



## CANADIAN AIKIDO FEDERATION SHIDOIN YUDANSHA BOOK SIGNING POLICY

### Identification

**Date of Issue:** 2010-01-05

**Date of Modification:** 2012-07-18

**Application:** This policy applies to all dojos in the Canadian Aikido Federation (CAF).

**Enquiries:** Any questions or concerns regarding this policy should be directed to the CAF Secretary. The Secretary email and mailing information can be found on the CAF website:

<http://www.canadianaikidofederation.ca/index.php>

### Introduction

This Policy is intended to provide direction to all CAF dojos for the signing of Yudansha Books at seminars being taught by a Shidojin rather than a Shihan.

### Definitions

**Seminar** – In the context of this policy, “seminar” refers to a minimum of one day of classes for a gathering of Aikidoists from more than one dojo.

### Context

Yudansha are required to have their seminar attendance recorded both as a method to track who they have received instruction from, as well as a method for the Technical Director to ensure that they are maintaining their own practice. Generally seminars are held in larger cities so often it is often difficult for Yudansha members living outside of cities to attend seminars.

Historically, only Shihan teaching at seminars were permitted to sign Yudansha Books of attending CAF Yudansha, however, to comply with the Hombu requirement that all national organizations have a shidojin system in place, the Canadian Aikido Federation (CAF) has *The Shidojin System Terms of Reference* which is based upon the *Shidojin System for Canadian Aikido Federation*, dated 17 September 2008. In October of 2008, the CAF instituted the Shidojin System as a two-year trial period.

One of the stipulations in the *Shidojin System Terms of Reference* is as follows: “The Shidojin must visit each dojo under his or her care at least once (and hopefully more often) during the two-year term.” The main responsibility of the Shidojin is to act as technical representatives of the CAF Technical Director and to take ownership of technical issues to ensure their long-term growth and the growth of Aikido in Canada.

The Aikido community continues to grow and spread to areas outside of major cities, as a result more Shidojin are being called on to conduct seminars. Teaching seminars allows Shidojin the opportunity to remove some of the burden of the technical director as well carry out their responsibilities as technical representatives to the Technical Director.

## **Policy Statement**

As Shidojin are representatives of the Technical Director, and are called upon more and more frequently to teach seminars, often outside of major cities where Yudansha do not have the same access to Shihan, Shidojin shall have the authority to sign Yudansha Books at seminars they are teaching where the “seminar” meets the criteria laid in the definitions section above, and the Yudansha has attended at least 3 hours of classes at the seminar.