

Greetings All,

First, thank you to all who attended the AUSKF Education Town Hall Meeting. I believe this meeting was the first of its kind and we were able to gather leaders of the various federations to openly discuss the challenges at hand as well as come up with ideas on how we can provide additional resources for our members. We had attendees from AEUSKF, CCKF, GNEUSKF, MWKF, NCKF, RMKIF, SCKF, SCKO, SEUSKF, SUSKIF and WKF.

I have provided a brief summary of the meeting below:

First, the challenges - The common challenge expressed by all was obviously the inability to practice face-to-face and get back to our normal routines. The other big challenge was staying connected with everyone. Since dojos are no longer meeting in person, dojo participation has dropped and it is now more difficult than ever to stay connected. Many, but not all dojos have been conducting classes online via Zoom or other method. The problem is that participation is lower than the normal and has dropped significantly since the start. Another concern was that there was no specific guidance on how to return to practice.

The three most popular ideas were:

- Regional Zoom Webinars - These Webinars could be led by our High Ranking Sensei and could cover topics like Suburi, Kata, Bokuto Ni Yoru..., Shiai Techniques and Strategy, Shinsa (Promotion Exam) Preparation and Strategy, How to be a Shinpan (Judge), etc.
 - Group Specific Zoom Practices - Some federations are currently conducting Zoom practices specifically for Youth only. These practices are supervised by Sensei, but are led by Youth kenshi for Youth kenshi. This allows them to connect more closely with their peers.
 - Iaido is planning on conducting Zoom seminars for various groups, including High Ranking members.
- Video Archive - This would be a collection of AUSKF approved videos that can be viewed by members. The archive would include videos on Kata, Bokuto ni yoru..., etc.
- "Revia Tour" around the US. Once we are able to return to normal practices, the idea is to have AUSKF subsidized Seminars throughout the different Regions. This could include Regional Federation requested topics similar to the Zoom topics above, Godo Keiko and a banquet together.

For the first bullet point, this is something that we can start on immediately. The Webinar could be conducted on a weekend for an hour or two (or more) and we could work on the specific details (topic, instructor, time, date, etc.). If your Region is interested in this, please contact me. For the second bullet point, I will need to work with the AUSKF Board to determine which videos we can archive and label AUSKF approved. This may take a little time. For the final bullet point, this will need to wait until Kendo is back to normal and we are able to get back to practicing in-person.

If you would like to further discuss any of the items above or have anything to add, please

feel free to contact me. I look forward to seeing and practicing with you all again soon,

Brandon T. Harada
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Education