



California Aikido Association, LLC Guidelines

(Revised and Approved by the Division Heads
August 27, 2017)

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California Aikido Association, LLC

Guidelines

Article I: Statement of Purpose

- §1 The California Aikido Association, LLC (hereinafter the “CAA” or the “Association”), is an organization dedicated to the promotion of Aikido. It is an association of dojos, clubs, and individuals who seek to uphold the traditions and ideals of Aikido and to provide a forum for their expression.
- §2 Membership in the Association is voluntary and is based on the member individuals’ and organizations’ interest in Aikido. The CAA does not mandate, enforce, govern, oversee, direct, sanction, or otherwise control the specific operations and events within its member dojos. Each Dojo and each member is solely responsible for his or her own actions. However, the CAA retains the right to require that member dojos comply with these guidelines.
- §3 The Association is recognized as an official organization by the Zaidan Hojin Aikikai (the “Aikikai”) and communicates with it and other Aikido organizations on behalf of its members. This official status enables the Association to obtain dan rankings for its members.
- §4 The Association is interested in developing Aikido through the sponsorship of events during the year. It maintains programs for Kyu and dan testing and for the development of local instructors in accord with Aikikai guidelines.

Article II: Membership Agreement¹

A) *Each member Dojo or club makes the following agreements with the Association:*

- 1) to uphold and maintain minimum rank qualification standards set forth by the Aikikai
- 2) to maintain a training relationship with their Division Head or Mentor
- 3) to follow recommended Kyu and dan rank requirements of the Association
- 4) to support and promote member and Association activities
- 5) to be represented at Association meetings by its Dojo-cho (head of Dojo)
- 6) to pay annual membership dues to the Association by January 31st of each year
- 7) to keep contact information up-to-date

B) *The Association makes the following agreements with its member organizations:*

- 1) to hold yearly meetings and trainings to foster the development of Aikido
- 2) to obtain dan rankings for qualified students in accordance with Aikikai policy
- 3) to function as a conduit for communication with the Aikikai
- 4) to follow other policies and procedures as set forth in the Organization Guidelines, contained herein
- 5) to organize seminars with Aikikai instructors such as the Doshu

¹ So that there is no confusion between members of the CAA and the three (3) members of the LLC, the word *members* in this document refers to any Dojo that meets the requirements of Article II §4 (next page). The members of the LLC will be referred to only as *Division Heads*.

Article III: Organizational Structure

§1 – Divisions

The Association is divided into three Divisions. A senior instructor from each division shall serve as Division Head. Each Dojo is free to affiliate itself with the division of its choice with the proviso that each Dojo and member must be affiliated with only one division.

§2 – Division Heads

Division Heads are our formal interface with Japan, Yudansha promotions are issued by them. All Division Heads are Mentors, but not all Mentors are Division Heads. Although Division Heads are not necessarily senior to other Mentors within their division, they do have authority granted by the LLC to resolve disputes between Mentors, should they arise.

§3 – Mentors

Mentors are the senior instructors who foster the next generation of Aikido teachers. They are either the Division Heads or the most senior instructors within each Division. They typically run their own Dojo in addition provide leadership to other dojos for which they are responsible.

§4 – Dojo

Membership in the Association is open to any Dojo with a Dojo-cho ranked Sandan or above by the Aikikai. A Dojo will be considered a member if its annual dues are paid and there is a clearly defined student-teacher relationship between the instructor of the member Dojo and a Division Head or Mentor (with the approval of the respective Division Head)

§5 – Club

A club is defined as any group that regularly trains under the direction of a person ranked Shodan or Nidan (clubs led by a first Kyu are by Division Head approval only and are considered exceptional cases). Clubs must be sponsored by a CAA Mentor ranked Godan or above and approved by the respective Division Head. It is expected that a Dojo-cho ranked Shodan or Nidan will keep up a training regimen outside of their teaching schedule. A club maintains membership by its continued training relationship with their Mentor. Annual dues must be current.

Article IV: Admittance Of New Members and Change of Location

A) Prospective Members

- 1) Prospective members will gain admittance to the Association after establishing a solid training relationship with a Division Head. Prospective members should carefully consider the fact that choosing a teacher is a life path decision. Members are expected to maintain an *active training relationship* with their Mentor. Practicing directly with the Mentor at least once a year is considered the absolute minimum to maintain a training relationship. It is also necessary to have a connection with the Division Head by practicing in their class whenever possible.
- 2) Prospective members, representing a Dojo which has never been a member of the Association, are announced by the appropriate Division Head or CAA President at the next regular meeting. New members must pay a \$100.00 registration fee and \$100.00 annual fee for membership. They need to

apply online for membership, once the Division Head approves their membership, the new Dojo will submit payment via Paypal or by mailing a check to the official address. The new Dojo will then be added to the CAA website directory. ***It is the responsibility of all members to notify the Clerk of any changes to their contact information.*** Their Dojo website should be kept up to date as well.

B) *Change of Location*

- 1) Current members who wish to change their current status, start dojos, or start clubs, must first contact the appropriate Division Head, who will discuss the issue. It is expected that a new Dojo/club will be established in an area that will not impact the livelihood or vitality of existing Aikido dojos regardless of organization or affiliation.
- 2) Members are expected to discuss the location or relocation of new or existing clubs or dojos with the Division Head prior to signing a lease. This policy helps to avoid regional conflicts of interest within the Association.
- 3) Any member who has concerns over prospective members or the location or re-location of a new or existing Dojo may seek counsel from the appropriate Division Head and/or the head of the division with whom the new Dojo is associated.

C) *Transfer From Other Organizations*

International and National organizational considerations exist that require prudence on our part when accepting membership from dojos previously associated with another organization. Requests for membership shall be referred to the Division Heads who will decide if the request is reasonable. Membership will not be unreasonably withheld. If the new member belongs to another organization with affiliation to the Aikikai, this affiliation will need to be terminated in writing or email when they join the CAA. New dojos are also required to wait one year before submitting any applications for Yudansha ranks as required by the Aikikai.

D) *Friends of the Association*

The Website Administrator shall maintain a mailing list of *Friends of the Association*. This list is to consist of anyone who wishes to be informed of Association activities.

Article V: Annual Dues

- i) Annual dues are \$100.00 per year for each Dojo and club. The deadline for dues is January 31 of each year. A Late Fee of \$50 will be applied to all delinquent members. Checks or money orders are to be made payable to the *California Aikido Association* or CAA and mailed to the official address.
- ii) Members may also use PayPal for payment of dues. There is a link at the CAA website for payment of dues and membership.
- iii) Delinquent members will be sent ***one notice*** to pay ***\$150.00 by February 25th***, after which they will be sent a termination letter stating that they have been dropped from the Association. A dropped member will have to gain admittance through the Division Head and will be subject to paying the registration fee of \$100.00 and the \$100.00 membership fee for that year.

Article VI: Administration

A) *Divisions*

- 1) Association dojos are divided into three Divisions. A senior instructor from each division shall serve as Division Head.
- 2) Each Dojo is free to affiliate itself with the division of its choice, with the proviso that each Dojo must be affiliated with exactly one division.
- 3) Ranking of Affiliated Dojos and Clubs: Ranking of members of affiliated dojos and clubs shall be in accordance with the Association's Kyu and Dan Examination Process Guidelines

B) *Executive Committee*

The Executive Committee consists of the President of the Association, and the three Division Heads. From time to time, items of business requiring action must be addressed between regularly scheduled meetings. This committee shall meet on these occasions and pass on to the membership any decisions or recommendations resulting from the meeting. This committee is responsible for revisions and final content CAA Guidelines as well as all content on the Website.

C) *Office of the President*

- 1) Per the CAA LLC Operating Agreement, there is only one officer: President. The office of President is a voluntary, elected position. The President serves a four-year term. That term will start at the time of the announcement from the Clerk following the vote count at the August meeting. Should the President relinquish the position prior to the completion of the term, the Executive Committee will provide a replacement until such time as a regular election can be held.
- 2) Election of the President
 - a) The President shall be elected for a four-year term by a simple majority vote of the eligible members. On July 1 of the year immediately preceding the expiration term of President, the Clerk will send an email (to the email address in the CAA database) asking for nominations for president, including self-nominations. Nominations, which are done by email, are closed three weeks before the meeting. Two weeks before the meeting the names, ranks, and dojos of all nominees (as well as a proxy form for members to use if they will not be present at the meeting) will be posted on the website.
 - b) At the August meeting, each candidate will have 1-3 minutes to say why they should be president. Voting will then take place with all eligible members casting their votes by secret ballot. The Clerk and bookkeeper will tally the votes. The Clerk shall announce the president-elect. **Nominees must be present at the meeting.**
 - c) The election results will be posted on the CAA website following the vote-count.
- 3) Eligibility to Be President
 - a) Basic eligibility to become President is limited to those individuals who belong to a Dojo or club that is a member of the Association. In addition, the candidate must be at least Roku Dan. Division Heads shall not serve as officers.

- 4) Term Limit
 - a) The office of President will be held for only one term. That person may be elected into the office again only after a new president has served.
- 5) Duties: the President shall be as follows:
 - a) Represent the Association at official functions
 - b) Act as a resource for information regarding the Association
 - c) Function as a member of the Executive Committee
 - d) Coordinate special events
 - e) Plan, preside at, and maintain order at all meetings

D) *CAA Clerk*

The Clerk is appointed by the Division Heads. The Clerk is responsible for:

- 1) Acting as the main interface with Japan for rank processing
- 2) Processing dan ranks and Dojo memberships
- 3) Maintaining the rank processing section of the website
- 4) Depositing funds for ranking and membership
- 5) Maintaining the database to send out correspondence

E) *CAA Bookkeeper*

The Bookkeeper is appointed by the Division Heads. The Bookkeeper shall:

- 1) Overseeing the association bank accounts
- 2) Giving a financial report at the CAA semi-annual meeting
- 3) Coordinating meetings and seminars
- 4) Performing any other duties requested by the Division Heads

F) *CAA Webmaster*

The web master is a voluntary position. The web master is responsible for the design and maintenance of the CAA website.

G) *The CAA Website*

The CAA website, www.ai-ki-do.org, is an informational resource.

The website includes:

- Information about Aikido and the CAA
- Dojo Directory with links to Dojo websites
- Events Calendar for Association members
- Online versions of all CAA application forms including rank processing
- CAA News including minutes of meetings, posting of election results and promotions
- Links to numerous Aikido organizations and social networks for Aikidoka

VII CAA Meetings

A) *Schedule*

There shall be at least two (2) meetings each year, to be held on the last Sunday in February and on the last Sunday in August (unless it falls on Labor Day weekend, in which case, the meeting will be the weekend before). Other meetings may be called on an as-needed basis.

B) *Attendance*

Meetings shall be open and public.

C) *Agenda*

The President will post the agenda on the CAA website at least two weeks prior to any scheduled meeting, unless the meeting is called as an emergency measure. Any Dojo-cho wishing to add items to the agenda may do so by contacting the President.

D) *Training*

When possible, a jointly conducted training seminar shall be held in conjunction with each meeting.

E) *Voting on Agenda Items*

Any item(s) to be voted on during a meeting must appear on the posted agenda for that meeting.

F) *Eligibility to Vote*

The Dojo-cho of each Dojo and club will have a vote. In addition, all Yudansha who are members of a CAA Dojo or club shall also have a vote.

G) *Process of Voting*

Voting will occur at the meetings. **A simple majority determines the outcome of all votes.** If a voting member is unable to attend the meeting, he/she can cast their vote by contacting his/her Division Head in advance of the meeting. From time to time it may be necessary to notify members by e-mail of an issue requiring a vote. For example, an urgent situation may come up where a vote is required but it would be inconvenient to wait for the next scheduled meeting. The Clerk, Webmaster (or anyone else designated by the Division Heads to perform this task), will send an email with the issue(s) to be voted on, a ballot, instructions on how to vote and the deadline for doing so.

VIII Committees and Training

A) *Grading Committee*

A Grading Committee member is appointed by the Division Head. The grading committee (one in each division), consists of active Association members holding a minimum rank of Roku Dan from the Aikikai. This committee is responsible for examination and ranking within its division. An active member is one who participates in aikido seminars, CAA meetings, or other functions sponsored by the Association, and who has registered his/her Dojo with the Association for the current year. The names and dan grades of the committee members are forwarded to the Aikikai annually.

B) *Kyu Examination Committee*

A Kyu Examination Committee member is appointed by the Division Head. The Kyu Examination Committee for each Dojo will consist of active Yudansha holding a minimum rank of 2nd Dan. This committee is responsible for examination of Kyu members within its Dojo. An active member is one who participates in aikido seminars, CAA meetings, or other functions sponsored by the Association, and who has registered his/her Dojo with the Association for the current year. The names and dan grades of the committee members are forwarded to the Aikikai annually.

C) *Teaching Committee*

The Teaching Committee is appointed by the Division Head. The Teaching Committee within each division shall consist of members of Association member organizations ranked Roku Dan and above. As directed by the Aikikai, they shall strive to improve the teaching system. The Aikikai also suggests that the Teaching Committee devise a system for certification of Assistant Instructors and Instructors.

D) *Centralized Training*

Centralized training seminars will be scheduled from time to time to bring the Association together as a whole. When possible, this will take place in conjunction with regularly scheduled Association meetings. All Aikidoka, regardless of affiliation, are welcome to participate in Association scheduled training.

E) *Outside Instructor Seminars*

The Association shall sponsor seminars from time to time featuring instructors from outside the San Francisco Bay Area.

IX Promotions: General Information

A) *Selection*

Each Dojo-cho, is responsible for establishing the ranking procedures within his/her Dojo in compliance with examination procedures and requirements presented in these guidelines. Each Division Head is responsible for ranking Dojo-cho or club instructors within their own division. Any exceptions to the above guideline procedures must be approved by the Division Head.

B) *Criteria*

Having the minimum number of days and years of training is a necessary prerequisite for promotion, but is not sufficient by itself. It is a mistake to count the days and assume a rank will follow.

A *training day* is defined as one or more aikido class per day. It is the responsibility of the Dojo-cho to keep track of training days for their students. For Nidan and above, eligibility for the next rank is counted from the date of registration of the last rank by Hombu Dojo. This date is found in the student's Yudansha book. The major criteria for all dan ranks are as follows:

1) Character:

Applicant must show integrity, spirit, dedication, loyalty, service, and contribution to the art.

2) Proficiency:

Applicant must demonstrate technical skills, knowledge, and teaching abilities commensurate with the rank.

3) Training record

Advancement through the dan ranks is not unlike advancing through the university system. More and more *graduate work* is required for higher degrees. Training with one's seniors, attendance at seminars and camps and trips to Japan for training; are all examples of such graduate work. The Aikikai document *Hombu Dojo Grading System, says that successful completion of summer and winter trainings will be taken into consideration.* In the spirit of this statement, it is expected that those Yudansha being developed as instructors will have exceptional records of attendance at camps and seminars taught by Aikikai instructors. All Yudansha are required to submit their Yudansha books with an accurate history of seminar and camp attendance with their applications for promotion.

It is important not to isolate yourself within a Dojo by failing to train with Aikidoka from other dojos. This is analogous to staying current in your field in any other professional endeavor. It is also important to train occasionally with members of the Examination Committee in your division so that they have the ability to observe your training prior to an examination.

C) *Recommendation Promotions*

Students may be promoted by recommendation as opposed to testing for rank. In rare cases, a student who is physically unable to perform a test may be granted a rank by recommendation. This type of ranking is normally granted only once, approved by the Division Head and are submitted only in October.

Ranks Godan and above are by recommendation only. These are processed once a year and announced at Kagami Biraki in early January. Division Heads will provide the Clerk with a list of candidates for recommendation ranks by September 15th. **Paperwork is due to the Clerk by October 15th of each year.** Instructions for processing recommendation ranks can be found on the CAA website. The Doshu and the executive committee at Hombu Dojo review the applications and decide which applicants will be promoted.

D) *Submission of Applications for Shodan through Yondan*

Applications must be filled out completely. It is the responsibility of the Dojo-cho to insure all paperwork and payment(s) are in order. Incomplete applications will be returned.

1) **Payment may be submitted by one of the following methods:**

- a) PayPal (**preferred method**)
- b) Personal check/Dojo check
- c) Money order

Yudansha books with evidence of seminar and camp attendance must accompany applications for Nidan and above. Books submitted with no camp or seminar record will be returned with the application.

It is the responsibility of the Dojo-cho to know his/her student membership. If a Yudansha within the Dojo was ranked outside of the Aikikai and the Dojo-cho expects to rank that person in the future through the CAA, he/she must consult the Clerk to register past rank(s) with the Aikikai as soon as possible.

2) **Paperwork must be received before these dates:**

- March 15
- June 15
- September 15
- October 15 (for ranks by recommendation only)
- December 15

The CAA website has online applications that include the fees for each rank (Shodan to Rokudan). Fees are also posted on the CAA website. Payment may be submitted by PayPal or check. Submitting applications through the online application forms and payment through PayPal will help avoid delays in processing applications. Questions regarding payments or applications should be directed to Clerk.

X CAA Examination Requirements: General Information

The number of training days listed on the *Rank Examination Requirements* (see page 10 to page 19) are the *minimum* requirements for each rank as stated. Students ranked at the minimum requirement of days and time in grade should be those students that are deemed exceptional by the Dojo-cho. *One day of training is defined as one day regardless of the number of times trained in that single day.*

For Yudansha ranking, the years in grade are counted from the date of registration of the last rank, not the test date. This date is found in the student's Yudansha book.

The Dojo-cho may add any other technical elements to each examination as well as weapons at his/her discretion.

XI Kyu and Dan Examination Process

A) Kyu Examination Procedure

Kyu examinations may be scheduled at any Association Dojo or club. A Kyu Examination Committee member shall be in attendance and will sign the Kyu certificates. A Kyu Examination Committee member is appointed by the Division Head for each Dojo.

The Association does not charge for Kyu rankings. Dojo-cho, at their own discretion, may charge their students a fee. California Aikido Association Kyu certificates are provided at no cost to all member dojos. The CAA Kyu certificate may be downloaded at the CAA website.

B) Dan Examination Procedure

- 1) **Shodan and Nidan:** Rankings for Shodan and Nidan require the presence of a CAA Grading Committee member. It is recommended in the case of Shodan and Nidan that the Dojo-cho conduct the examination, and that the Dan Examination Committee member(s) in attendance provide comment and guidance where appropriate. Application forms will be submitted electronically to the Clerk, who will confirm the application with the Dojo-cho and Dan Examination Committee members. Payment of all fees and a Yudansha book with seminar attendance for Nidan must be received before the application will be processed.
- 2) **Sandan and Yondan:** Instructors having candidates for the rank of Sandan or Yondan should contact their Division Head. The Division Head will officiate at these exams at his/her discretion. Application forms will be submitted electronically to the Clerk, who will confirm the application with the Dojo-cho and Dan Examination Committee member(s). Payment of all fees and Yudansha book with seminar attendance must be received before the application will be processed.
- 3) **Godan and Above:** Promotions to the rank of Godan and above are made by recommendation of the Division Heads. Application forms will be submitted electronically to the Clerk, who will confirm the application with the Division Head. Payment of all fees and Yudansha book with seminar attendance must be received before the application will be processed.
- 4) **Dojos Outside the Bay:** We encourage member dojos to bring applicants to the Division Heads for examinations, after checking with the relevant Division Head for dates. We do acknowledge, however, that in some cases this is difficult and would present a hardship. In this event, such member dojos may arrange for a Grading Committee member to visit them to conduct an examination with approval of the Division Head.

5th Kyu CAA Examination Requirements

(Revised September 2010)

Minimum 50 training days

TACHI WAZA

Katate dori: Tai no henko (irimi & tankan)
shihonage (omote & ura)
Shomen uchi: ikkyo (omote & ura)
irimi nage

SUWARI WAZA

Ryote dori: kokyu ho

UKEMI

Forward & back rolls

4th Kyu CAA Examination Requirements

(Revised August 2006)

Minimum 60 training days

TACHI WAZA

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Shomen uchi: | ikkyo (omote & ura) nikyo (omote & ura) irimi nage |
| Kata dori: | nikyo (omote & ura) |
| Ryote dori: | tenchi nage |
| Tsuki: | kote gaeshi |
| Katate dori: | shihonage (omote & ura) |
| Yokomen uchi: | shihonage (omote & ura) |

SUWARI WAZA

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| Ryote dori: | kokyu ho |
|-------------|----------|

UKEMI

forward & back rolls

3rd Kyu CAA Examination Requirements

(Revised August 2006)

Minimum 80 training days

SUWARI WAZA

Shomen uchi: ikkyo through yonkyo

TACHI WAZA

Morote dori: kokyu ho

Shomen uchi: ikkyo through yonkyo

irimi nage

kote gaeshi

Tsuki: irimi nage

kote gaeshi

Katate dori: shihonage (omote & ura)

Ryote dori: shihonage (omote & ura)

Yokomen uchi: shihonage (omote & ura)

UKEMI

At a level appropriate for the rank

2nd CAA Examination Requirements

(Revised August 2006)

Minimum 100 training days

SUWARI WAZA

Shomen uchi: ikkyo through yonkyo
irimi nage
kote gaeshi
kaiten nage

TACHI WAZA

Shomen uchi: ikkyo through yonkyo
tsuki: irimi nage
kote gaeshi
kaiten nage
Katate dori: irimi nage
kote gaeshi
kaiten nage
Ushiro ryote dori: shihonage
kote gaeshi

HANMI HANDACHI

Katate dori: shihonage
Ryote dori: shihonage

VARIATIONS (3 TECHNIQUES PER ATTACK)

Katate dori

Hiji dori

Morote dori

Ryote dori

JIYU WAZA

one person flowing freestyle, any attack

1st Kyu CAA Examination Requirements

(Revised August 2006)

Minimum 150 training days

SUWARI WAZA

Shomen uchi: ikkyo through yonkyo
Yokomen uchi: ikkyo through yonkyo
Kata dori: ikkyo through yonkyo

JIYU WAZA

two person flowing freestyle, any attack

TACHI WAZA

Shomen uchi: ikkyo through yonkyo
Yokomen uchi: ikkyo through yonkyo
Kata dori: ikkyo through yonkyo
Ushiro ryote dori: ikkyo through yonkyo
Shomen uchi: irimi nage
kote gaeshi
kaiten nage
Tsuki: irimi nage
kote gaeshi
kaiten nage
Yokomen uchi: irimi nage
kote gaeshi
kaiten nage
gokyo

VARIATIONS (3 TECHNIQUES PER ATTACK)

Katate dori
Ryote dori
Morote dori
Kata dori menuchi
Ushiro ryokata dori
Koshi nage

HANMI HANDACHI

Katate dori: shihonage
Ryote dori: shihonage
Shomen uchi: irimi nage
Tsuki: irimi nage
kote gaeshi
kaiten nage
Ushiro waza 5 techniques

Shodan: CAA Examination Requirements

(Revised July 2017)

Minimum Training

Minimum 200 training days and one year from promotion to ikkyu. (Please note that the Dan application form requires the training days to be listed, not the number of years of training.) A Grading Committee member from the respective division must be present to officiate the exam. Minimum age: 15 years old.

SUWARI WAZA: Same as 1st Kyu

TACHI WAZA: Same as 1st Kyu

VARIATIONS: (5 techniques per attack)

Katate dori

Ryote dori

Morote dori

Kata dori menuchi

Ushiro ryote dori

Ushiro ryokata dori

Koshi nage

HANMI HANDACHI: Same as 1st Kyu

TANTO DORI

Tsuki

Shomen uchi

Yokomen uchi

Slash

Knife at throat from the front

Knife at throat from the back

JIYU WAZA

one person flowing freestyle, any attack

RANDORI

Three person multiple attack. Examiners may choose one of the following scenarios:

- begin with one attacker flowing jiuwaza, add uke #2 and then uke #3
- begin with two ukes each holding an arm, add a third uke coming in
- three ukes attack simultaneously

Nidan: CAA Examination Requirements

(Revised July 2017)

Minimum Training

PREREQUISITE

Minimum 360 training days and two years since obtaining Shodan. (Please note that the Dan application form requires the training days to be listed, not the number of years of training.) Eligibility is counted from the date of registration of the Shodan rank. The date of registration is found in the student's Yudansha book. A Grading Committee member from the respective division must be present to officiate the exam.

BASIC CONTENT

A comprehensive examination of basic Aikido techniques. (See Shodan examination requirements.)

KAESHI WAZA

Demonstration of reversals (counters) from a variety of basic techniques.

TACHI DORI

Demonstration of sword-taking techniques.

JO DORI

Demonstration of staff-taking techniques.

JIYU WAZA

One person flowing freestyle.

RANDORI

Multiple attack as directed by examiners.

ESSAY

Optional per Division Head

Submission of a short essay on an Aikido-related subject.

NOTE: The essay should be submitted to the Division Head prior to the examination.

Sandan: CAA Examination Requirements

(Revised July 2017)

Minimum Training

PREREQUISITE

Written recommendation from the instructor, to include a record of camps and seminars attended. Minimum 540 training days and three years since obtaining Nidan. (Please note that the Dan application form requires the training days to be listed, not the number of years of training.) Eligibility is counted from the date of registration of the Nidan rank. The date of registration is found in the student's Yudansha book. The relevant Division Head must be present to officiate the exam unless a Grading Committee member has been approved by the Division Head.

CONTENT

A comprehensive demonstration of traditional Aikido skills to include empty hand and weapons techniques.

RANDORI

Multiple attack as directed by the examiners.

ESSAY

Optional per Division Head

Submission of an essay on an Aikido-related subject.

NOTE: The essay should be submitted to the Division Head prior to the examination.

Yondan: CAA Examination Requirements

(Revised July 2017)

Minimum Training

PREREQUISITE

Written recommendation from the instructor, to include a record of camps and seminars attended. Minimum 800 training days and four years since obtaining Sandan. (Please note that the Dan application form requires the training days to be listed, not the number of years of training.) Eligibility is counted from the date of registration of the Sandan rank. The date of registration is found in the student's Yudansha book. The relevant Division Head must be present to officiate the examination unless a Grading Committee member has been approved by the Division Head. This rank is officially the rank of a professional teacher and as such, it is expected that the candidate have some teaching experience at his/her Dojo as provided by the Dojo-cho.

CONTENT

A comprehensive demonstration. Content of the demonstration is at the discretion of the applicant.

RANDORI

Multiple attack as directed by the examiners.

ESSAY

Optional per Division Head

Submission of an essay on an Aikido-related subject.

NOTE: The essay should be submitted to the Division Head prior to the examination.

Godan: CAA Examination Requirements

(Revised September 2010)

Minimum Training

PREREQUISITE

Minimum 1000 training days and five years since obtaining Yondan. (Please note that the Dan application form requires the training days to be listed, not the number of years of training.) Please refer to the CAA website for more detailed instructions.

This is a rank awarded by recommendation of a Division Head only. No demonstration or test is required for this rank. The applicant must be an established teacher (under the Division Head), and who by virtue of his/her devotion to the art has excelled in teaching ability and contribution to the Aikido community. This application for rank is submitted to Japan for review and approval. The rank is formally made official when it is announced at the Kagami Biraki celebration in January. Submission to Japan does not guarantee promotion.

Rokudan: CAA Examination Requirements

Minimum Training

PREREQUISITE

Minimum 1200 training days and six years since obtaining Godan. (Please note that the Dan application form requires the training days to be listed, not the number of years of training.) Please refer to the CAA website for more detailed instructions.

This is a rank awarded by recommendation of a Division Head only. No demonstration or test is required for this rank. The applicant must be an established teacher (under the Division Head), and who by virtue of his/her devotion to the art has excelled in teaching ability and contribution to the Aikido community. This application for rank is submitted to Japan for review and approval. The rank is formally made official when it is announced at the Kagami Biraki celebration in January. Submission to Japan does not guarantee promotion.