

# United States Chinese Martial Arts Duanwei System

## Chapter I General Provisions

**Article 1** The United States Chinese Martial Arts Duanwei System (hereinafter referred to as Duanwei System) has been specially established by the USA National Tai Chi Chuan Federation (USANTCCF) to promote the development of Chinese martial arts, to raise the level of Chinese martial arts techniques and theory, and to establish a standard for evaluating the technical level of martial artists.

**Article 2** The Duanwei System is based on each individual's years of martial arts training and martial arts activities, mastery of martial arts techniques and theories, research results, martial arts ethics and etiquette accomplishment, contribution to the development of martial arts, and the attestation of a comprehensive evaluation system of practitioners' skill levels of martial arts.

## Chapter II Duanwei Rankings

**Article 3** Chinese Martial Arts Duanwei System Rankings

(A) Duanwei: Primary Duanwei, Middle Duanwei, and Advanced Duanwei, from low to high levels as follows:

Primary Duanwei: 1st Duan, 2nd Duan, 3rd Duan

Middle Duanwei: 4th Duan, 5th Duan, 6th Duan

Advanced Duanwei: 7th Duan, 8th Duan, 9th Duan

(B) Honorary Duanwei: Honorary Middle Duanwei and Honorary Advanced Duanwei, from low to high levels as follows:

Honorary Middle Duanwei: Honorary 4th Duan, Honorary 5th Duan, Honorary 6th Duan

Honorary Advanced Duanwei: Honorary 7th Duan, Honorary 8th Duan, Honorary 9th Duan

## Chapter III Duan Acquisition

**Article 4** Duan Acquisition Candidates

Those who conduct and participate in martial arts can voluntarily apply for Duanwei; while Honorary Duanwei is awarded only to those who are major contributors to the development of martial arts.

**Article 5** Duan Acquisition Criteria

(A) A Duanwei applicant honors his/her teachers and respect their teachings, observes law and obeys disciplines, pays attention to martial arts ethics and etiquette, and is able to apply martial arts etiquette properly.

- (B) A Duanwei applicant achieves the evaluation standard for the specific Duanwei. 10 points is the full score for each technical evaluation.

## **Article 6** Duanwei Technical Evaluation Criteria

### (A) Primary Duanwei Criteria

1. 1st Duan: Those who are at least 10 years of age, have practiced martial arts for more than two years, with a technical evaluation (one bare-hand form) of more than 7 points, may apply for a promotion to 1st Duan.
2. 2nd Duan: Those who are at least 14 years of age, have held 1st Duan for more than one year, with a technical evaluation (one bare-hand form and one weapon form) of more than 7 points, may apply for a promotion to the 2nd Duan.
3. 3rd Duan: Those who are at least 18 years of age, have held 2nd Duan for more than one year, with a technical evaluation (one bare-hand form and one weapon form) of more than 7.5 points, may apply for a promotion to the 3rd Duan.

### (B) Middle Duanwei Criteria

1. 4th Duan: Those who are at least 25 years of age, have held 3rd Duan for more than 2 years, with a technical evaluation (one bare-hand form and one weapon form) for both forms of more than 16 points, or with a placement within the first 6 places in the United States Wushu National Championships or USNTCCF Tai Chi Cup, may apply for a promotion to 4th Duan.
2. 5th Duan: Those who are at least 30 years of age, have held 4th Duan for more than 2 years, with a technical evaluation (one bare-hand form and one weapon form) for both forms of more than 17 points, or with a placement within the first 3 places in the United States Wushu National Championships or USANTCCF Tai Chi Cup, or within the first 6 places in the World Wushu Championships or World Taijiquan Championships, may apply for a promotion to 5th Duan.
3. 6th Duan: Those are at least 35 years of age, who have held 5th Duan for more than 2 years, with a technical evaluation (one bare-hand form and one weapon form) for both forms of more than 18 points, or winning 1st Place in the United States Wushu National Championships or USANTCCF Tai Chi Cup, or with a placement within the 1st 3 places in the World Wushu Championships or World Taijiquan Championships, may apply for a promotion to 6th Duan.

### (C) Advanced Duanwei Criteria

1. 7th Duan: Those who at least 40 years of age and have held 6th Duan for more than 5 years; have mastered the technical and theoretical systems of one martial arts style, and have established certain success; have established certain success in Wushu work achievements and theoretical research results; and are also excellent in martial arts ethics and etiquette, may apply for a promotion to 7th Duan.
2. 8th Duan: Those who are at least 50 years of age and have held 7th Duan for more than 5 years; have proficiency in mastering the technical and theoretical systems of two martial arts styles, and have established certain success; have established outstanding success in Wushu work achievements and theoretical research results; and are also excellent in martial arts ethics and etiquette, may apply for a promotion to 8th Duan.
3. 9th Duan: Those who are at least 60 years of age and have held 8th Duan for more than 6 years; skilled in mastering the technical and theoretical systems of two martial

arts styles, and have established high success; have established significant success in Chinese martial arts work achievements and theoretical research results (published works); have made remarkable contribution to the development of Chinese martial arts; and are also respectable in martial arts ethics and etiquette, may apply for a promotion to 9th Duan.

(D) Honorary Duanwei Criteria

Eminent persons who have made outstanding contributions to the development of the cause of Chinese martial arts services, will be granted the appropriate Wushu Honorary Duanwei. Honorary Duanwei consists of Honorary Middle Duanwei (4th, 5th and 6th Duans) and Honorary Advanced Duanwei (7th, 8th and 9th Duans).

## **Chapter IV Duanwei System Application**

**Article 7** Any USANTCCF member may, in accordance with the individual's conditions, apply for the desired Duanwei through the USANTCCF, or through its branch organizations. Applicants must use the required "Duanwei Application Form" issued by the USANTCCF.

Applications for under 3rd Duan can be done directly through Duanwei evaluation qualified USANTCCF branch organizations.

## **Chapter V Management and Evaluation**

**Article 8** The USANTCCF is the highest organization for the management and evaluation of the Chinese Martial Arts Duanwei System. It consists of the Duanwei System Office and the Evaluation Committee, and is responsible for the approval of Duanwei rankings, monitoring the implementation of Duanwei operation, and the issuing of Chinese Martial Arts Duanwei certificates, badges or emblems and uniforms.

The Evaluation Committee consists of one Director, 1-2 Deputy Director(s), and 3-5 Committee Members.

**Article 9** Branch organization members of the USANTCCF may apply for the establishment of Chinese Martial Arts Duanwei evaluation bodies (Evaluation Team or Evaluation Committee). With the approval and authorization of the USANTCCF, the Evaluation Team or Evaluation Committee is responsible for the evaluation of the Primary Duanwei (1st, 2nd and 3rd Duans), reporting the evaluation results to the USANTCCF for examination and approval, and applying for the issuance of Duanwei certificates and badges or emblems.

The Evaluation Team or Evaluation Committee, consisting of one Director, 1-2 Deputy Director(s), 3-5 Committee Members, is subject to USANTCCF approval. Membership must have the following components: two members holding above-4th Duan level, and the remaining members holding above-3rd Duan level.

**Article 10** Middle Duanwei (4th, 5th, and 6<sup>th</sup> Duans) and Advanced Duanwei (7th, 8th, and 9<sup>th</sup> Duans) evaluation is organized and conducted by the USANTCCF.

## **Chapter VI Certificates, Badges or Emblems, and Uniforms**

**Article 11** The unified design, development and issuance of certificates, badges or emblems and uniforms are the responsibilities of the USANTCCF.

## **Chapter VII Rights and Responsibilities**

**Article 12** Recipients of Chinese Martial Arts Duanwei are eligible to participate in competitions, training, research and other activities hosted and organized by the USANTCCF.

**Article 13** Recipients of Chinese Martial Arts Duanwei will observe all rules and regulations related to the Chinese Martial Arts Duanwei System on their own free will, defend the reputation of the Chinese Martial Arts Duanwei System, and actively participate in a variety of martial arts activities.

## **Chapter VIII Others**

**Article 14** This system shall enter into force as of the date of promulgation.

**Article 15** The rights of the interpretation of this system rest with the USANTCCF.