



FJJA Benevolence Fund

Effective immediately the FJJA will be opening the **FJJA Benevolence Fund**. As the name of the fund suggests, the purpose is to help those who are experiencing financial difficulties that might hinder their ability to attend or participate in important dojo and IKA functions.

As we know, the IKA is a traditional martial arts organization and the promotion and instruction of traditional martial arts is its main purpose – not the financial bottom line. Although, finances are a necessary part of keeping the IKA and the individual dojo operational – it is never the prime objective. There are moments when everyone goes through hard times and the idea of having a student who is fully committed to training and has the true spirit necessary to be successful, at a International Seminar for example, not being able to attend due to financial reasons (when help can be provided) is not acceptable. Thankfully, with your support, students like these will now have the possibility of attending through the funds available in the FJJA Benevolence fund.

The idea is simple – anyone can donate as much or as little money as they would like. Perhaps one can make the commitment of adding \$5.00 to their dojo dues (*the price of a McDonald's lunch*) on a monthly basis. At the end of the year they have donated \$60.00 to the fund. If even 6 students are benevolent enough to make that small contribution, it will raise enough funds for one person to be able to attend the International Seminar for example. If 20 students were to demonstrate benevolence then the potential is even greater. Our goal is to have all students demonstrate benevolence on a regular or semi-regular basis.

The contribution can be made with your dojo dues or at any other point. Throughout the year the FJJA will conduct special classes on a variety of specialty topics, the small fee for these classes (several dollars) will go into this fund.

If should be clear that the fund is not a “freebee” for anyone. Anyone who applies for assistance for a dojo need (gi, seminar, etc.) will need to provide proof of hardship and may or MAY NOT be granted assistance. In the event that assistance is granted it is not an “all or nothing” proposition – assistance does not suggest that the total amount will be provided. Each case will be evaluated independently. Some might may not receive assistance, some may be provided with the funds completely, and others might be helped in part. It’s important to note that all “applicants” are 100% completely confidential – as well as anyone who receives help will be 100% confidential. Sensei Rego, with suggestions from dojo Dans (if needed and appropriate in a particular situation) will make final decision.

We often talk about the dojo being a family and further more we discuss the importance of not just “talking” about the codes but putting them in action. This is a tremendously good opportunity to exercise benevolence for your fellow dojo mates (or even yourself if you are ever in an unfortunate situation).

To make a contribution, please fill out one of the FJJA Benevolence Fund Donation sheets and put it in an envelope marked for the fund. If you make a contribution along with a dojo dues tuition payment, then please enclose the donation sheet with it along with the amount you are donating. We ask that all do a small part and help put the code in action.

Like all dojo projects and programs, the success will depend on your student leadership through a pro-active approach to Bushido. Ossu!

Respectfully,

George Rego Sensei
FJJA Chief Instructor