

# Isshinryu Tomo No Kai

(Isshinryu Friendship Association)

## By Laws

*The mission of the Isshinryu Tomo No Kai (Isshinryu Friendship Association) is to promote friendship and unity among it's members through the common practice of Isshinryu Karate and Tokushin Kobudo.*

*The foundation of the Association is molded in the history and traditions of Okinawa martial arts which teach courtesy, respect and fighting spirit.*

### Article I: ISSHINRYU TOMO NO KAI LEGAL ENTITY

The Headquarters for the *Isshinryu Tomo No Kai* will be the Okinawa Budo Kai Dojo Livonia, Michigan. *Isshinryu Tomo No Kai* is an assumed name of Okinawa Budo Kai, LLC and assumes all it's protections and responsibilities under law. All membership and financial transactions will flow through Okinawa Budo Kai, LLC. Livonia, Michigan USA.

### Article II: ASSOCIATION STRUCTURE

The structure of the Association will be as follows:

#### ADVISORS

Unlimited Term



#### PRESIDENT

Three Year Term



#### VICE PRESIDENT

Three Year Term



#### SECRETARY

Three Year Term



#### CHAIRMAN

Three Year Term



#### DIRECTORS

Three Year Term



#### MEMBERS

Lifetime

**ADVISORS** – Advisors will use their knowledge to advise and guide Association Officers in matters concerning Association business, discipline and any other pertinent matters that may arise. Advisors will be appointed by the Association Advisory Board and will serve unlimited terms.

**PRESIDENT** – The President will be an elected Officer from within the Association and will serve as the Chief Executive Officer for the Association. The President will be responsible for the complete operation of the Association and will represent the Association at all public events unless delegated to another Association Officer. The President will serve a three (3) year term.

**VICE PRESIDENT** – The Vice President will be an elected Officer from within the Association and will assist the President in the complete operation of the Association. In the absence of the President, the Vice President will serve as Acting President with all the powers and duties of the President. The Vice President will serve a three (3) year term.

**SECRETARY** – The Secretary will be an elected Officer from within the Association and will be responsible for keeping record of all Association business, disseminating information (both internal and external), new memberships, and any other Association responsibility as delegated by the President or Vice President. The Secretary will serve a three (3) year term.

**CHAIRMAN** - The Chairman will be an elected Officer from within the Association and will be responsible for overseeing Association Directors. Information from Directors will be forwarded to the Chairman for dissemination up the Association chain of command. The Chairman will chair all Association meetings unless delegated to another. The Chairman will also assist the Secretary in the dissemination of Association information or any other Association responsibility as delegated by the President or Vice President. The Chairman will serve a three (3) year term.

**DIRECTORS** – Directors will be elected from within the Association and will represent the general membership. They will report directly to the Chairman. Directors will serve a three (3) year term.

**MEMBERS** – Members will be selected by a Membership Committee comprised of Association Officers and Directors through an application process. Members must be an Isshinryu Karate Do or Tokushin Kobudo practitioner for membership.

Nominations for Officer and Director vacancies will be drawn from the Association membership and selected by a majority vote of available Advisors, Officers and Directors. Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Chairman) must be at least Yon Dan level rank to apply. Nominees will submit a resume' to the Association Secretary who will then disseminate it to the appropriate members of the selection board. **No Association Advisor, Officer or Director will be financially compensated for their service to the Association.**

### **Article III – MEMBERSHIP**

Official membership in the Isshinryu Tomo No Kai was launched on **September 19, 2009** (birthday of Isshinryu Karate founder, Shimabuku Tatsuo Sensei).

Membership will be selected by a *Membership Committee* comprised of Association Officers and Directors. Potential members will file a Membership Application to be reviewed by the *Membership Committee*. An applicant can be denied membership for cause. Falsification of the Membership Application is grounds for denial or later dismissal from the Association. **The Isshinryu Tomo No Kai will not deny membership based on race, sex, nationality or religion.**

Membership fees will be a one time, lifetime membership. Members will receive a *Membership Certificate, Membership Card* and *Isshinryu Tomo No Kai Country Patch*. Fees will be used for the operational needs of the Association (certificates, patches, membership cards, website, etc.). Fees may also be used to host Association martial arts events. An annual financial report will be prepared and available to all members through written request to the Association President. The fiscal year begins January 1<sup>st</sup> and ends December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Article IV - KOBUDO KAI**

Within the *Isshinryu Tomo No Kai*, RyuKyu Kobudo rank is separate from Isshinryu Karate rank. The *Kobudo Kai* will be a branch of the *Isshinryu Tomo No Kai* which will be responsible for RyuKyu Kobudo training and RyuKyu Kobudo rank promotions. The *Kobudo Kai* will be headed by the highest ranking RyuKyu Kobudo practitioner sitting on the Advisory Board.

### **Article V – RANK PROMOTIONS**

Isshinryu Karate and Tokushin Kobudo Black Belt (Dan) rank will be obtained through a Rank Testing Board. The Rank Testing Board will consist of Advisory Board, Association Officer or Director ranking Black Belts. The Rank Testing Board will have at least three (3) ranking black belts for testing with the lowest rank being equivalent to the rank being tested. All rank will be tested on the “dojo floor” unless otherwise decided by the board. An **original**, current black belt rank certificate must be presented to the Rank Testing Board at the time of the test. Members requesting Rank Promotion must complete a *Rank Promotion Application* and forward it to the Association Secretary with a copy of their current rank certificate. The member will be notified of the date, time and location of the testing. It is the responsibility of the member to make their own travel arrangements for testing. If a member does not pass their rank promotion testing, no fee will be paid. The member is eligible to re-test in one (1) year from the testing date. **Rank Promotion applicants must be an Association member in good standing for at least one (1) year before applying for Rank Promotion.**

Continuous training and time in rank is important. The following qualifications will apply to obtain Dan rank through the *Isshinryu Tomo No Kai*:

**1<sup>st</sup> Degree Black Belt (Sho Dan)** – At least three years of consistent training and 17 years of age.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Black Belt (Ni Dan)** – At least two (2) years in grade as Sho Dan.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Black Belt (San Dan)** – At least three (3) years in grade as Ni Dan.

**4<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt (Yon Dan)** – At least four (4) years in grade as San Dan.

**5<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt (Go Dan)** – At least five (5) years in grade as Yon Dan.

**6<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt (Roku Dan)** – At least six (6) years in grade as Go Dan.

**7<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt (Nana Dan)** – At least seven (7) years in grade as Roku Dan.

**8<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt (Hachi Dan)** – At least eight (8) years in grade as Nana Dan.

**9<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt (Ku Dan)** – At least nine (9) years in grade as Hachi Dan.

**10<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt (Ju Dan)** – At least ten (10) years in grade as Ku Dan.

#### **Article VI - CODE OF CONDUCT**

The purpose of learning Isshinryu Karate Do and RyuKyu Kobudo is to make a personal commitment to mental discipline and physical conditioning. It is of paramount importance to develop and nurture the virtues of courtesy, respect and humility to the extent they become dominant characteristics of one's daily life. Physical training is designed to gain a mastery of body movements while learning offensive and defensive fighting techniques to strengthen mind, body and spirit. One can become a very confident individual through intense training in karate and kobudo.

As a member of the *Isshinryu Tomo No Kai*, I accept the following code of conduct and declare that my intentions will be:

1. To strive to gain the understanding that a humble and self-confident person cannot be offended.
2. To know one must not sacrifice the development of mental virtue to goals of physical achievement.
3. To be courteous, friendly and helpful at all times.
4. To display courtesy and respect to the arts of karate and kobudo and to fellow practitioners. Know that courtesy and respect flows in both directions among those of all ranks.
5. To accept that higher rank means one must be a better servant because service to others is a primary attribute of leadership.

6. To be content and non-aggressive, never resorting to unnecessary violence.
7. To understand that the focus of physical training is the perfection of techniques as expressed in kihon, kata and kumite.
8. To be a gentle person in every way and a friend to all.
9. To live an honorable life.
10. To instill the above ideals in the heart and make them a part of one's daily life.

#### **Article VII – COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE**

Member complaints and discipline will be investigated by a three (3) person committee comprised of the Association Chairman, one (1) Association Officer and one (1) Director. The Association Chairman will reside over the committee. All complaints against members will be forwarded in writing to the Association Chairman. A copy of the complaint will be forwarded to all Association Officers and Directors. The decision of the complaint/discipline committee will be final.

Complaints and discipline against Association Directors will be investigated by the Association Officers. All complaints against Directors will be forwarded in writing to the Association Chairman. The Chairman will forward copies to other Association Officers and Advisors. The decision of the Association Officers will be final. Directors can be removed from office for cause only by a majority decision of Association Officers.


Complaints and discipline against Association Officers will be investigated by the Advisory Board. All complaints against Association Officers will be forwarded in writing to the highest ranking Advisory Board member. The decision of the Advisory Board will be final. Officers can be removed from office for cause only by a majority decision of the Advisory Board.

*“ I don’t teach Karate and Kobudo to make money, I teach to make friends.”*

*Tokumura Kensho Sensei  
Founder, Isshinryu Tomo No Kai*

# **Isshinryu Tomo No Kai** **Rank Promotion Fees**

\* Must be a Tomo No Kai member for one (1) year.



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
Hachi Dan.....	\$350.00
Ku Dan.....	Honorary
Ju Dan.....	Honorary

\* See By Laws for time in grade requirements. Fees must be paid in USD payable to the  
*Isshinryu Tomo No Kai.*

# **Isshinryu Tomo No Kai** **Rank Promotion Application**

\* Must be A Tomo No Kai member for one (1) year.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Tomo No Kai Member No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Isshinryu Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Kobudo Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Years of Training \_\_\_\_\_ Last Promotion Date \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor(s) Rank \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\* Please attach copy of last promotion certificate. See promotion fee list.