# Takemusu Aiki Iwama Ryu Association Constitution

## Preamble

Takemusu Aiki Iwama Ryu Association (TAIRA) is dedicated to preserving and sharing the profound influence of Saito Morihiro Shihan and remaining faithful to the technical and spiritual heritage left by the Founder Morihei Ueshiba. We are committed to transmitting the essential teachings of Aikido's founder, O'Sensei Morihei Ueshiba, as taught by his longest-standing student and world-renowned teacher, Morihiro Saito Shihan.

Our practice emphasizes:

* Continuous self-improvement through intensive and systematic practice of kihon.
* Training in an enjoyable manner with sincerity.
* The complete Aikido Riai system as developed by O-Sensei Ueshiba in Iwama.
* The martial aspect of Aikido, including atemi, sword, and stick techniques.
* The use of weapons (Buki) alongside unarmed techniques (taijutsu).
* To promote safeguarding in Martial Arts.

We strive to embody O-Sensei's concept of Takemusu Aiki - the highest level of Aikido that allows for spontaneous and effective technique creation in any situation.

## 1. Title and Structure

1.1. The title of the association shall be Takemusu Aiki Iwama Ryu Association, hereinafter referred to as TAIRA.

1.2. TAIRA is an unincorporated association, affiliated with the governing body called the British Aikido Board, hereinafter referred to as BAB.

1.3.1 All Aikido clubs, groups, and members accepted into the membership of TAIRA shall hereinafter be referred to as Members.

1.3.2 All Members accepted into the membership of TAIRA as an Instructor shall hereinafter be referred to as Instructors.

1.4 TAIRA will operate without an elected Committee, leaving the power and responsibility to represent TAIRA open equally to every Member therein during all related meetings and votes.

1.5 The Members are obliged to adhere to the Constitution as set out hereunder or forfeit their membership without refund.

1.6 Individuals are persons who are Officers of the board or members of a member association.

1.7 Clubs shall be classes operating under or directly supervised by an Instructor.

1.8 "Aikido" shall be deemed to refer to the Japanese Martial Art founded by, derived from, and so named by, Morihei Ueshiba O-Sensei.

1.9 TAIRA has discretionary power to include arts related to Aikido, subject to the BAB’s own requirements.

## 2. Aims and Objectives

2.1. To represent Clubs and their individual Members practicing Takemusu Aiki (Aikido) in the United Kingdom.

2.2. To promote and regulate Takemusu Aiki (Aikido) in the United Kingdom by bringing together clubs within the United Kingdom sharing a common aim in the further development of the martial art of Aikido, whilst recognizing and respecting the autonomy of its Members as recognized by TAIRA.

2.3. To maintain a register of Members, Clubs, and their associations with one another.

2.4. To raise awareness of the value of Takemusu Aiki (Aikido) not only as a contributor towards healthy living but also in the development of adults, young people, and children without discrimination.

2.5. To be consistent with furthering equal opportunities for all members irrespective of race, age, sex, sexual orientation, or religious following. Although some conditions and/or disabilities necessarily preclude the practice of Aikido, TAIRA will make every reasonable effort to accommodate disabled practitioners.

2.6. To develop, administer, and organize a programme for training that follows the Founder’s Aiki, including the important of Bukiwaza as an element of the syllabus.

2.7. To raise awareness of the value of Bukiwaza as a cornerstone to the correct practice of all Aikido.

## 3. Operating Principles

3.1. Constitutional Changes: To adopt such Constitutional changes as may be approved by TAIRA. Any alteration or amendments to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the Members present and voting at a properly convened Annual, Extraordinary, or General Meeting of TAIRA.

3.2. Insurance: To give access to insurance, as part of registration, for Members' Officers, Coaches, Instructors and Students, and also venues. TAIRA membership insurance will be provided by the BAB.

3.3. Membership Fees: TAIRA shall set such levies for financial contributions from Individuals and/or Members as it shall deem necessary for the purpose of meeting TAIRA's Aims and Objectives.

3.4. Other Income Generation: TAIRA may seek grant aid and other funding from outside Bodies, and may implement its own fund-raising initiatives, so long as the conditions of funding are not in conflict with TAIRA's aims and objectives.

3.5. Dissolution: Upon dissolution of TAIRA, any funds or assets remaining after TAIRA's debts and liabilities have been satisfied shall be directed, as far as is possible, to its member clubs proportionately.

3.6. The Interpretations Act (1978) shall apply to this Constitution. Titles and pronouns shall be considered gender neutral.

## 4. Membership

4.1. Applications for Membership of TAIRA: All applications shall be treated equally and fairly, following the procedures laid down in Appendix 1 to this Constitution.

4.2. Members and individuals are bound to abide by and conduct themselves according to the Constitution and its supplementary policies, procedures, and guidelines including but not limited to:

* Safeguarding Policies.
* Data Protection & Privacy Policies.
* General Club & Member Conduct Policies.

## 5. Training Philosophy

5.1. TAIRA believes that training should always be conducted in an enjoyable manner, asking only that students bring sincerity to their practice.

5.2. The dojo is considered a family-like environment, welcoming people of all abilities who share a common interest in learning Aikido and helping each other progress.

5.3. TAIRA emphasizes the practice of traditional Aikido, with the following forming a core element of progression int eh art:

* Unarmed techniques (taijutsu).
* Weapons training (Buki) using bokuto (wooden sword), jo (staff), and tanto (knife).
* The principle that taijutsu, sword techniques, and staff techniques are interconnected.

5.4. TAIRA is committed to the concept of Takemusu Aikido, striving for the highest level of Aikido practice that allows for spontaneous and effective technique creation.