



Aiki Kai (Australia): National Aikido Association Inc.  
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Aiki Kai (Australia): National Aikido Associations Inc. (inc. in Victoria)

Founding Shihan: S. Sugano 8th Dan

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## TRUSTEE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

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### **For the attention of all members.**

In order to clarify the role of Aiki Kai Australia instructors and senior dan holders the Sugano Foundation Trustees have issued the following Statement of Principles. They have also asked the TTC to publish clear regulations based on them.

**Any queries should be directed to Marie Petery, National Area Representative.**

Marie Petery  
National Area Representative  
06 June 2024

## Trustee Statement of Principles

Sugano Sensei's Moral Code states some very important principles very clearly. But it does not explain how these have been built into the very structure of Aiki Kai Australia (AKA) through the ongoing understanding of its seniors – those of the highest ranks who also worked closely with Sugano Sensei over many decades and were trained by him towards higher responsibilities than those held by all instructors.

Up until now, Sugano Sensei's Foundation has been content to rely, as Sensei certainly did, on the tradition in Japanese martial arts to assume that seniors will naturally grow into their roles – coming to understand their responsibilities solely because of their training and instruction by their master and seniors. When Sugano Sensei himself was alive, that was a reasonable expectation.

Now, in order to assist instructors and senior dans to better understand the obligations, traditions and responsibilities of Aiki Kai Australia (AKA), the Trustees request that the Technical and Teaching Committee (TTC) immediately undertake to commence and publish a set of regulations that will make them as clear as possible.

1. Lest there be any confusion, the Trustees confirm that all instructors are bound by responsibilities and obligations pertaining to their recognition as instructors under international regulations issued by the Aikido International Headquarters in Tokyo (the Hombu), AKA's membership of the International Aikido Federation and arising under Sugano Sensei's Moral Code and the AKA Constitution.
2. AKA instructors are overseen by TTC under the guidance of the Trustees of the Aikido Foundation. This takes place under the authority given to AKA by Hombu.
3. Appointment of an instructor to teach or run a specific dojo or class is made under the authority of the Foundation and TTC by the local Area Representative who should work closely with the National Area Representative, whose job it is to oversee and guide all National activities.
4. Such decisions about instructors may be reviewed or even changed by the Trustees or the Technical and Teaching Committee (TTC).
5. Instructing is a privilege accorded only to members who are adjudged by the Foundation through the TTC to understand and carry out the full gamut of responsibilities of an instructor, in accord with the traditions and customs of Aikido as transmitted to us by Seiichi Sugano Shihan. An instructor is entrusted to carry these responsibilities and the privilege of being an instructor is given and removed at the discretion of the TTC.
6. The responsibilities of an instructor are:
  - a. to follow Sugano Sensei's Moral Code
  - b. to follow the technical and ethical direction of Aikido as promoted by Hombu and the Foundation
  - c. to only teach at dojos where they are authorised to teach by the local Area Representative (subject to special permission being explicitly given and with the exception that should an instructor visiting another dojo be asked to teach or assist they may do so, on that occasion under the dojo authority of the local instructor. (That is, they may not teach *special courses* or on a *regular basis* without the specific authority of the local Area Representative and/or the TTC)
  - d. to teach what they have been shown
  - e. to ensure that all trainees are members
  - f. to instruct members about the nature of the organization and their membership:
    - i. hierarchical,
    - ii. traditional,
    - iii. following the moral code of Sugano Sensei, and

Established in 1965 under direct authorisation of the Aikido founder - O'Sensei Ueshiba Morihei

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- iv. always subject to the guidance and directions of seniors
  - g. to always maintain their own studentship and study, thus providing an example to their juniors, and thus where-ever possible to attend classes by their seniors, including especially TTC visits and national schools
  - h. to maintain proper records of training or ensure they are being kept
  - i. to collect appropriate fees or ensure that they are collected, as per the arrangements applicable to that dojo
7. Hakama is an obligatory part of the AKA uniform for training in Aikido for those who have attained yudansha status. This reflects the expectation of Aikido World Headquarters and Sugano Shihan. Hakama is not only a required part of the training uniform for yudansha but also a privilege and responsibility. Wearing it is respectful of Aikido, its culture, history, *iemoto* system and Japanese Headquarters. These include body skills, internal skills and cultural elements of Aikido as a budo.

**Tony Smibert**  
Trustee  
06/06/2024

**Robert Botterill**  
Trustee  
06/06/2024

**Hanan Janiv**  
Trustee  
06/06/2024