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## **Statement of Purpose**

The California Aikido Association (the “Association”), CAA, is an organization dedicated to the promotion of aikido. It is an association of dojos, clubs, and individuals who seek to uphold the traditions and ideals of aikido and to provide a forum for their expression.

Membership in the Association is voluntary and is based on the member individuals’ and organizations’ interest in aikido. This loose association also means that the CAA does not mandate, enforce, govern, oversee, direct, sanction, or otherwise control the specific operations and events within its member dojos. Each dojo and each member is solely responsible for their own actions.

The Association is recognized as an official organization by the Zaidan Hojin Aikikai (the “Aikikai”) and communicates with it and other aikido organizations on behalf of its members. This official status enables the Association to obtain dan rankings for its members.

The Association is interested in developing aikido through the sponsorship of events during the year. It maintains programs for kyu and dan testing and for the development of local instructors in accord with Aikikai guidelines.



## **Membership Agreement**

Each member dojo or club, by becoming a member, makes the following agreements with the Association:

- \* to uphold and maintain minimum rank qualification standards set forth by the Aikikai.
- \* to further be guided by the recommended kyu and dan rank requirements of the Association.
- \* to support and promote member and Association activities.
- \* to be represented at Association meetings by its dojo cho (head of dojo).
- \* to pay annual membership dues to the Association Administrative Assistant by January 31st of each year.

The Association makes the following agreements with its member organizations:

- \* to hold regular meetings and trainings to foster the development of aikido.
- \* to obtain dan rankings for qualified students in accordance with Aikikai policy.
- \* to function as a conduit for communication with the Aikikai.
- \* to follow other policies and procedures as set forth in the Organization Guidelines, contained herein.



# **Organization Guidelines**

(Revised February 2008)

## **PURPOSE**

The California Aikido Association (the “Association”) is an informal association of dojos and clubs that have a common interest in aikido. Membership is voluntary and is not subject to discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, creed, or sexual orientation. The Association serves to communicate with Zaidan Hojin Aikikai (the “Aikikai”).

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Dojo**

Membership in the Association is open to any dojo with a dojo cho ranked 3rd dan or above by the Aikikai. A dojo will be considered a member if its annual dues are paid and there is a clearly defined student-teacher relationship between the instructor of the member dojo and a Division Head.

### **Club**

A club is defined as any group that regularly trains under the direction of a person ranked 1st or 2nd dan (clubs led by a first kyu are by Division Head approval and are considered exceptional cases). A club maintains membership by its association with a member, dojo or directly with a Division Head, and through the payment of annual dues.

## **ADMITTANCE OF NEW MEMBERS**

Prospective members will gain admittance to the Association after establishing a solid training relationship with a Division Head. Prospective members should carefully consider the fact that choosing a teacher is a life path decision. Members are expected to maintain an “active training relationship” with their Division Head. The details of that relationship may vary and should be determined in consultation with the particular Division Head being chosen as a teacher.

Prospective members, representing a dojo which never has been a member of the Association, are announced by the appropriate Division Head or CAA President at the next regular meeting. New members must pay a \$50.00 registration fee and \$50.00 annual fee for membership. They may download the application for membership and submit that information to the Administrator so that they may be added to the listing on the CAA website. It is the responsibility of all members to check their information on the website annually and submit any changes to the Administrator or web master.

Current members who wish to start dojos or clubs or who want to change their current status shall contact the appropriate Division Head, who will discuss the issue. It is expected that a new dojo/club will be established in an area that will not impact the livelihood or vitality of existing dojos regardless of organization or affiliation. Members are expected to discuss the location or re-location of new or existing clubs or dojos with the Division Head prior to signing a lease.

Any member who has concerns over prospective members or the location or re-location of a new or existing dojo shall contact the appropriate Division Head who, in the case of a prospective member, will confer with the other Division Heads to resolve the concerns.

### **Other Organizations:**

International and National organizational considerations exist that require prudence on our part when accepting membership from dojos in another geographical area. Requests for membership shall be referred to the Division Heads who will decide if the request is reasonable. Membership will not be unreasonably withheld.

### **ANNUAL DUES**

Annual dues are \$50.00 per year for each dojo and club.

The deadline for the dues is January 31 of each year. Checks or money orders should be made payable to the California Aikido Association and should be mailed to the Administrative Assistant. The mailing address for payments is as follows:

California Aikido Association  
751 Laurel Street #513  
San Carlos, CA 94070

Questions regarding payments should be directed to Adrienne Wonnacott, CAA Administrative Assistant at: [caa@refraction.org](mailto:caa@refraction.org) or phone number: 650-585-4618.

Members may also use PayPal for payment of dues. There is a link at the CAA website: [www.ai-ki-do.org](http://www.ai-ki-do.org) in the About CAA section.

Delinquent members will be sent two notices after which the Division Head will send a letter notifying the member that they must pay their membership fees within 30 days of the letter or be dropped from the Association. A dropped member will have to gain admittance through the Division Head and will be subject to paying the registration fee of \$50.00 and the \$50.00 membership fee for that year.

## **FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The Association Administrator shall maintain a mailing list of “Friends of the Association”. This list is to consist of anyone who wishes to be informed of Association activities.

## **OFFICERS**

### **President**

The office of President is a voluntary, elected position. The President serves a two-year term. Should the President relinquish the position prior to the completion of the term, the Executive Committee will provide a replacement until such time as a regular election can be held.

### **Administrator**

The office of Administrator is a voluntary, non-elected position. The Administrator can choose to resign, or may be asked by the Division Heads to resign, at any time. Should the Administrator relinquish the position, the replacement will be the responsibility of the Executive Committee.

### **Eligibility**

Basic eligibility to become an officer of the Association is limited to those individuals who belong to a dojo or club that is a member of the Association. In addition, the candidate must be ranked 1st through 6th dan (inclusive). Division Heads shall not serve as officers.

### **Elections**

The President shall be elected for a two-year term by a simple majority vote of the eligible members. Nominations will be taken at the bi-annual meeting in August, immediately preceding the expiration term of President. Nominations will continue to be accepted for a period of two weeks subsequently. Immediately after the close of the nomination period, the Administrator will send a ballot via mail and/or electronic mail. Eligible members may vote for a period of one month after e-mailing/ mailing of the ballots, after which time the election is closed. Votes received by the Administrator before the deadline, by phone or by letter, will also be considered as valid. The election results will be announced on the CAA website, [www.ai-ki-do.org](http://www.ai-ki-do.org), immediately following the deadline and a vote-count. The results will also be announced at the next meeting.

### **Term Limit**

There is no limit on the number of consecutive terms that may be served by an officer.

## **Duties**

The **President** shall represent the Association at official functions; act as a resource for information regarding the Association; function as a member of the Executive Committee; coordinate special events, and help plan, preside at, and maintain order at all meetings.

The **Administrator** shall be responsible for all administrative duties for the Association. The duties include acting as the main interface with Japan, coordination of meetings/seminars; dissemination of information; maintaining the membership list (available on the CAA website); coordination of special events, revising the guidelines as needed and acting as a resource for information regarding the Association. An appointed administrative assistant will collect the daily mail, process dan ranks, deposit funds for ranking and membership, maintain the Association databases and send out correspondence as directed by the Administrator.

## **THE CAA WEBSITE**

The CAA website, [www.ai-ki-do.org](http://www.ai-ki-do.org), is a shared communication resource. It is used by the Executive Committee to disseminate information to the members and the world community at large. It is also a means by which members share information with each other and the public.

The website includes:

- Information about Aikido and the CAA
- Dojo Directory with contact information and links to dojo websites
- Events Calendar for Association members
- CAA News including minutes of meetings, posting of election results and promotions
- Articles written by members of the Association
- A monthly “Spotlight” on a dojo-cho
- Posting of dan papers
- Downloads of all CAA forms
- Links to numerous Aikido organizations
- Information regarding special CAA sponsored seminars, including registration forms, and coverage of the events.

## **Webmaster**

The webmaster is a voluntary position. The webmaster is responsible for the design and maintenance of the CAA website.

## **Content**

All content is subject to review by the Executive Committee.

## **DIVISIONS**

Association dojos are divided into three Divisions. A senior instructor from each division shall serve as Division Head.

Each dojo is free to affiliate itself with the division of its choice, with the proviso that each dojo must be affiliated with exactly one division.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee consists of the President of the Association, the Administrator and the three Division Heads. From time to time, items of business requiring action must be addressed between regularly scheduled meetings. This committee shall meet on these occasions and pass on to the membership any decisions or recommendations resulting from the meeting. This committee is responsible for revisions of the *CAA Guidelines*.

## **RANKING**

Ranking of members of affiliated dojos and clubs shall be in accordance with the Association's Kyu and Dan Examination Process Guidelines.

## **MEETINGS**

### **Schedule**

There shall be at least two meetings each year, to be held on the last Sunday in February and on the last Sunday in August. Other meetings may be called on an as-needed basis.

### **Attendance**

Meetings shall be open and public. The floor may be held only by CAA Members ranked sandan and above unless otherwise directed by the meeting facilitator.

### **Agenda**

The Administrator or President will post the agenda on the CAA website, [www.ai-ki-do.org](http://www.ai-ki-do.org), at least two weeks prior to any scheduled meeting, unless the meeting is called as an emergency measure. Any dojo cho wishing to add items to the agenda may do so by contacting the Administrator or the President. The final agenda will be posted on the website.

## **Training**

When possible, a jointly conducted training seminar shall be held in conjunction with each meeting.

## **VOTING ON AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Issues**

Any item(s) to be voted on during a meeting must appear on the posted agenda for that meeting.

### **Eligibility**

The dojo cho of each dojo and club will have a vote. In addition, each yudansha ranked 3rd dan or above who is a member of a CAA dojo or club shall also have a vote.

### **Process**

Voting, excluding the election of President, will occur at the meetings. A simple majority determines the outcome of all votes. If a voting member is unable to attend the meeting, he/she can cast their vote by contacting his/her Division Head in advance of the meeting. From time to time it may be necessary for the Administrator to notify members by e-mail of an issue, directing them to the website to vote. An example would be the case of urgency when a vote is required on a subject when it would be inconvenient to wait for the next scheduled meeting.

## **REPRESENTATION**

A member dojo or club is represented by its dojo cho or assigned proxy.

## **EXAMINATION COMMITTEES**

The Dan Examination Committees (one in each division), as specified by the Aikikai, consist of those active Association members holding ranks 5th dan and above from the Aikikai. This committee is responsible for examination and ranking within its division. An active member is one who participates in Bay Area seminars, meetings, or other functions sponsored by the Association, and who has registered his/her dojo with the Association for the current year. The names and dan grades of the committee members will be forwarded to the Aikikai and to the Association member dojos.

The Kyu Examination Committees (one in each dojo or club) consist of those dojo or club member yudansha ranked 2nd dan or above.

## **TEACHING COMMITTEE**

The Teaching Committee within each division shall consist of members of Association member organizations ranked 4th dan and above. As directed by the Aikikai, they shall strive to improve the teaching system. The Aikikai also suggests that the Teaching Committee may also devise a system for certification of Assistant Instructors and Instructors.

## **CENTRALIZED TRAINING**

Centralized training seminars will be scheduled from time to time for the purpose of bringing the Association together as a whole. When possible, this will take place in conjunction with regularly scheduled Association meetings. All aikidoka, regardless of affiliation, are welcome to participate in Association scheduled training.

## **OUTSIDE INSTRUCTOR SEMINARS**

The Association shall sponsor seminars from time to time featuring instructors from outside the San Francisco Bay Area.

# **Kyu and Dan Examination Process**

(Revised October 2007)

## **KYU EXAMINATION PROCEDURE**

Kyu examinations may be scheduled at any Association dojo or club. A Kyu Examination Committee member shall be in attendance and will sign the kyu certificates. A Kyu Examination committee member is defined as a California Aikido Association member ranked nidan or above. The Division Head must approve any exceptions to the above guideline.

The Association does not charge for kyu rankings. Dojo chos, at their own discretion, may charge their students a fee. California Aikido Association kyu certificates are provided at no cost to all member dojos. The CAA kyu certificate may be downloaded at the CAA website, [www.ai-ki-do.org](http://www.ai-ki-do.org), in the “Downloads” section.

## **DAN EXAMINATION PROCEDURE**

### **Shodan, Nidan and Sandan**

Rankings for shodan and nidan require the presence of a CAA Dan Examination Committee member (a CAA member ranked 5<sup>th</sup> dan or above) unless otherwise approved or directed by the Division Head. It is recommended in the case of shodan and nidan that the dojo cho conduct the examination, and that the Dan Examination Committee member(s) in attendance provide comment and guidance where appropriate. Instructors having candidates for the rank of sandan should contact their Division Head and set an examination date. The Division Head may elect to consolidate exams within his division or to hold them at individual dojos. Sandan examinations are conducted by the Division Head. Application forms should be signed by the dojo cho and the Dan Examination Committee Member(s), and mailed directly to the Administrator, unless otherwise directed by the Division Head. Payment of all fees must be received **before** the application will be processed. The Division Head must approve any exceptions to the above guideline.

### **Yondan and above**

In the case of yondan, an examination/demonstration will be scheduled and conducted by a Division Head. Promotions to the rank of godan and above are made by recommendation to Aikikai, by one of the Division Heads.

## **Dojos Outside the Bay Area**

We encourage member dojos located 200 miles or more from the San Francisco Bay Area to bring applicants to the Bay Area for examinations, after checking with the relevant Division Head for dates. We do acknowledge, however, that in some cases this is difficult and would present a hardship. In this event, such member dojos may arrange for a Dan Examination Committee member to visit them in order to conduct an examination.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Selection**

Each dojo cho, is responsible for establishing the ranking procedures within his/her dojo in compliance with the CAA guidelines/Examination procedures and requirements. Each Division Head is responsible for ranking dojo cho or club instructors within their own division. Any exceptions to the above guideline must be approved by the Division Head.

### **Criteria**

Having the minimum number of days and years of training is a prerequisite for promotion, but it is not the only condition. Although it is necessary, it is not sufficient by itself. It is a mistake to count the days and assume a rank will follow.

A “training day” is defined as one or more classes per day taught by a certified CAA instructor.

For nidan and above, eligibility for the next rank is counted from the date of registration of the last rank. The date of registration is found in the student's yudansha book.

The major criteria for all dan ranks are as follows:

### **Character**

Applicant must show integrity, spirit, dedication, loyalty, service, and contribution to the art.

### **Proficiency**

Applicant must demonstrate technical skills, knowledge, and teaching abilities commensurate with the rank.

### **Training record**

Advancement through the dan ranks is not unlike advancing through the University system. More and more “graduate work” is required for higher degrees. Training with one’s seniors, attendance at seminars and camps, trips to Japan for training: all are examples of such graduate work. The Aikikai document “Hombu Dojo Grading System,”

says that “successful completion of summer and winter trainings will be taken into consideration”. In the spirit of this statement, it is expected that those yudansha being developed as instructors will have exceptional records of attendance at camps and seminars taught by Aikikai instructors. All yudansha are required to submit their yudansha books with an accurate history of seminar and camp attendance with their applications for promotion.

It is important not to isolate oneself within a dojo by failing to train with aikidoka from other dojos. This is analogous to staying current in one’s field in any other professional endeavor. It is also important to train occasionally with members of the Examination Committee in one’s division so that they have the ability to observe one’s training prior to the day of an examination.

## **Recommendation**

Students may be promoted by recommendation as opposed to testing for rank. Recommendation ranks are usually reserved for godan and above.

In some rare cases, a student who is physically unable to perform a test may be granted a rank by recommendation. This type of ranking is normally granted only once and is approved by the Division Head. This type of ranking may be submitted at any of the regularly scheduled processing times.

Ranks 5<sup>th</sup> dan and above “by recommendation” are processed once a year at Kagami Biraki. Division Heads must submit these applications to the Administrator no later than November 15th of each year. The Doshu and his executive committee at Hombu Dojo review the applications and decide which applicants will be promoted in December. Promotions are announced and posted in January.

## **Submission of Applications for Rank**

Applications must be completely filled out. Incomplete applications will be held until all information is received. Payment in full should accompany the applications.

Payment may be submitted by:

1. dojo check
2. personal check
3. money order
4. Pay Pal

Yudansha books with evidence of seminar and camp attendance must accompany applications for nidan and above. Books submitted with no camp or seminar record will be returned with the application to the applicant.

It is the responsibility of the dojo cho to know his/her student membership. If a yudansha within the dojo was ranked outside of the Aikikai and the dojo cho expects to rank that person in the future through the CAA, he/she must consult the Administrator to register that past rank(s) with the Aikikai as soon as possible. A reduced fee will be charged for registration of past ranks.

Mailing deadlines for applications:

- March 15
- June 15
- September 15
- November 15 (for ranks by recommendation)
- December 15

The list of fees (shodan to rokudan) is distributed to the dojo cho. In the case of payment by check, it is the responsibility of the dojo cho to let the applicant know the proper amount to be sent in for ranking. The dojo cho may also choose to send a dojo check. The CAA website has downloadable applications that include the fees for each rank.

Applications and payments should be sent to:

California Aikido Association  
751 Laurel Street #513  
San Carlos, CA 94070

Questions regarding payments or applications should be directed to Adrienne Wonnacott, CAA Administrative Assistant at: [caa@refraction.org](mailto:caa@refraction.org) Phone number: 650-585-4618.

Questions for the Administrator may be sent to:

Cyndy Hayashi  
114 Dexter Avenue  
Redwood City, CA 94063-3617

Phone: 650-888-9780  
e-mail: [administrator@ai-ki-do.org](mailto:administrator@ai-ki-do.org)

# **California Aikido Association Examination**

## **Requirements**

(Revised August 2006)

**NOTE:** The following are **minimum** requirements for each rank as stated. Students ranked at the minimum requirement of days should be those students that are deemed exceptional by the dojo cho.

The dojo cho may add any other technical elements to each examination as well as weapons at his/her discretion.

### **5th Kyu**

Minimum 50 training days

#### **TACHI WAZA**

katate dori:	tai no henko (irimi & tenkan)
shihonage	omote & ura
shomen uchi:	ikkyo (omote & ura)
irimi nage	

#### **SUWARI WAZA**

ryote dori:	kokyu ho
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#### **UKEMI**

forward & back rolls

# California Aikido Association Examination

## Requirements

(Revised August 2006)

### 4th Kyu

Minimum 60 training days

#### TACHI WAZA

shomen uchi:	ikkyo (omote & ura) nikyo (omote & ura) irimi nage
kata dori:	nikyo (omote & ura)
ryote dori:	tenchi nage
tsuki:	kote gaeshi
katate dori:	shihonage (omote & ura)
yokomen uchi:	shihonage (omote & ura)

#### SUWARI WAZA

ryote dori:	kokyu ho
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#### UKEMI

forward & back rolls

# California Aikido Association Examination

## Requirements

(Revised August 2006)

### 3rd Kyu

Minimum 80 training days

#### SUWARI WAZA

shomen uchi: ikkyo through yonkyo

#### TACHI WAZA

morote dori: kokyu ho

shomen uchi: ikkyo through yonkyo

irimi nage

kote gaeshi

tsuki: irimi nage

kote gaeshi

katate dori: shihonage (omote & ura)

ryote dori: shihonage (omote & ura)

yokomen uchi: shihonage (omote & ura)

#### UKEMI

At a level appropriate for the rank

# California Aikido Association Examination

## Requirements

(Revised August 2006)

### 2nd Kyu

Minimum 100 training days

#### SUWARI WAZA

shomen uchi: ikkyo through yonkyo

#### TACHI WAZA

shomen uchi: ikkyo through yonkyo

irimi nage

kote gaeshi

kaiten nage

tsuki:

irimi nage

katate dori:

irimi nage

kote gaeshi

kote gaeshi

kaiten nage

kaiten nage

ushiro ryote dori:

shihonage

kote gaeshi

#### HANMI HANDACHI

katate dori: shihonage

ryote dori: shihonage

#### VARIATIONS (3 techniques per attack)

katate dori

hiji dori

morote dori

ryote dori

#### JIYU WAZA

one person flowing freestyle, any attack

# California Aikido Association Examination

## Requirements

(Revised August 2006)

### 1st Kyu

Minimum 150 training days

#### SUWARI WAZA

shomen uchi: ikkyo through yonkyo  
yokomen uchi: ikkyo through yonkyo  
kata dori: ikkyo through yonkyo

#### TACHI WAZA

shomen uchi: ikkyo through yonkyo  
yokomen uchi: ikkyo through yonkyo  
kata dori: ikkyo through yonkyo  
ushiro ryote dori: ikkyo through yonkyo  
shomen uchi: irimi nage  
kote gaeshi  
kaiten nage  
tsuki: irimi nage  
kote gaeshi  
kaiten nage  
yokomen uchi: irimi nage  
kote gaeshi  
kaiten nage  
gokyo

#### VARIATIONS (3 techniques per attack)

katate dori kata dori menuchi  
ryote dori ushiro ryokata dori  
morote dori koshi nage

#### HANMI HANDACHI

katate dori: shihonage  
ryote dori: shihonage  
shomen uchi: irimi nage tsuki: irimi nage  
kote gaeshi kote gaeshi  
kaiten nage kaiten nage  
ushiro waza: five techniques

#### JIYU WAZA

two person flowing freestyle, any attack

# **California Aikido Association Examination**

## **Requirements**

(Revised August 2006)

### **Shodan**

Minimum 200 training days and one year from promotion to ikkyu. (Please note that the dan application form requires the training days to be listed, not the number of years of training.) An Association 5th dan or above must be present to sign the application unless otherwise approved or directed by the Division Head. Minimum age: 15 years old

### **SUWARI WAZA**

same as 1st kyu

### **TACHI WAZA**

same as 1st kyu

### **VARIATIONS (5 techniques per attack chosen)**

katate dori                    ushiro ryote dori  
ryote dori                    ushiro ryokata dori  
morote dori                    koshi nage  
kata dori menuchi

### **HANMI HANDACHI**

same as 1st kyu

### **TANTO DORI**

tsuki  
shomen uchi  
yokomen uchi  
slash  
knife at throat from the front  
knife at throat from the back

### **JIYU WAZA**

one person flowing freestyle, any attack

### **RANDORI**

Three person multiple attack. Examiners may choose one of the following scenarios:

- begin with one attacker flowing jiuwaza, add uke #2 and then uke #3
- begin with two ukes each holding an arm, add a third uke coming in
- three ukes attack simultaneously

# **California Aikido Association Examination**

## **Requirements**

(Revised August 2006)

### **Nidan**

#### **PREREQUISITE**

Minimum 360 training days and two years since obtaining shodan. (Please note that the dan application form requires the training days to be listed, not the number of years of training.) Eligibility is counted from the date of registration of the shodan rank. The date of registration is found in the student's yudansha book. An Association 5th dan or above must be present to sign the application unless otherwise approved or directed by the Division Head.

#### **BASIC CONTENT**

A comprehensive examination of basic aikido techniques. (See shodan examination requirements.)

#### **KAESHI WAZA**

Demonstration of reversals (counters) from a variety of basic techniques.

#### **TACHI DORI**

Demonstration of sword-taking techniques.

#### **JO DORI**

Demonstration of staff-taking techniques.

#### **JIYU WAZA**

One person flowing freestyle.

#### **RANDORI**

Multiple attack as directed by examiners.

#### **ESSAY**

Submission of a short essay on an aikido-related subject.

**NOTE:** The essay must be submitted to the Division Head prior to the examination. In addition, the essay may be sent in electronic form to the CAA web master for posting on the website at: [www.ai-ki-do.org](http://www.ai-ki-do.org).

# **California Aikido Association Examination**

## **Requirements**

(Revised August 2006)

### **Sandan**

#### PREREQUISITE

Written recommendation from the instructor, to include a record of camps and seminars attended. Minimum 540 training days and three years since obtaining nidan. (Please note that the dan application form requires the training days to be listed, not the number of years of training.) Eligibility is counted from the date of registration of the nidan rank. The date of registration is found in the student's yudansha book. The relevant Division Head must be present to sign the application.

#### CONTENT

A comprehensive demonstration of traditional aikido skills to include empty hand and weapons techniques.

#### RANDORI

Multiple attack as directed by the examiners.

#### ESSAY

Submission of an essay on an aikido-related subject.

**NOTE:** The essay must be submitted to the Division Head prior to the examination. In addition, the essay may be sent in electronic form to the CAA web master for posting on the website at: [www.ai-ki-do.org](http://www.ai-ki-do.org).

# **California Aikido Association Examination**

## **Requirements**

(Revised August 2006)

### **Yondan**

#### **PREREQUISITE**

Written recommendation from the instructor, to include a record of camps and seminars attended. Minimum 800 training days and four years since obtaining sandan. (Please note that the dan application form requires the training days to be listed, not the number of years of training.) Eligibility is counted from the date of registration of the sandan rank. The date of registration is found in the student's yudansha book. The relevant Division Head must be present to sign the application. This rank is officially the rank of a professional teacher and as such, it is expected that the candidate have some teaching experience at his/her dojo as provided by the dojo cho.

#### **CONTENT**

A comprehensive demonstration. Content of the demonstration is at the discretion of the applicant.

#### **RANDORI**

Multiple attack as directed by the examiners.

#### **ESSAY**

Submission of an essay on an aikido-related subject.

**NOTE:** The essay must be submitted to the Division Head prior to the examination. In addition, the essay may be sent in electronic form to the CAA web master for posting on the website at: [www.ai-ki-do.org](http://www.ai-ki-do.org).

# **California Aikido Association Examination**

## **Requirements**

(Revised August 2006)

### **Godan**

#### **PREREQUISITE**

Minimum 1000 training days and five years since obtaining yondan. (Please note that the dan application form requires the training days to be listed, not the number of years of training.)

This is a rank awarded by recommendation of a Division Head only. No demonstration or test is required for this rank. The applicant must be an established teacher under the Division Head who by virtue of his/her devotion to the art has excelled in teaching ability and contribution to the Aikido community. This application for rank is submitted to Japan for review and approval. The rank is formally made official when it is announced at the Kagami Biraki celebration in January. Submission to Japan does not guarantee promotion.

### **Rokudan**

#### **PREREQUISITE**

Minimum 1200 training days and six years since obtaining godan. (Please note that the dan application form requires the training days to be listed, not the number of years of training.)

This is a rank awarded by recommendation of a Division Head only. No demonstration or test is required for this rank. The applicant must be an established teacher under the Division Head who by virtue of his/her devotion to the art has excelled in teaching ability and contribution to the Aikido community. This application for rank is submitted to Japan for review and approval. The rank is formally made official when it is announced at the Kagami Biraki celebration in January. Submission to Japan does not guarantee promotion.

## California Aikido Association Website

# WWW.AI-KI-DO.ORG

The information and communication resource for the California Aikido Association.



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*"... in China there had been simple fisherman who could catch enormous fish... using cane-poles and a single strand of silk. 'A line breaks,' Titus said, 'at a stress point. But if the fisherman experiences no stress, and if he transmits this experience through his hands to his pole, to his line, to his hook, then there will be no stress point, therefore no point at which the strand can break.'"*

- from "The River Why" by David James Duncan

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## CONNECT

Via the URL shown above, or Search Google for "California Aikido"

## BLEND

The CAA website offers a wide variety of interesting and useful information such as the Dojo Directory, Event Calendar, CAA News, Articles, and more...

## EXTEND

Send information, articles, photos, and updates to [webshihan@ai-ki-do.org](mailto:webshihan@ai-ki-do.org). Tell your fellow students and others about the site!