

The Rules & Regulations of



The International Wado Federation Governing Body 国際和道連盟 - 本部

Valid from 1st October 2021

The Union for all Independent & Autonomous Wado Organisations

Established by Gary E Swift Hanshi in 1982 from the foundations of the
Alliance of International Wado-ryu (AIWa)

EXPLANATIONS, REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION

The *International Wado Federation* is a World Governing Body/Alliance for Autonomous Associations.

Note: To ensure the 'ethos' of the Federation remains consistently for the benefit of the Associate Members, the IWF Committee has the authority to include facilities, adjustments as & when required. Members may suggest/propose changes; however, these must be forwarded to the Chairman to be considered at the relevant Annual General Meeting and/or Emergency Meeting/s. To ensure that Committee Members are not 'agenda driven', membership to the IWF Committee will only be accepted from members who *DO NOT* belong to, *or involved with*, any other Wadoryu Governing Body Committee, or within a committee of a Karate/Sporting Controlling Organisation or Body, of any kind, outside of the International Wado Federation. To ensure groups & associations in membership do not have any conflicting interests, international Wado governing body affiliation must be limited to the International Wado Federation.

Summarise.

Due to conflicts of interest, multiple affiliations between international Wado governing bodies cannot be permitted within the IWF.

MISSION STATEMENT:

To preserve both the traditional development and the evolution of Wado Karate. We strive to accomplish this in an environment free of intimidation, politics, and other negative distractions. We further seek to foster a spirit of fellowship and understanding by welcoming all like-minded individuals, regardless of race, gender, ethnic background, national origin, or physical handicap. All accepted member-groups will be granted 'self-development' to encourage positive growth within their own autonomous infrastructure, without interference from the International Wado Federation.

The **International Wado Federation** is a **World Governing Body** for traditional Wado, Wadoryu, Wadokai inspired karate organisations. Promoting Wado unity world-wide as an alliance of Wado associations and groups; **irrespective of size and other national, international or world 'multi-style' affiliations.** *We do not expect members to leave any existing World Sport Karate Governing Body to join the **International Wado Federation**, as our interests are only to encourage unity and growth within all Wado.* The **International Wado Federation** is **NOT** a Limited Company or a commercially motivated governing body, so [unlike many other 'governing bodies'] does not rely on 'profit' or membership fees to exist. The **International Wado Federation** is not run by a *chief instructor*, as it is organised with common sense by a freely-elected committee of like-minded people, who offer their services free of charge.

The International Wado Federation is a non-profit Governing Body for 'professionally run' (*amateur and/or professional*) Wado Karate Schools/Organisations. The IWF is not a commercially motivated or profit-based karate business.

Conditions for membership acceptance.

All Clubs/Groups must train in traditional Wadoryu Karate-do; or intend to do so within 12 months of application acceptance.

Wado Applicants must come from a 'credible' Wado source or lineage, for example (these examples are not exhaustive); Japan Karate Federation (JKF-Wadokai), Wado International Karate Federation, Wado Academy/Renmei, etc.

Wado Applicants must not already belong to another World/International Wado Governing Body, unless it is itself in membership of the IWF. **Upon knowledge of an organisation already in membership not following the minimum technical requirements, after 12-months of being accepted into IWF membership, will be expelled from membership immediately.**

Minimal Technical Requirements MUST include:

Wado Kihon Waza. All Pinan Kata (Shodan to Godan); Ku-Shanku, Nai-Hanchi, Seishan, Chinto. Kihon Gumite: (1 to 10). See below for Technical Criteria for Membership to the IWF.

New applicants: Once initially accepted will be placed on a 'Provisional Membership' until application has been forwarded and accepted into full 'Associate Membership' by the IWF Executive Committee.

TECHNICAL CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE IWF

Type of Membership:

1. Allied Member (International Wado Federation): Fully Autonomous with own Constitution, Insurance, Operational & Administrative Policies and Syllabus, etc. Chief Instructors have sole responsibility for their own group & individuals, therefore the **International Wado Federation** will not be held responsible for any Association or Group in membership. Chief Instructors have no control (administrative or technical) over other IWF Associate members, unless invited to do so.

2. Associate Member: Fully Autonomous with own Constitution, Insurance, Operational & Administrative Policies and Syllabus, etc. Chief Instructors have sole responsibility for their own group & individuals, therefore the **International Wado Federation** will not be held responsible for any Association or Group in membership. Chief Instructors have no control (administrative or technical) over other IWF Associate members, unless invited to do so. There are Chief Instructor grade advancement services available for Associate Member Groups within the **British Wado Federation**.

NB: It is the responsibility of each Association/Group in membership to ensure that all members are adequately insured. It is also the responsibility of each Chief Instructor/Director to ensure that all their instructors are adequately insured, possess CRB/DBS (or equivalent) and 1st Aid Certification.

NB: Allied Membership. The **International Wado Federation** is **NOT** a grading authority and as such does not issue 'grading certificates'; *this is the responsibility of the relevant member-group or IWF National Representative to issue grading/progression certificates.* Please use the correct application-form for Grade Registration/Advancement within the International Wado Federation.

Associate Members. All *Associate Member* Chief Instructors must apply for (and have possession of) an up-to-date IWF Licence membership, as a minimum requirement for Group/Association Membership. Associate Members have full access to all optional facilities offered by the International Wado Federation and **official** National Governing Bodies (such as the European Wado Federation and the British Wado Federation, etc.).

Allied Member (International Wado Federation): Fully Autonomous with own Constitution, Insurance, Operational & Administrative Policies and Syllabus, etc.

Associate & Allied Members:

1. All **Associate and Allied Member** Chief Instructors have sole responsibility for their own group & individuals, therefore the International Wado Federation will not be held responsible for any Association or Group in membership.
2. **Chief Instructors** have no control (administrative or technical) over other IWF Associate members; *unless invited to do so by the relevant group.*

See Section 5.

NB: Associate & Allied Chief Instructors have sole responsibility for their own group & individuals, therefore the International Wado Federation, and/or subsidiary affiliations, will not be held responsible or liable for any Club, Association or Group in membership. It is the responsibility of each Association/Group in membership to ensure that all their members are adequately insured and cared for. All technical Kyū/Dan grading standards, certification and progression are the full responsibility of the relevant Chief Instructor for his/her own Group/Club. Grades may not necessarily be recognised outside of the Associate/Allied member Group, although they may be 'registered' within the International Wado Federation (application forms available from the IWF websites).

IWF Certificate Artwork Copyright

Associate Level Yūdan *grading* certificates may not contain IWF artwork or text, but may contain IWF membership recognition, etc.

Chief Instructors/Directors are to ensure that all instructors within their group/club are adequately insured, possess CRB (or equivalent) and have 1st Aid Certification.

The following technical criteria are essential to all organisations **BEFORE** they wish to be accepted as members into the International Wado Federation Headquarters as accepted Wado practitioners. **These are the minimum requirements, for international members, as laid out by Ohtsuka Hironori Meijin in 1963.**

- ❖ Wado Kihon Waza.
- ❖ Wado Kihon Gumite, as created & developed by Hironori Ohtsuka Meijin: Ipponme, Nihonme, Sanbonme, Yonhonme, Gohonme, Ropponme, Nanahonme, Napponme, Kyuhonme, Jupponme.
- ❖ Wado syllabus Kata, as promoted by Hironori Ohtsuka Meijin: Pinan; Shodan, Nidan, Sandan, Yodan, Godan; Ku-shanku, Naihanchi, Seishan, and Chinto.
- ❖ Wado Tai Sabaki & Terminology.

NB: In various cases, such as in the event where there is a lack of recognised certification, etc., applicants to the IWF will be required to 'prove' their technical ability/lineage through use of video; this can be sourced through Website, YouTube and/or FaceBook (or similar/other) resources, etc.

1. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Patron: HRH Princess Linda Tomislav Karageorgevitch.
2. Directors: Paul Elliott (8th Dan) Kyoshi, Ira Watanabe Kyoshi, Kjartan Stornes 7th Dan.
3. General Secretary: Julie Jeffries 3rd Dan, assisted by Hayley Jeffries 3rd Dan.
4. Legal Officers: Neil Bennett 2nd Dan, Elizabeth Rayman 1st Dan.
5. Child Protection Officer: Elizabeth Rayman 1st Dan.
6. UK Ambassador: Kevin Hamilton-Stewart (8th Dan) Kyoshi.
7. Asia Ambassador: Ira F Watanabe 7th Dan.
8. European Ambassador: Kjartan Stornes 7th Dan.
9. Yūdansha Registrations: Gary E Swift Hanshi.

Membership to the IWF Committee will only be accepted from members who **DO NOT** belong to **any other Governing Body** outside of the **International Wado Federation**.

2. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

If an applying organisation can 'confirm' qualifications in Wadoryu Karate then the organisation can affiliate direct to the International Wado Federation as an *already established* Wado organisation. However, if an organisation wishes to pursue Wado qualifications & training in Wadoryu Karate, in order to become a Wado organisation, then the application must go under their *National Representative/s* for technical direction, support and guidance. If a National Representative is unavailable then an already established IWF Association or outside Wado Group may be accepted to help with the transition to Wado Karate.

If an organisation has applied on the provisional basis of converting to Wadoryu then the said organisation would need to prove, after 12-months on provisional membership, that the organisation is fully conversant in Wadoryu.

If the organisation has applied as a Wado organisation and cannot support a Wado lineage (or intention to convert to Wado) then this would be subject to immediate rejection/expulsion.

Non Wado Applications.

Applications from non-Wado sources may be accepted, as long as those applicants are able to satisfy the IWF Technical that they will be under the 'direction & protection' of an already established association/group practising & promoting Wado Karate. Until the transition to Wado has been successful all Yūdansha ranks & levels will be considered as 'honorary' in status. Non-Wado groups who apply for this type of affiliation will be required to transfer totally to Wado within 12-months of initial honorary membership acceptance. Depending on original source, all previously awarded grades (Dan & Kyu) will be accepted as 'honorary'. New Members joining from another organisation or club will have their grades accepted by IWF. Upon Licence Application acceptance the grade will be 'stamped' at the relevant grade level with the



generic Wado registration stamp. This 'stamp' symbolises and entitles the member to 'honorary status', at their present rank, until full grade registration has been accepted and approved. Club Instructors must ensure that all accepted *pre-graded* members are updated to their relevant syllabus level prior to advancement (minimum 6-months for Kyu level and 12-months for Yūdansha). Grade progression, from the

member's present grade, can commence once all these implications have been addressed and in place.

3. ASSOCIATE AND ALLIED MEMBERS

- (a) **Allied Members** are **self-governing** 'autonomous/independent' members and will be considered 'Allied Members' to the IWF. The IWF will have no control over Associate Members as they will have their own Constitution/Rules & Regulations, Insurance Procedures and Member Protection Policies, etc., (including Child & Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy) for self-governance within their own Group/Association. As they are 'allied' they will have no access to IWF promotion or other entitlement facilities within the IWF.
- (b) **Associate Members (British Wado Federation)**. All Associate Member Chief Instructors will be treated equally and must apply for (and have possession of) an up-to-date IWF Licence membership, as a minimum requirement for Group/Association Membership. Associate Membership allows members to have access to all optional facilities available through the IWF and official Continental & National Governing Bodies in membership. This would also allow the relevant Chief Instructor to be eligible for any IWF approved promotion he would wish to pursue. However, Individual Members would not be eligible for IWF promotion unless they too were registered as '*individual*' Licenced Members' of the International Wado Federation. **Associate Members** are **self-governing** 'autonomous' members to the IWF.
- (c) The IWF will have no control over Associate Members as they will have their own Constitution, Rules & Regulations, grade syllabus, promotion & advancement procedures. Groups will run their own Insurance Procedures (or apply through the IWF if in the UK) and Member Protection Policies, etc., (including Child & Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy) for self-governance within their own Group/Association.
- (d) The IWF is **NOT** a 'grading authority'. All gradings and promotions must be organised through the committee of the relevant national bodies or association/group in membership.
- (e) Upon a Chief Instructor's IWF Licence becoming invalid (out-of-date by more than 6-months), then the Chief Instructor *and relevant organisation* would be deemed 'resigned' from Associate Membership and therefore would be placed on Allied Membership to the IWF.
- (f) All Associate/Allied Members must not be part of another world/international Wado organisation and must be practising Wado Karate prior to consideration for membership with the IWF-HQ. However, if an organisation, not familiar with the style of Wadoryu, wishes to pursue IWF Wado qualifications & training, in order to become an official Wado organisation, then the application must go under their relevant *National Representative/s* for technical direction, support and guidance. If a National Representative is unavailable then an already established IWF Association or Group may be accepted to help with the transition to Wado Karate (see Section 4).
- (g) Names & Titles of Associations in membership. Member associations may register their organisation by any name, unless in violation of any copyright/s. National & International associations may not use the title of their organisation with the prefix of IWF, followed by a country/continent suffix, unless the said association can satisfy the IWF that they are 'resident' within that country/continent. However, a temporary-protectorate organisation may operate as an umbrella until a 'resident' IWF prefixed association is proposed and accepted by the IWF committee. The IWF allows more than

one IWF Representative, so there will be no restriction on IWF prefixed associations. However, any association operating as an IWF National Representative must adhere to the requirements of IWF representation. See Section 9.

- (h) As the International Wado Federation is non-profit, therefore does not have the need for a *Treasurer*; it must be remembered that the IWF have no central funds or means to offer financial support to any members. All members are treated equal and accepted as autonomous, independent and self-funding.
- (i) As member groups of the IWF are self-governing the IWF cannot accept responsibility for any member-group or individual in Associate or Allied Membership.
- (j) It is the responsibility of each Association/Group in membership to ensure that all their members are adequately insured. It is also the responsibility of each Chief Instructor/Director to ensure that all instructors are adequately insured to teach, possess CRB (or equivalent) and 1st Aid Certification.
- (k) Member groups will be treated equally by all members of the IWF. Chief Instructor ranks between groups are irrelevant, due to autonomy, so a group of a higher graded Chief Instructor, for example, has no control over another group's Chief Instructor of lower rank, etc.

NB. As Associate Members run their own affairs: In the event of and in respect to violation of National Law/s, or Child Protection issues, the relevant Associate Member will no longer be considered part of the International Wado Federation; *as with immediate effect*

Groups in membership attempting to control other independent & autonomous groups within IWF membership will be expelled from IWF membership.

4. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

All individual members will be the responsibility of each member Group/Association Chief Instructor/Head Coach.

5. CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. CRIMINAL RECORDS BUREAU CRB/DBS (or equivalent) Criteria (UK only)

The following offences will be considered.

- Murder.*
- Rape.*
- Robbery. **
- Offences involving children or vulnerable adults (in any form).*
- Sexual Crime.*
- Offences involving dangerous weapons. *
- Offences involving violence. *
- Offences involving drugs. *

*Following receipt of Disclosure (UK), or upon evidence presented to the IWF-Committee, the following offences shall be regarded as *totally* unacceptable for consideration into membership.

**Following receipt of Disclosure (UK)), or upon evidence presented to the IWF-Committee, the following offences shall be reviewed and assessed *individually* for consideration into membership.

6. AFFILIATED CLUBS

- (a) All Clubs are the responsibility of each member Association Chief/Senior Instructor, and must train in a traditional/recognisable form of Wado Karate (or intend to do so within a set time-limit agreed by the Association Chief Instructor).
- (b) International Clubs may also need to affiliate to their own multi-style/sport karate National Governing Body in their host country (if there is one or a need to do so).
- (c) The running of all Club affairs will be the sole responsibility of the Registered Instructor.

7. REPRESENTATIVE BRANCHES (IWF-Branch)

IWF members, within various countries, may like to establish themselves as National Representative, otherwise known as IWF-Branches. IWF-Branches are able to assist (although not 'govern or control') local member-groups, etc. Representatives may be able to assist with the benefit of support to non-Wado groups to help in their Wado conversion, organise local competitions, regional courses, and gradings, etc. Due to the complexities of the differing Wadoryu systems, such as the so-called Wadokai, Wado Renmei, Wadoryu, etc., it would be very bias to have just ONE IWF-Branch per country; as this could also lead to 'negative politics' and 'control issues' between practicing Wado organisations claiming 'authenticity'. The IWF encourages cooperation, unity and harmony between all member-groups. There will be no charges, fees or extra conditions related to membership of the designated branch.

NB: IWF-Branches must have an elected committee to function as a fair and democratic entity. IWF Wado Groups and Clubs in the region may join an IWF National Branch, *if they wish to do so*. Important: There is no obligation to be part of any IWF-Branch.

IWF-Branches/National Representatives *should* be well-versed fully in traditional **Wado Karate Membership Criteria** to offer aid and support to developing groups/associations within their own district and/or country, etc.

Any established IWF Member Group may apply to the IWF-HQ as 'Representatives'. These IWF-Branches are primarily designed and designated as 'contact points' and 'representatives' for all IWF memberships within that area or host country. However, these Branches **are not 'Controlling Governing Bodies'** and would/should not take away the rights & privileges of those who wish to affiliate direct to the IWF; they merely act as local 'Representatives' for the IWF.

IWF members are not required to join Representative IWF-Branches, unless they choose to do so or they are, *or required to be*, under the 'protective technical guidance' of an IWF-Branch. IWF-Branches must have an elected infrastructure/committee to help run the affairs and advise members within their membership.

NB: IWF-Branches that are found to be 'controlling' other groups will be instantly disbanded. Groups in membership attempting to control other independent & autonomous groups within IWF membership will also be expelled from IWF membership.

Stipulations/Conditions.

- (a) All Branches must be already **FULLY CONVERSANT** in correct and traditional Wado Karate before application as an IWF-Branch.

- (b) National Representatives *should* be well-versed fully in traditional **Wado Karate Membership Criteria** to offer aid and support to developing groups/associations within **their own district and/or country, etc.**
- (c) Any established IWF Member Group may set themselves up as 'Representatives', there is no monopoly-control. However, each IWF-Branch must work together for the benefit and protection of those in membership who may follow differing variants of traditional Wado Karate.
- (d) IWF-Branches are primarily designed and designated as 'contact points' and 'Representatives' for all IWF memberships within that area or host country/continent. However, these IWF-Branches are not designed to be 'Controlling Governing Bodies' and would/should not take away the rights & privileges of those who wish to affiliate direct to the IWF; they merely act as local 'Representatives' for the IWF.
- (e) IWF members are not required to join Representative Headquarters, unless they choose to do so or they are, *or required to be*, under the 'protective technical guidance' of an IWF-Branch.
- (f) IWF-Branches must have an elected infrastructure/committee to help run the affairs and advise members within their membership.
- (g) The IWF-Branch must have an elected Representative/Chairman as head of the Committee.
- (h) All IWF-Branches must operate with the best interests for the International Wado Federation and all its members.
- (i) All individual groups/associations may still affiliate direct to the IWF-Honbu (World Governing Body) based within the UK.
- (j) International Clubs may also need to affiliate to a multi-style/sport karate National Governing Body in their host country (if there is one and/or if they are required to do so). This may need to be done through an existing IWF-Branch that is already in membership of said NGB.
- (k) The running of the individual Groups/Associations, in IWF membership, are the sole responsibility of the Registered Chief Instructors of the relative Groups/Associations not the IWF-Branch.
- (l) IWF-Branch Committees may be assembled for various additional duties, which may include promotion of individuals on or beyond the level of the highest graded Committee Member. In this case each applicant must be vetted for validity and to ensure that the correct timings and protocols of promotion are adhered to. The Chairman of the IWF-Branch may call an EGM to discuss and to implement such promotions. Once this has been decided then the IWF HQ must be notified so as a Registration Certificate can be forwarded to the Committee Chairman, at the earliest convenience, from the IWF President. Any promotions **MUST** be first voted and agreed by all those who are present at the organised EGM.
- (m) Criteria for Committee Membership: Committee Members are neutral, unbiased and not 'agenda-driven', as they **DO NOT** belong to any other Governing Body outside of the International Wado Federation. *Committee positions are unpaid; members give their time freely.*

8. NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

There *may* be a need, in certain countries, to have National Headquarters for liaison purposes with an 'All-Styles National Governing Body', etc. National Headquarters will be responsible for the political general running of the IWF within each country. Each NHQ's

will be aware of the national karate policies & politics and act as liaison between various National Governing Bodies and National IWF Members. There will be one NHQ within each country. NHQ's will secure communication between IWF-Branches at all times to assist in the smooth running of the designated national members of IWF. All 'national' responsibilities and national level interests may require going through the National Headquarters. The IWF-HQ will not be involved with the establishment of these NHQ's, this would have to be arranged/agreed by the relevant IWF National Member Branch Representatives, as they would normally be of national-level interest only for sport-karate. There will be no charges, fees or extra conditions related to membership of the designated NHQ.

NB: National Headquarters who are found to be 'controlling' other groups will be instantly disbanded. Groups in membership attempting to control other independent & autonomous groups within IWF membership will also be expelled from IWF membership.

9. AIMS

The aims of the IWF are to:

- (a) Foster, develop and encourage the art of the Wado Karate system founded and developed by Ohtsuka-Hironori (10th Dan) Meijin.
- (b) Allow access to the progression of all IWF Chief Instructors within IWF membership.
- (c) Supply members' optional services, such as registration and authentication.
- (d) Allow access to all associated tuition, courses, competitions and tournaments.
- (e) Act as an information exchange centre to & for all members.
- (f) Discourage malpractice and abuse of Wado Karate.
- (g) Do all such other things that are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the aims of the IWF.

10. WADO RANKING SYSTEM

Traditional Wado Kyū Grade Ranks (minimum 3-months between each grade).

- 9th Kyū.
- 8th Kyū.
- 7th Kyū.
- 6th Kyū.
- 5th Kyū.
- 4th Kyū.
- 3rd Kyū.
- 2nd Kyū.
- 1st Kyū.

Yūdan Grade Ranks.

Includes the recommended intervals/minimum training requirements for Yūdan applicants:

- SHODAN; From 1st Kyū to 1st Dan. (1st Kyū to 1st Dan = 9 months). Minimum age 10.
- NIDAN; From 1st Dan to 2nd Dan. (1st Dan to 2nd Dan = 24 months). Minimum age 14.
- SANDAN; From 2nd Dan to 3rd Dan. (2nd Dan to 3rd Dan = 3 years). Minimum age 20.
- YODAN: From 3rd Dan to 4th Dan = 4 years. Minimum age 25.
- GODAN: From 4th Dan to 5th Dan = 5 years.
- ROKUDAN: From 5th Dan to 6th Dan = 6 years.

- SHICHIDAN/NANADAN: From 6th Dan to 7th Dan = 7 years.
- HACHIDAN: From 7th to 8th Dan = 8 years.
- Etc.

Shogo Titles and Advancement Criteria.

Title	Wadokai Prerequisite recognised by IWF.
Tashi	3 rd Dan for at least 2 years and at least 25 years of age.
Renshi	5th Dan for at least 2 years and at least 35 years of age.
Kyoshi	Renshi for at least 5 years or 7th Dan [or higher] and at least 45 years of age.
Hanshi	Kyoshi for at least 10 years, or 8th Dan or higher and at least 55 years of age.

Shogo; Instructor Rank Titles.

Meijin (名人) Grand Master (10th Dan).

Hanshi (範士) Model teacher (8th Dan & above).

Kyoshi (教士) Master instructor/teacher. This title is usually awarded to one who has achieved a rank of 7th or 8th Dan black belt (shichidan/nanadan (七段) or hachidan (八段). Kyoshi are typically regarded as those who have distinguished themselves as expert teachers or instructors.

Renshi (錬士) Senior Expert. Often refers to an advanced instructor. Renshi also means "one who has mastered himself." In many styles, it is awarded around the 5th Dan *godan* (五段) or 6th Dan *rokudan* (六段) black belt level.

Tashi (達士) Experienced Practitioner. Awarded to those of 3rd Dan to 5th Dan who show exceptional skill in their practical, technical and theoretical studies.

11. ASSOCIATE CHIEF INSTRUCTORS

Associate Chief Instructor Grade Progression

As long as the Registered Member/Chief Instructor (if of 3rd Dan or above) has remained in IWF Membership, unbroken membership for at least 12-months, all requests for registration-promotion (through award or exam) will be considered from the relevant Association's Technical/Executive Committee/s. Once this application has been received, by any member of the IWF Technical Executive Committee, promotion will be considered/reviewed and registered where necessary to the aforementioned Chief Instructor. All applications must be implemented from the 'Member Association Committee', in writing, and also conform to the strict *official time intervals* prior to application. Only grades received by legitimate Wado organisations and authorities will be accepted by the IWF for registration.

Any 'Chief Instructor' under the rank of 3rd Dan, must apply to their/a local IWF Representative (or National Governing Body) for application into a 'physical grading', if available (please see below 'protocols').

All IWF members wishing to pursue Yūdansha Registration/Progression must have attained the recommended minimum time intervals (see Section 12).

The IWF-HQ Executive/Technical Committee does not have the authority to promote, but merely has the authority to register any grade (if eligible) up to and including 9th Dan. The IWF-HQ Executive/Technical Committee must have a quorum of at least four members for any promotion to be accepted, validated and registered.

NB: All 'time-served' implications MUST be considered at all times prior to consideration. However, the following recommendations may also be implemented in extenuating circumstances. In the event that an applicant has accumulated an excess of any 'time-served' period, within a previous Yūdan grade, he may be considered for advancement and assessed earlier (although no earlier than 12-months from present grade date).

These are IWF 'recommendations', which may not necessarily be implemented within member associations/groups' constitution/s or Rules & Regulations. However, the IWF decision of any progression will take into consideration any 'shortfalls' or 'anomalies' prior to a final decision, and 'may' also include lost opportunities for past grade promotion/s. All grade progression will be depending on correct 'time-served' protocols implemented by member groups.

Protocols

As long as the Registered Member/Chief Instructor has remained in IWF [unbroken] Licenced Membership, for at least 12-months, all requests for advancement-registration (through award or exam by the member-group) within the IWF will be considered from the relevant Association's Technical/Executive Committee/s. Once this application has been received, by any member of the IWF Technical Executive Committee, promotion will be reviewed & validated, and certification will be granted where necessary to the aforementioned Chief Instructor. All applications must be implemented from the 'Member Association Committee', in writing, and also conform to the strict *official time intervals* prior to application. Only grades received by legitimate Wado organisations and authorities will be accepted by the IWF.

The IWF Executive/Technical Committee has the authority to certify any grade (if eligible) up to and including 9th Dan. The IWF-HQ Executive/Technical Committee must have a quorum of at least four members for any promotion to be accepted and validated.

NB: All 'time-served' implications MUST be adhered to at all times prior to consideration.

These are IWF 'recommendations', which may not necessarily be implemented within member associations/groups' constitution/s or Rules & Regulations. However, the IWF decision of any progression will take into consideration any 'shortfalls' or 'anomalies' prior to a final decision, and 'may' also include lost opportunities for past grade promotion/s. All grade progression will be depending on correct 'time-served' protocols implemented by the International Wado Federation (see Yūdan Grade Ranks, above).

To Clarify. A 3rd Dan (or higher) Chief Instructor is eligible to grade his own membership up to and including his own grade. This way having control over their own membership and allow an 'examiner level' system to be implemented.

There are various options for progression for a Chief Instructor (if of 3rd Dan & above) of a Group/Association.

In the event that a Chief Instructor becomes eligible for promotion or progression, this can be done as follows:

1. Apply to the [nearest] IWF Representative/Branch to apply for a 'physical grading'. (Also applies for under 3rd Dan progression).
2. Apply to the [nearest] IWF Representative/Branch, using the application forms provided on the IWF Website/s, for an *honorarium*, based on technical evaluation.
3. Allow your *own* Committee (which must consist of the minimum; President/Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.) to award/promote to the eligible rank/title and apply for registration, through IWF-HQ using the form/s provided on the IWF Website/s.

NB: Officially there are no physical Wado 'gradings' after 3rd Dan, unless requested/required. This does not affect the Group/Association's own Constitution or Rules & Regulations.

The **Chief Instructor** of the member group, if of Sandan (3rd Dan) or above, will be entitled to grade his/her membership up-to-and-including his own grade.

Upon qualification/certification, from the IWF President, he may also be entitled to grade, up-to-and-including ONE grade below his own, any member within the International Wado Federation not in membership to his own group.

12. GRADE EXAMINER LEVELS



The official Grade Examiner Levels for 'active' Yūdansha (of 4th Dan & above) within the IWF. These qualifications allow any IWF Examiner to assess/grade any member of the IWF through invitation or honorarium.

All Yūdansha of Yodan & above are entitled as follows.

- Yodan may grade IWF Yūdansha up to San (3rd) Dan
- Godan may grade IWF Yūdansha up to Yo/Yon (4th) Dan
- Rokudan may grade IWF Yūdansha up to Go (5th) Dan
- Shichi/Nanadan may grade IWF Yūdansha up to Roku (6th) Dan
- Hachidan may grade IWF Yūdansha up to Nana/Shichi (7th) Dan
- Kudan may grade IWF Yūdansha up to Hachi (8th) Dan
- Judan may grade IWF Yūdansha up to Ku (9th) Dan

The Grade Examiner Level for an *International Wado Federation Representative* will be 'up-to-and-including his own grade'.

International Wado Federation Representatives.

-  Kjartan Stornes Shihan.
-  Ira F Watanabe Shihan.
-  Paul Elliott Shihan.

These implementations do not affect Associate Level Constitutions or Rules & Regulations.

13. AFFILIATION IMPLICATIONS TO MULTI-STYLE & SPORT GOVERNING BODIES

ADVISORY ONLY. In the event that an IWF Member Group also requires further affiliation with a Sport-Karate or Multi-Style Governing Body, *which has strict guidance in reference to single body/country membership*, etc., the following recommendations/implementations

may be considered. If the member country can only affiliate one organisation, and there is ALREADY an IWF organisation in membership, then there can only be two successful solutions for those in IWF National Membership who wish to also join;

1. Leave the IWF to join the relevant National Governing Body independently. *OR*
2. Stay in the IWF and join the relevant NGB as members (or through an established IWF Member that is already in membership) to the said NGB.

Because IWF has only interests in Wado Karate, and not 'all-styles' or 'sport-karate' outside of Wadoryu, we allow only independent & autonomous Wado organisations to join. Because of this the problem does not affect the IWF as a World Governing Body. However, if other IWF Wado organisations wish to also join other organisations, such as an 'all-styles sport-karate organisation', which only allows ONE organisation from each country/NGB to join, such as with the restrictive practises found within the WKF (specifically with considerations to the WKF Statute 21.9), etc., then they must attempt to work around this and work together to become ONE 'national' group.

This situation is only compounded when individual groups wish to join numerous Governing Bodies(?), especially all-styles, which have opposing/conflicting agendas.

Thankfully, there are numerous NGB's that cater for associate membership, such as the WKC, WUKF, WUKO, etc., so members can also choose the organisations that are more accommodating to them (if they choose to do so).

NB: As the IWF/BWF is 'Wado Specific', and does not belong to ANY 'Multi-Art' or 'Sport-Karate' world governing body, it does not violate any membership statutes laid down within WGB Sport-Karate/Multi-Art Constitutions or Rules & Regulations, etc. It is forbidden to 'double-licence', under various Sport/All-Styles Karate Governing Bodies, so members may need to choose their preferred prioritised affiliation for licencing, etc.

14. REGISTRATION

All Dan grades should be registered with the IWF-HQ Registration Officer. An official Registration Application Form is available for this and must be sent to the IWF Licence Officer when completed (also available on the IWF Website).

15. IWF CHARGES

1. There are no charges for Affiliation Membership within the **International Wado Federation**. However, for **Associate Membership**, the Chief Instructor (at least) may need to possess an International Wado Federation Licence, for proof of membership.
2. There are no charges for Yūdan Registration within the **International Wado Federation**.
3. Optional **International Wado Federation Individual Licences** @ £20 per annum; available via Application Form.*
4. Optional **British Wado Federation Individual Licences** @ £30.00/£25.00 (renewal) per person (UK only due to insurance inclusion).**
5. **Private IWF-UK (BWF) Yūdan Gradings** will be charged @£150/£250 per student (which would include, if applicable, belt and certificate, in the event of a successful pass). Expenses: 40p per mile added for travelling expenses by the Regional Chief Examiner. It will be the responsibility of the **applicant** to ensure that he has Uke (partner/s) present to assist him/her in the grading. For further clarification, please refer to the BWF Constitution or the BWF Yūdan Shinsa Application Form.

6. **Training Courses Conducted by BWF Instructors.** Private visits to a BWF/IWF Member Dojo. IWF Associations may invite IWF Committee Members to conduct Courses or Private Lessons at their own Dojo.
- a. Unless previously arranged the charges may vary between Committee Members. However, all travelling and accommodation expenses must be covered and a 'donation' to the visiting Instructor will be a **minimum requirement**. Please also check with the relevant IWF Committee Member to clarify for any further/additional charges, etc.
 - b. Visits to countries by the IWF Committee President and/or Representatives: If host countries wish to be visited by any member of the IWF Committee then the host country must facilitate with costs for all transport requirements (flights, taxi, etc.), necessary visas, food, and accommodation (hotel, etc.).
 - c. All training courses, conducted in the host country by IWF Committee Members, will not be charged (*unless previously requested*). However, a '**donation**' would be gratefully received near the end of the visit. Please contact the relevant IWF Committee Member for clarification of charges prior to booking.
 - d. All transport costs and arrangements must be previously organised by the host Dojo/Country. Please check the website for current & available IWF Committee Members.

* IWF licences do not include insurance.

** IWF/BWF Licence includes BWF Insurance (includes 'temporary' international instructor insurance), which is valid for 12-months and must be renewed annually.

CHARGES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

As the International Wado Federation is non-profit, *therefore does not have the need for a Treasurer*, it must be remembered that the IWF have no central funds or means to offer financial support to any members.

All members are accepted as autonomous, independent and self-financing.