed online on the AYF website's worldwide dojo directory. The registration form can be found here: <http://www.yoshinkan.net/03contentsE/applicationE.html#tab1>

All dojos registered with AYF must agree to:

- ✓ Adhere to the principles of *budo* and those of harmony, non-aggressiveness, and co-operation of Yoshinkan Aikido
- ✓ Ensure student progress, be active and stay in regular contact with Honbu Dojo
- ✓ Promote the optimal dissemination of Yoshinkan Aikido by maintaining friendly relations with neighboring dojos and working with them in an amiable manner.

Honbu Dojo reserves the right to revoke a dojo's registration certificate and remove its listing from the worldwide dojo directory should it fail to demonstrate goodwill on any of these three points.

#### 4. SHIHAN TITLES AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Overseas instructors over 6<sup>th</sup> dan interested in being considered for a Shihan title must approach Honbu Dojo directly and request the possibility to apply. This procedure is the same for domestic instructors.

Bearers of the title are subject to a number of terms. Please find the regulations here:

[http://www.yoshinkan.net/cgi-bin/osirase\\_e/cgi/msgsg.cgi?do=jwd&wn=1505445401](http://www.yoshinkan.net/cgi-bin/osirase_e/cgi/msgsg.cgi?do=jwd&wn=1505445401)

Bearers of Shihan titles are considered models for the art. They display physical and technical proficiency, and have sought to embody the core principles of *budo*, such as virtue and humility. Shihan titles will be awarded on merit, at the discretion of Honbu Dojo, to individuals of good character and purity of heart.

Honbu Dojo reserves the right to revoke the title should individuals bearing the title fail to act in accordance with these principles.

#### 5. AYF MEMBERSHIP

AYF membership is extended to all registered instructors. They are authorized to:

- ✓ Conduct kyu gradings
- ✓ Issue kyu certificates
- ✓ Purchase official Honbu Dojo blank kyu certificates
- ✓ Conduct dan gradings (if instructor's rank allows)
- ✓ Recommend and register dan ranks with Honbu Dojo (if instructor's rank allows)
- ✓ Recommend and register new instructors with Honbu Dojo (if instructor's rank allows)
- ✓ Apply to Honbu Dojo for a Yoshinkan Aikido dojo certificate
- ✓ Apply to Honbu Dojo for a high-rank evaluation (6<sup>th</sup> dan or above)

- ✓ Apply to Honbu Dojo for a Shihan title evaluation (6<sup>th</sup> dan or above)
- ✓ Seek advice from Honbu Dojo on all matters
- ✓ Receive AYF newsletter
- ✓ Participate, along with their students, in AYF activities such as the annual All-Japan demonstration in Tokyo
- ✓ Invite Honbu Dojo instructors to perform overseas seminars and gradings

## 6. VISITS BY HONBU DOJO INSTRUCTORS

To assist overseas groups, senior Honbu Dojo instructors are available for visits and teaching seminars. These instructors will lead classes and conduct clinics, gradings, demonstrations, and instructor courses. Any AYF member may invite instructors from Honbu Dojo, however the cost of flights and accommodation must be borne by the host instructor. Accommodation can be in the form of a homestay.

## 7. TEACHING MATERIAL FOR OVERSEAS INSTRUCTORS

Honbu Dojo has some English-language teaching materials to support overseas instructors, including instructional DVDs and manuals. These are available for purchase from Honbu Dojo. Honbu Dojo also offers an 11-month instructors' course (Senshusei), which begins on April 1<sup>st</sup> of every year in Tokyo. Further information regarding the Senshusei course is available on Honbu Dojo's website:

<http://www.yoshinkan.net/03contentsE/course-sensyuE.html>

## 8. FEES AND CONDITIONS

### ➤ Instructors' licenses

DAN RANK	GRADING RESPONSIBILITY	LICENSE FEE	UPGRADING FEE
SHODAN	Can grade students up to 4 <sup>th</sup> kyu	20,000yen	
2 <sup>nd</sup> DAN	Can grade students up to 1 <sup>st</sup> kyu	25,000yen	5,000yen
3 <sup>rd</sup> DAN	Can grade students up to SHODAN	30,000yen	5,000yen
4 <sup>th</sup> DAN	Can grade students up to 2 <sup>nd</sup> DAN	40,000yen	10,000yen
5 <sup>th</sup> DAN	Can grade students up to 3 <sup>rd</sup> DAN	70,000yen	30,000yen
6 <sup>th</sup> DAN	Can grade students up to 4 <sup>th</sup> DAN	120,000yen	50,000yen
7 <sup>th</sup> DAN	Can grade students up to 5 <sup>th</sup> DAN	190,000yen	70,000yen
8 <sup>th</sup> DAN	Can grade students up to 6 <sup>th</sup> DAN	280,000yen	90,000yen

Please note that the license fees above apply if applicants do not already hold an existing instructor's license. If applicants already have a license, upgrading fees will apply.

➤ Dojo registration

The fee for registering a new dojo with AYF is 20,000yen.

➤ Dan certificates

RANK	DAN FEES	HONBU RECOMMENDATION FEES	TIME REQUIREMENTS
SHODAN	6,000yen	14,000yen	From 1 <sup>st</sup> to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan: 1 year
2 <sup>nd</sup> DAN	12,500yen	28,000yen	From 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan: 2 years
3 <sup>rd</sup> DAN	20,000yen	43,000yen	From 3 <sup>rd</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> Dan: 2 years
4 <sup>th</sup> DAN	30,000yen	63,000yen	From 4 <sup>th</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> Dan: 3 years
5 <sup>th</sup> DAN	45,000yen	93,000yen	From 5 <sup>th</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> Dan: 4 years
6 <sup>th</sup> DAN	60,000yen	125,000yen	From 6 <sup>th</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup> Dan: 5 years
7 <sup>th</sup> DAN	70,000yen	145,000yen	From 7 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> Dan: 8 years
8 <sup>th</sup> DAN		185,000yen	

- For gradings performed by an instructor of Honbu Dojo, Honbu recommendation fees apply.
- Gradings of 6<sup>th</sup> dan or above are evaluated by the AYF high-rank grading committee, which gathers twice a year, in the spring and the autumn. The committee is also charged with ratifying the submissions of those applicants who already come recommended by a senior Yoshinkan Aikido instructor. Please visit the Yoshinkan website for further instructions: [http://www.yoshinkan.net/03images/\\_pdf/Instructions%20for%20high-rank%20dan%20application.pdf](http://www.yoshinkan.net/03images/_pdf/Instructions%20for%20high-rank%20dan%20application.pdf)
- Fees from instructor licenses, dojo registrations and dan rankings go directly to AYF administration costs. All certificates will be written in Japanese, with an English translation on the reverse side.
- The minimum time required between dan gradings applies as stated in the table above unless otherwise specified by the testing committee in consultation with the Chairman.

*These bylaws were drawn up at Yoshinkan Honbu Dojo and approved by the Aikido Yoshinkai Foundation Chairman and committee. They are subject to change without notice.*