



# UNITED STATES AIKIDO FEDERATION

## CODE OF CONDUCT

---

*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.

### **Principles and Core Values**

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

*Morihei Ueshiba*

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, attendance at camps and seminars, 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 true merit
- Preventing exploitation of students for personal advantage

### **Avoid Any Form of Discrimination**

The USAF prohibits discrimination, exploitation, or harassment of anyone for any reason whether based on race, age, handicap, gender, sexual preference, religion, socio-economic status or national origin. The USAF encourages dojos to accept students with disabilities if the students can safely train without endangering themselves or others. The dojo, in its sole discretion, will decide whether a student with a disability can safely train in Aikido.

### **Prevent Sexual Harassment**

No members should engage in any unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or sexually related verbal or physical harassment which violates someone's dignity, or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading or humiliating environment in the dojo.

### **Follow the Law**

All members of the USAF must comply with local, state and federal laws that relate to the practice of Aikido and their participation in dojo and other USAF activities.

### **Notifications to the Board of Harmful Conduct/Violations**

*“True victory is victory over oneself.” Morihei Ueshiba*

Members may report any alleged harmful conduct or violation of this Code of Conduct to the USAF Board by notifying the Director of Operations or any individual Board member in

writing. The Board in its sole discretion will assign one (1) member of the Board and one (1) member of the Technical Committee to investigate the allegation(s) and report their findings to the full Board. Based on this report, the full USAF Board will determine the appropriate action, if any, to be taken. Actions may include, but are not limited to, informal or formal reprimand, suspension or termination of membership.

The USAF does not review alleged conduct which has been reported to the authorities or which is the subject of pending litigation.

The Board Chairperson will notify the parties involved of any Board decision or prescribed action.

### **Board's Authority**

Whether acting on an individual complaint or at its own election, the USAF Board has sole discretion to take any action, such as reprimand, suspension or termination of the membership of any individual member or dojo that violates this Code of Conduct or who has acted in a manner that is harmful or contrary to the purposes or interests of Aikido, the USAF or its members.

Active membership and participation in the USAF constitute your agreement to this Code of Conduct. A posting of this Code of Conduct in each dojo is recommended.