

AMERICAN AMATEUR KARATE FEDERATION
RULES AND REGULATIONS

(Adopted by Board Resolution Dated January 3, 2010)

ARTICLE 1.
GENERAL

Section 1.01 Definitions. The following definitions shall apply unless otherwise specific stated:

- (a) "AAKF" shall mean the American Amateur Karate Federation.

Section 1.02 Location. The National Office of the AAKF is presently located at 445 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2600, Los Angeles, California 90071.

Section 1.03 Purpose of the Organization. The purpose of this organization is the education and instruction of karate, which includes holding seminars, camps, national and international amateur karate competition.

ARTICLE 2.
ACTIVITIES

Section 2.01 Activities.

The AAKF shall engage in the following activities in order to achieve the purposes and objectives as stated in its Articles of Incorporation:

1. Establish rules and regulations governing amateur karate competition, including judging, promotional ranking and ranking examiner.
2. Recognize, approve and determine eligibility of karate judges, contestants, ranking examiners and promotional ranking.
3. Sanction and host international, national, regional and district amateur karate competition.
4. Send officials and teams to international amateur karate events as representatives of the United States.
5. Research, collect and develop karate instructional material and other information pertaining to karate.
6. Sanction and host karate seminars.
7. Publish newsletters or magazines related to the activities of the corporation and karate in general.
8. Engage in other activities as may be necessary to promote and advance karate in the United States through vigorous leadership and promotional activities.

ARTICLE 3.
MEMBERS

Section 3.01 Members. The AAKF is comprised of the following general members.

(a) Individual Members. All individuals who are karate athletes, coaches, trainers, or officials active in the sport of karate may become an Individual Member; provided, however, that such individuals belong to an AAKF member club and comply with the rules and regulations of the AAKF.

(b) Club Members. Club Members shall be organizations devoted primarily to instruction of karate students and to other karate development programs, including karate competitions. A club must conduct a karate program and comply with the rules and regulations of the AAKF.

ARTICLE 4.
AAKF REGIONS

Section 4.01 AAKF Regions. All Individual Members and Club Members (collectively, “Members”) shall be associated with and under the jurisdiction of one of the AAKF Regions (“Regions”) mentioned in Section 4.05 according to the state within which a Member resides or is located. There are twelve (12) regions.

Section 4.02 Representation of Region on Board of Directors. A region may elect and send a regional director or other regional representative to serve on the AAKF Board of Directors. The regional director or regional representative shall be selected by an election in the region and elected by a majority vote of the individual AAKF members within the region. Such election will be under the jurisdiction of the regional office.

Section 4.03 Voting Qualifications for Regional Representative on the Board of Directors. To qualify as a voting regional representative on the AAKF Board of Directors, the region must have a minimum number of two (2) club members in the region and a minimum number of twenty (20) individual members in the region. The club members and individual members must be members of AAKF in good standing.

Section 4.04 Non-Voting Regional Representative. If a region does not have the required minimum of clubs or members, a representative from the region may attend the Board of Directors meeting but will not have voting privileges until the minimum requirement in Section 4.03 has been met.

Section 4.05 Composition of Regions. The following are the twelve (12) AAKF regions and the states comprising the regions.

<u>Region</u>	<u>States</u>
Central	Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska,
Great Lakes	Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin
Middle Atlantic	Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia
Mountain States	Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico
Northwestern	Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington
North Atlantic	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont
North Central	Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota
Pacific	Hawaii
Southern	Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee
Southwestern	Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas
South Atlantic	Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Virgin Islands
Western	California, Nevada, Arizona

ARTICLE 5.
ORGANIZATION

The organization of the AAKF shall be as follows:

1. The Board of Governors;
2. The Board of Directors;
3. Executive Board of Directors;
4. Technical Board;
5. Executive Director; and
6. Administrative Committee;

ARTICLE 6.
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Section 6.01 Election of Board of Governors. Individual Members shall be entitled to elect one (1) person from its club as its representative (a “Governor”) to the Board of Governors. All Governors and their perspective clubs must be in good standing regarding their dues and qualification with the AAKF.

Section 6.02 Regional Meetings. Governors shall meet at the regional level at least one (1) time each year at such time and place as decided by a majority of the voting Governors within each respective Region. Governors shall decide upon seminars, competitions and any other karate activities in the region. Region shall decide upon the meeting structure.

Section 6.03 National Meeting. Governors shall meet at the national level at least one (1) time each year at the National Championships at such time and place as decided by the host of the National

Championship. Executive Committee members will preside at the national meeting but they will have no voting right unless they are also a Governor.

Section 6.04 Role of the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors shall provide agenda items to be considered and voted upon by the Board of Directors. The Board of Governors shall also serve an advisory role by providing suggestions and ideas to the Board of Directors.

Section 6.05 Voting Power. Each Governor shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote at the Board of Governors' regional or national meetings. Governors shall have no other voting power.

ARTICLE 7.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(THE REGIONAL DIRECTORS/REPRESENTATIVES)

Section 7.01 Duties and Powers of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will be composed of the qualified voting regional directors/representatives as referenced in Section 4.03. The Board of Directors shall manage the activities of the AAKF and shall exercise, or oversee all corporate powers as referenced in the AAKF Bylaws. All activities and affairs of the corporation shall be managed and all corporate powers shall be exercised under the ultimate direction of the Board of Directors.

Section 7.02 Number of Directors. The number of directors of the AAKF shall be twelve (12) unless changed by an amendment to the AAKF Bylaws.

Section 7.03 Election and Term of Office.

(a) Election. Each Region may elect one (1) regional director or representative to serve on the Board of Directors by a majority vote of the Individual Members from that Region. Such election is to take place by the end of the calendar year prior to the year of commencement of the term of office. The new term of office will begin in January. All regional directors or representatives must be members in good standing with the AAKF.

(b) Term of Office. Each director shall hold office for the term of three (3) years. A director elected to fill a vacancy shall serve until the end of the original three year term.

(c) Term Limits. No director may serve more than two (2) consecutive terms, unless the one of the term served was not the full term of three (3) years which in that case the Director can serve a third term. The term limitation may be extended on case by case basis only by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. A director will remain in office until the election of a successor director or appointment of a new director by the Board of Directors.

(d) Classification of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be and is divided into three classes: Class I, Class II and Class III. Each of the directors elected by the [Central, Mountain States, North Central, and Southern] Regions shall be a member of Class I; each of the directors elected by the [Middle Atlantic, North Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Western] Regions shall be a member of Class II; and each of the directors elected by the [Great Lakes, Northwestern, Pacific, and Southwestern] Regions shall be a member of Class III. The initial term of service of each Class I director shall be three (3) years; the initial term of service of each Class II director shall be two (2) years; and the initial term of service of each Class III director shall be one (1) year. Every term of service after the expiration of each Class's initial term of service shall be three (3) years.

Section 7.04 Resignation, Removal, and Vacancies. Resignation, removal and appointment to vacancies will be permitted as referenced in the AAKF Bylaws. A director may be removed from office by the Board of Directors if the director fails to attend 50% of Board meetings per calendar year by a majority vote of directors then in office.

Section 7.05 Place of Meetings. The Board of Directors may meet at any place designated in the notice of the meeting or, if not stated in the notice or if there is no notice, as designated by the Board of Directors or the President.

Section 7.06 Annual Meetings. The Board of Directors shall hold an annual meeting to confirm the appointment or election of the directors and officers then up for election and to conduct all other business as may properly come before the Board of Directors. The annual meeting shall be held at such time and place as may be fixed by the Board of Directors.

Section 7.07 Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such time and place as may be fixed by the Board of Directors.

Section 7.08 Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board of Directors for any purpose may be called at any time by the President, Vice-President, Secretary, or any three (3) directors.

Section 7.09 Notice. Annual, regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held upon notice of at least one (1) week if by first class mail or forty-eight (48) hours' notice if given personally or by telephone, electronic mail, facsimile, or other equivalent means of communication. Such notice shall contain the date, time, and place of meeting and the agenda of business to be discussed at such meeting, as referenced in the AAKF Bylaws.

Section 7.10 Participation in Meetings by Conference Telephone. Directors may participate in meetings of the Board of Directors through the use of conference telephone or equivalent communications equipment, so long as directors participating in the meeting can hear one another. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this Section constitutes presence in person at the meeting.

Section 7.11 Electronic Voting. Electronic voting is permitted as long as all directors have the equivalent communications equipment.

ARTICLE 8.
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTOR
(OFFICERS)

Section 8.01 Officers. The officers of the corporation shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Other officers may be appointed by the Board of Directors as referenced in the AAKF Bylaws.

Section 8.02 Election and Term of Office. The officers of the corporation shall be chosen bi-annually by, and shall serve at the pleasure of, the Board of Directors. The President, Vice President, and Secretary may only serve for one (1) two-year term; the Treasurer may serve for a maximum of two (2) two-year terms, unless extended by majority vote of BOD.

Section 8.03 Removal and Resignation. An officer may resign or be removed from office as referenced in the AAKF Bylaws.

Section 8.04 Vacancies. A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or any other cause shall be filled in the manner referenced in the AAKF Bylaws.

Section 8.05 President. Subject to such powers as may be given by the Board of Directors to the Chair, if any, the President is the general manager and chief executive officer of the corporation and, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, shall have general supervision, direction, and control of the business and officers of the corporation. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors. The President has the general powers and duties of management usually vested in the office of president and general manager of a corporation and such other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Section 8.06 Vice-President. In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice- President shall perform all the duties of the President and, when so acting, shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions upon, the President. Vice-Presidents shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as from time to time may be prescribed for them by the Board of Directors.

Section 8.07 Secretary.

(a) The Secretary shall keep or cause to be kept, at the principal office of the corporation or such other place as the Board of Directors may order, a book of minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and any Board Committees. The minutes shall include the time and place of meetings, whether annual, regular, or special, and if special, how authorized, the notice thereof given, the names of those present at meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Board Committees, and the proceedings thereof. The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, at the principal office of the corporation, the original or a copy of the corporation's Articles and Bylaws, as amended.

(b) The Secretary shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the Board of Directors and its committees of the Board of Directors required by law or by these Bylaws to be given, shall keep the seal of the corporation, if any, in safe custody, and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Section 8.08 Treasurer.

(a) The Treasurer shall keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct books and accounts of the properties and business transactions of the corporation. The books of account shall be open at all reasonable times to inspection by a director.

(b) The Treasurer shall make an annual report to the Board of Directors on the financial state of the corporation. In addition, the Treasurer shall formulate an annual business plan and budget for the corporation.

(c) The Treasurer shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, all money and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the corporation with such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the corporation as may be ordered by the Board of Directors, shall render to the President and the directors, whenever requested, an account of all transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the corporation, and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 9.
TECHNICAL BOARD

Section 9.01 Purpose of the Technical Board.

The purpose of the Technical Board is to establish, develop and review the technical rules and regulations with respect to any examination, ranking and competition of the AAKF. The Technical Board will be responsible for the administration of such rules and regulations. The Technical Board will also be responsible for recommendations concerning the formation of any technical subcommittees, development of seminars, regulation of competitions and any other AAKF activities where technical content is an issue. All decisions of the Technical Board must be ratified by the Board of Directors.

Section 9.02 Composition of the Technical Board. The Technical Board will be comprised of the following councils:

- (a) Senior Council,
- (b) Voting Junior Council, and
- (c) Non-Voting Junior Council.

Section 9.03 Qualifications. All members of the Technical Board must be in good standing regarding their dues and qualifications with the AAKF.

(a) Senior Council Members must be a minimum of 7th degree black belt and certified as Class “A” judges for kata and kumite and Class “A” examiners.

(b) Voting Junior Council Members must be a minimum of 5th degree black belt and certified as Class “B” judges for kata and kumite and Class “B” examiners. The members of the Voting Junior Council will be nominated and selected by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

(c) Non-Voting Junior Council Members must be a minimum of 3rd degree black belt and certified as Class “C” judges for kata and kumite and Class “C” examiners. The members of the Non-Voting Junior Council will be nominated and selected by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 9.04 Terms.

(a) The term of the Senior Council Members will be open-ended as long as they are members in good standing and adhere to the Bylaws of the AAKF. Senior Council Members may retire, resign or be removed by 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Directors.

(b) Voting Junior Council Members shall serve for 4 years with a maximum of two consecutive terms.

(c) Non-Voting Junior Council Members shall serve for 4 years with a maximum of two consecutive terms.

Section 9.05 Voting Privileges.

(a) All Senior Council Members and Voting Junior Council Members will each have one vote. Non-Voting Junior Council Members will not have a vote.

(b) A Senior Council Member has the authority to veto a vote that has passed. However, this veto power may be overridden by a two-thirds majority vote of the Senior and Voting Junior Council Members. Once a motion has been overridden, it may not be vetoed a second time.

Section 9.06 Chair and Vice-Chair of the Technical Board.

(a) Chair of the Technical Board. A Chair of the Technical Board will be selected by election by majority vote of the Senior Council and Voting Junior Council Members. The term of the Chair will be two (2) years. The Chair will preside at all meetings.

(b) Vice-Chair of the Technical Board. The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair in the performance of his or her duties. In the absence or incapacity of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall preside at all meetings. The term of the Vice-Chair will be two (2) years.

Section 9.07 Committees of the Technical Board. The committees of the Technical Board will be as follows:

(a) Technical Goal Committee. The purpose of this committee is to develop and present a curriculum to develop certain technical goals and objectives throughout the organization.

(b) Research & Development Committee. The purpose of this committee is to research and develop the area of interest, question or ambiguity in different aspects of Traditional Karate.

(c) Self-Defense Committee. The purpose of this committee is to set the curriculum and outline for development of self-defense side of Traditional Karate.

(d) Medical Committee. The purpose of this committee is to keep track of all injuries during tournament, seminar and other national activities and set outline to reduce the injuries. The medical committee would also provide outlines to enhance and supplement the activities, endurance, strength and health of Traditional Karate practitioners. In addition, the committee will set up guideline and provide seminars to train and register Medical Judges.

**ARTICLE 10.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Section 10.01 Selection of Executive Director. The selection of the executive director will be by appointment of the majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 10.02 Responsibilities of Executive Director. The Executive Director will:

1. Work jointly, with the president, vice president, secretary and treasurer of the board of directors, conduct official correspondence of the organization, and may jointly, with designated officers, execute legal documents.

2. Carry out organizational and financial plans authorized by the board.

3. Maintain official records and documents, and ensure compliance with federal, state and local regulations.

4. Be responsible for developing and maintaining sound financial practices.
5. Work with the Board of Directors and Finance Committee in preparing a budget; ensure that the organization operates within budget guidelines.
6. Supervise all work at the National Office, including membership and rank registration, and supervise paid and volunteer staff.
7. Coordinate plans and communication between committees, Board of Directors, Executive Board, AAKF individual and club members and the AAKF National Office.
8. Communicate with the Board of Directors regarding the overall condition of the organization's administrative and financial status.

Section 10.03 Term of Engagement. The term of engagement may be limited or open-ended as determined between the Executive Director and the Board of Directors. Upon one month's notice, the term of engagement may be terminated either by the Executive Director or the Board of Directors.

Section 10.04 Compensation. Compensation will be determined between the Executive Director and the Board of Directors.

Section 10.05 Other Responsibilities and Privileges. Any extraordinary responsibilities and privileges will be given to the Executive Director upon the determination of the Board of Directors by majority vote.

ARTICLE 11. **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

Section 11.01 Administrative Committees of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may create committees of the Board of Directors. Each committee will be chaired by a member of the Board of Directors. Any Individual Member of the AAKF, upon the approval of the Board of Directors, may serve on a committee. While empowered to conduct the business of the committees, all normal and customary actions must be approved by the Chair of the committee and all major decisions must be ratified by the Board of Directors. No policies may be changed or implemented without the ratification of the Board of Directors.

Section 11.02 Committees:

- (a) Finance Committee. This committee will be chaired by the Treasurer. Its goal is to determine which actions are necessary for the financial health of the AAKF in order to carry out its programs and goals.
- (b) Tournament and Seminar Committee. This committee will be chaired by a member of the Board of Directors. Its purpose is to determine the national and international seminars, camps and tournaments, the dates and plans of execution to conduct those programs. This committee will also assist in sending athletes, judges and officials to international competitions.
- (c) Dispute Resolution Committee. The entire Executive Committee will be involved with this committee. Its purpose is the fair and reasonable resolution of any conflicts within the organization.
- (d) New Membership Committee. This committee will be chaired by a member of the Board of Directors. Its purpose is to review applications for new club memberships and determine if the applicant is an appropriate candidate for the AAKF.

- (e) Website Committee. This committee will be chaired by a member of the Board of Directors. Its purpose is the development of the use of the website by AAKF.
- (f) Publication and Marketing Committee. This committee will be chaired by a member of the Board of Directors. Its purpose is the promotion of the AAKF and communication within the AAKF.

Section 11.03 Members of the Committees. All AAKF individual members may volunteer to become members of a committee, upon the approval of the Board of Directors.

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