

# Association of Independent Martial Artists



## CONSTITUTION AND ORDER OF REFERENCE

The title of organisation shall be the Association of Independent Martial Artists hereinafter called the A.I.M.A

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To promote the practice of Martial Arts.
2. To promote codes of safety in their practice.
3. To promote the moral, mental, physical and social well being of members.
4. To provide members with services and support in pursuance of these objectives.
5. To co-operate with other bodies having similar aims.
6. To act as an advisory body on matters appertaining to martial arts.
7. To operate and maintain a register of current members and other interested parties.
8. To collect and administer funds for these purposes.
9. To do all such things as are conducive to these objectives.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

10. Shall be open to all persons and clubs who subscribe to the "Objectives" above and who shall abide by the constitution and bylaws under the direction of the Executive Committee.
11. Membership shall comprise individual members who shall be in current membership of a member club and who shall hold a current license issued by the A.I.M.A.
12. Honorary members shall be elected by two-thirds majority of the executive committee present and voting
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14. Member clubs shall have paid due fees and met technical and other requirements of the A.I.M.A. to obtain and renew membership.
15. New member clubs joining the organisation will be regarded as probationary members for a period of 12 months. During this period they will have no voting rights but may take part in all general meetings.
16. The executive committee may impose such restrictions or conditions as it deems necessary.

### **FEES**

17. Members and member clubs shall pay such fees and be entitled to such rights and conditions as are enshrined in this document and as determined by the executive committee.
18. Additional fees may be levied by individual clubs in respect of membership, however these must be clearly delineated from the funds payable by individual students to the A.I.M.A

### **INSURANCE**

19. Members and clubs shall be covered by insurance which will be identified by the executive committee. However, individual clubs remain responsible for payment of the relevant insurance fees for all of their members and instructors. Under no circumstances are the A.I.M.A. or members of the executive committee liable for the actions or insurance of any member.
20. Payment of student to student insurance will be made annually and receipt will be issued on approved application and payment.

### **DISCIPLINE**

21. A member or member club or a group of members may be asked to resign or have application or renewal of membership refused or suspended or dealt with in such a manner as may be determined by the executive committee

## **GENERAL MEETINGS**

22. Shall be chaired by the president of the A.I.M.A. or his nominated representative.
23. Shall be called by the executive committee at its discretion or following a written request in the form of a resolution endorsed by not less than two member clubs.
24. Notice of the meeting and business to be addressed will be circulated to all member clubs not less than 28 days in advance of the meeting. No other business shall be transacted at the meeting except by leave of the chair. Minutes of all such meetings will be circulated to all member clubs. Notices sent to member clubs at their last known address for communication shall be deemed to have been properly served.
25. A general meeting shall be the highest authority of the AIMA

## **VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS**

26. Every individual member may attend a general meeting and may exercise one vote. Except as otherwise herein provided; any motion or resolution moved and seconded shall be decided by a simple majority of votes of those present and entitled to vote
27. Any motion or resolution passed at a general meeting may be subject to veto. Powers of veto are given to all full (not provisional) member clubs. A Veto must be endorsed by no less than three full member clubs. In the event of a veto a motion is not enacted.
28. The chair may exercise a second or casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.
29. No person may address the meeting except by leave of the chair.

## **THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

30. Shall be held once in each calendar year to transact the following business:
31. To receive and consider the adoption of the annual reports
32. To review and consider the accounts for the preceding year
33. Discussion of technical standards and standardisation leading to the introduction and review of pertinent bylaws
34. To elect members of the executive committee who shall hold office until the next annual general meeting.
35. No other business shall be transacted at an annual general meeting. Other notified business shall be referred to the executive committee or dealt with under articles 22 to 25 of the constitution.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

36. The business of the A.I.M.A. shall be managed by the executive committee elected at the annual general meeting to hold office until the next annual general meeting
37. Shall consist of not less than three and no more than 12 members and will include a President/Chair, Treasurer and Chief Executive Officer
38. Nominations for the Executive committee must be received not less than 28 days prior to the date of the A.G.M. except for retiring members, or by leave of the chair in the event of insufficient nominations
39. May fill vacancies arising between A.G.M.s These persons hold office until the next A.G.M.
40. Quorum for a meeting of the Executive shall be half plus one of the total memberships of the committee
41. Shall meet from time to time as they deem necessary
42. May delegate powers of interim action
43. May appoint technical officers and / or committees and other sub committees and chairs/convenors of same; determining such duties and duration as it deems necessary
44. May appoint officers from outside of the A.I.M.A. as it deems necessary
45. The executive committee shall not receive any financial advantage by reason of a controlling interest in the A.I.M.A.

## **ALTERATIONS**

46. These rules of the constitution and order of reference may not be altered in effect except – by a two thirds majority of the members voting at a general meeting called for the purpose. A motion of this type remains subject to veto as in article 27. Any alterations shall be notified to any relevant approving authority or governing body.

## **INTERPRETATION**

47. The rules of debate shall follow the rules laid down for parliamentary committees
48. Any matter not provided for in these rules shall be referred to the executive committee whose decisions shall be final and binding

## **DISSOLUTION**

49. A motion to dissolve the A.I.M.A. may be made only at a general meeting called for the purpose, with due and proper notice. To succeed it shall require not less than a two thirds majority of the members present and entitled to vote.
50. On dissolution any property or assets shall be disposed of for similar or charitable purposes subject to the approval of any grant aiding authorities concerned

## **BYLAWS**

1. Gradings: Examiners may not enter or update a grade which has an out-of-date license.
2. Statement of Equality and Anti Racism Policy to be held in place, any member who is proven to be in breach of Equality will be dismissed and membership terminated.
3. In very exceptional circumstances an Honorary Dan grade made is awarded for services rendered to the A.I.M.A. and the Martial Arts. Such honorary Dan grades shall have no technical standing unless so defined.
4. All Dan gradings must be reported to the Executive Committee for registration.
5. Instructors must of 18 years of age or over.
6. Students under 18 years of age receiving a Dan grade must be denoted as "Cadet" Dan grades. No Cadet Dan grade shall receive instructor status or insurance. Once the age of 18 is attained a review of the students capabilities must be undertaken by a an instructor qualified to grade them under their member clubs rules in order for the cadet Dan grade to be fully recognised as an instructor.
7. The executive committee may examine any member club, group or association without warning for any purpose they deem necessary.
8. All instructors are required to submit to and pay for a criminal records bureau check. The results of this check must be presented to the president/chair and will be held in confidence.
9. All Clubs are responsible for the safety of their practise according to their individual health and safety policies, a copy of which must be submitted to the executive committee for the purposes of record keeping only.