

HOW IS THE WJKA STRUCTURED

The Chief Instructor, like in most karate organizations, is the person in charge of the WJKA.

The Technical Committee supports the Chief Instructor on all technical matters and the Board (Rijikai) is responsible for the administration and management of the organization. The Shihankai is an advisory board to the Rijikai as well as the Technical Committee and consist of the most senior founding members of the WJKA.

Chief Instructor

Jan Knobel Shuseki Shihan

Shihankai

President and Chief Instructor – Jan Knobel Shuseki Shihan

Vice President & Technical Advisor/ Director Qualifications – Don Owens Shihan

Vice President & Administrative Advisor/ Head Liaison Office – John Turnbull Shihan

Technical Committee

Chief Instructor – Jan Knobel Shuseki Shihan

Assistant Chief Instructor – Jan Knobel (Jnr)

Chief Referee – Anatoliy Naumenko

2nd Chief Referee – Tadeusz Lebida

Member – Oleksandr Naumenko

Member – Darrell Meedendorp

Rijikai (WJKA Board)

Chairman – Riaan le Roux

General Secretary – Wouter Meedendorp

Marketing Director – Shaun Joubert

Administrator – Hanny Knobel

Administrative Support – Danny Slooters

HOW TO CONTACT THE WJKA

All matters either technical or administrative must be referred to admin@wjkahq.com. Admin will then refer it to the responsible person or persons whom deals with such matter where-after an answer will be returned to the writer. The Marketing Director may also be contacted at sjoubert32@gmail.com if a more informal approach is required.

What a heck are Shihan, Kyoshi, Hanshi, Renshi, etc?

Many people ask about these titles and the meaning of these Japanese words and the history behind them.

The explanation about those confusing Japanese titles. In this explanation Soke and Kancho will be added as a bonus.

Let's start with shihan.

First of all, shihan is not exactly a title. In other words, this is not something an organization would bestow or permit. Shihan (師範) means literally "to be a model" but it is only a formal word for sensei or instructor or teacher. So if you are teaching karate; for that matter any martial arts and non-martial arts field, you can be addressed as shihan. However, it is customarily reserved for the senior instructors or teachers. For instance, if a Nidan or Sandan person at the age of 20's will not normally be addressed as shihan even if he or she may be the chief instructor of a dojo or a club. Since it is not a bestowed title it does not have the age or rank requirement. We would consider Godan and above as the senior ranks those sensei can be addressed as Shihan. On the same token, it will not be considered as impolite or rude if you address a senior instructor as sensei even if he is 8th or 9th dan.

There is one exception to the above rule. There is a bestowed title of Shuseki Shihan. Shuseki means "Top position" so it means the Chief Instructor of an organization. This is used only in a large organization like JKA, JKS, ISKF, etc as they have multiple number of senior instructors. If you are the only instructor in your dojo or an organization then you should not use Shuseki Shihan even if you are a senior rank instructor.

On the other hand, Kyoshi, Renshi and Hanshi are bestowed titles. However, in general in karate (with JKA, ISKF, JKS, IJKA and WJKA) those titles are not used. The only exception is Zen Nihon Karatedo Renmei (Japan Karate Federation or JKF). This organization is a non-style specific organization and its members are Shotokan, Shito ryu, Goju ryu and Wado ryu. It is a member of WKF and it is assumed that it also grants these titles. They grants these titles because there is an influence from Kendo. The history goes back to 1895 when the martial arts organization called Dai Nihon Butokukai was established. They promoted various martial arts including kendo, judo, jujitsu, kyudo, and a few others. However, this organization was dismantled by the occupation force (GQ) in 1945. Even though the same name organization was established in 1957 it is not related to the original Dai Nihon Butokukai though they probably wish to claim as such as the prewar organization received a lot of respect and honor as it was sponsored by the Japanese government. The current organization is no longer well known or large in membership as it is only a private organization without any sponsorship from the government.

There are not too many Renshi or Hanshi. According to Dai Nihon Butokukai or JKF, the ranks starts with Renshi and ends with Hanshi being the highest. So, Kyoshi is the middle rank.

For your information, let me list the requirements to qualify those ranks (by JKF):

Hanshi (範士) : 8th dan for more than 2 years, older than 60

Kyoshi (教士) : 6th dan and above for minimum 2 years, older than 50

Renshi (錬士) : 5th dan and above for minimum 1 year, older than 40

What is Kancho (館長) ?

You are familiar with Shotokan and the part of "kan" is the same here. Kan means building so the connotation is the dojo. Cho means the head or top (i.e. shacho: president). Kanazawa sensei uses Kancho as his title. This is a little mystery as his organization (Kokusai Shotokan Karatedo Renmei) does not end with "kan".

The last one is Soke (宗家) Soke means a central family who carries a certain art as their family tradition. Though you can find such a family in some Japanese martial arts such as kenjutsu this tradition is more popularly with the non-martial arts such as tea ceremony (sado), flower arrangement (kado), Japanese dancing (kabuki, noh, etc), Japanese music and instruments (shakuhachi, koto, etc). It is customarily carried by the same family of the founder but of course there are some exceptions.

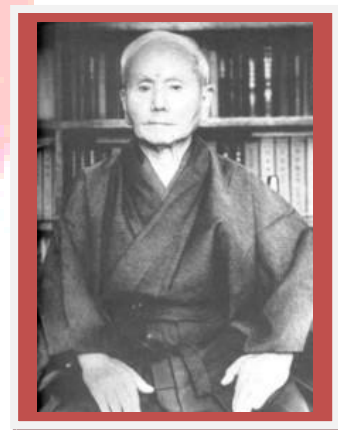
Conclusion:

As many of the readers can guess that Funakoshi sensei did not care for the titles. He never accepted any rank for himself even though he granted those ranks to his students. The only exception is Shuseki Shihan.

When Japan Karate Association (JKA) was founded in 1948 he accepted to become the first Chief Instructor.

Even with this title he resigned in 1956, a year before his passing.

Nakayama sensei and Asai sensei both held Shuseki Shihan positions.



INT. WJKA GRADING SYSTEM FOR KYU & DAN

- 10.Kyu White
- 9.Kyu White / Yellow
- 8.Kyu Yellow
- 7.Kyu Orange
- 6.Kyu Green
- 5.Kyu Blue
- 4.Kyu Purple

- 3.Kyu Brown
 - 2.Kyu Brown
 - 1.Kyu Brown
 - 1.Dan Those who have trained 2 years or more and have at least 1 year WJKA membership / Age +10 yrs.
 - 2.Dan Those who have trained for 2 years or more from the date of 1. Dan WJKA registration
 - 3.Dan Those who have trained for 3 years or more from the date of 2. Dan WJKA registration / Age +18 yrs.
 - 4.Dan Those who have trained for 4 years or more from the date of 3. Dan WJKA registration
 - 5.Dan Those who have trained for 5 years or more from the date of 4. Dan WJKA registration and age +30 yrs.
 - 6.Dan Those who have trained for 6 years or more from the date of 5. Dan WJKA registration
 - 7.Dan Those who have trained for 7 years or more from the date of 6. Dan WJKA registration
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EXAMINATION

- **Dan Examination**

At least 1-year membership is compulsory to all 1st Kyu's to have the possibility for grading and registration Shodan.

- **Time limits for re-examinations**

All karateka who must redo a part of their grading which they failed, must do so no earlier than 3 months or later than 1 year after their grading. Failing to do so will result in a full regrading being required with the resultant costs.

- **Dan Registration**

Dans must be registered within 3 months of the grading. No exceptions will be made. Is the registration after 3 month, the date of payment will be the date on the certificate and not the date of the examination.

MEMBERSHIP

WJKA membership is OPEN to ALL Grades.

At least 1-year membership is compulsory to all 1st Kyu's to have the possibility for grading and registration Shodan.

The cost for lifetime membership is € 30, -

For affiliation view: <http://www.wjkahq.com/affiliation.php>

Lifetime membership will continue if a karateka is an active member of a WJKA Dojo. Where the Dojo leaves the WJKA, members will be allowed to continue as individual members. Such members must however inform the WJKA of their intention to remain as members within a 3 months period, failure to do so they will result in them becoming inactive.

REPORT 7. WJKA WORLD CAMP & CHAMPIONSHIPS

The WJKA World Camp & Championships was a success and it was well hosted by South Africa.

A big thank you to the Organization, the volunteers, referees, judges and table officials. A special thank you to all that attended.

The 8th World Camp and Championships will be hosted by Ukraine in 2021. Please plan and commit to this event. Further details, dates etc. will be available in the next newsletter.

SUMMERCAMP 2020

The WJKA Technical Committee will set up a program for the planned Summer Camp in 2020 in Germany or the Netherlands. The information will be distributed via e-mail to all countries and representatives.

We will keep you informed

SCHEDULE 2019 + 2020

- **Please send us the schedule of your upcoming events.**

If you want your event listed on our worldwide schedule you must send all details to our administration office admin@wjkahq.com att. to webmaster.

You can also contact the Marketing Director, Shaun Joubert on sjoubert32@gmail.com

WJKA WEBSITE

- **Have you visited the new website yet? ?**

Please have a look at www.wjkahq.com
There are lots of information available on the website.

- **Photo & Video Gallery + Reports**

Please send a report, photos & videos when your event / seminar / examination etc. is finished so we can upload it to the website. This is for promotion of your organization & WJKA.

You can send everything to our email info@wjkahq.com or if it is too much to send by email please use www.wetransfer.com (max 2 GB)

Important note:

Only photo's/video's in traditional karate equipment's will be published on the website.

- **Webdesigner**

You can contact the webmaster/designer Hanny Knobel for all web info info@wjkahq.com or Marketing Director, Shaun Joubert sjoubert32@gmail.com

- **To contact HQ is also very easy.**

You only fill-in the contact form on the new website and send it and HQ will respond within 24 hours.

Visit our new website www.wjkahq.com and we will like to know what you think of the new site. Comments and suggestions are always welcome.

EVENTS 2019

For all events view : <http://www.wjkahq.com/events.php>

Please send us all your upcoming events (2019/2020) including the convocations / invitations to info@wjkahq.com

