

## How to Join Birankai North America

Birankai North America does not register individuals directly; membership is established by active participation in a BNA dojo. Individuals training in non-dojos, clubs, or small groups under the direct or indirect supervision of a Birankai certified teacher may register with Birankai by special arrangement with the instructor of a BNA member dojo.

There are two categories of dojo membership in Birankai North America: Full membership and associate membership. Full dojo membership is granted to certified instructors who are members of the organization or who have a longstanding connection to the organization. All others should apply for associate dojo membership. Associate dojos should have a sponsor who is a certified teacher in Birankai.

The applicant should write a letter to the Chair of the Senior Council, [Frank Apodaca](#), with a copy to the Executive Director, [Neilu Naini](#). The applicant's letter should state:

1. Reasons for wishing to open a dojo or affiliate with BNA
2. Location of the dojo and number of students regularly attending classes
3. Teacher's rank, martial arts history, and number of years associated with Birankai
4. Name of sponsor, if applying for associate membership

Upon acceptance, the Executive Director will send the appropriate forms for registering the new dojo. Full-membership dojos register members, schedule examinations, and process their students' promotions according to the standards and practices set by the Birankai North America Senior and Teachers' Councils. An associate dojo registers its members in the same way; however, examination and promotion of students should be handled by the sponsoring instructor. When the non-certified teacher is awarded Birankai teaching rank, his or her dojo may then become a full member; however, some dojos may elect to stay under the sponsorship of a more senior instructor for the purposes of obtaining technical advice and promoting students to higher ranks.