

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MARTIAL ARTS

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CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MARTIAL ARTS

ARTICLE I

NAME, JURISDICTION:

- 1.1 This Organization shall be known as the American Federation of Martial Arts.
- 1.2 This Organization will at times be referred as AFMA.
- 1.3 See the above for the address of the Federation Headquarters.
- 1.4 See the above for the name of the Federation's Executive Director.
- 1.5 The Federation's jurisdiction shall comprise all registered members and affiliated schools.

PURPOSE, OBJECTIVE:

- 1.6 To create a truly Democratic approach in unification of the Martial Arts.
- 1.7 To stimulate interest in the Art among Martial Artists and the public as an Art and Sport.
- 1.8 To foster and maintain competition among members on a high level of amateurism, sportsmanship, and friendship; to provide rules and procedures governing such Tournaments and Competition.

- 1.9 To unify and coordinate Martial Art activities in combined efforts under one group, representing all groups within the Federation.
- 1.10 To incorporate and promulgate true historical Chinese, Okinawan, Japanese, Korean African and American Martial Arts forms and techniques.
- 1.11 To establish and maintain relations with affiliated schools and other Martial Arts
- 1.12 To endeavor to improve the physical and mental competence of adherents by supporting and sponsoring open competition among all practitioners of the Arts.
- 1.13 To cooperate and consult with National and International Organizations in an effort to establish the Martial Arts as an intercollegiate and Olympic Sport.
- 1.14 To establish the Martial Arts in Physical Education programs.
- 1.15 To establish an affiliation between organized Federation Schools and Collegiate Institutions.
- 1.16 To attempt to discover significant lost forms and techniques within the Martial Arts as well as accepting changes that tends to improve the Martial Arts.
- 1.17 To impress upon those who follow the Martial Arts way to forget personal glory and animosity by respecting all Martial Arts forms and their system.
- 1.18 To endeavor to instill Federation students with a high level of moral standards and codes of conduct both within their respective Arts.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS AND MANAGEMENT

ARTICLE II

BOARD OF EXAMINERS:

- 2.1 The Board of Directors shall have the authority to establish a technical body officially entitled the **BOARD OF EXAMINERS** composed of Federation Black Belts the rank of 5th Degree and above..
- 2.2 The **BOARD OF EXAMINERS** will:
 - a. Set standards of conduct and practice of the Martial Arts within the jurisdictional limit of the Federation
 - b. Make recommendations for promotions as outlined in the procedures of the Federation.
 - c. Determine and interpret the rules and conditions for all Federation sponsored competition (Promotional).
 - d. Offer technical advice and information to other authentic organizations.
 - e. Develop a manual of technical instructions and promotional procedures for the American Federation of Martial Arts.

MANAGEMENT:

- 2.3 The management of this Federation shall be vested in the Executive Director and the Board of Directors. Members of the Board of Directors shall be Titled Renshi and above Black Belts (Yudanshas).The Secretary and Treasurer May be Non-Black Belts.
- 2.4 It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to keep the Federation members well informed on methods, policies, rules and procedures within the Federation.
- 2.5 Each Board members is directly responsible to see that the Federation is never used for a dishonest or immoral purpose, a personal gain or to recruit members from an outside organization.

- 2.6 Members of the Board of Directors shall be:
- a. Executive Director (1 person)
 - b. Assistant Exec. Director (1 person)
 - c. President (1 person)
 - d. Vice-President (1 person)
 - e. Secretary (1 person)
 - f. Treasurer (1 person)
 - g. Technical Director (1 person)
 - h. Country Director (As many as Countries affiliated)
 - i. Regional Directors (As many as regions affiliated, States/Provinces)
 - j. Master Instructors (5th Dans and above)

2.7 No members of Federation shall have demonstrations, tournaments or any activities for monetary gain in the name of AFMA without the express written approval of the Executive Director and the Country Director where the *Event* is to be held .

TERM OF OFFICE:

2.8 The term of office for AFMA officers shall be 2 years, excepting the Executive Director which shall be for life.

DUTIES AND METHOD OF OFFICERS ELECTION OR SELECTION:

2.9 The duties of the various officers are those duties promulgated by the Executive Director and the Board of Directors as follows.

- a. Assistant Executive Director:
The Assistant Executive Director shall be elected by AFMA Board of Directors, the Assistant Executive Director shall be the representative of AFMA at official ceremonies and shall perform the duties of the Executive Director in his/her absence of disability, and shall have no other responsibilities to AFMA.

- b. President:
Ensure that members understand their jobs and are able to fulfill those Expectations. This is achieved by providing a thorough orientation of new members, offering board development and education to make sure that members have the skills that they need as well as monitoring their performance and as appropriate.
Help recruit new members and develop succession plans for committee chairs. The President needs to be sure that there is the right number of board members With the optimal set of skills needed by the organization.
Responsible for the following committee's
Public Relation Committee
Membership Committee
Gender Equity Committee
- c. Vice President:
The Vice President is responsible for the following Committee – Work with Country Director – and Secretary on development. Exchange non-routine information using tact and persuasion as appropriate requiring good oral and written communication skills. Perform diversified and confidential administrative and secretarial support. Provides confidential high level and key administrative support including but not limited to preparing general correspondence.
- d. Country Directors:
There shall be the same number of Country Directors as Countries organizations in AFMA. The Country Directors shall assist the Assistant Executive Director and shall perform the duties of the Assistant Executive Director in case of his/her absence or disability. The Country Directors are to organize and conduct Directors' meetings and make decisions in detail in matters as specified in the AFMA Articles.
- e. Regional Directors States/Provinces:
There shall be the same number of States/Provinces of the Countries in AFMA. The Regional Directors States/Provinces shall send monthly reports of , events, promotions, affiliations, etc. to the Country Director, which I turn will be will be forwarded to The AFMA Executive Director.

- f. Secretary:
The Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Director. The Secretary shall maintain the records of the AFMA official meetings, and legal documents of the AFMA.
- g. Treasurer:
The Treasurer receives all of AFMA monies, deposits those monies into the AFMA account, and pays all bills approved by the Executive Director.
- h. Technical Director:
The Executive Director may appoint a Technical Director from among worthy and prominent individuals with the approval of the Board of Directors.
- i. Executive Director:
The Executive Director shall be elected by AFMA Directors at the Director's meeting. The Executive Director is elected from among the Directors. When a Director is elected as the Executive Director, he/she shall be the highest ranking of all the Directors. The Executive Director, in addition to taking action on matters authorized by the AFMA Articles, shall be responsible for carrying out all administrative and executive decisions concerning the AFMA. Tradition has it that the Executive Director shall be the highest ranking member of the organization, the founder of the system, and the Executive Directors' position is for life.

VACANCIES:

- 2.10 In case of resignation or death of an AFMA official, AFMA shall elect a substitute whose term shall not exceed the remaining term of the vacated office.

DISQUALIFICATION:

- 2.11 If a representative or the chairman of the Technical Committee loses his/her qualification as such, he/she thereby automatically lose his/her qualification for any other official position he/she may hold in AFMA.

UNWORTHY CONDUCT:

- 2.12 In case any AFMA official is found guilty of unworthy conduct, he/she can be expelled from his/her office by an AFMA Board of Directors vote before his/her term of office expires.

ARTICLE III AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENTS:

- 3.1 This Constitution may only be amended by a majority vote of the AFMA Board of Directors and the Regional Directors.
- 3.2 Amendments shall be proposed in writing to the Executive Director or the Board of Directors. The Amendments are submitted to the Board of Directors and their recommendation to accept the amendments is always necessary.
- 3.3 Amendments once voted in shall take effect immediately unless otherwise stated.
- 3.4 Amendments will be vetoed by the Board of Directors if such Amendments are not in the best interest of the Federation and its members.

ARTICLE IV MEETING

MEETINGS:

- 4.1 The General Meetings of the AFMA Board of Directors shall be held once every year, at the location where the AFMA annual Martial Arts Championships takes place.

DIRECTORS' MEETING:

- 4.2 The regular meeting of the Directors shall be called once year at the location where the AFMA annual Martial Arts Championships takes place. Special Directors' meeting may be called by the Executive Director when necessary, or at the request of a majority of the Directors.
- 4.3 All official AFMA officers will be notified in writing thru e-mail of all official meetings, at most two weeks (14 days) prior to date, along with a list of items to be discussed at the meeting.
- 4.4 All official AFMA officers will be fined not more than \$50.00 for missing an official meeting, unless excused for legitimate reasons, illness, prior commitment etc. The Secretary should be notified 10 days prior to the meeting through e-mail of reason..

CHAIRMAN:

- 4.5 The Executive Director is the Chairman of the official meetings. The Assistant Executive Director assumes the Chairmanship by appointment of the Executive Director, should the Executive Director not be available.

QUORUM:

- 4.6 All AFMA official meetings shall, in order to conduct business, require a simple majority of participating elected officials.

VOTING:

- 4.7 In an official AFMA meeting, an official in attendance has the right to one (1) vote. a resolution, unless otherwise stipulated by the AFMA Articles, is to be made by a simple majority vote of officials attendant. Proxy vote will be permitted in the regular meetings, but will not be allowed in the General Meetings of the Board of Directors.

ITEMS NOT COVERED:

- 4.8 Items pertaining to the AFMA official meetings which are not stipulated in the AFMA Articles, are to be decided by the officials in attendance of each particular meeting.

**ARTICLE V
GOVERNMENT / ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

GOVERNMENT:

- 5.1 This Federation shall be independent and non-profit, and governed by its own Constitution and by-laws. The Federation shall abide by the provisions of the Constitution of the United States of America, in accordance with the laws of the United States of America and other affiliated foreign Countries.
- 5.2 The Federation may cooperate with other governing bodies for the furtherance of the Martial Arts, providing that such cooperation does not endanger the Federation's essential autonomy.

**ARTICLE VI
MEMBERSHIP**

APPLICATION:

- 6.1 Upon receiving an application for membership in the form stipulated by AFMA, the Executive Director shall obtain the decision of the Board of Directors.

ACCEPTANCE:

- 6.2 When the above mentioned application is accepted the organization which applied for membership shall become a member organization of the AFMA.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- 6.3 AFMA recognizes only one member organization for each region, state, provinces, or colony member organization. However, organization of certain countries may be recognized by AFMA Board of Directors, and approved by the Executive Director.

DUTIES:

- 6.4 Member organizations, in addition to paying the fees stipulated by AFMA, must abide by the rules and regulations of AFMA.

LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP:

- 6.5 A member organization may lose its status for the following reasons.
- a. Withdrawal (voluntarily)
 - b. Dissolution of the member organization
 - c. Expulsion by AFMA

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION:

- 6.6 The following situations will justify expulsion from AFMA by the Executive Director and the Board of Directors.
- a. Failure to pay fees/fines.
 - b. Violation or failure to perform the required duties of the member organization
 - c. Acts defaming the honor of the AFMA, or contrary to the aims of the AFMA

APPEALS, PARDONING, AND REINSTATEMENT:

- 6.7 An organization wishing to appeal must present in writing such request to AFMA. The Board of Directors decision is final in all cases except those that have to refer to an interpretation of the AFMA Constitution.

DEACTIVATION:

- 6.8 Head Instructors may deactivate his/her membership and that of his/her students by writing a letter of resignation to the AFMA headquarters.

SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP:

- 6.9 Head Instructors may register their school/dojo by applying to the AFMA headquarters their respective region/countries. A School/Dojo Charter will be issued as soon as the Head Instructor has registered at least twenty (20) students with the AFMA.
- a. A Head Instructor does not pay a registration fee . A Head Instructor must be at least the rank of Second Degree Black Belt or over and must submit a copy of his Certificate/Diploma and that of his First Degree Black Belt.
 - b. The Country and Regional Directors will confirm all registrations before submitting to the AFMA Headquarters.
 - c. Upon approval by the AFMA Headquarters, only those students who have registered with AFMA will be issued passbooks, diplomas and AFMA patches.

ARTICLE VII FEE / FEDERATION FUNDS

- 7.1 The entrance fee payable by each member organization on applying for affiliation shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The Executive Director shall have the power at his/her discretion to reduce the payments of the above prescribed amount in cases where full payment would cause hardship to an affiliate organization or necessitate its withdrawal from the AFMA.

7.2 The following are entrance fees (a one time fee no annual members fees).

- a. Member Organizations \$75.00 USD (Affiliation of Organization)
- b. Additional Dojos \$20.00 USD
- c. Under Black Belts Memberships \$25.00 USD (includes)
- d. Black Belts Membership \$35.00 USD (includes)
(Patch) (Passbook)
- e. Dojo yearly registration fee \$50.00 USD (If 20 students are not
registered yearly per Dojos)

UNPAID FEES:

7.3 Member organizations not having paid their current due fees as required shall not be present at any Board of Directors meetings or functions of the AFMA.

**ARTICLE VIII
DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS:**

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS:

8.1 Any breach of these rules by a member organization shall render the organization committing such breach liable to suspension by the Board of Directors, and be deprived of membership in the AFMA. The Board of Directors with the approval of the Executive Director, shall have the power at any time to disqualify or suspend, for a period as they think appropriate, a competitor or official who at any official event, conducts himself/herself in a manner considered by the Board of Directors to be detrimental to the credit or best interest of the AFMA.

**ARTICLE IX
PROMOTION/RATIFICATION**

PROMOTION/RATIFICATION:

- 9.1 In order to protect the interest of the AFMA new Black Belts members will not receive rank ratification for a period of 90 days from date of membership and will not benefit from promotion by the AFMA Board for a period of one (1) year, unless the Board votes by majority to waive this ruling on a case by case..
- 9.2 As a condition of rank promotion by the AFMA Board, Black Belts members who are about to be promoted will sign an agreement stating that the rank diploma is the property of the AFMA for a period of one year from the date of rank and that if for any reason said member leaves the AFMA prior to the end of that year the Diploma of rank must be turned over to the AFMA Board upon resignation or termination.
- 9.3 By majority vote the AFMA Board has the right to waive the return of rank Diploma on individual basis.
- 9.4 If a Black Belt member remains a member of the AFMA for the entire one (1) year period from the date of rank, the rank Diploma will become his/her property and cannot be revoked.
- 9.5 AFMA has the right to revoke and obtain the rank Diploma if the Black Belt member has been:
 - a. Proven guilty of a major infraction of the by-laws.
 - b. Any Black Belt member falsifying records or statements so as to enter the AFMA.

ARTICLE X TOURNAMENT

TOURNAMENT RULES:

- 10.1 All AFMA tournaments will follow the AFMA rules.
- 10.2 Anyone wearing the AFMA patch or affiliated school will benefit from competing against the same school during the 1st round of Kumite. In the traditional Karate, Kung Fu and the Korean forms divisions, participants are encourage to do a Traditional form from their style with respect to their rank. Black Belt open forms may perform any form they choose. Under Black Belt open forms, participants are encouraged to do forms related to their rank.
- 10.4 All AFMA tournament judges should be familiar with the AFMA rules; center referees must attend at least three (2) AFMA rule seminars and satisfactorily meet the AFMA center referee requirements.
- 10.5 Non Black Belts will not be allowed to attend the Black Belt meeting or to judge any competition.

DRESS:

- 10.6 All AFMA Members patches must be displayed and worn on the right shoulder of the uniform 2” inches from the shoulder seam.
- 10.7 Federation members are encouraged to wear the uniform traditional to their style. The only exception to the rule will be non-school T-shirts and shorts
 - a. Traditional divisions, all members are encouraged to where a standard Karate, Kung Fu or Korean style type uniform.
- 10.8 All AFMA judges/referees will wear a blue blazer, white shirt, gray pant, black tie and black shoes.