



Shidojin System for Canadian Aikido Federation

The following is for a trial program of two years. At the end of that time, the program will be amended as necessary by the CAF executive in consultation with the Technical Director, subject to revision in future.

Introduction

- Hombu requires national organizations to have a Shidojin system.
- The CAF must take ownership of technical issues to ensure its long-term growth and the growth of Aikido in Canada.
- The Shidojin status should not be automatic or honorific. It should be conferred by the CAF in consultation with its Technical Director, and can be revoked by agreement of the CAF and the Technical Director.
- The Shidojin should go through a period of responsibility, teaching and mentoring for CAF dojos (besides their own) so that they become aware of the level of technique and larger issues facing Aikido.
- The Shidojin are an adjunct to the Technical Director, responsible to him/her, and should be prepared to discuss the dojos they are responsible for in confidence with the other Shidojin, with the CAF executive and with the Technical Director.
- The Shidojin may conduct tests as described and permitted by the Technical Director.
- The system must be transparent. The dojo administration must be fully aware of any discussion or reports made regarding specific dojos and/or teachers.
- The purpose of the Shidojin relationship with a dojo is advice, mentoring and observation. It is a voluntary relationship for both parties.

Selection

At least one Shidojin should be named for each province who meets the minimum Hombu requirement of 4-5 dan. Ontario and BC should have at least two Shidojin each, due to the large number of dojos.

The CAF would formally ask each provincial association to generate lists annually of qualified individuals suitable for appointment as Shidojin, for the consideration of the Technical Director. The Technical Director will make the final decision on who is to be named Shidojin.

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In cases where no provincial association exists, an existing Shidoi may put forward an individual for consideration. These proposals would go to the CAF, which would then assemble a "master" list of possible Shidoi (who have agreed to be considered for the role) for the Technical Director for selection. Where multiple candidates are available, the Technical Director should be given a complete list so he/she can choose from among them. The process behind making these decisions should remain confidential.

The initial appointment would normally entail a two-year relationship with local dojos.

After they have completed the two-year assignment, current Shidoi will retain the title but become "inactive" in terms of responsibility for monitoring CAF dojos, unless there is no one to take their places. In such cases, the Shidoi may retain his or her "active" status at the discretion of the provincial association and the Technical Director.

Following two years of "inactive" status as a Shidoi, an individual may be immediately put forward again by the association and reappointed to another two-year term at the discretion of the Technical Director. The purpose of the period of inactivity is to give as many senior instructors as possible the opportunity to serve in this role.

"Active" Shidoi will constitute a "technical committee" monitoring technical standards in the CAF.

Senior instructors could have the benefit of learning from this office and dojos/students could have the benefit of associating with various senior teachers.

Ontario and BC both have numerous dojos and qualified teachers. Since the Shidoi will have actual responsibility to work with the dojos, A ratio of (e.g.) about one Shidoi per six or eight dojos should be established in those provinces. If there are two or more Shidoi in a province, they will divide the dojos they wish to work with among themselves. A likely way to do this is geographically, so not too much traveling is involved.

Where multiple Shidoi are available, a dojo should be permitted to make a special request that one individual in particular work with them, though it is to be hoped that this will be a rare occurrence.

A shidoi may agree to assume responsibility for a dojo in another province at the request of that dojo and with the agreement of the Technical Director. This proviso is intended mainly to support existing relationships between senior instructors and remote dojos.

Duties of a Shidoi

The Shidoi must visit each dojo under his or her care at least once (and hopefully more often) during the two-year term. Purpose - to observe teaching, see how students are progressing, make note of any problems, discuss issues with the instructors, to advise and inform.

This is not an inspection, audit or inquisition - the Shidoi should be able to make positive suggestions based on his or her experience on a "mentoring" and friendly basis. This relationship is strictly voluntary for the host dojo.

Reasonable travel expenses should be borne by the host dojo, including, for example, a fair amount for automobile mileage. These expenses should be agreed upon in advance.

Shidojin System for the CAF

If the Shidojin is invited to teach a class or classes where no extra fee is being charged of the students, it is at his or her discretion to require payment. If a fee is being charged for the class, the Shidojin is to be paid an amount to be established by the CAF from time to time. The basic purpose of these visits, however, is to observe.

Shidojin will also be prepared to discuss the technical level and any problems in the dojos under his or her care with the Technical Director as required. This will be a confidential discussion to bring the Technical Director up to date on local conditions.

It is recommended that the Shidojin meet as a group a minimum of once every two years, together with the CAF executive and the Technical Director, to discuss technical standards and share their experiences. It may be possible to do this in the context of a major seminar or camp. Such discussion will be necessary to advance the Shidojin program.

Fukushidojin

In cases where a province does not have an individual qualified to be ranked as Shidojin, and no Shidojin from a nearby area is available, the provincial association, the CAF and the Technical Director may at their discretion decide to appoint a nidan or sandan individual as a "Fukushidojin" to serve some of the same functions as a Shidojin.

Fukushidojin status should be treated as a stage in developing towards Shidojin, with similar duties and requirements but set at levels appropriate to a less-experienced instructor. Fukushidojin should be prepared to consult with the Technical Director and the CAF Shidojin as required to discuss the duties involved and obtain mentoring on their activities.

Other Requirements

Each Shidojin/Fukushidojin appointed by the CAF must have certification in first aid and CPR. While this is not a traditional element of Aikido practice from a technical point of view, the CAF executive strongly believes that it represents "due diligence" in safety on the part of our organization.

It is recommended that a Shidojin have certification from the National Coaching Certification Program or an equivalent recognized by the CAF.

Absence of Technical Director

In the event that the Technical Director is not available to oversee the Shidojin program for an extended period of time, the CAF executive shall oversee it until a Technical Director becomes available.