

SETU AIKIDO CLUB

DRAFT CONSTITUTION

Draft for discussion and adoption by the Club

1. Name

The name of the Club shall be SETU Aikido Club, hereinafter referred to as “the Club”.

The Club shall operate as a sports club of South East Technological University (SETU) and in accordance with the regulations and policies governing SETU Sports Clubs & Societies.

2. Aims and Objectives

The aims of the Club shall be:

- a. To promote the study and practice of Aikido among students and staff of SETU.
- b. To promote the physical, intellectual and personal development associated with the practice of Aikido, following the principles established by the Founder of Aikido, Morihei Ueshiba, and developed within the Aikikai tradition.
- c. To provide regular, structured and safe Aikido training suitable for beginners and more experienced practitioners.
- d. To develop correct posture, movement, balance, coordination, ukemi (falling and receiving techniques), techniques arising from different forms of attack and grip, and the ability to blend with and redirect an opponent's movement rather than relying on physical strength.
- e. To promote the values traditionally associated with Aikido practice, including respect, self-discipline, cooperation, responsibility and consideration for training partners.
- f. To provide opportunities for members to develop their Aikido practice through regular training, seminars, courses, gradings and interaction with other recognised Aikido clubs and practitioners.
- g. To foster an inclusive and welcoming Club community open to members irrespective of previous martial arts experience, physical ability, nationality, gender or background, subject to SETU policies and the safe practice of Aikido.

3. Technical Standards and Aikikai Tradition

The Club shall practise Aikikai Aikido.

Training shall be based on the technical principles, methods and standards of the Aikikai Foundation – Aikido World Headquarters (Hombu Dojo), Tokyo, and, where applicable, the standards and guidance of the Irish Aikido Federation – Ireland Aikikai.

The Club shall seek to maintain appropriate links with the Irish Aikido Federation and other recognised Aikikai organisations and clubs.

Formal affiliation to any external Aikido organisation shall be subject to the approval requirements of that organisation and any relevant SETU procedures.

4. Membership

Membership shall be open primarily to registered SETU students and, where permitted under SETU regulations, SETU staff and other eligible participants.

All members shall:

- a. register through the appropriate SETU Clubs & Societies system;
- b. comply with this Constitution and applicable SETU policies;
- c. follow the instructions of the Club Instructor during training;
- d. observe appropriate dojo etiquette and behave respectfully towards instructors, fellow members and visitors;
- e. practise in a manner that protects both their own safety and that of their training partners; and
- f. disclose to the appropriate person any matter relevant to their safe participation where required under SETU procedures.

No previous experience of Aikido or another martial art shall be required to join the Club.

5. Instruction

Aikido training shall be conducted by a suitably experienced and competent instructor approved by the Club and, where required, SETU.

The Instructor shall have authority over technical matters during Aikido practice, including training methods and techniques, safe practice, dojo etiquette, suitability of techniques for particular levels of experience, progression of members, and decisions to restrict or stop an individual's participation where their conduct or practice presents a safety risk.

The roles of Instructor and Club Chairperson may be held by different persons. Responsibility for technical instruction shall rest with the Instructor, while responsibility for the administration and governance of the Club shall rest with the elected Committee.

6. Training and Safety

The safety of members shall be a fundamental consideration in all Club activities.

Training shall be progressive and appropriate to the experience and ability of participants.

Beginners shall receive appropriate instruction in fundamental movement and ukemi before being expected to participate in more demanding techniques.

Members shall practise cooperatively and shall not deliberately apply techniques with excessive force or in a manner likely to cause injury.

A participant must immediately respect a partner's signal to stop or release a technique.

Training while under the influence of alcohol or recreational drugs shall not be permitted.

The Club shall comply with relevant SETU health and safety, safeguarding, insurance and risk-management requirements.

7. Gratings and Technical Progression

Where members undertake Aikikai-recognised grading, such grading shall be conducted through an appropriately authorised Aikikai organisation and examiner.

The Club itself shall not claim authority to award Aikikai kyu or dan grades unless such authority has been formally granted through the appropriate Aikikai structure.

Training towards grading shall take account of the technical requirements and minimum practice periods established within the relevant Aikikai grading system.

8. Club Committee

The Club shall be administered by an elected Committee in accordance with SETU Clubs & Societies requirements.

The Committee shall normally include the Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and any additional officers required or permitted by SETU.

The Committee shall be responsible for the effective administration of the Club, including membership, communications, finances, training arrangements, facilities, equipment, events and liaison with SETU.

Where appropriate, an Aikido Instructor/Technical Adviser may attend Committee meetings in an advisory capacity.

9. Election of Officers

Committee officers shall be elected by eligible Club members at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with SETU regulations.

The term of office shall normally be one academic year.

Vacancies arising during the academic year may be filled in accordance with SETU Clubs & Societies procedures.

10. Meetings and AGM

The Club shall hold an Annual General Meeting each academic year.

The AGM shall provide members with an opportunity to receive a report on the Club's activities, receive an appropriate financial report, elect the Committee, consider proposed amendments to this Constitution and discuss the future development of the Club.

Additional general meetings may be called where necessary in accordance with SETU procedures.

11. Finance

All Club funds shall be administered in accordance with SETU financial regulations for Sports Clubs & Societies.

Club funds shall be used solely to further the aims and activities of the Club.

No member shall derive personal financial benefit from Club funds except for properly authorised reimbursement of expenses or payment for services where explicitly permitted and approved under SETU procedures.

12. External Seminars, Courses and Cooperation

The Club may organise or participate in Aikido seminars, courses, demonstrations, inter-club training and other appropriate activities.

The Club shall seek to develop positive relationships with other Aikikai practitioners and organisations, particularly within Ireland.

Participation in external activities shall be subject to appropriate approval, insurance, financial and safety requirements.

13. Equality, Respect and Conduct

The Club shall provide an environment based on dignity, respect and equality.

Bullying, harassment, discrimination, intimidation, aggressive behaviour or deliberate unsafe practice shall not be tolerated.

Aikido techniques learned through the Club shall be practised responsibly and with respect for the wellbeing of others.

Members shall comply with applicable SETU codes of conduct and policies.

14. Discipline

Where a member acts contrary to this Constitution, SETU regulations, dojo etiquette or safe training practice, the Committee and/or Instructor may take appropriate action.

Where an immediate safety concern exists, the Instructor may require a member to stop training.

More serious disciplinary matters shall be addressed through the appropriate SETU procedures.

15. Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by the Committee or by Club members in accordance with SETU Clubs & Societies procedures.

Any amendment shall require approval at a properly constituted General Meeting or AGM and shall be subject to any approval required by SETU.

No amendment shall permit the Club to represent itself as formally affiliated with or authorised by the Irish Aikido Federation, Aikikai Foundation or another external body unless such status has been formally granted.

16. Dissolution

The Club may be dissolved in accordance with SETU Sports Clubs & Societies procedures.

Following dissolution, any remaining Club funds, equipment or other assets shall be dealt with in accordance with SETU regulations and shall not be distributed among individual members.

17. Adoption

This is a draft Constitution and shall take effect only when formally adopted by the members of SETU Aikido Club and approved where required under SETU Sports Clubs & Societies procedures.

Date of adoption:	
Chairperson:	
Secretary:	
Treasurer:	

Draft status: This document is a draft Constitution prepared for discussion. It does not represent formal affiliation with the Irish Aikido Federation or the Aikikai Foundation unless and until such affiliation is separately confirmed.