

**Martial Arts Instruction Act  
(CHAPTER 171)**

**Table of Contents**

**Long Title**

**1 Short title**

**2 Interpretation**

**3 Appointment of Controller and Assistant Controllers of Martial Arts**

**4 Registration of a martial art association and refusal to register**

**5 Unlawful martial art association**

**6 Presumptive proof of existence of a martial art association**

**7 Presumptive proof of membership, partnership, etc., of a martial art association**

**8 Branch of a registered martial art association**

**9 Change of name or place of business or place of instruction of a registered martial art association**

**10 Registered place of business**

**11 Information to be furnished by a registered martial art association**

**12 Persons responsible for complying with sections 8, 10 and 11**

**13 Cessation of existence of a registered martial art association**

- 14 Voluntary dissolution of a registered martial art association**
- 15 Penalty for inciting, etc., a person to become a member of an unlawful martial art association**
- 16 Penalty for procuring subscription or aid for an unlawful martial art association**
- 17 Publishing, etc., propaganda of an unlawful martial art association**
- 18 Martial art association using a triad ritual to be deemed an unlawful martial art association**
- 19 Persons who shall not act as officers of a registered martial art association**
- 20 Minister may order cancellation of registration of a martial art association**
- 21 No person to act as instructor without a certificate**
- 22 Application for registration as a trainee**
- 23 Penalty for furnishing false particulars in an application for registration as trainee**
- 24 Power of Controller to revoke, cancel or suspend registration of a trainee**
- 25 Application for an instructor's certificate**
- 26 Power of Controller to revoke, cancel or suspend an instructor's certificate**
- 27 Effect of revocation, cancellation or suspension of certificate**
- 28 Exhibition of certificate**

**29 Instructor to notify change of place of instruction**

**30 Penalty for furnishing false particulars or instructing martial art to person not registered under this Act**

**31 Powers of search and arrest**

**32 Powers of the Controller**

**33 Obstruction of search, etc.**

**34 Exemption**

**35 Operation of this Act not to affect other written law**

**36 General penalty**

**37 Indemnity**

**38 Consent of Public Prosecutor**

**39 Regulations**

**Legislative History**

## **MARTIAL ARTS INSTRUCTION ACT**

### **(CHAPTER 171)**

**(Original Enactment: Act 9 of 1974)**

**REVISED EDITION 1985**

**(30th March 1987)**

An Act for the registration and control of martial art associations and instructors and

trainees in martial arts and for matters connected therewith.

[2nd September 1974]

### **Short title**

1. This Act may be cited as the Martial Arts Instruction Act.

### **Interpretation**

2.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“Controller” means the Controller of Martial Arts appointed under section 3 and includes an Assistant Controller of Martial Arts appointed under that section;

“firm” has the same meaning as in the Business Registration Act [Cap. 32];

“identity card” has the same meaning as in the National Registration Act [Cap. 201];

“instructor” means a person who instructs another person in any form of martial art;

“instructor’s certificate” means a certificate issued to an instructor under section 25(4);

“martial art” includes akido, bersilat, jiu-jitsu, judo, karate, kendo, kung-fu, taekwon-do or a combination of variation thereof;

“martial art association” means any association, club, society, company or firm —

- (a) which is established or formed with the principal or ancillary object of providing instruction in any form of martial art; or
- (b) whose officers, employees or members provide instruction in any form of martial art as such officers, employees or members;

“officer” means the president, secretary, treasurer or a partner of a martial art association and includes a member of a committee or sub-committee thereof concerned with the provision of instruction in any form of martial art by the association or by any officer, employee or member thereof, and also includes persons holding positions analogous to those of the president, secretary or treasurer of the associations;

“place of business” means the place where the records and books of account of a martial art association are kept;

“place of instruction” means any place or premises at which an instructor instructs

any other person in any form of martial art;

“society” has the same meaning as in the Societies Act [Cap. 311];

“trainee” means a person who receives instruction in any form of martial art.

(2) The Minister may from time to time by notification in the *Gazette* declare any other art of pugilism, fighting, boxing or self-defence to be a martial art for the purposes of this Act.

### **Appointment of Controller and Assistant Controllers of Martial Arts**

**3.**—(1) For the purposes of this Act, the Minister may appoint a Controller of Martial Arts and such number of Assistant Controllers of Martial Arts as he may consider necessary for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Controller shall have the superintendence of all matters relating to this Act subject to the general or special directions of the Minister.

(3) The Assistant Controllers of Martial Arts may exercise all the powers conferred on the Controller under this Act subject to such limitations as the Controller may consider fit to impose.

(4) The Controller and the Assistant Controllers of Martial Arts shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of the Penal Code [Cap. 224].

### **Registration of a martial art association and refusal to register**

**4.**—(1) Subject to this section the Controller shall, upon application by a martial art association and on payment of the prescribed fee, register the association.

(2) Every registration effected in accordance with this section shall be notified in the *Gazette*.

(3) The Controller shall refuse to register a martial art association if he is satisfied that —

- (a) any rules of the association are insufficient to provide for its proper management and control in respect of the provision of instruction in any form of martial art by any officer, employee or member thereof as such officer, employee or member;
- (b) the provision of instruction in any form of martial art by such officer, employee or member is likely to be for unlawful purpose or prejudicial to public peace, welfare or good order in Singapore;
- (c) the application for registration does not comply with the provisions of this Act or any regulations made thereunder; or