

EPO AIKIKAI AIKIDO CLUB

Temporary Proposal for Statutes

This document is amendable and provides a temporary guideline for the operation of the EAAC until the next Extraordinary General Assembly in September 2006, which shall be the next occasion for formal acceptance/rejection of statutes by the club members.

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Article 1 NAME

The club is set up under the name "EPO Aikikai Aikido Club" (hereafter: EAAC). The great contribution of Peter Bacas Sensei, 6th dan Aikikai, Dr K.F. Leisinger Sensei, 6th dan Aikikai, and of the founder members of the EAAC to the existence of this club is hereby acknowledged.

Article 2 AMICALE

The EAAC is affiliated to the AMICALE of the European Patent Office, association established in Rijswijk (ZH), The Netherlands. Members of the EAAC are encouraged to be members of the AMICALE.

Article 3 DURATION

3.1 The EAAC is of unlimited duration.

3.2 The EAAC can only be dissolved by decision of a general meeting (see Article 21, Dissolution and Settlement).

Article 4 AIMS

4.1 The aims of the EAAC are:

4.1.1 To promote the practice of Aikikai Aikido to all people, in particular staff members of the EPO, their families and/or those persons with whom they live, regardless of age, sex, race, creed, religious view, personality, personal attitude.

4.1.2 To uphold our affinity to the Hombu Dojo Aikikai Aikido World Headquarters, currently headed by Doshu Moriteiru Ueshiba and formerly headed by his father, Kishomaru Ueshiba.

4.1.3 The EAAC aims at improving the quality of the global understanding of different influences existing in Aikikai Aikido.

4.1.4 For our technical guidance, we aim to uphold the line of teaching of Hombu Shihan Masatake Fujita, 8th dan Aikikai, who is our direct link to the Hombu dojo and former student of the founder, O-Sensei, Morihei Ueshiba. We aim further to integrate the teaching of Bokken, Jo and Tanto, in order to uphold the line of teaching of Hombu Shihan Katsuaki Asai, 8th dan Aikikai, by intermediary of Dr. K.F. Leisinger Sensei, 6th dan Aikikai.

4.2 In the context of Article 4.1, the EAAC sets up activities in order to

- a) introduce the concepts of Aikikai Aikido to interested people,
- b) provide a beginner's course in Aikikai Aikido and Bokken/Jo/Tanto,
- c) provide an extensive course for advanced Aikidokas,
- d) implement a graduation program,
- e) invite non-resident teachers and high-ranking Senseis of different Aikikai Aikido influences for trainings and open seminars at the EPO Sport Centre in Rijswijk,
- f) foster exchanges with other dojos,

and encourages its members to take part in said activities.

Article 5 PARTNERSHIPS

5.1 In the pursuit of its aims the EAAC may establish and develop partnerships and activities with other associations.

5.2 The EAAC is affiliated to the Culturele Aikido Bond Nederland (CABN). Members of the EAAC become members of the CABN either through payment of a specific fee by the EAAC to the CABN (directly or through another body designated by the CABN), or by being a registered member at another dojo affiliated to CABN.

5.3 The EAAC recognizes the Nederlandse Culturele Aikido Club (NCAC) as a privileged partner, in particular the NCAC dojo "Hagu Kumi" established in Den Haag.

5.4 Members of the EAAC are encouraged to take part in the activities (e.g. classes, stages) organised by the CABN and the NCAC.

Article 6 WORKING YEAR

The working year of the EAAC runs from the 1st of February to and including the 31st of January of the next year.

Article 7 MEMBERSHIP

A person who has paid the fee designated at Art. 10.1a and at least one semester fee as designated at Art. 10.1b during a given working year is member of the EAAC for the whole working year. All persons in employment with the EPO at Rijswijk and their family members and/or partners may obtain membership in this way.

Article 8 RESPONSIBILITIES

8.1 Members are required to accept the statutes and regulations of the EAAC, as well as decisions of the Committee, the annual general assembly or other governing bodies of the club.

8.2 The EAAC may only introduce responsibilities other than the responsibilities mentioned in these statutes with the prior consent of a general meeting of the EAAC.

8.3 The repudiation of the responsibilities defined under Art. 8.1 or 8.2 or damage to the interests of the EAAC can lead to the suspension of the members guilty of these actions. The Committee will undertake these measures by means of a resolution supported by two thirds of the votes cast.

Article 9 FINANCES

The financial resources of the EAAC comprise:

- a) membership fee;
- b) subsidies from the AMICALE;
- c) receipts from activities and events organised by or in cooperation with the EAAC;
- d) other income (e.g. sponsorship, gifts).

Article 10 MEMBERSHIP FEE

10.1 The membership fee comprises

- a) a one-off fee, i.e. due once during a working year;
- b) a semester fee, allowing to take part in training for a period from February to and including July of the same year, or from August to and including January of the next year.

10.2 A person joining the club for the first time may request to benefit from a 8-week introduction fee. Said 8 weeks are consecutive, calendar weeks. After the 8 weeks have passed, if the person wishes to continue training with the EAAC, he/she has to further pay the difference between the 8-week introduction fee and the fees designated under Art. 10.1 according to the following calculation rule:

$((\text{one-off fee}) + ((\text{semester fee}) \times (\text{number of months left in the six-month period acc. to Art. 10.1b}) / 6) - (\text{8-week introduction fee}))$.

10.3 The one-off fee, the semester fee and the 8-week introduction fee are decided at the annual general meeting following a proposal from the Committee.

10.4 The elements to be taken into account in the determination of the fees comprise

- a) the fee for the registration of EAAC members to the CABN;
- b) expenses relative to classes and stages given by high-ranking Senseis;
- c) expenses relative to the promotion of the club and exceptional events;
- d) budget to set aside for the renewal of the material (e.g. tatamis).

10.5 The Committee may decide to grant to EAAC members who are already members of the CABN, due to e.g. membership in another dojo or direct registration, a rebate on their membership fee. This rebate may be equal or less than the amount of the specific fee designated at Art. 5.2.

Article 11 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

11.1 Membership terminates:

- a) on the resignation of the member,
- b) on expulsion,
- c) on the decease of the member.

A member will be considered as having resigned if, by the end of that calendar year, the member has not paid his membership fee.

11.2 Expulsion will be pronounced by the Committee on the basis of a decision taken with a two thirds majority of the votes cast in a meeting at which no less than two thirds of the number

of committee members are present.

11.3 An appeal can be made against this expulsion, in which case an extraordinary general meeting will be called. The appeal will not be successful if a two thirds majority of the votes cast at the general meeting support the pronounced expulsion.

11.4 Grounds for expulsion are serious breach of the regulations in the statute or serious damage caused to the EAAC.

Article 12 THE COMMITTEE

12.1 The EAAC will be governed by a Committee which shall comprise a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 members.

12.2 The annual general meeting will elect members to the Committee from a list of candidates, who must be EAAC members and who must have made their candidature known at least 5 working days before the start of the general meeting. The candidates may specify the function(s) to which they apply and possibly an order of preference. The annual general meeting will likewise decide on the number of members to sit on the committee, bearing in mind the provisions of Art. 13.1 (Further sharing of responsibilities within the Committee).

12.3 Those candidates receiving the largest number of votes will be elected to the Committee. In the event of two or more candidates receiving the same number of votes for a given function, the Chairperson has the deciding vote.

12.4 The Committee must comprise members elected to at least the following functions :

- Chair
- Vice-Chair
- Treasurer
- Secretary.

12.5 The Chairperson chairs the committee meetings. In the Chairperson absence the Vice-Chairperson chairs the meeting. The Chairperson defines the main direction of the EAAC during the club year and delegates the tasks, having due regard to the provisions of Art. 13. The Chairperson ensures that the voice of the Sensei(s) referred to in Art. 4.1 is heard, and that the Sensei(s)' demands are respected.

12.6 The Vice-Chairperson shares the responsibilities with the Chairperson according to Art. 13. The function of Vice-Chair may be assumed by a committee member having this function only, or may be cumulated with the function of Treasurer or Secretary. It may not be cumulated with the function of Chair.

12.7 The Treasurer has financial authorisation for an amount to be decided by the Committee. For amounts above this authorisation payment may only be executed on receipt of written instruction from the Chairperson or his/her replacement, after consultation and with the agreement of the Committee.

12.8 The Secretary notes the decisions taken by the Committee and, within one week of a meeting, forwards the minutes to the Committee members.

12.9 Unless otherwise indicated in articles of the present statutes, the Committee takes its decisions based on the majority of the votes cast by the committee members present. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson has the deciding vote.

Article 13 FURTHER SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE COMMITTEE

13.1 Responsibilities regarding the running of the EAAC within the EPO and in the frame of the partnerships established, for instance with the CABN and the NCAC, are divided between the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson.

13.2 Within one month after their election, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson provide the newly elected Committee with a clear and detailed list of their respective responsibilities. The list may be amended during the club year if necessary. The list must be approved by the Committee with a majority of two thirds of the votes cast. Amendments must be approved in the same way.

13.3 The aims of this repartition of responsibilities include

- to share the workload involved by the running of the EAAC;
- to improve the knowledge transfer between members, in particular on the topic of partnerships e.g. with NCAC and CABN.

13.4 The list of responsibilities shared between the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson should include at least the following items:

- ensuring the proper running of the EAAC within the EPO (managing booking times of classes with AMICALE, ...)
- promoting the EAAC within the EPO
- relation with AMICALE, keep the club up-to-date with AMICALE issues.
- organise internal events / seminars, embukais, open days, etc.
- Keep the club members up-to-date with international, national and local Aikido issues regarding the activities of the Hombu dojo, the dojo of Masatake Fujita Sensei, the dojo of Dr Leisinger Sensei, the NCAC and CABN.
- representation at NCAC and CABN official meetings.
- promotion of the activities of the NCAC and CABN (i.e. summerschool, winterschool, invitation of Fujita Sensei, etc) to the club.
- Maintain a strong link with and mediate directly any communications from Masatake Fujita Sensei, 8th dan Aikikai and Dr. K. F. Leisinger Sensei, 6th dan Aikikai.

13.5 As a consequence of and in the frame of this repartition of responsibilities, each of the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson may, when performing the activities on his/her list, take and announce decisions in the name of the EAAC, as far as possible after consultation with the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson and/or the Committee.

13.6 The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson commit themselves fully to a clear and open cooperation in a constructive team spirit. They inform regularly each other and the other members of the Committee of their activities. Any formal communication to the members should be reviewed and approved by both.

13.7 For matters concerning the content of the teaching and direction of the club regarding Aikido, the Committee or committee members seek the advice of

- a) the resident teacher(s), irrespective of whether they are or not committee members;
- b) non-resident teacher(s) that the Committee and resident teacher(s) agree on consulting;
- c) high-ranking Sensei(s) that the Committee and resident teacher(s) agree on consulting.

Article 14 TEACHING ROLES AND TECHNICAL DIRECTION

14.1 Teaching is provided by:

- resident teacher(s), i.e. teacher(s) who has/have been appointed as resident teacher(s) by the Committee and is/are member(s) of the EAAC, and/or
- guest teacher(s)/Sensei(s), i.e. non-member teacher(s)/Sensei(s) who is/are invited either to take the charge of a regular class or to teach in place of a resident teacher. A guest teacher/Sensei may be proposed by a resident teacher and is invited after approval by the Committee.

14.2 A schedule indicating how the (resident) teachers distribute the charge of the weekly classes amongst themselves is prepared by the highest ranked resident teacher in concertation with the other (resident) teacher(s), and submitted to the Committee for approval.

If there is no resident teacher at the EAAC, the Committee seeks the advice of the persons designated at Art. 13.7 and invites a guest teacher/Sensei to take the charges and responsibilities of the hereafter designated highest ranking resident teacher.

14.3 A resident teacher is responsible for teaching at each lesson to which he/she is designated. Occasionally, a member may be appointed at the class teacher's discretion for assistance in a class for warm-up/teaching purposes. When a resident teacher finds him/herself in the impossibility to teach at a particular class, he/she is responsible for proposing a replacement.

14.4 When a resident teacher wishes to resignate from his/her position as a teacher, he/she should inform the Committee of his/her decision, propose a replacement, and inform the students in due time. Resignation should not take effect before a suitable replacement is organised.

14.5 Temporary replacements should be approved by the highest ranked resident teacher and the Chairperson (where these are two different persons) or by the highest ranked resident teacher and the Committee.

14.6 The highest ranked resident teacher is in charge of the technical direction, which includes supervising all classes. All technical points must be in line with the above mission statement and to the highest ranked resident teacher's approval. If there is a disagreement with the highest ranked resident teacher's technical direction, then the matter is to be raised to an agreed higher ranking non-member of the EAAC's affiliates. All non-technical disputes should be directed to Article 16.

14.6.1: "The committee have the right to re-appoint the person in charge of the technical direction if at least one committee member raises a doubt in the technical competence of the current Highest Ranked Teacher. In such a case, re-appointment can only be made with the next highest ranked teacher on a 2/3 majority vote of the members in an extra-ordinary General Assembly so long as the committee has voted by majority to re-elect a new person in

charge of technical direction and the next highest ranked teacher puts forward their application for person in charge of the technical direction".

Article 15 GRADUATION

15.1 The highest ranked resident teacher is responsible for implementing and supervising a graduation program in order to promote the training members to higher ranks in Aikikai Aikido, in concertation with the other (resident) teacher(s). Since the style of Aikido of the EAAC is Aikikai and since the EAAC is recognised by the Hombu Dojo by intermediary of the CABN, all graduations shall be Hombu Dojo certified graduations.

15.2 Examinations taking place at the EPO premises shall be led and graduations authorised by:

- the highest ranked resident teacher (if he/she is Fukushidoin), or
- a non-member Fukushidoin invited by the highest ranked resident teacher.

Note: Fukushidoin is a Japanese term for a 2nd dan or above who can lead kyu grade examinations. Such a position is appointed by the organisation to which a club is affiliated (in our case, the CABN).

15.3 In the event where it does not appear possible to organise graduation of a member/members of the EAAC at the EPO premises, the highest ranked resident teacher is responsible for looking for and proposing an alternative e.g. in the framework of the partnerships defined at Art. 5.

Article 16 MEDIATION

16.1 In the event of a conflict or dispute occurring within the club, a mediator may be nominated by the Committee on request of one or both parties, of the Chairperson, or following a decision of the Committee. The parties are bound to cooperate with the mediator.

16.2 Any member of the club, including Committee members, may volunteer to the task of mediator in the specific case at hand. If there are several volunteers, the Committee elects one of them, taking into account the opinions of the parties involved. If no suitable volunteer is found the Committee elects one of its members as mediator. The advice of the persons designated at Article 13.7 may also be sought.

Article 17 REPRESENTATION

17.1 The EAAC is represented by its Chairperson.

Article 18 ACCOUNTS

18.1 The Committee is duty bound to keep such records of the financial situation of the EAAC that, at any time, its claims and liabilities are apparent.

18.2 In particular, the records of the financial situation of the EAAC must indicate clearly the

repartition of its income amongst the four categories of resources listed under Art. 9 (Finances).

18.3 The Committee will publish its annual financial statement, together with a balance and a list of income and expenditure, at least three working days before the annual general meeting. A copy should be sent to the AMICALE Committee.

18.4 During the annual general meeting the Committee gives an account of its administration of the preceding book year.

18.5 On adoption of the annual report and the accounts by the annual general meeting the Committee is discharged.

18.6 The records referred to in the second and third subsections shall be saved for ten years.

Article 19 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19.1 The annual general meeting has all powers within the association which are not, by law or the statute, charged to the Committee.

19.2 The annual general meeting shall take place on a day falling between 1st of January and 31st of January to be decided by the Committee. This day shall be made known to the members in an accessible way at least one week in advance.

19.3 The agenda for this meeting shall contain, amongst other items:

- a) an annual report of activities in the past year,
- b) an annual report from the Treasurer,
- c) setting of the membership fee,
- d) election of the committee,
- e) any other business.

19.4 Extraordinary general meetings may be held as often as the Committee deems necessary, or by written request from at least ten percent of the voting members of the association. This request should be addressed to the Secretary. The Committee must carry out this request within fourteen days.

19.5 Extraordinary general meetings can also be held on the basis of the provisions in Arts. 11 (Termination of membership) and 20 (Amendments to the Statutes).

19.6 All members have the right to attend and vote at the general meeting. Each voting member can in addition also hold one proxy for another voting member. This proxy must be declared in writing and be submitted to the Secretary at the beginning of the meeting.

19.7 The means for voting shall be decided by the general meeting itself.

Article 20 AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES

20.1 The statute may only be amended by decision of the annual, or an extraordinary, general meeting with a majority of at least two thirds of the votes cast.

20.2 The proposal for amendments must be made available for inspection by the voting members at least 5 working days before the general meeting and up till the day of the general meeting.

Article 21 DISSOLUTION AND SETTLEMENT

21.1 The EAAC shall be dissolved following such a decision from the general meeting supported by two thirds of the votes cast in a meeting at which three quarters of the members are present.

21.2 If the necessary number of members are not present at the meeting, the decision to dissolve the association may be taken at the following general meeting, independent of the number of members present, with a majority of two thirds of the votes cast.

21.3 In the announcement of the meetings as signified in sub-sections one and two above it must be made clear that it will be proposed to dissolve the EAAC. The announcement for such a meeting must be made at least fourteen days in advance.

21.4 If it is decided to dissolve the EAAC and no persons are designated to do so the task falls to the committee.

21.5 If the accounts are in credit, the balance shall not be distributed to those who are members at the time of dissolution but shall be transferred to an institution of international character, designated by the general meeting, whose aims are to better the lot of the less fortunate.

21.6 After dissolution, the association shall remain in existence until the settlement of its capital has been established. During this period of settlement the conditions of the statute and rules remain in force so far as possible. In documents and announcements published by the association in this period the words " under liquidation " must appear adjacent to its name.