



SHOTOKAN KARATE INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA

GUIDELINES FOR RECOGNISED TITLES IN SKIA

[<http://www.shotokankarate.com.au>]

The following guidelines are provided to assist SKIA Karateka address Instructors and Students using appropriate titles. Our Association is founded on the principles of Karate-do, including respect for others and the rules of etiquette. SKIA therefore endorses the use of these titles at all times, even outside the Dojo and in email correspondence.

The following titles are sanctioned for use throughout SKIA:

- Soke – Founder (Kanazawa Soke only)
- Kancho – Head of Style (Kanazawa Kancho only)
- Shihan – Master Instructor (Murakami Shihan only)
- Sensei – Teacher/Instructor
- Senpai – Senior (typically other non-teaching Dan Grades)
- Kohai – Junior (rarely used in practice)

While the literal translations of these titles may be slightly different from the above, (eg Sensei literally translates to “one who has gone before”), these guidelines seek to simplify the meaning for common understanding.

Also, while not strictly required, SKIA encourages the use of these titles amongst peers as a demonstration of mutual respect. Further, SKIA suggests as “good practice” the use of these titles amongst all Instructors while teaching, even when referring to a more junior Instructor (this is to promote proper etiquette amongst the students).