

Membership Regulations for United States Aikido Federation Dojo

A. Definitions

1. **Dojo** shall mean an organization of people having regularly enrolled members participating in regularly held Aikido classes.
2. **Sponsor** shall mean an Individual Member in good standing in the United States Aikido Federation (USAF) holding a current Fukushidoin, Shidoin or Shihan certificate, and such Individual Member is either the Chief Instructor of a Member Dojo of the USAF, or has the written approval of the Chief Instructor of the Member Dojo to which the sponsor belongs to act as a sponsor.
3. **Chief Instructor(s)** shall mean the primary person or persons responsible for Aikido technique training at a Dojo.
4. **Instructor** shall mean any person, including a Chief Instructor, that has the responsibility for leading a regularly scheduled class.
5. **Member Dojo** shall mean a Dojo that is a member of the USAF.
6. **Individual Member** shall mean a person that is a member of both a Member Dojo and a member of the USAF.
7. **Satellite Location** shall mean any branch of a Member Dojo.

B. Membership Requirements and Procedures

1. A Dojo applying to become a member of the USAF must submit a completed "USAF Application for New Dojo Membership" form, provided, however, that if the Chief Instructor for the applicant Dojo is a USAF Shihan, the "Sponsor Information" need not be completed. Decisions on acceptance of the applicant Dojo as a Member Dojo of the USAF will be determined on a case-by-case basis and may be reviewed by a Committee of the Board of Directors
2. Member Dojo must comply with all USAF rules and regulations regarding dojo membership.
3. Member Dojo must pay all dojo dues, USAF dues and test fees, including dojo fees, kyu and dan test fees, Shihan, Shidoin and Fukushidoin fees and member dues, as well as the annual renewal of these dues and fees in accordance with time limitations set by the USAF.

4. No Member Dojo may be a member of the USAF and a member of, or pay dues to, another Aikido organization, whether or not recognized by Hombu Dojo or the Aikikai Foundation. Paying dojo dues to a non-USAF Aikido organization may result in termination of membership in the USAF.
5. No Individual Member of a Member Dojo may apply for or obtain Aikido grading, either kyu or dan grading, in any Aikido organization other than the USAF.
6. All individuals that are ranked 6th kyu and above must become Individual Members of the USAF at a time at or before their 6th kyu ranking.
7. Each Member Dojo shall submit renewal information in a timely manner. Failure to pay any required fees, dues, or other payments may result in suspension of membership in the USAF, and may result in termination.
8. Any Member Dojo or Satellite Location that anticipates moving from its currently registered location must fill out a "New Location Notification" form and file it with the USAF office. This form is subject to review.
9. Each Instructor shall read and be bound by the provisions set out in the USAF Code of Conduct.
10. All dojo will undergo a provisional period for the first year of USAF membership. Terms of the provisional period will be determined on a case-by-case basis, and the Sponsor may, for example, be asked by the USAF to provide status reports, act as a mediator, and/or facilitate communication and guidance regarding USAF policies and procedures.
11. The Board of Directors has the right, in its sole discretion, to take any action, such as reprimand, suspension or termination of any Member (whether a Member Dojo or Individual Member), if the Board of Directors determines, in its sole discretion, that such Member is in violation of the USAF Code of Conduct or has acted in a manner that is harmful or contrary to the purposes or interests of Aikido, the USAF or its Members.