

# **THE INTERNATIONAL RYUKYUKAI MARTIAL ARTS ASSOCIATION**

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

**AS OF JUNE 2018**

**President & CEO, Paul J. Zavislak Jr.**

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## **PART I - International Ryukyukai Martial Arts Association CONSTITUTION**

### **Article I – Name, Domicile and Definitions**

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be: International Ryukyukai Martial Arts Association hereafter referred to as the "IRMAA".

Section 2: The head office of the IRMAA shall be in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania and at such place therein as the IRMAA President may from time to time determine. In the absence of a designated location, it shall be in the municipality of the President presiding over the IRMAA from time to time.

Section 3: As used in this Constitution and By-Laws, the term:

a. **International Ryukyukai Martial Arts Association:** Is the official old style karate, aikijujutsu, jujutsu, aikido, kenjutsu, and kobudo membership organization created and directed by Kyoshi Paul J. Zavislak Jr.

By-laws: Standing rules of the organization.

### **Article II – Governance**

The IRMAA is a LLC and registered under the laws of Pennsylvania. This organization shall be independent and governed by its own constitution. Members shall abide by the articles and bylaws herewith subscribed.

### **Article III -- Duration**

The period of its duration shall be perpetual.

### **Article IV – Mission, Vision, Goal and Objectives**

a. A Mission to Serve, Support and Improve --

**The International Ryu Kyukyukai Martial Arts Association** is a world-wide multidisciplinary membership organization that is committed to enlarging our shared understanding of the Japanese martial arts, by providing authoritative experiences that connect its history, heritage and practices and by promoting innovation, research and discovery of the origins, evolution and tactical application theories of old style Japanese martial arts.

b. A Vision to Lead --The International International Ryukyukai Martial Arts Association will have a major and lasting influence on the art and teachings of budo and will be recognized and valued, globally, by its members and others as the foremost organization dedicated to the research, preservation and promulgation of Japanese martial arts.

Goal -- The goal of the International Ryukyukai Martial Arts Association, preserve and promulgate the applications, principles and training methodologies of koryu and modern Japanese martial arts and their waza, in so doing bringing about a new generation of practitioners who understand and can pass on its original teachings while fostering an environment of friendship and solidarity through quality instruction, promotion and popularization of the art.

c. The Mission of the Ryukyukai will be accomplished by four strategic objectives –

- To document the history, essential principles, techniques and training methodologies that define budo practices;
- To introduce and firmly establish Ryukyukai affiliated martial arts as a complete system of modern interpretation of Japanese defensive martial arts culture throughout the world;
- To introduce and firmly establish the International Ryukyukai Martial Arts Association as an important source of historical information concerning the anthropology, ethos and technical theories of budo practices throughout the world; and
- To establish strong, long term strategic alliances that provide access to complementary h and expertise in the areas of Japanese martial arts history, cultivate essential principles, techniques and training methodologies.

#### **Article V – President and Chief Executive Officer**

Kyoshi Paul J. Zavislak Jr. is the President & Chief Executive Officer.

#### **Article VI – Ryukyukai Executive Board**

The President & CEO is advised and assisted in the direction and management of the official activities of the IRMAA by the Executive Board. The board shall consist of the following positions: Vice President, Secretary-General, International Membership Director, Membership Vetting Board Director, Director of International Grading, and shall counsel the President/CEO on matters relating to the Ryukyukai leadership, management, financials, and technical enhancement of the Ryukyukai.

#### **Article VII – Dojo-cho**

The President and Executive Board gives official recognition to select Dojo/Club Directors (Dojo-cho). All Dojo-cho are recognized by the President and Executive Board and are authorized to operate an accredited dojo/club, promulgating high level technical instruction in the approved.

#### **Article VIII – Meetings**

The President and the Executive Board shall hold quarterly meetings via email, teleconference or other multi media platforms.

#### **Article IX- (reserved)**

## **Article X – Procedures**

Specific procedures and further definition of the functioning of the various curriculum, as conveyed in this constitution shall be outlined in the Bylaws of the International Ryukyukai Martial Arts Association, attached herewith.

**Article XI – Amendments** The constitution shall only be amended, altered, varied, replaced, repealed or re-enacted at the sole discretion of the IRMAA President and Executive Board. Any changes or amendments require majority vote.

## **PART II - International Ryukyukai Karate Association BYLAWS**

### **Article I – Purpose of Bylaws**

- a. The purpose of these By-laws shall be to elaborate and expand upon those elements of the Constitution of the International Ryukyukai Martial Arts Association, which require a more detailed statement.

### **Article II – Basic Principle**

- a. To serve as a independent organization, dedicated to the Japanese martial arts with attention to demands of a more progressive non-Japanese learner.
- b. The International Ryukyukai Martial Arts Association is open to multi-style, like-minded practitioners of Japanese martial arts and is dedicated to supporting both the eager novice and scholarly veteran along their pursuit of knowledge on the culture, history, pedagogy, practice, and research of International Ryukyukai Martial Arts Association from japanese martial arts. the International Ryukyukai Martial Arts Association is free of hierarchical disempowerment and organizational rivalry - its diversity is what makes us unique.

### **Article III: Official IRMAA Seal**

- a. The seal of the International Ryukyukai Martial Arts Association shall be in the form determined by the IRMAA President and shall be kept at the head office in the custody of whichever Officer of the IRMAA President may from time to time determine.

### **Article IV: Official IRMAA Emblems**

- a. Kyoshi Paul J. Zavislak Jr. was given the logo and crest by virtue of succession in 2017 . The logo and crest pictured below in diagram 1). Wearing the unique crest of IRMAA upon one's gi indicates support of the International Ryukyukai Martial Arts Association along with the aims and objectives for which it stands. Diagram 1 is the organizational logo and crest for the IRMAA.



## Article V: Governance

### Section 1: Management Structure --

- a. The Management Structure of *the IRMAA* is comprised of the President and the Executive Board who shall communicate regularly and run the operations of the IRMAA. The board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-General, Membership Director, Director of Membership Vetting, International Grading Director. The Position of Treasurer will be appointed by majority vote and will have a term of no greater than 2 years. The Board members, excluding the President and Vice-President are eligible to hold the position.

### Section 2: Management Officials --

- a. The Management Structure consists of the following: The President/CEO and the Executive Board, accredited - Representatives, i.e. Shibu-cho and Dojo/Club Representatives, i.e. Dojo-cho.

### Section 3: Duties of the Director, Advisory Committees and Shibu-cho --

- a. The President- shall be the chief executive officer and has overall responsibility for the leadership, He is assisted by the Executive Board in matters of administrative and financial management of the IRMAA.

- b. Advisory Committees

- Established by the President and Executive Board as deemed necessary.

- c. Shibu-cho – the Shibu-cho shall assist the IRMAA in representing, promulgating and promoting the interests of the IRMAA and in their country/territory without discrimination by sex race, religion or political affiliation.

- d. Dojo-cho - the Dojo-cho is authorized to teach and operate an accredited dojo/club, promulgating high-level technical instruction in the approved curriculum.

### Section 4: Appointment and Term of Office --

- a. The President – The President by virtue of ownership being pass to him by organization founder shall hold office indefinitely.  
Executive Board Members – Appointment of Executive Board Members is by invitation of the IRMAA President. The term of office is indefinitely.

- c. Advisory Board Members – Appointment of any Advisory Board Membership is by invitation of the IRMAA President, with majority vote of the Executive Board. The term of office is at the discretion of the President.
- d. Shibu-cho – Appointment of Shibu-cho is by invitation of the IRMAA President, with majority vote of the Executive Board. The term of office is at the discretion of the IRMAA President.
- e. Dojo-cho – Official recognition of Dojo-cho is at the discretion of the IRMAA President, with the majority vote of the Executive Board. Recognition may be rescinded at the discretion of the IRMAA President and Executive Board.

#### Section 5: Resignation or Absence from Office --

- a. Any IRMAA appointed official may voluntarily resign. Any official absent from three consecutive meetings (communications/requests for advice) , which the IRMAA President may accept at his convenience.

#### Section 6: Removal of an Official --

- a. An official may be removed for just cause, including conflict of interest upon majority vote of the President and Executive Board.

#### Section 7: Filling Vacancy in Office --

- a. Any and all vacancies will be filled as required by and at the discretion of the IRKKA President.

#### Article VI -- Powers and Jurisdiction

##### Section 1: the IRMAA shall have perpetual succession and power to --

- a. Sue and be sued; make contracts; acquire, hold, and dispose of real and personal property as may be necessary for its organizational purposes; accept gifts, legacies, and devices in furtherance of its organizational purposes; borrow money to carry out its organizational purposes, issue notes, bonds, or other evidences of indebtedness therefore and secure the same by mortgage, subject in each case to the laws of the jurisdiction of its registration;
- b. Approve and revoke membership in the IRMAA; adopt and alter an organizational seal; establish and maintain offices for the conduct of the affairs of the IRMAA ; publish a newsletter, magazine, or other publication consistent with its organizational purposes; and to do any and all acts necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of the IRMAA;;
- c. Engage in any lawful act or activity authorized by the Pennsylvania Code, and to have and to exercise all rights and powers that are now or may hereafter be granted to a business entity;
- d. Amend its Constitution and By-Laws in a manner not inconsistent with the laws of the United States;
- e. Establish and maintain throughout the world standards of eligibility and uniform rules for the administration of all IRMAA matters; including, but not limited to, the adoption of rules and regulations governing instruction and the awarding of appropriate credentials to deserving individuals. In furtherance of this objective, to sanction and host IRMAA seminars, camps, and other activities designed to further the objectives of the IRMAA and develop its students and instructors;
- f. Establish qualifications of membership, classification of members and fees for membership.

##### Section 2: Limitation on Powers

- a. The foregoing shall be construed as objects, purposes, and power, and the enumeration thereof shall not be held to limit or restrict in any manner the powers now or hereafter conferred on this organization by the laws of United States.

b. The IRMAA may in its regulations confer powers, not in conflict with law, on its officials and members in addition to the foregoing and in addition to the powers and authorities expressly conferred on them by statute.

c. The IRMAA is autonomous in its governance and independently determines and controls all matters central to such governance. The IRMAA shall not delegate such determination and control, and shall remain free from outside restraint.

## Article VII -- Membership

### Section 1: General --

a. The membership of the IRMAA shall consist of persons or groups advocating the IRMAA and other such persons who shall be recognized by the Hombu Dojo. No one shall be denied membership on the basis of their race, religion, national origin, sex, style or organizational affiliation.

### Section 2: Membership Types --

Membership of the IRMAA shall consist of two classes:

a. IRMAA Shibu-cho – This membership is open to all those IRMAA Yudansha level instructors (Dan grades) appointed by the Director of Membership;

b. IRMAA Affiliate - This membership is open to all those who have an interest in Okinawan or Japanese martial arts and wish to join the the IRMAA

### Section 3: Registration --

a. Registrations are not complete if any payment is dishonored.

### Section 4: Membership Fees --

a. Every member shall pay fee to the IRMAA for membership.

b. Membership fees shall be set periodically at the discretion of the IRMAA.

c. The current membership fee schedule is as follows;

c. Lifetime Membership \$250.00; plus \$50.00 yr. Subject to change.

d. Affiliate member registration 50.00 yr

Section 5- Suspension, Revocation or Denial of membership The IRMAA President may suspend or expel any Dojo/Club or any member for any one of the following:

- non-payment of dues or any other fees;
- dishonored payments;
- failure to properly and timely register every student and instructor in a Dojo/Club;
- any action contrary or harmful to the prestige, honor or standards of behavior and ethics of the IRMAA; .

b. Loss of Privileges Upon suspension a accredited dojo/club, IRMAA member or shibu-cho loses all rights of membership. Suspension may be lifted conditionally or unconditionally by the IRMAA President , upon which the accredited dojo/club, IRMAA member or shibu-cho's rights are reinstated subject to any imposed conditions. Suspension may be imposed pending enquiry or final resolution of a matter.

Expulsion is the total removal from and a casting out from the IRMAA Upon a member.

Accredited dojo/club, suspension or expulsion the rights all its students and instructors are lost unless they register with the IRMAA individually or through an accredited Dojo/Club in good standing.

You can file for an appeal of their rejection, suspension or revocation to the IRMAA President for consideration. The IRMAA President shall provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of grievances of its members through the exercise of due process process,

as deemed necessary by the IRMAA President. Additionally, examinations will be held at regularly scheduled IRMAA events. The IRMAA President and/or accredited examiners conduct and/or authorize these examinations. Only current members from accredited members permitted to test, unless otherwise determined by the IRMAA President. The cost of Dan testing is at the discretion of the IRMAA.



Accredited new ranks of their students within 60 days after an examination. accredited Dojo/Club Instructor will conduct and/or authorize these examinations. Dojo/Club Instructors to make sure that their Dojo/Club registration and individual memberships are current prior to testing. The cost of Kyu testing is at the discretion of the accredited Dojo/Club Instructor.

#### Section 6: Issuance of Dan/Kyu Menjo (Certificates)

Certificates are directly from the IRMAA, pending organizational rules in promotions.

- Fees- updated yearly and subject to change.

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Article IX -- General action 1: Gender -- a. All pronouns herein denoting gender shall be interpreted as either male or female. Section 2: Amendments -- a. The constitution shall only be amended, altered, varied, replaced, repealed or re-enacted tor. Sections. A by-law may be made by a decision of the IRKRS Director at anytime deemed the same. Sections. Upon the dissolution of the organization, after payment of all its debts and liabilities, any operty of the IRKKKA President for use in any way that he deems fit. Section a. All net earnings of the IRKRS shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its Sections; English shall serve as the primary international-level meetings and communications. b. Country, Regional, and Dojo/Club meetings and communications will be held in the c. rate. by the IRKKKA President 4: Dissolution, Disposal of Assets --