



SOUTH AFRICAN SHOTOKAN KARATE-DO ACADEMY

AFFILIATED TO:
• World Union of Karate-do Federations (WUKF) •

SASKA Core Values and Vision

Oss to all dojo heads. We hope this letter finds you well and training hard to maintain excellent karate standards. In light of some recent events within our organisation, we wish to share with and remind all our current Dojo heads and senior karateka of the core values of SASKA, Shihan and the Shihan Kai, as well as our vision for the way forward.

Perhaps it is best to start out by reminding everyone of the wise words of Gichin Funakoshi, the founder of Shotokan Karate-Do:

“The ultimate aim of karate lies not in victory nor defeat, but in the perfection of the character of its participants”

— [Gichin Funakoshi](#)

Perfection of character, this is what SASKA strives to achieve and maintain in our style, through continuous good quality hard training and always striving to achieve the 5 maxims of karate. SASKA has always believed in the quality over quantity of its karateka and hence striving to maintain the true essence of karate and more specifically Shotokan karate.

While we understand that many dojo heads run their dojo's as a supplementary source of income or some as their main source of income, SASKA as a style remains focused on never ever losing the true essence of karate. Anyone who has been with SASKA for many years can confirm that while it is a professionally run organization, karate and its true values have always been the driving force and focal point of this style. While modern society has significantly changed the way we do business via the internet, social media and emails, we believe that if the sole focus of our organization is on new business techniques and strategies rather than good quality karate training, then the true of values of karate will easily be lost.

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Style- Head and Chief Instructor for SASKA: Koos Burger 9th Dan (Hanshi)
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SASKA has always been respected for its high standard of karate, exceptionally tough Black belt grading's and very fair and professionally run national championships. It is through maintaining these high standards of karate that our Style Head, Shihan Koos Burger, has been nominated to be part of the ISKS Shihan Kai and was also elected for his second term as the Vice President of WUKF, a federation whose moto is "To do the best Karate in the World". SASKA is also well respected amongst all other style heads of the top karate organisations in the country for its exceptionally high standards which Shihan Koos has maintained in the style.

While SAKSA has in the recent years had some of the top Sensei's from the Romanian team come and give classes which were open to all SASKA affiliated students before our SA championship event a few years back, we also had the privilege of training with Sensei Taigi Kase himself many years ago in 1997 when he came out to South Africa. While it is always nice to train under international instructors, we urge all our members not to forget the privilege we have of training under Shihan Koos himself, who has a wealth of international karate training experience and has himself trained under many of the karate legends of Shotokan Karate. Not to mention the opportunity to train with some of the Shihan Kai members and top senior karateka in SASKA, many of which have multiple World championship titles and medals to their names and have competed, refereed or coached at numerous world class events and championships abroad. SASKA also returned home from the 7th WUKF World Championships held in Scotland in June this year, with a record total of 10 medals amongst the team of 23 competitors.

So before we look abroad, let us look inward and take advantage of the wealth of knowledge, experience, expertise and great quality of karate we have in our own SASKA instructors.

Lastly, SASKA is proud to announce that it is part of the newly formed TSKA (Traditional Shotokan Karate Alliance) group which aims to improve karate in South Africa. This group is still in its early development stages but we are extremely proud that amongst all the different karate groups and federations in South Africa, Shihan Koos and SASKA were chosen as one of the 6 styles to head up and lead this new group.

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We believe this will open up a wealth of new opportunities and access to more competitions on both local and national levels for all SASKA karateka to compete against the best competitors in the country.

In closing, Shihan Koos has always instilled family values in SASKA and has adopted an open door policy. Therefore all Dojo heads and senior karateka are encouraged to pick up the phone or come and discuss in person with Shihan or any of the Shihan Kai, any karate related problems they may have on their hearts. We strive to always be available to assist you and your Dojo in producing the best karate in the world.

Keep training hard, Oss!

Shihan Koos and Shihan Kai

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