

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN JU-JITSU ASSOCIATION (AJA)**

**Approved September 15, 2023**

## **PURPOSES**

To further the study and practice of Japanese ju-jitsu, the American Ju-jitsu Association (AJA) has the following primary purposes:

- A. Serve as an association by which affiliated schools or clubs may cooperate and interact to promote the generous exchange of resources, ideas, information, and the technical skills of ju-jitsu;
- B. Promote the martial art of ju-jitsu to the general public and the global martial arts community by increasing awareness of the many benefits of learning ju-jitsu;
- C. Support, develop, and foster amateur sport competition within the guidelines exclusively set forth in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States of America; and
- D. Maintain high standards of the martial art of ju-jitsu and provide for the orderly promotion of qualified persons within the American Ju-jitsu Association.

## **Glossary:**

In the text that follows, the term “Sensei” refers to the head of a dojo. In addition to a Sensei, a dojo may have one or more “instructors” and “assistant instructors.” The Sensei and instructors may teach without supervision. Assistant instructors require supervision by the Sensei

and/or an instructor. “Students” are other members of the dojo who receive instruction. Collectively, a dojo’s Sensei, instructors, assistant instructors, and students are “members” of the dojo.

An AJA member in good standing is one whose current AJA dues are paid.

An “official” or “officer” of the AJA is a member who holds an elected or appointed position in the organization. An “official representative” of the AJA is any member authorized by the President, Vice President, or Board of Directors to conduct events and activities under AJA auspices.

AJA “policies” are general guidelines designed to fulfill the purpose and functions of the American Ju-jitsu Association.

“Programs” are organized activities designed to further policy ends.

“Procedures” are a defined set of actions designed to achieve a specific goal.

“Rules” are instructions for a proper course of conduct.

“Regulations” prescribe and/or constrain that conduct exactly.

“Criteria” are the properties or components of an action or endeavor. For example, in judo, the criteria of a throw are gripping (kumi kata), off-balancing (kuzushi), positioning (tsukuri), and throwing (kake).

“Standards” are measures by which the quality of execution of criteria are assessed.

## **ARTICLE 1: Government**

### Section 1: Board of Directors

All legislative powers in this constitution are vested in a Board of Directors (hereafter BOD or Board). The BOD establishes policies, procedures, rules, and regulations of the AJA including, but not limited

to: criteria and procedures for membership and promotion; certification of ranks; imposition and collection of dues and fees; member benefits and events; rules of amateur competition; and other matters pertaining to the welfare and purpose of the AJA. The Board may delegate any of these powers to others in the AJA.

The BOD is composed of ten (10) members, unless an increase or decrease is declared by a BOD vote. A quorum of the BOD (50% + 1 member) must be present to conduct any business, vote, or action. A majority vote of the quorum is required to approve all actions of the BOD except for the removal of a BOD member from the Board, the removal of an AJA dojo or members from the organization, or changes to the AJA Constitution, which require a 2/3 vote of a quorum. Unless otherwise stated, a Board decision or approval is based on the vote of a majority of a quorum of the Board.

The BOD operates under the California Corporations Code of 1980 as a non-profit public benefit corporation.

Whenever a BOD position opens, the BOD elects an AJA member to fill that position from among candidates by majority vote. The term of office for BOD members is four (4) years, beginning with their most recent (previous) election, and there are no term limits. A BOD position becomes open at the end of a term; upon retirement, resignation, or other departure of a BOD member; and/or upon the creation of a new BOD position. A BOD member whose term expires may run for another term. In voting to fill a BOD position, BOD members send their votes electronically to the Secretary, who announces the decision after all votes are in. If the Secretary position is vacant the President will select an alternate BOD member to fill this function.

With the exception noted in (d) below, BOD candidates must: (a) hold a minimum AJA-certified rank of Shodan, (b) have a demonstrated history of active involvement in AJA activities, including having duties and

responsibilities preferably at the national level, and (c) be nominated by an existing BOD member. (d) Up to one AJA member may be elected by the BOD to serve as a BOD member solely on the basis of meeting requirements (b) and (c) in this paragraph.

BOD members may retain their seats even after retiring from actively teaching ju-jitsu, assuming they are members in good standing. A BOD member may resign their seat on the BOD by written notice to the remaining members of Board. A duly elected member of the BOD shall be awarded a *Lifetime Individual Membership* in the AJA and may retain BOD membership even though he/she may retire from actively teaching ju-Jitsu.

The BOD may remove a member from the Board by a 2/3 vote of a quorum for any offense listed in Section 7, or based upon other criteria established by the Board.

One member of the Board is elected Chair, responsible for the conduct of meetings, discussions, and votes of the BOD. A Chair serves a four-year term, beginning with their accession to that role. At the end of that term, the Board selects a Chair for the next term from all BOD members, including the incumbent, by majority vote. A Chair may resign at any time by submitting a letter of resignation to other members of the Board. Upon a Chair's resignation, the BOD selects a new Chair from among its members by majority vote. A former Chair retains their seat on the BOD.

The BOD convenes at least once each calendar year to discuss and vote on issues of AJA policy and finances. The Chair or a majority of BOD members calls for a BOD meeting to be held. The Chair is responsible for convening such meetings and determining their times and venues. The Chair prepares an agenda and sends it to all BOD members at least one week in advance.

The Chair, at their discretion, may conduct Board meetings or other BOD business via U.S. mail, e-mail, or other communication medium when a physical meeting is not feasible.

## Section 2: Elected Executive Officers

The following Executive Officers are Board members elected by majority vote of the Board:

- A. President
- B. Vice President
- C. Secretary
- D. Three (3) Regional Directors
- E. Treasurer
- F. One or more Directors at Large

To remove any Executive from their elected position requires a BOD vote.

Executive Officers execute the policies and programs, rules, and regulations established by the BOD.

The President serves a four-year term, beginning with their accession to that office. At the end of that term, the Board selects a President for the next term from all BOD members, including the incumbent, by majority vote. Other Executive Officers serve in their respective roles until they choose to vacate the office or are required to by majority vote of the Board. Vacating the office does not require an executive or administrative officer to leave the Board.

A. The President is AJA's Chief Executive Officer, responsible for working with the Board to formulate and implement AJA policies, programs, rules, and regulations.

B. The Vice President, also an Executive Officer, fills the role of President when the President is unable to do so and also chairs the National Standards and Certification Board (NSCB). The BOD determines the length of the Vice President's service in the role of President when the President is unable to perform their duties.

The following elected officers fill administrative roles.

C. The Secretary records all meetings and votes of the BOD; serves as custodian of this constitution; serves as Acting President or Vice President if these officers are unable to perform their duties; and performs other duties specified in this constitution.

D. The Regional Directors (Northern, Southern, and Western) serve on the NSCB and organize AJA events in their regions, such as seminars and tournaments.

E. The Treasurer's role is described in detail in Section 5 below.

F. The Directors at Large perform duties negotiated with, and approved by, the Board of Directors.

### Section 3. Appointed Administrative Officers

The President appoints the following Administrative Officers from among AJA members to carry out the mission and policies of the BOD:

- A. Director of Certification
- B. Marketing Director
- C. Historian
- D. Materials Director
- E. Membership Director
- F. Awards Director
- G. Webmaster
- H. Others, dependent upon need

The President may change the appointed administrative roles and/or remove an Administrative Officer for unsatisfactory performance of his/her role.

The President may make changes to basic procedures of administration, so long as those changes align with this constitution.

The President signs all legal documents for the AJA and may delegate this responsibility to other Board members if appropriate.

#### Section 4: National Standards and Certification Board (NSCB)

AJA's National Standards and Certification Board (NSCB) has the following responsibilities:

- A) Establish criteria and procedures, subject to BOD approval, for accepting dojos that apply for AJA membership;
- B) Establish criteria and procedures, subject to BOD approval, for AJA promotions;
- C) Evaluate dojo applications for membership in the AJA,
  - a) Help applicant dojos meet AJA criteria for acceptance; and
  - b) Approve or disapprove dojo applications and issue AJA Dojo Charters to approved dojos;
- D) Meet at least twice a year to consider for promotion any active yudansha who do not have a Sensei to promote them;
- E) Make promotion decisions regarding yudansha in this group (D) -- the NSCB may take applications or initiate consideration;

F) Regularly notify yudansha whose time in grade conforms to AJA's time guidelines for promotion (e.g., two years for promotion from Shodan to Nidan, three years for promotion from Nidan to Sandan, etc.); and

G) Ensure that promotion criteria and procedures approved by the BOD are fairly and equitably enforced.

Certificates of promotion bear the signature of the President, the appropriate Regional Director, and the Sensei.

The NSCB is composed of AJA's Vice President and all AJA Regional Directors. The NSCB is Chaired by the Vice President.

The NSCB Chair may make any necessary administrative changes to basic procedures of the NSCB, so long as those changes align with this constitution.

AJA's criteria and procedures for dojo membership and promotions are open to different ryu (styles) of the art. Moreover, they do not preclude a Sensei from having more rigorous criteria or from promoting their own students with reference to those criteria. The NSCB may review any promotion submitted for AJA certification that falls outside the scope of stated NSCB/AJA criteria and procedures.

## Section 5: Budget and Finances

The President, in consultation with the Treasurer and Vice President, is responsible for preparing the Annual Operating Budget (AOB) and submitting it to the BOD for review, modification (if necessary), and approval.

The AOB must be submitted to the BOD before the year to which it applies. The AOB may be amended by a majority vote of the BOD.



The BOD establishes procedures for the AJA's use of the AOB and frequency of reporting budget to actual status by the Treasurer. These procedures, once established, may be amended by the BOD if and when the BOD believes it appropriate.

The Treasurer is responsible for receiving and disbursing funds according to procedures approved by the BOD. Furthermore, the Treasurer provides a financial report to the BOD at its request, at least once a year. The Treasurer also provides financial reports or other financial information possessed by the Treasurer to the President and Vice President, as requested.

The President and Vice President are responsible for the ongoing monitoring and yearly review of AJA finances and financial operations, including but not limited to: investing, accounting, receiving, and disbursing funds; ensuring that the AOB remains aligned with AJA policy. With approval of the BOD, the President and/or Vice President may secure assistance with the ongoing monitoring and yearly review, if needed.

No new bank or investment accounts may be opened without approval of the BOD. Similarly, no debts may be incurred without approval of the BOD, other than short-term obligations incurred in the ordinary course of business to pay vendors providing goods and/or services to the AJA.

#### Section 6: Indemnification

The AJA shall indemnify any elected or appointed officer or any official representative of the AJA made a party to a legal proceeding resulting from any incident occurring at an AJA-sponsored event against liability

incurred in the proceeding. The terms of indemnification are found in AJA's insurance policy.

### Section 7: Disciplinary Actions

The BOD may impose penalties (sanctions) on any dojo or member who violates the AJA Constitution or policies authorized by the BOD.

Sanctions may be imposed against any AJA dojo or member for any of the following reasons:

- A. Practicing discrimination in any AJA activity on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, place of national origin, or other category established by law;
- B. False or misleading statements about one's own rank, dojo, or martial arts background, or about the rank, dojo, or martial arts background of others in AJA procedures;
- C. Unauthorized or inappropriate issuance of ranks (e.g. Shodan issuing Shodan rank);
- D. Issuance of ranks for personal or political gain;
- E. Gross disrespect, e.g., demanding a promotion, threats toward other AJA members, etc.;
- F. Rude, profane, or abusive behavior;
- G. Sexual harassment or abuse;
- H. Abuse of dojo members through extreme physical, emotional, or other unreasonable treatment;
- I. Reckless behavior that poses a serious physical risk to any participant in an AJA dojo or event;
- J. Any felony conviction;
- K. Willful and/or continual violation of the AJA Constitution.
- L. Any other conduct that, in the judgment of the BOD, is unbecoming a martial artist.

Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, a) removal of a dojo, Sensei, or students from the AJA; b) suspension and/or revocation of AJA certifications and/or benefits; and/or c) suspension of the AJA Dojo Charter. Senseis are responsible for taking appropriate action if they are aware of such violation by members of their dojos.

If prohibited activities are reported, the Secretary sends a notice of the accusations and proposed sanctions to the accused party. The accused party has thirty (30) days to reply in writing to the BOD, stating their position in the matter and providing supporting evidence. The BOD evaluates the alleged violation and response and issues a decision within thirty (30) days of receiving the response.

#### Section 8: Amending the AJA Constitution

Any AJA member in good standing may propose changes to the AJA Constitution. The proposal is addressed to the President. It must be in writing, state the proposed changes clearly and completely, state the reason(s) for the proposal, and include the name and email address of the proposer. Approval of the change requires a 2/3 majority of a quorum of the Board.

#### Section 9. Dissolution of the AJA

The AJA, its BOD, and this Constitution, may be dissolved by a majority vote of the BOD or by the action of any government agency with the authority to do so. Upon the dissolution of the AJA, the BOD shall first pay, or make provision for the payment of, all liabilities of the AJA, and then allocate the remaining assets to organizations that qualify as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

### **ARTICLE 2: Membership**

#### Section 1: Dojo Charter

The Sensei of a dojo that teaches Japanese ju-jitsu--by itself or together with other martial arts--may apply for AJA membership for the dojo and for themselves as Sensei of that dojo. The National Standards and Certification Board will review the application. To be approved, the dojo must, at minimum, have a standardized program of training and promotions in Japanese ju-jitsu, consistent with AJA standards, that enables students to obtain the rank of Shodan or higher and meets the criteria for membership established by the NSCB. The Sensei must be of good character in the opinion of the NSCB.

A dojo must have at least five (5) individual AJA members (Sensei and four students), or paid slots, to obtain, maintain, and/or renew an AJA Charter.

If the application is approved, AJA keeps the dojo's program of promotions on file as an official record. Senseis are required to report major changes to their programs, such as a change of ryu, to the NSCB for their review and approval.

After approval of a dojo application, the Sensei receives a Dojo Charter authorizing them to use the AJA logo; grant promotions; collect annual AJA membership dues; issue individual AJA memberships; and conduct AJA-sponsored events including, but not limited to, seminars, tournaments (shiai), and demonstrations.

For a dojo charter to be valid, the dojo and all of its members must be registered with the AJA each calendar year. Renewals for a given calendar year may be made, and become active, in that year or as early as October 1 of the previous year or as late as February 15 of the current year. Thereafter the dojo will be dropped from the AJA Directory until all dues for the year are paid.

If a Sensei leaves their dojo, the AJA Dojo Charter may be transferred to another certified AJA Sensei or Instructor, subject to approval by the NSCB. (An Instructor to whom the Charter is transferred becomes the dojo's new Sensei.) The new Sensei must certify in writing that they will continue to operate the dojo in accordance with AJA rules and regulations and follow the promotional criteria, standards, and procedures used by the previous Sensei and approved by the NSCB. Assuming NSCB approval, the name designating the head Sensei of the dojo will be changed upon issuance of the next annual dojo charter renewal.

## Section 2: Individual Membership

Individual membership in the AJA is available only through membership in an AJA dojo, except in the case of BOD members awarded lifetime memberships. All members of a dojo--the Sensei, instructors, and students--must be registered with the AJA through the dojo for the dojo's AJA Certificate to be valid. There is a fee for individual registration, as well as for dojo registration, which the Sensei pays to the AJA. Sensei are at liberty to pass the membership fee to their students, at their discretion.

## Section 3: External Affiliation

The AJA accepts dojos from other countries and territories (external dojos) for AJA Certification following the same criteria, standards, and procedures as those for dojos inside the U.S. (domestic dojos). External dojos and their members are subject to the same rules and regulations as domestic dojos. Members of external dojos may receive AJA-certified promotions. At the discretion of the BOD, external dojos may pay reduced AJA fees. External dojos are not covered by the AJA insurance policy unless they are participating in an AJA-sponsored activity in the U.S.

## Section 4: Honorary Awards

An AJA Sensei may give any worthy individual not already a member of the AJA an “Honorary AJA Membership” award.

The BOD may give any worthy dojo not already a member of the AJA an “Honorary AJA Dojo Membership” award.

Honorary memberships persist as long as the dojo in question is active. They are listed in the Directory on the AJA Webpage.

## **ARTICLE 3: Certification**

### Section 1: Rank Certification

With one exception, a dojo’s Sensei is responsible for any and all promotions of other members in their dojo. The Sensei provides dojo certificates for these promotions. All dojo promotions to Sankyu and above must also be certified by AJA’s Director of Certification. If a Sensei does not have another Sensei qualified to promote him or her – because of retirement, death, great distance, and other similar factors – the NSCB may promote them.

A Sensei may be promoted by another Sensei of a different dojo when the former is legitimately a student of the latter. Cases in which a sensei determines that a student in their dojo should be promoted to their own rank are referred to the NSCB to be considered for promotion and certification.

To obtain AJA certification of a dojo promotion, the Sensei submits the member’s promotion to AJA’s Director of Certification, along with the required fee. No other documentation is required.

### Section 2: Teaching Certification

All AJA Sensei, instructors, and assistant instructors must have AJA certificates attesting to their teaching status. Teaching certification for the Sensei is provided when their dojo is certified. Certification of instructors and assistant instructors is provided by the Director of Certification upon application by the Sensei.

Senseis, instructors, and assistant instructors must be legal adults as determined by the state in which they reside, or at least eighteen (18) years of age, and must have completed a concussion awareness training course offered by a recognized organization approved by the AJA Board.

An AJA Sensei must, at a minimum, have the rank of Shodan. The minimum rank for instructor status is Ikkyu (1st kyu), that for assistant instructor is Nikyu (2nd kyu).

## **ARTICLE 4: Standardization**

### Section 1: Criteria for Dojo Membership

One of the main purposes of the AJA is to "maintain the high standards of the martial art of ju-jitsu." The AJA recognizes variations in the philosophies, principles, methods, and sequences of instruction across AJA dojos. However, some standardization is necessary, and therefore the AJA has adopted minimum requirements for membership and promotion.

In assessing dojo applications for membership in the AJA, the NSCB reviews the Sensei's credentials and the dojo's guidelines and requirements for promotions--among other criteria--to assure that they are consistent with Article 4, Section 3 below, prior to approving the application. Once a dojo is approved for AJA membership, its guidelines and requirements are regarded as comparable to those of other AJA dojos and acceptable to the AJA. If the applying dojo's guidelines and

requirements are not satisfactory, one or more NSCB members may work with the applicant to improve them.

## Section 2: Ranking Systems

The number of rank levels and belt colors may vary across dojos. However, dojos must distinguish between Mudansha--students without dan (black belt) rank--and Yudansha--students with dan (black belt) rank. Dojos must also have more than one rank in both the Mudansha and Yudansha categories.

Many AJA dojos adhere to a kyu/dan system having eight kyus (Mudansha ranks) and ten dans (Yudansha levels). The ranks below are presented for illustration. AJA dojos not adhering to this system must have viable rank equivalencies or equivalence ranges.

### Mudansha Ranks

- 8<sup>th</sup> kyu -- Hachikyu -- white belt -- beginning Mudansha
- 7<sup>th</sup> kyu -- Shichikyu -- yellow belt
- 6<sup>th</sup> kyu -- Rokyu -- green belt
- 5<sup>th</sup> kyu -- Gokyu -- blue belt
- 4<sup>th</sup> kyu -- Yonkyu -- purple belt
- 3<sup>rd</sup> kyu -- Sankyu -- brown belt, one stripe
- 2<sup>nd</sup> kyu -- Nikyu -- brown belt, two stripes
- 1<sup>st</sup> kyu -- Ikkyu -- brown belt, three stripes

### Yudansha Ranks

- 1<sup>st</sup> dan -- Shodan -- black belt -- beginning Yudansha
- 2<sup>nd</sup> dan -- Nidan -- black belt, two stripes
- 3<sup>rd</sup> dan -- Sandan -- black belt, three stripes
- 4<sup>th</sup> dan -- Yondan/Yodan -- black belt, four stripes
- 5<sup>th</sup> dan -- Godan -- black belt, five stripes



- 6<sup>th</sup> dan -- Rokudan -- red and white belt
- 7<sup>th</sup> dan -- Shichidan -- red and white belt
- 8<sup>th</sup> dan -- Hachidan -- red and white belt
- 9<sup>th</sup> dan -- Kudan -- red belt
- 10<sup>th</sup> dan -- Judan -- red belt

### Section 3. Guidelines for Promotion

A dojo's requirements for promotion are established when the dojo is accepted for AJA membership, and AJA keeps a record of them.

All Yudansha promotions – as well as Mudansha promotions in the three highest kyu immediately preceding first dan – must be certified by AJA's Director of Certification.

As a general guideline, at least four years of cumulative practice and study are required for a student starting at the lowest level (e.g., Hachikyu) to be ready to test for 1<sup>st</sup> dan (Shodan).

In Yudansha promotions, the number of years between one dan level and the next should roughly equal the number of the dan level to which the candidate is being promoted, e.g., two years between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> dan; three years between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> dan; four years between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> dan. This progression stops at 6<sup>th</sup> dan; any promotion beyond that requires at least six years. The NSCB may review any promotions that deviate from this advisory.

Technical proficiency assessments, through mat tests or other means, are required for promotions from beginner's level up to and including Godan. All promotions require an understanding of ju-jitsu appropriate to candidates' ranks. Promotion to ranks above Shodan require that the candidate be an AJA-certified Instructor or Sensei and that they demonstrate teaching skills appropriate to their rank. Assessment of the knowledge and skills of candidates for promotion up to and

including Godan may include observation of the candidate teaching classes, leading and teaching seminars, competing in tournaments, and/or comparable activity that demonstrates technical proficiency and teaching ability. Contributions to the AJA and the art of ju-jitsu may be among the criteria for Yudansha promotions, increasingly so for higher Yudansha ranks.

At the rank of Rokudan, a ju-jitsuka's technical skills are assumed to be well-formed and complete. Promotions to Rokudan and above are based primarily on criteria such as:

- A. Contributions to the AJA and/or the art of ju-jitsu;
- B. Length of time and depth of experience teaching and/or practicing Japanese ju-jitsu;
- C. Leadership, teaching, and/or participation in AJA-sponsored events; and
- D. Broader knowledge of the martial arts world.

#### Section 4: Promotion of New Students in a Dojo

Senseis assess the skills and knowledge of new students from outside the AJA and, with one exception, promote them in the same way they do their incumbent students. After a period of observation and assessment, the Sensei may promote the new student to the rank appropriate to their skills and knowledge, up to the rank of Ikkyu. However, NSCB is responsible for promoting new students from outside the AJA to the rank of Shodan and above, according to its own criteria and procedures. The procedures may include the NSCB's review of a video demonstrating the candidate's skills.

#### Section 5: Challenges to Promotions

A Sensei's promotion of a student may be challenged by an AJA member as unwarranted. The challenge is directed to the NSCB Chair. The NSCB then assesses the merits of the challenge and decides whether the promotion will be recognized by AJA. The NSCB decision may be appealed to the BOD.

### Section 6: Special Indications of Rank for Higher-Grade Yudansha

The AJA allows for, but does not require, certain special indications of rank and title for Yudansha at 6<sup>th</sup> dan and above. A red belt with white segmentations may be worn at the rank of Rokudan (6<sup>th</sup> dan) and above. The title of Professor, or *Shihan*, may also be awarded to those holding the rank of Rokudan and higher. A solid red belt may be worn at the ranks of Kudan and Judan.

### Section 7: NSCB Right of Review

The NSCB has the right to review all promotions and may decide to approve or disapprove AJA certification of such promotions.

The following circumstances, among others, may trigger an NSCB review:

- A. The promotion is made by an organization other than AJA;
- B. The promotion is made without the involvement of the candidate's Sensei;
- C. The promotion is excessive and/or made for the benefit of the Sensei;
- D. The Sensei/student relationship is of a questionable nature;
- E. A promotion skips one or more ranks/grades (e.g. Ikkyu to Nidan, Shodan to Sandan);
- F. The Regional Director requests that the promotion be reviewed by the NSCB.

If the NSCB denies recognition of a promotion for any reason, the NSCB Chair shall notify both the Sensei and the candidate of the NSCB's decision and the reason(s) for it. The Sensei has the right to appeal the NSCB decision to the BOD.

## **ARTICLE 5: Liability**

### Section 1: Insurance

All AJA dojos (and AJA-sponsored events) have liability insurance by virtue of the dojo's membership in the organization. For the insurance coverage to be valid for a dojo, it must meet certain conditions:

- A. All members of a dojo must be registered as AJA members;
- B. All dojo and individual memberships in the AJA must be fully paid and current;
- C. All members of a dojo and all active participants in an AJA-sponsored event must sign a standard AJA Participant Release/Waiver form;
- D. If the dojo member or event participant is under the age of eighteen (18), that person's parent or legal guardian must sign the waiver.

### Section 2: Sponsored Events and Activities

Any event or activity other than regularly scheduled ju-jitsu classes where the name and/or logo of the AJA is used to suggest AJA sponsorship must receive prior approval from the AJA President. Every such event or activity must have a host dojo responsible for requesting the approval, locating the facility, arranging for insurance, and taking other measures necessary for the organization and conduct of the event or activity.

### Section 3: Safety

Senseis ensure that their classes and events are safe and properly supervised; that all instructors and assistant instructors are trained and

capable of supervising their students; and that instructors know what to do and not to do in an emergency. In addition to mandatory training in concussion awareness, first-aid courses are strongly recommended for the Sensei, instructors, and assistant instructors. The Sensei and/or instructors regularly remind students of the basics of safe practice. The availability of a well-stocked first-aid kit in the dojo is recommended.