

WSKO / BSKF separation - Q&A for kenshi

What has happened to the BSKF and its relationship with WSKO?

WSKO issued a statement on 3 March that it was dissolving the BSKF; that UK branches would now report to WSKO as individual associate members; and all UK registered Branch Masters were asked to sign an oath of allegiance to the WSKO president. Mizuno Sensei, our Chief Instructor, was also expelled from the World Shorinji Kempo Federation.

In response, the BSKF issued a statement that it will be continuing as normal. Some Branch Masters will sign the oath of allegiance, some will not.

Why did this happen?

WSKO does not accept the BSKF's 2010 constitution because it states that WSKO membership is no longer a necessary condition of membership.

Why did we change that part of our constitution?

WSKO asked the BSKF to dismiss its Chief Instructor in December of 2008 for having broken one of the WSKO statutes. The BSKF executive and Branch masters have disagreed about whether to comply with their demand and whether it was justified. The majority of BSKF Branch Masters decided that the BSKF has no case against its Chief Instructor and that he should therefore return to teaching as per the terms of the BSKF's agreement with him.

Why did the BSKF Branch Masters disagree?

Some Branch Masters felt we should follow WSKO's direction as the central body for Shorinji Kempo internationally. Others felt that the BSKF has to follow UK law first and foremost, and that as the UK Chief instructor had not broken any of the terms of his contract with the BSKF, we would have placed our organisation at risk by dismissing the Chief Instructor. In addition, the two sides disputed the validity of WSKO's claims about the Chief Instructor.

Which interpretation is correct?

This would be a matter for the courts to decide. What is certain is that the rules of private organisations are subordinate to the laws of the country in which they operate, and that English law is the ultimate authority governing the BSKF because it is registered at an address in England.

Has the matter gone to court?

No, no court actions have been involved at any stage.

Can you tell me more about the situation regarding the Chief Instructor?

Yes, as a BSKF member you are entitled to see the minutes of the various meetings where this situation was discussed. You can obtain these from the BSKF general secretary.

Can WSKO dissolve the BSKF?

No. The BSKF is a separate legal entity to WSKO with its own constitution, membership arrangements and legal responsibilities. The BSKF is also separate to Shorinji Kempo Unity, the

company set up in the UK by WSKO in December 2008. WSKO or Shorinji Kempo Unity cannot release the BSKF from its responsibilities and duties of care or alter these in any way.

What does this mean for the BSKF?

The BSKF will continue to operate as normal, but will no longer be affiliated to WSKO.

Can I still train at all UK Shorinji Kempo dojos?

Permission to participate in training is at the discretion of the Branch Master of the dojo you wish to train at, regardless of membership or affiliation. The Branch Master is legally responsible for you while you are training at their venue. BSKF branches will welcome any kenshi as long as insurance and membership requirements are met. For WSKO Branches, you will need to check with the Branch Master to see if WSKO will allow you to train.

What is the situation with my insurance to train?

(BSKF Branches). The insurance that covers you as part of your BSKF membership remains in place, as does the BSKF instructor's indemnity policy, as long as you remain a member of the BSKF. This will cover you for training at BSKF, but not WSKO, branches.

(WSKO Branches) If you are a member of a dojo that is leaving the BSKF, your insurance will expire on 31 March 2010 for all Shorinji Kempo practise. You should ask your Branch Master about the insurance provision they have in place for both third party and instructor indemnity contexts. The BSKF will no longer have any legal liability for you or your practice following 31st March 2010, being the end of the normal BSKF membership year.

Please note that whatever policy is put in place by WSKO Branches will NOT cover you for BSKF practise, and vice versa. You must take out membership of each body separately if you wish to train at both.

Which branches will be BSKF and which will be with WSKO?

At present, BSKF Branches are: Mayfair, City, UCL, SOAS, Imperial, Brixton Juniors, Angel, Abbey, Cambridge, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Birmingham, Harlow, Tunbridge Wells, Bristol University, Bristol City, Manchester, Brixton, Cardiff, UWE, Farnborough, Richmond.

WSKO Branches are: Durham, Southampton, Poole, Sway, Tolworth, Harrow, Peterborough, Bournemouth, New Milton, Ringwood

Undeclared branches are: Oxford.

Can I still wear my So-en gi?

Yes – regardless of whether you are attending a WSKO or BSKF branch. If you have paid for an item, you have purchased the rights to display any symbol that is an integral part of the item for the lifetime of that item. NB you cannot transfer the logo or symbol to any other item or reproduce it in any way.

Will the BSKF continue to use the So-en symbol?

No. The BSKF will create a new logo of its own and will produce a badge to sew on to dogi. This

can be sewn over the So-en logo where appropriate. The BSKF will also discontinue use of various images, books and other materials associated with WSKO. The So-en should no longer be hung at the front of a BSKF dojo or displayed on any promotional material, certificates or websites.

Can I still train overseas?

Training at any location is at the discretion of the local Branch Master, as described above.

Will my grades be recognised at WSKO branches?

This is a matter for WSKO, but it is unlikely that non-WSKO gradings will be recognised by them. We do not expect that new grades taken under the BSKF will be recognised by them. BSKF grades will continue to be recognised and awarded as normal.

Will I still have access to high quality instruction?

In all cases, most certainly yes. The BSKF retains the same level of instruction that it has offered for the last 35 years. In the case of WSKO, instructors will still visit the UK from overseas.

Will the BSKF have to change its name?

The 'British Shorinji Kempo Federation' has existed for 35 years under either its current name or its predecessor name 'British Shorinji Kempo Association'. It will be for WSKO to persuade the UK Courts that the BSKF should change its name. At present that has not happened.

Do ordinary BSKF members carry any liability for these decisions?

Under the terms of the 2010 constitution, ordinary members of the BSKF do not carry executive authority for the organisation and cannot be held liable for the decisions of its executive, which is the Council of Branch Masters.

Note:

This document is for guidance only and is presented without prejudice to any subsequent legal position.