



# UNITED STATES AIKIDO FEDERATION

## CODE OF CONDUCT

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*Preserving Tradition, Inspiring Integrity, Ensuring Continuity*

*“I hope everyone will continue to focus on their practice in a sincere way, and that we all look to grow in our aikido techniques, our budo principals, and our kindness towards each other as human beings.”*

*– Y. Yamada*

The United States Aikido Federation (USAF) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to spreading and sustaining Aikido as created and exemplified by its founder, Morihei Ueshiba (O Sensei). The USAF strives to uphold the principles of Aikido as developed by O Sensei and to promote goodwill and friendship among its members and with other Aikido organizations around the world. Guiding the advancement of Aikido in the U.S. in harmony with Aikido World Headquarters, Hombu Dojo, the USAF encourages positive practice and technical proficiency to ensure the continuation of traditional Aikido as transmitted by its founders who were direct students of O Sensei.

*“Real budo is the protection of all beings with a spirit of reconciliation.”*

*– Morihei Ueshiba*

### **Principles and Core Values**

While the USAF does not have legal authority for the operation of any member dojo or the specific conduct of any individual member, all members are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the principles of Aikido and the values of the USAF.

Responsible conduct maintains the integrity of the USAF and upholds the core values that are critical to its philosophy. These values include:

**Respect**

**Integrity**

**Responsibility**

**Fairness**

**Compassion**

## **Expectations**

This Code of Conduct is an effort to clarify the expectations for member responsibility and describe basic guidelines for member conduct. This Code of Conduct applies to all members but holds senior ranking members and instructors to the highest standards.

### **Members**

All members are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the USAF and Aikido:

- Treat everyone with respect
- Be honest and trustworthy
- Accurately reflect credentials, camp and seminar attendance, lineage and legacy, etc.
- Take personal responsibility for your own behavior
- Assist fellow members in the practice and development of Aikido

### **Instructors and Senior Ranking Members**

Instructors and senior ranking members are expected to uphold the principles and core values of the USAF. They should be aware of, and sensitive to, the power differential inherent in a teacher-student and sempai-kohai relationship. Additionally, instructors and senior ranking members should continuously improve their own training as well as support the learning process of their students and kohai by:

- Demonstrating respect for their teachers, predecessors and students
- Engaging in continuing education, including at least two seminars annually
- Carefully preparing for their teaching duties
- Accurately representing their competence, training and level of experience
- Evaluating students based on merit
- Refraining from interference in other dojo's activities and operations
- Preventing exploitation of students for personal advantage

## **Avoid Any Form of Discrimination or Harassment**

The USAF advocates mutual respect for one another and does not tolerate any form of discrimination, exploitation, or harassment of anyone for any reason including, but not limited to, any characteristic protected by law.

No member should engage in any type of harassment or unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would consider intimidating, hostile, or abusive. This includes unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or sexually related verbal or physical harassment which creates an intimidating, hostile, or degrading environment.

Effective 2020, all members of the Board of Directors, Board Committees, Board Advisors, the Technical Committee, and Administrators are required to provide proof of completion of annual Sexual Harassment Prevention Training. While the USAF does not have the legal

authority to require sexual harassment prevention training, it strongly encourages its instructors and dojo cho to undergo such training to learn to identify and prevent harassment.

### **CONSENT**

Active membership and participation in the USAF constitute your agreement to this Code of Conduct. Each member dojo is expected to post or otherwise make this Code of Conduct available to its members.

*“True victory is victory over oneself.”*

*– Morihei Ueshiba*