

# **The International Ryukyu Karate-jutsu Research Society [IRKRS]**

## **Constitution & By-Laws**



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International Ryukyu Karate-jutsu Research Society Constitution and Bylaws - All Rights Reserved

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## **PART I**

### **The International Ryukyu Karate-jutsu Research Society Constitution**

#### **Article I – Name, Domicile and Definitions**

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be: International Ryukyu Karate-jutsu Research Society hereafter referred to as the "IRKRS".

Section 2: The head office of the IRKRS shall be in Brisbane, Australia and at such place therein as the IRKRS Director may from time to time determine. In the absence of a designated location, it shall be in the municipality of the Director or Senior Officer presiding over the IRKRS from time to time.

Section 3: As used in this Constitution and By-Laws, the term:

- a. International Ryukyu Karate-jutsu Research Society (IRKRS): Is the official old style karate and kobudo research membership organization created and directed by Hanshi Patrick McCarthy.
- b. Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu: The civil defensive tradition developed by Hanshi Patrick McCarthy and taught under the auspices of the IRKRS. Shibu-cho:
- c. Accredited IRKRS Representative.
- d. Instructor: Accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu instructor.
- e. IEC: The International Executive Committee;
- f. ITC: The International Technical Committee.
- g. By-laws: The standing rules of the association.
- h. Constitution: The constitution is a codified system, which establishes the fundamental rules and principles by which the IRKRS is governed.

## **Article II – Governance**

The IRKRS is a for-profit entity licensed and registered as a sole proprietorship under the laws of Australia. This organization shall be independent and governed by its own constitution. Members shall abide by the articles and bylaws herewith subscribed.

## **Article III -- Duration**

The period of its duration shall be perpetual.

## **Article IV – Mission, Vision, Goal and Objectives**

- A Mission to Serve, Support and Improve -- Originally founded in Japan in 1989, the Ryukyu Karate-jutsu Kokusai Kenkyukai (International Ryukyu Karate-jutsu Research Society) is a world-wide multidisciplinary membership organization that is committed to enlarging our shared understanding of the Okinawan arts of karate and kobudo by providing authoritative experiences that connect its history, heritage and practices and by promoting innovation, research and discovery of the origins, evolution and tactical application theories of old style Okinawan karate and kobudo.
- A Vision to Lead --The International Ryukyu Karate-jutsu Research Society will have a major and lasting influence on the art and teachings of karate and kobudo and will be recognized and valued, globally, by its members and others as the foremost organization dedicated to the research, preservation and promulgation of old style karate and kobudo.

Goal -- The goal of the International Ryukyu Karate-jutsu Research Society is to bring together and empower likeminded people in pursuit of common goals. Through our willingness to share research, application practices, the principles and training methods of old style Karate [i.e. Koryu Uchinadi], Yamane Ryu Kobudo, and our unique kata, we are nurturing a new generation of learners, who are able to implicitly understand and pass on such teachings while fostering an environment of friendship and solidarity through instruction, promotion and popularization of the art[s].

c. The Mission of the IRKRS is accomplished through four strategic objectives –

- \* To research and document the history, essential principles, techniques and training methodologies that define old style karate and kobudo practices;

- \* To introduce and firmly establish Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu as a completely systematized and modern interpretation of Okinawan-Fujian defensive martial arts culture throughout the world;

- \*To introduce and firmly establish the International Ryukyu Karate Research Society as an important source of historical information concerning the anthropology, ethos and technical theories of old style karate and kobudo practices throughout the world; and

- \* To establish strong, long term strategic alliances that provide access to complementary research and expertise in the areas of old style Karate and kobudo history, cultivate essential principles, techniques and training methodologies.

#### **Article V – Officer**

Hanshi Patrick McCarthy is the sole proprietor and IRKRS Director and the founder and style head of Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu and holds executive power over all matters relating to the IRKRS and Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu.

#### **Article VI – Advisors**

The IRKRS Director has established two volunteer advisory committees namely 1) the International Executive Committee and 2) the International Technical Committee. The members of these committees are appointed by the IRKRS Director and shall counsel the Director on matters relating to the IRKRS and Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu leadership, management and technical enhancement to the IRKRS and Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu.

#### **Article VII – Dojo-cho**

The IRKRS Director gives official recognition to select Dojo/Club Directors (Dojo-cho). All Dojo-cho are recognized by the IRKRS Director and are authorized to operate an accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu dojo/club, promulgating high level technical instruction in the approved Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu curriculum.

## **Article VIII – Shibu-cho**

The IRKRS Director has established the posts of country/territory representatives (Shibu-cho). All Shibu-cho are appointed by the IRKRS Director, on a non salaried basis to assist the IRKRS Director in representing, promulgating and promoting the interests of the IRKRS and Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu in their country/territory of appointment.

## **Article IX – Meetings**

The IRKRS Director shall hold meetings of the Advisors, Shibu-cho or members at times deemed necessary and at his sole discretion.

## **Article X – Procedures**

Specific procedures and further definition of the functioning of the IRKRS, as conveyed in this constitution shall be outlined in the Bylaws of the International Ryukyu Karate-jutsu Research Society, attached herewith.

## **Article XI – Amendments**

The constitution shall only be amended, altered, varied, replaced, repealed or re-enacted at the sole discretion of the IRKRS Director.



## **PART II - The International Ryukyu Karate-jutsu Research Society Bylaws**

### **Article I – Purpose of Bylaws**

a. The purpose of these By-laws shall be to elaborate and expand upon those elements of the Constitution of the International Ryukyu Karate-jutsu Research Society, which require a more detailed statement.

### **Article II – Basic Principle**

- Originally founded in Japan in 1989 by Hanshi Patrick McCarthy to serve a limited group of foreign researchers, the Society opened its doors to the general public in 1996 to meet the numerous and varying demands of a more progressive non-Japanese learner.
- The International Ryukyu Karate-jutsu Research Society is open to multi-style, like-minded practitioners of karate and kobudo and is dedicated to supporting both the eager novice and scholarly veteran along their pursuit of knowledge on the culture, history, pedagogy, practice, and research of old style karate and kobudo. the IRKRS is free of hierarchical disempowerment and organizational rivalry - its diversity is what makes us unique.

### **Article III: Official IRKRS Seal**

a. The seal of the IRKRS shall be in the form determined by the IRKRS Director and shall be kept at the head office in the custody of whichever Officer of the IRKRS the Director may from time to time determine.

### **Article IV: Official IRKRS and Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu Emblems**

a. Hanshi Patrick McCarthy created the logo and crest for the IRKRS in the early 1990's. The logo and crest pictured below in diagram 1 was commonly used as the Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu logo and crest up until early 2001 when a new graphical identity was designed for specific use by students of Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu (see diagram 2).

Wearing the unique crest of Koryu Uchinadi upon one's gi indicates support of the International Ryukyu Karate Research Society along with the aims and objectives for which it stands.

Diagram 1 is the organizational logo and crest for the International Ryukyu Karate-jutsu Research Society.



Diagram #1

### • Description of the IRKRS logo and crest

Resting on a white background, three identical red comet tails in perpetual orbit with each other are surrounded by a circle of Chinese ideograms inside the perimeter of a golden rope.

\* The white background represents the foundation of virtue and purity upon which Koryu Uchinadi rests and the goals of character perfection its learners seek to attain.

\* The Hidari Mitsu Domoe,” or three red spheres. Observed in various cultures throughout the early history of man, the symbol is closely associated with power and the cosmos. Representing the god of war, the symbol is thought to have first appeared in the Ryukyu Archipelago with the arrival of Minamoto Tametomo in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. However, it is perhaps better remembered as the family crest of Okinawa’s old royal family, the house of Sho. Each of the three red spheres is said to represent one the rival kingdoms that King Shoshin was able to unify during the 15<sup>th</sup> century before establishing Okinawa’s first centralized government.

\* The kanji (Chinese characters) read Ryukyu Karate-jutsu Kenkyukai or International Ryukyu Karate-jutsu Research Society.

\* The rope, which circumvents the crest, represents Okinawa (composed of two separate ideograms, “Oki” and “nawa” literally meaning “rope in the offing,”) the tiny island where karate was nurtured.

Like the loops of a “rope” tossed into a shallow body of water, the Ryukyu Archipelago stretches all the way from the southern tip of Kyushu to the north coast of Taiwan, adjacent to China’s Fujian province where the roots of karate can be found.

- \* The color gold symbolizes richness as the Society considers the knowledge imparted through this profound tradition a form of wealth.

**b. Diagram 2 is the style logo and crest for Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu.**



- Description of the IRKRS logo and crest

- \* The Japanese Shodo (brush art) exemplifies the Japanese concept of “*Bun Bu Ichi*” [aka Bun Bu Ryo Do] or the Pen and Sword in Accord meaning that one must balance physical training with scholarly pursuits to be well refined.
- \* The Chinese pictographs under the brush art read Koryu Uchinadi (Old Style Okinawan fighting art) .

## Article V: Governance

### Section 1: Management Structure --

- a. The Management Structure of the IRKRS is comprised of the Director and appointed Advisors who shall communicate regularly and advise the Director on the management of the IRKRS's affairs and to help ensure professionalism and group synergies.

### Section 2: Management Officials -

- a. The Management Structure consists of the following: The Director, two Advisory Committees, i.e., the International Executive Committee and the International Technical Committee, accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo- Country/Territory Representatives, i.e. Shibu-cho and jutsu Dojo/Club Representatives, i.e. Dojo-cho.

### Section 3: Duties of the Director, Advisory Committees and Shibu-cho -

- a. The Director - the Director shall be the chief executive officer and has overall responsibility for the leadership, administrative and financial management and supervision of the affairs and operation of the IRKRS and Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu.

- b. The Advisory Committees

- The International Executive Committee;

The International Executive Committee shall assist the IRKRS Director in addressing issues impacting the management of the IRKRS and Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu by broadening the scope of information that goes into the decision- making process. The role of the International Executive Committee is to advise and make recommendations, but with limitations. These limitations are defined by terms of reference developed by the IRKRS Director.

- The International Technical Committee.

The International Technical Committee shall assist the IRKRS Director in addressing issues impacting the technical curriculum of Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo- jutsu by providing objectivity and advising on technical and educational standards established.

- Shibu-cho – the Shibu-cho shall assist the IRKRS Director in representing, promulgating and promoting the interests of the IRKRS and Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu in their country/ territory without discrimination by sex, race, religion or political affiliation.

- Dojo-cho - the Dojo-cho is authorized to teach and operate an accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu dojo/club, promulgating high-level technical instruction in the approved Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu curriculum.

#### Section 4: Appointment and Term of Office -

- a. The Director – The Director is the founder and sole proprietor of the IRKRS and Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu and by virtue of ownership is self appointed and shall hold office indefinitely.
- b. International Executive Committee Members – Appointment of the International Executive Committee members is by invitation of the IRKRS Director. The term of office is at the discretion of the Director.
- c. International Technical Committee Members – Appointment of the International Technical Committee members is by invitation of the IRKRS Director. The term of office is at the discretion of the Director.
- d. Shibu-cho – Appointment of Shibu-cho is by invitation of the IRKRS Director. The term of office is at the discretion of the Director.
- e. Dojo-cho – Official recognition of Dojo-cho is at the discretion of the IRKRS Director. Recognition may be cancelled at the discretion of the Director.

#### Section 5: Resignation or Absence of Office -

- a. Any IRKRS appointed official may voluntarily resign. Any official absent from three consecutive meetings (communications/requests for advice) or who fails annual registration is deemed to have tendered a resignation, which the IRKRS Director may accept at his convenience.

#### Section 6: Removal of an Official -

- a. An official may be removed for just cause, including conflict of interest.

#### Section 7: Filling Vacancy in Office --

##### 6: Removal of an Official --

- a. Any and all vacancies will be filled as required by and at the discretion of the IRKRS Director.

### **Article VI -- Powers and Jurisdiction**

#### Section 1: the IRKRS shall have perpetual succession and power to --

- a. Sue and be sued; make contracts; acquire, hold, and dispose of real and personal property as may be necessary for its organizational purposes; accept gifts, legacies, and devices in furtherance of its organizational purposes; borrow money to carry out its organizational purposes, issue notes, bonds, or other evidences of indebtedness therefore and secure the same by mortgage, subject in each case to the laws of the jurisdiction of its registration;

- b. Approve and revoke membership in the IRKRS; adopt and alter an organizational seal; establish and maintain offices for the conduct of the affairs of the IRKRS; publish a newsletter, magazine, or other publication consistent with its organizational purposes; and to do any and all acts necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of the IRKRS;
- c. Engage in any lawful act or activity authorized by the IRKRS Code, and to have and to exercise all rights and powers that are now or may hereafter be granted to a business entity;
- d. Amend its Constitution and By-Laws in a manner not inconsistent with the laws of IRKRS;
- e. Establish and maintain throughout the world standards of eligibility and uniform rules for the administration of all IRKRS and Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu matters; including, but not limited to, the adoption of rules and regulations governing instruction and the awarding of appropriate credentials to deserving individuals. In furtherance of this objective, to sanction and host IRKRS seminars, camps, and other activities designed to further the objectives of the IRKRS and develop the art of Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu, its students and instructors;
- f. Establish qualifications of membership, classification of members and fees for membership.

## Section 2: Limitation on Powers

- a. The foregoing shall be construed as objects, purposes, and power, and the enumeration thereof shall not be held to limit or restrict in any manner the powers now or hereafter conferred on this organization.
- b. The IRKRS may in its regulations confer powers, not in conflict with law, on its officials and members in addition to the foregoing and in addition to the powers and authorities expressly conferred on them by statute.
- c. The IRKRS is autonomous in its governance and independently determines and controls all matters central to such governance. The IRKRS shall not delegate such determination and control, and shall remain free from outside restraint.

## Article VII -- Membership

### Section 1: General --

- a. The membership of the IRKRS shall consist of persons or groups advocating the IRKRS and/or Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu and other such persons who shall be recognized by the Honbu Dojo. No one shall be denied membership on the basis of their race, religion, national origin, sex, style or organizational affiliation.

### Section 2: Membership Types —

Membership of the IRKRS shall consist of four classes:

- a. KU Dojo - This membership is open to all those accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu Dojo/Clubs;
- b. KU Students (Dan/Kyu grades) - This membership is open to all those recognized Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu students enrolled in an accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu Dojo/Club;
- c. IRKRS Shibu-cho – This membership is open to all those IRKRS Yudansha level instructors (Dan grades) appointed by the Director;
- d. IRKRS Affiliate - This membership is open to all those who have an interest in the research of Okinawan or Japanese martial arts and wish to join the IRKRS.

### Section 3 Registration -

- a. Registration is annual. Registrations are not complete if any payment is dishonored.

### Section 4: Membership Fees --

- a. Every member shall pay an annual fee to the IRKRS for membership
- b. Membership fees shall be set periodically at the discretion of the IRKRS Director.
- c. The current membership fee schedule is as follows;
  - \* KU Dojo/Club registration 150 Euros (or USD equivalent herein);
  - \* KU Mudansha/Yudansha student registration 35 Euros
  - \* Shibu-cho registration 150 Euros
  - \* IRKRS Affiliate member registration 75 Euros

## Section 5: Suspension, Revocation or Denial of membership -

### a. Suspension, Revocation or Denial of membership -

The IRKRS Director may suspend or expel any Dojo/Club or any member for any one of the following:

- non-payment of dues or any other fees;
  - dishonored payments;
  - failure to properly and timely register every student and instructor in a Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu accredited Dojo/Club;
  - any action contrary or harmful to the prestige, honor or standards of behavior and ethics of the IRKRS; and
  - conviction for a criminal offence.
- b. Loss of Privileges
    - Upon suspension a Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu accredited dojo/club, IRKRS member or shibu-cho loses all rights of membership. Suspension may be lifted conditionally or unconditionally by the IRKRS Director, upon which the Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu accredited dojo/club, IRKRS member or shibu-cho's rights are reinstated subject to any imposed conditions. Suspension may be imposed pending enquiry or final resolution of a matter. Expulsion is the total removal from and a casting out from the IRKRS. Upon a Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu accredited dojo/club, suspension or expulsion the rights of all its students and instructors are lost unless they register with the IRKRS individually or through an accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu Dojo/Club in good standing.

### c. Appeals

Any applicant or member who has had their membership denied, suspended or revoked can file for an appeal of their rejection, suspension or revocation to the IRKRS Director for consideration. The IRKRS Director shall provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of grievances of its members through the exercise of due process proceedings.

## Article VIII -- Rank and Diploma

### Section 1: Rank Registration --

- a. All accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu dojo or club directors must register the rank of all dojo or club members with the Honbu Dojo;
- b. Directors of accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu dojo or clubs must report all results of rank examinations and update the rank records for their registered individuals at the Honbu Dojo.

### Section 2: Testing Criteria -

- a. Testing for recognized rank within the Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu tradition is conducted by the IRKRS Director and/or accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu instructors. Examination assessment criteria must adhere to the official Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu curriculum as outlined by the IRKRS Director.

### Section 3: Dan Examinations –

- Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu Dan examinations will be approximately every six months or as deemed necessary by the IRKRS Director. Additionally, examinations will be held at regularly scheduled IRKRS events.
- The IRKRS Director and/or accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu instructors will conduct and/or authorize these examinations.
- Only current members from accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu Dojo/Clubs will be permitted to test, unless otherwise determined by the IRKRS Director.
- The cost of Dan testing is at the discretion of the accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu Dojo/Club Instructor.
- Accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu Dojo/Club Instructors are required to register the new ranks of their students within 60 days after an examination.

#### Section 4: Kyu Examinations –

- a. Kyu ranked students are to be examined approximately every three months. The accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu Dojo/Club Instructor will conduct and/or authorize these examinations.
- b. Only current IRKRS members will be allowed to test. It is the responsibility of accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu Dojo/Club Instructors to make sure that their Dojo/Club registration and individual memberships are current prior to testing.
- c. The cost of Kyu testing is at the discretion of the accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu Dojo/Club Instructor.
- d. Accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu Dojo/Club Instructors are required to register the new ranks of their students within 60 days after an examination.

#### Section 4: Dan Registration --

- a. Registrations should be completed within 60 days after testing. Failure to do so could result in nullification of promotion;
- b. The following are to be sent to the IRKRS Director:
  - \* Completed Dan registration forms;
- c. All Dan registration forms must be completed in full and signed by the accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu Dojo/Club Instructor and applicant.

#### Section 5: Kyu Registration --

- a. Registrations should be completed within 60 days after testing. Failure to do so could result in nullification of promotion;
- b. The following are to be sent to the IRKRS Director:
  - An itemized list indicating testing results.
  - New or renewed individual student memberships.
- c. All Kyu listings and new membership applications must be completed in full and signed by the accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu Dojo/Club Instructor and applicant.
- d. Payment for the correct amount of new memberships should be made payable to the IRKRS and forwarded with the Kyu listings and new membership applications.

## Section 6: Examination Fees

a. Examination fees are to be determined by the accredited Koryu Uchinadi Kenpo-jutsu Dojo/Club Instructor and any proceeds are for their disposal. Club instructors are advised to structure the examination fees in such a way as to cover any and all expenses.

## Section 7: Issuance of Dan/Kyu Menjo (Certificates)

a. For candidates wishing to have mudansha/yudansha & instructors accreditation certificates directly from the IRKRS, the following fees apply;

- \* Mudan 35 Euro (U.S. Dollar currency converter here <http://www.xe.com/ucc/> )
- \* Yudan 100 Euro (U.S. Dollar currency converter here <http://www.xe.com/ucc/> )
- \* Shodan 150 Euro U.S. Dollar currency converter here <http://www.xe.com/ucc/> )
- \* Nidan 175 Euro (U.S. Dollar currency converter here <http://www.xe.com/ucc/> )
- \* Sandan 200 Euro U.S. Dollar currency converter here <http://www.xe.com/ucc/> )
- \* Yondan 225 Euro U.S. Dollar currency converter here <http://www.xe.com/ucc/> )
- \* Godan 250 Euro U.S. Dollar currency converter here <http://www.xe.com/ucc/> )
- \* Rokudan 275 Euro (U.S. Dollar currency converter here <http://www.xe.com/ucc/> )
- \* Shichidan 300 Euro (U.S. Dollar currency converter here <http://www.xe.com/ucc/> )
- \* Hachidan 400 Euro (U.S. Dollar currency converter here <http://www.xe.com/ucc/> )
- \* Kyudan 500 Euro (U.S. Dollar currency converter here <http://www.xe.com/ucc/> )

### Instructor's Titles

- \* Shidoin 300 Euro U.S. Dollar currency converter here <http://www.xe.com/ucc/> )
- \* Renshi \* See director for policy
- \* Kyoshi \* See director for policy
- \* Hanshi \* See director for policy

b. Dan/Kyu Menjo (certificate) fees are determined by the IRKRS Director.

## Article IX -- General

### Section 1. Gender -

- a. All pronouns herein denoting gender shall be interpreted as either male or female.

### Section 2: Amendments -

- a. The constitution shall only be amended, altered, varied, replaced, repealed or re-enacted by the IRKRS Director.

### Section 3: Bylaws -

- a. A by-law may be made by a decision of the IRKRS Director at anytime deemed necessary by the same.

### Section 4: Dissolution, Disposal of Assets -

- a. Upon the dissolution of the organization, after payment of all its debts and liabilities, any remaining assets shall be the sole property of the IRKRS Director for use in any way that he deems fit.

### Section 5: Earnings -

- a. All net earnings of the IRKRS shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its Director.

### Section 6: Language --

- a. As the primary language of global communications, English shall serve as the primary language for all international-level meetings and communications.
- b. Country, Regional, and Dojo/Club meetings and communications will be held in the predominant language of the country and region.
- c. Translators may be called upon when deemed necessary or appropriate.