



## **SSWU Shido Menkyo and Sho-Go Degree Regulations** ***(Instructor Licence and Instructor Ranks)***

### **SSWU Rank Award Philosophy**

The SSWU exists to promote the teaching and practice of Shitoryu karatedo and to enable practitioners to train together amicably in the spirit of Shukokai, the 'way for all'. It is a democratic, not-for-profit, and non-hierarchical organisation run for the benefit of its members.

The SSWU provides a structure to facilitate the progression of practitioners through the dan grades from 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> dan. In addition, the SSWU recognises the additional personal development and public contribution to others that is made by some practitioners through their teaching or through their organising, administration, and other such activities surrounding the practice, development, and promotion of Shitoryu karatedo. Therefore, the SSWU has a system for acknowledging this in the form of special awards. These take the form of Shido Menkyo (Instructor Licence) and Sho-Go Degree (Instructor Ranks). As the SSWU is non-hierarchical, these awards are not to be viewed as conferring seniority but rather of recognising, valuing and rewarding contributions to the practice of karatedo which are above and beyond the simple expectations for personal training and development (which is recognised through the dan grading system).

The SSWU Shido Menkyo and Sho-Go Degree Awards together with their Regulations are overseen by the Directory Committee and the Technical Director. Nominations should be sent to the SSWU General Secretary, Mrs Gayle Berry-Zochbeaur at [gaylebz@gmail.com](mailto:gaylebz@gmail.com)

### **Procedure**

All Shido Menkyo (*Jun-Shidoin, Shidoin, Jun-Shihan and Shihan*) and Sho-Go Degree (*Renshi, Kyoshi, Hanshi*) will be awarded following consideration by the Technical Committee. The Committee will then make a recommendation to the Directory Committee who will make the final decision.

Chief Instructors/Heads of members associations may at any time nominate candidates to the SSWU Technical Committee for consideration. Any such nomination should be accompanied by a brief history and explanation of the reasons why the candidate is being proposed.

The Technical Committee will consider the eligibility of candidates for an award based on the reasons for the nomination and the criteria and guidelines set out below.

Where possible, any awards will be presented at an official SSWU seminar or other event. Where this is not possible, appropriate arrangements will be made with the chief instructor/head of the member association so that a suitable presentation can be made to the successful candidate.

Shido Menkyo and Sho-Go Degree awards are earned through merit and cannot be purchased. The SSWU will not charge for these awards however a nominal processing fee of 75 euros will be required to prepare each diploma. This fee should be paid directly to the SSWU bank account.



## **Shido Menkyo (Instructor Licence):**

### **JUN SHIDOIN – an *associate* instructor**

Minimum requirements: the candidate must be:

- a practitioner who has achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> dan or above
- a minimum of 21 years of age
- a practitioner who teaches and assists in the dojo on a regular basis
- a practitioner who has good technical knowledge and ability in kihon, kata and kumite
- a practitioner who demonstrates the potential to become a Shido-in

### **SHIDOIN – a highly *competent* instructor**

Minimum requirements: the candidate must be:

- a practitioner who has achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> dan or above
- a minimum of 25 years of age
- an instructor who teaches on a regular basis
- an instructor who has good technical knowledge and ability in kihon, kata and kumite
- an instructor who can teach and transmit this knowledge to students up to 1<sup>st</sup> dan level.

### **JUN SHIHAN – a highly *competent* and *experienced* teacher**

Minimum requirements: the candidate must be:

- a practitioner who has achieved 4<sup>th</sup> dan or above
- a minimum of 30 years of age
- an instructor who is also an experienced teacher
- an instructor who also has good knowledge of and ability to teach kata bunkai
- an instructor who can teach and transmit this knowledge *and experience* to students up to 3<sup>rd</sup> dan level.

### **SHIHAN – a senior and very experienced teacher who is an *admirable role model* and who sets a good example both of technical karate and also the etiquette and spirit of karatedo**

Minimum requirements: the candidate must be:

- a practitioner who has achieved 6<sup>th</sup> dan or above



- approximately 43 years of age
- an instructor who is an excellent and experienced teacher with exceptional technical knowledge of kihon, kata, kumite and kata bunkai
- an instructor who is a role model to other teachers and students alike
- an instructor who can teach and transmit exemplary techniques, etiquette and the spirit of karatedo.

### **Sho-Go Degree (Instructor Ranks):**

Sho-Go is the instructor rank-system set up by the Dai-Nippon Butoku-kai (Greater Japan Martial Virtue Society established in 1895 in Kyoto). It consists of three ranks, Renshi, Kyoshi and Hanshi.

#### **RENSHI**

This title can be translated to mean "polished expert". It is typically awarded to those who have not only demonstrated technical proficiency but also a deeper understanding of their martial art's philosophy and teachings. The character "Ren" (錬) implies "polished" or "refined", while "Shi" (士) translates to "person", suggesting a person who has refined their technical skills, their instructor and leadership skills as well as their character through conscientious karate practice.

Minimum requirements:

- 5<sup>th</sup> dan or above
- minimum 36 years of age
- must be accomplished and distinguished in all aspects of karatedo.

#### **KYOSHI**

This title is often given to senior instructors, implying a deep knowledge and understanding of their martial art's teachings. The translation of Kyoshi can be "teaching expert" or 'teacher of teachers'.

The term combines "Kyo" (教) which means "teach" or "education", and "Shi" (士) meaning "person". A Kyoshi is not only expected to be technically proficient but also to have a profound understanding of their martial art's philosophy, history, and application.

Minimum requirements:

- 7<sup>th</sup> dan or above
- approximately 51 years of age
- must be accomplished and distinguished in all aspects of Budo karate.

#### **HANSHI**



Hanshi represents one of the highest titles, typically reserved for the grandmasters or very senior practitioners of a martial art. It can be translated as "model expert". The character "Han" (範) denotes "model" or "example", signifying that a Hanshi is someone whose practice, character, and understanding serve as a model for all other practitioners. To attain this title, a karateka usually has decades of experience and has made significant contributions to their martial discipline.

Minimum requirements:

- 8th dan or above
- approximately 60 years of age
- must be accomplished and distinguished in all aspects Budo karate
- must be seen by others to be a leader
- must be seen by all to have the upmost integrity and be an excellent role model