



## **From the meeting held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2015 British Aikido Association Position Statement**

The Executive Committee debated for a total of five hours a number of key issues that would affect the direction of the association over the next few years. It was important to have an open and frank debate and communicate this with full reasoning to the membership.

### **The areas of discussion included.**

1. The future of the World Sport Aikido Federation (WSAF).
2. The membership of ITAF (International Tomiki Aikido Federation) the JAA replacement proposal for TAIN.
3. The attendance at future international competitions including 2017 options and bidding for the 2019 ITAF International.

A number of reports were received from delegates who attended both the competitions in Australia and Switzerland and those who attended the TAIN and SAF meetings at those venues.

### **Conclusions**

#### **1. World Sports Aikido Federation**

Bob Dziubla gave a synopsis of WSAF in Australia to the SAF and Bob Jones was provided with an opportunity to provide the same in Switzerland to the JAA.

- a. That the association agreed to continue to support the development of the WSAF in its efforts to bring all Tomiki Aikido associations and players together in one World Championship.
- b. That the association would request that WSAF is launched as a Swiss "Verein" as soon as possible in order to establish the international legal entity.
- c. That the following representatives are elected to serve on the WSAF as development officers and representatives of the association, those being Bob Jones, Vanda Fairchild and Laura Bearsdmore. Danielle Jones who is International Officer will provide a supporting role to the development of the WSAF.
- d. That the BAA position should be maintained that the JAA and SAF only be encouraged to join WSAF at the same time so as not to impact on the impartiality, balance and independent nature of WSAF.
- e. That the British Aikido Association work towards the establishment of one World Championship by 2019.



f. That the British Aikido Association offer to host a “Unification World Championship” in the UK in 2019, open to all lineages and affiliations that practice Tomiki Sport Aikido worldwide.

## **2. ITAF (International Tomiki Aikido Federation)**

Discussion was based around a paper produced by the JAA and circulated at the event in Switzerland.

The conclusion was that the BAA would not sign the documentation and become a member of ITAF for the following reasons.

- It would prove to diminish the independent nature of the association and its ambition to see a united world for Tomiki Aikido, where all countries and their associations carry equal status and recognition for their technical integrity.
- The documentation illustrates a significant change from the original body TAIN and is regarded as an extension of the JAA and not a true world governing body.
- The entity has no international legal standing and is based on a voluntary association of organizations.
- The joining organizations would have unlimited liability for any debt or loss.
- The ITAF organization makes a direct link with the JAA and menjo, by default through the Shihan system, which the BAA believes to be a retrograde step in the development of world Aikido.
- The document only allows for one organization per country therefore automatically excludes a number of associations worldwide. This is none inclusive and therefore a divisive proposal.
- That the Chairperson of the JAA shall act as the Chairperson of ITAF, in perpetuity without election by members, thus reducing democratic challenge and consent.
- An annual fee would be levied with a further clause that “ITAF may “levy provisional dues as the need arises”, which amounts to a blank cheque without the safeguards of a described democratic process of scrutiny and determination.
- The conclusion was that the document was constructed in haste without proper consultation or a true appreciation of the thoughts and feelings of the majority of world Tomiki Aikido.



### 3 International Competitions

- a. The association is committed to the development of one World Championship organized under the WSAF.
- b. To honour our historical commitments the BAA will send representative teams to both SAF and JAA competitions in 2017.
- c. The association will not be therefore bid for the 2019 ITAF competition.
- d. The association, to maintain its policy of neutrality and to act as an 'honest broker' for an international settlement will not co-sponsor any international competitions in 2017.
- e. The association will attend the forthcoming European competition proposed for 2016 in Spain.
- f. The BAA will continue to regard friendship and cooperation with the JAA and SAF of utmost importance and will make all efforts to increase understanding and exchange.

In a modern organization a major ingredient of successful development is open and honest debate leading to decisions that take the whole organization forward together. Individuals must often set aside personal feelings and preferences for the organization to prosper.

The BAA realizes that to encourage Tomiki Aikido organizations worldwide to join together in WSAF they must have the opportunity to 'own it' and shape its future course. The BAA recognizes that all applications for WSAF membership should be subject to open frank discussion and negotiation.

The BAA is an independent organization that will continue to work in partnership with other organizations to try and bring unity to the world of Tomiki Aikido. It is an open association with over 1,500 members with its own national grading and promotion system, high performing national team and quality coaches.

**Paul Wildish**  
**Chairman**

**Bob Jones**  
**CEO**

**Final Draft - December 2015**