

Code of Conduct and Standards of Behavior

Implemented at Special General Meeting: 8 March 2026

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The Australian Naginata Federation (ANF) exists to promote the study of the martial art of Naginata in Australia, and in doing so, uphold the spirit of Budo and its ideals.

As such, the Federation, through the teaching of Naginata, provides a forum not only for the advancement of members' technical skills and understanding of this martial art, but also for the self-development and personal cultivation of its members to enable them to become contributing citizens promoting peace and harmony in society.

In addition, the ANF as an affiliate of the International Naginata Federation (INF) strives for its members to (through correct Naginata instruction) be encouraged to develop their technical skills, cultivate their minds, enhance their vitality, nurture their strength, preserve traditional Japanese culture embodied within the art of Naginata, maintain discipline, show courtesy and respect to others, always act in good faith, and strive to become useful member[s] of society promoting peace and prosperity among all people.

In this way, the ANF seeks to nurture members of good character, courtesy and respect.

While ANF membership is defined, in part by the ANF By-laws as those who have "satisfied all their current fiscal obligations to the Federation," it is important that members fully appreciate their roles within and obligations to the ANF upon acceptance into the Federation.

Membership in the ANF is a voluntary decision, and as such, individuals should recognize that as members of the federation, they are expected (to the best of their abilities) to abide by the guidelines outlined in this Code of Conduct and Standards of Behavior.

ANF members are representatives of the Federation. Their actions and behavior are a reflection of their sensei, their dojo/club, their regional federation and the ANF. Just as the ANF is responsible for promoting the principles and ideals of Naginata, so too are its members responsible for exemplifying these principles, both in their teaching and their conduct inside and outside the dojo.

In addition to the stipulations outlined in the ANF By-laws, ANF members shall be considered members in good standing if they:

- Demonstrate a respectful attitude and behavior toward sensei, seniors (senpai) and members both inside and outside of the dojo

- Maintain and exemplify the principles of Naginata and the spirit of Budo in teaching, training, and conduct both in the Australia and abroad
- Follow proper etiquette in training, competition and interactions with sensei and other members as representatives of the Federation and Naginata
- Refrain from activities that could damage the reputation of the Federation.

While the ANF does not presume to dictate how its members conduct themselves in their personal lives, it would be prudent for members to recognize behaviors or actions that may jeopardize one's membership status:¹

- Participation in criminal and/or unethical activities;
- Any conduct which constitutes abuse, harassment or sexual harassment of any other member;
- Flagrant disregard for the physical safety of practitioners either through direct action (Including training while intoxicated, which could be injurious to ANF's reputation as well as physically to others), inaction, or incorrect instruction, as it is the responsibility of all members to safeguard the health and safety of practitioners through the proper teaching and execution of Naginata technique, maintenance of the dojo and related equipment, and compliance with training protocols;
- Demonstration of an egregious attitude of disrespect or contempt toward other members, sensei or martial arts organizations (including ANF), either through action, or verbal or written commentary on blogs, social media, etc.;²
- Willful destruction or misuse of ANF property, ANF logo, or other symbolic artifacts belonging to the Federation with malicious intent or mockery.
- In summary, the ANF Standards of Behavior not only seeks to provide its members with a framework for their actions in conjunction with the ANF and other martial arts organizations, but also aims to provide a foundation from which its members can through their years of training, cultivate a strong code of moral ethics for the benefit of themselves and the Naginata community.

¹This is by no means an exhaustive list of all possible infractions that may impact one's membership status. There may be other actions that may be found to violate, if not the letter, then the spirit of these standards.

² While we encourage our members to share their experiences and express themselves in a number of forums, we would advise members to use good judgment when posting comments and sharing material on social media, online forums, and personal/public blogs. The changing nature of internet privacy can make it difficult to limit the unintentional distribution of one's personal comments. It is not uncommon for posted commentary or photographs, which may seem innocuous or made out of context, to be misconstrued or their intent misinterpreted by others. Such misunderstandings could lead to unforeseen political complications or compromise the reputation of the ANF and/or its members.