



# ISSHIN-RYU OKINAWA TRADITIONAL KARATE-DO ASSOCIATION



## By-laws

### North American Kyokai

Purpose: the purpose of the following is to clarify and supplement the rules and regulations of the Isshin-Ryu Okinawan Traditional Karate-Do Association headed by Kyoshi/Hachi-Dan Tsuyoshi Uechi of Camp Foster, Okinawan-ken, Japan. Due to the great distance between the general headquarters and this headquarters, and the unique circumstances encountered on occasion in North America, it is deemed essential and prudent to publish rules and regulations that are germane to North America. These rules are not intended to change or supersede the rules and regulations promulgated by general headquarters fated and approved.

For the purposes of this document “general headquarters” refers to the Hombu dojo in Okinawa.

**Article I:** No one should visit Okinawa in connections with association karate training without the express approval of general headquarters. It is also common courtesy to inform this headquarters of any intended visits to Okinawa.

**Article II:** Approved association dojo managers should pay \$100 per year as an association fee. The fees are due on 1 march of each year. Those persons who have been approved direct access to general headquarters are responsible for the submission of their fees and the collection and forwarding of fees for any dojo under their cognizance. A report of approved dojo and fees collected and forwarded will be provided this headquarters no later than 1 April of each year. All reports will include names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses for each dojo as appropriate. It is also recommended that a suitable certificate of membership be issued. All other dojo mangers should submit their association fees directly to this headquarters yearly no later than 15 February.

**Article III:** each member of the Isshin-Ryu Okinawan Traditional Karate-Do Association should wear the Isshi-Ryu patch attached to their GI and IOTKA patch left shoulder/sleeve. The GI shall be white. It is recognized that due to local traditions and customs, gi other than solid white may be used for local dojo training, etc. But only white gi are authorized for wear at functions outside of the dojo. One dojo patch is authorized on the gi positioned properly on the right shoulder/sleeve. Isshin-Ryu Okinawan Traditional Karate-Do Association patches are available from the general headquarters at a cost of \$15.00 per patch. Locally produced Isshin-Ryu Okinawan Traditional Karate-Do Association patches are not authorized unless approved by general headquarters.

**Article IV:** the only approved obi for wear by yudansha outside the dojo are solid black form shodan through rokudan and red/white paneled obi for those of kyoshi rank.

**Article V:**

Renshi - One who is ranked Godan or Rokudan  
- One whose age is 30 or over

Kyoshi - One who is of Nanadan or Hachidan rank  
- One who has studied for at least 10 years after ranked as a Renshi/Rokudan  
- One who age is 40 years or older

**Article VI:** Promotions

Kyu - In principle, Ik-kyu is restricted to those of junior high school age (13) years or older

Shodan - In principle, nidan may be awarded to those of high school age (14) or older

Nidan - In principle, nidan may be awarded to those who are high school seniors

Yondan - In principle, should be at least 25 years of age

Godan/above - In principle. No one should be recommended to general headquarters for the rank of Godan without first being evaluated and recommended by a panel of 3 judges of Kyoshi rank. In special circumstances one person of Renshi rank may be a part of the panel. It is permitted to utilize nationally approved camps or seminars for testing for Godan or above at general headquarters should proceed without first being tested in North America and in possession of a letter of recommendation issued by this headquarters.

**Article VII:** No person may open a dojo without the express approval of this headquarters. In principle, a dojo manager should be of Yondan rank or above. However, due to the distance restraints, a person under the rank of Yondan may manage a dojo, but only under the direction and approval of a current senior dojo manager, who is a member on good standing with the association.

**Article VIII:** Dispute resolution. From time to time there may be disagreements or disputes that will necessitate a decision or solution being adjudicated by this headquarters. In this event, the subject matter will be submitted in writing and forwarded to this headquarters with "via" endorsements as appropriate. If deemed necessary, this headquarters will render a decision or provide a recommendation. Should the subject matter or incident require, this headquarters may convene a committee of at least 3 persons of kyoshi rank to investigate and render a recommended course of action to this headquarters. In extreme matters, the decision may be referred to general headquarters for action and/or recommendation.

**Article IX:** New membership:

- A. A dojo manager desiring to join the Isshin-Ryu Okinawan Traditional Karate-Do Association North America will require a Isshin-Ryu Okinawan Traditional Karate-Do Association dojo manager or senior member in good standing as a sponsor.
- B. A written request must be submitted to this headquarters in writing with a “via” endorsement by the sponsor.
- C. Must be studying or intending to study the Isshin-Ryu karate and/or Kobudo system.
- D. Should attend at least one Isshinryu camp in each of the following years.
- E. Agree to serve a period of probation.
- F. Legitimate (determined by this headquarters) ranks may be retained by the joinee until such time that requirements for yudansha status are met. Ranks are not normally issued on a parallel basis.
- G. Must agree to abide by all rules of the general headquarters and this headquarters.

Returning memberships:

- A. Any former member of the organization, who left, regardless of circumstances, must apply for re-instatement as stated in the “new membership” rules above.
- B. If a person was dismissed by general headquarters, only general headquarters may approve re-instatement, unless that authority is passes to this headquarters.
- C. Must agree to a determination of Isshinryu rank.
- D. In the event of a person of Kyoshi/Renshi rank, a vote of the Kyoshi Mai may be required. A simple majority will rule on these matters.

**Article X:** It is sincerely hoped that conduct requiring disciplinary action and/or censure does not occur. However. In the event that there is cause or reason, a written complaint/report will be submitted with appropriate “via” endorsements and with a recommended course of action to this headquarters for review and action/resolution. Administrative procedures will be the same as contained in article 8. The exception is that the person being considered for disciplinary action/censure may have the right to attend certain portions of the hearings or be interviewed by an appointee from this headquarters.

It is Tsuyoshi Uechi Kyoshi's sincere desire that we, as his students, associate as brothers in Karate-Do. He understands that no organization will survive without guidance and leadership. He also recognizes that an organization must have good order and discipline to enjoy the benefits and heritage of the Isshin-Ryu Okinawan Traditional Karate-Do Association. As stated in the general headquarters by-laws the purposed of the association is to promote "friendship" among all members. Ensure the preservation and unity of traditional Isshin-Ryu Karate-Do for future generations, and to teach and encourage all members to be an honest person with a strong spirit and body through the teachings of those who have gone before.

These by-laws have been promulgated with the approval of Kyoshi Tsuyoshi Uechi, Okinawa, Japan, and Kyoshi Karl Kazuo Hovey, USA.

These rules and guidelines are effective as of 1 January 2008.

# ISSHIN-RYU OKINAWA TRADITIONAL KARATE-DO ASSOCIATION

## I.O.T.K.A. Pricelist

Lifetime Membership (Certificate and Membership card)	\$ 60.00
Sho-Dan	\$100.00
Ni-Dan	\$115.00
San-Dan	\$125.00
Yon-Dan	\$150.00
Go-Dan	\$200.00
Roku-Dan	\$250.00
Nana-Dan	\$300.00
Assistant Instructor Certificate (2nd and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan)	\$ 80.00
Instructor Certificate (4 <sup>th</sup> Dan and up)	\$100.00
Renshi Go (5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> Dan)	\$100.00
Kyoshi Go (7 <sup>th</sup> Dan)	\$150.00
I.O.T.K.A. Patch	\$ 13.00
Isshin-ryu Patch	\$ 15.00



Karl Kazuo Hovey Sensei  
North America Representative



Tsuyoshi Uechi Sensei  
President

# ISSHIN-RYU OKINAWA TRADITIONAL KARATE-DO ASSOCIATION

## Application for Membership

Please provide the following information

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female

Isshin-Ryu rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years training: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Instructor rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Dojo Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dojo Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Last promotion date: \_\_\_\_\_

References: list two (2) or more who are Isshinryu Karate-Do practitioners:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**By: Kyoshi Karl Kazuo Hovey ( 8 Hachi-Dan)  
1799 Powder Horn Terrace  
Woodbrige, VA. 22191**

# ISSHIN-RYU OKINAWA TRADITIONAL KARATE-DO ASSOCIATION

## Application for Promotion Certificate

Please provide the following information

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (I.O.T.K.A. Member No. \_\_\_\_\_)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female

Isshin-Ryu rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years training: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Instructor rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Dojo Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dojo Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Last promotion date: \_\_\_\_\_

References: list two (2) or more who are Isshinryu Karate-Do practitioners:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

By: **Kyoshi Karl Kazuo Hovey ( 8 Hachi-Dan)**  
**1799 Powder Horn Terrace**  
**Woodbrige, VA. 22191**

**\*Must be an IOTKA member for at least (1) year before applying for promotion.**