

JOINT OFFICIAL STATEMENT

Regarding "Shinkudo-ryu" and Intellectual Property Rights

Date: July 21, 2026

Issued by:

- **The International Kudo Federation (KIF)**
- **Daidojuku**
- **The Azuma Family** (Legitimate Heirs and Rights Holders of Daidojuku and Kudo)

This joint statement is officially issued to clarify our unified position regarding the unauthorized use of our intellectual property and to prevent further confusion within the international martial arts community.

1. Authority and Intellectual Property Rights

The International Kudo Federation (KIF) is the sole international sports organization governing the sport of Kudo worldwide. The "KIF Tournament Rules" represent one of the key regulations within the KIF and constitute an essential piece of intellectual property of the federation. Daido-Juku is the organization that created the martial art of Kudo and its founding philosophy and is the sole organization responsible for the global development of Kudo. One of the primary and vital roles of Daido-Juku is the official approval and management of Dan ranks (Dan gradings). All intellectual property, trademarks, copyrights, and logos associated with "Daidojuku" (大道塾) and "Kudo" (空道) are the exclusive property of the Azuma Family (the family of the founder, Takashi Azuma) and are protected by international law.

2. Official Communication Channel

All official notifications, comments, and decisions published on the official KIF website (ku-do.org) represent the collective, unified, and final position of the KIF, Daidojuku, and the Azuma Family.

3. Status of Mr. Igor Samokhin and "Shinkudo-ryu"

We explicitly state that we have **not** granted Mr. Igor Samokhin (the former Ukrainian Branch Chief) any permission or authorization to use the names, trademarks, or symbols of "Kudo" or "Daidojuku." Furthermore, we do not recognize "Shinkudo-ryu" (新空道流) or "Bujinkai" (武人会) as an affiliated, friendly, or recognized organization of our sport.

4. Directives and Intellectual Property Infringement

We acknowledge and respect the past historical contributions of Mr. Samokhin to our federation, and we have no intention of obstructing or interfering with his future independent activities.

However, any use of the names "Kudo" and "Daidojuku," the display of our protected symbols (including on Dogi, belts, badges, or certificates), or any claims of partnership, continuity, or legacy with our school within his activities is strictly unauthorized. Such claims and usage constitute a direct infringement of our intellectual property rights and are a violation of law.

We instruct all branch chiefs, coaches, and members of the KIF and Daidojuku worldwide to refer only to official KIF channels and to share this statement to protect our students and the integrity of Kudo.

Signed,

The International Kudo Federation (KIF)

Hideaki Takahashi

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