

Shotokan International Alliance (SIA)

Instructor and Examiner Classifications - Requirements and Authorizations

October 1, 2019

Instructor Training Program Overview

The SIA Instructor Training Program is designed with twin goals in mind. First, to encourage the advanced training and expertise of karate instructors in the development of the JKA style of Shotokan Karate-do. Second, to help participants develop the theoretical, interpersonal, and class presentation skills necessary to motivate and guide others in their search to understand and master the art of shotokan karate-do.

Candidates are admitted to the program based upon their interest in developing a deeper personal understanding of traditional karate-do, and/or their desire to develop into highly qualified karate instructors. The program is based on time in training, recognized attainment of rank, and performance of karate instruction in the candidate's own club.

Graduates and candidates must participate in on-going regional/national/international SIA instructor training sessions as necessary.

Note: Special consideration regarding examiner authorization:

Special flexible consideration for examiner authorization, in-lieu of formal instructor training, may be made on the basis of karate-do rank, experience, recommendation, and responsibility. Consideration will be given, on request, on a case by case basis by the SIA advisory board.

Licensed Positions:

1. Unclassified Trainee
2. Instructor Trainee (Class E)
3. Associate Instructor (Class D)
4. Qualified Instructor (Class C)
5. Senior Instructor (Class B)
6. Official Instructor (Class A)

POSITION: Unclassified Trainee

An Unclassified Trainee is defined as an individual who does not meet one or more of the basic requirements for regularly licensed instructors but who a) is assisting with instruction on a regular basis or b) has been identified as having the potential to become a licensed instructor. Minimum ranking required is third kyu.

POSITION: Instructor Trainee (Class E Instructor)

Specific Requirements:

1. Shodan rank or higher.
2. Enrolled and participating in an official SIA instructor training program
3. No authorization to promote students of any rank

POSITION: Associate Instructor (Class D Instructor)

Specific Requirements:

1. Recognized Sandan rank or higher
2. Has graduated recognized instructor training program in the previous 12 months
3. Authorized to promote youth and adult students to the SIA rank of 3rd kyu (1st kyu if authorized by regional director).

- 3b. Nidan level graduates, if authorized by regional director, may promote youth and adult students to the rank of 6th kyu. Two ni-dan graduates may promote youth and adult students to the rank of 4th kyu.

POSITION: Qualified Instructor (Class C Instructor)

Specific Requirements:

1. Sandan rank or higher.
2. Has graduated recognized instructor training program more then 12 months prior
3. Authorized to promote youth and adult students to the SIA rank of 1st kyu

POSITION: Senior Instructor (Class B Instructor)

Specific Requirements:

1. Yondan rank or higher.
2. Graduated recognized instructor training program more then 36 months prior
4. Authorized to promote youth and adult students to the SIA rank of 1st dan (if authorized by regional or national director).

POSITION: Official Instructor (Class A Instructor)

Specific Requirements:

1. Godan rank or higher.
2. Has graduated recognized instructor training program more then 36 months prior
3. Grading authorizations are as follows
 - One (1) 5th dan Class A instructor is Individually authorized to promote youth and adult students to the SIA rank of 1st dan.
 - Two (2) 5th dan level Class A instructors are authorized to promote to nidan
 - One (1) 6th dan level Class A instructors is individual authorized to promote to nidan

Standard duties and responsibilities for instructors as appropriate to grade:

- Responsible and qualified to conduct training seminars, regular classes for all levels, and instructors' seminars. Actively engaged in the research and development of karate techniques and training methods and make recommendations to SIA membership and affiliates based on the findings of their research.

Senior Grading:

Sandan examinations are given at SIA national and international examinations, training camps, gasshuku, and competitions, in the presence of 2 or more 6th dan (or higher) grade examiners.

Yondan examinations require the minimum presence of one 7th dan grade instructor and two 6th dan.

Godan and above by special arrangement and senior examination board.

Edmond Otis – 8th dan

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