

**US TAEKWONDO GRANDMASTERS SOCIETY**  
**HALL OF FAME AWARDS**  
**SELECTION AND NOMINATION CRITERIA**

## HALL OF FAME AWARDS

1. Pioneer Award/**Grandmaster of the Year/Taekwondo-ist of the Year**
2. Outstanding Leadership Award
3. Lifetime Achievement award
4. Male/Female Competitor Award
5. Coach of The Year Award
6. Literary Achievement Award
7. Ambassador Award

## SELECTION PROCEDURES

- 1) A candidate for any award must receive a minimum of two (2) separate nominations from registered USTGS members, although any nominees do not have to be USTGS members.
- 2) Nominations with all the required information must be submitted to the Award Selection Committee no later than October 30, of each year.
  - (a) Nominations must include a resume of the nominee and also, a letter from the person submitting the nomination as to why the candidate deserves consideration.
  - (b) Nominations will be distributed for review by the Award Selection Sub-Committee.
- 3) The Award Selection Committee will vote and select the inductee no later than February 15 of the following year.
- 4) The highest ranking candidate will be contacted for their availability to attend the ceremony.
- 5) All recipients must be in attendance at the Awards Ceremony to receive the award. If the highest ranking candidate cannot attend, the first alternate will be contacted and so on. If none of the top three ranked candidates can attend, that award category will not be presented that year.

# PIONEER AWARD

The Pioneer Award is the Grand Award and highest honor of USTGS's Hall of Fame program. This Award is designed to be presented to the Taekwondo master who has a proven record of having successfully undertaken pioneering work and achievements by first introducing and promoting the art of Taekwondo to the USA.

Furthermore, this Award is designed to honor those Taekwondo masters who successfully emigrated from Korea and settled in the US around the 1960's, in a culture that was strange and unfriendly to the Korean Art of Taekwondo. In order to promote this martial art during its infancy to the public in a foreign land, the pioneers had to do very versatile and participated in many different aspects of martial arts including competing with Japanese Karate, Kung-fu and similar martial arts which were already being taught in many parts of the United States. Their perseverance and successful integration into this country and its culture paved the road for subsequent Taekwondo instructors from Korea who arrived in the later years and helped shape Taekwondo in the United States the future generations. **This Award is to recognize those Taekwondo masters who have been successful in promoting Taekwondo activities and Taekwondo work to influence the Taekwondo movement in this country and its expansion into the worldwide and Olympic Sport that it is today.**

The nominees are required to meet at least the following criteria:

- 1) Studied and trained in the art of Taekwondo in one of the original eight (8) Korean Kwans (Moo Duck Kwan, Chung Do Kwan, Oh Do Kwan, Chang Moo Kwan, Song Moo Kwang, JiDo Kwan, Han Moo Kwan, and YMCA) or their affiliated Do Jangs, received the rank of Cho Dan or higher, and taught the art in the USA as they had been taught in Korea.
- 2) Began teaching Taekwondo in Taekwondo Do Jangs in the USA before 1965. "Taekwondo Do Jangs" include personal Do Jangs as well as health club Do Jangs and Do Jangs in public and educational facilities.
- 3) Operated or managed his or her own personal Do Jang in the USA for at least twenty-five (25) years.
- 4) Is recognized and respected as a role model by many Taekwondo students for their teaching skills and dedication to Taekwondo and their role in their community.
- 5) Has significantly contributed to the improvement of Taekwondo as an art and as a sport.
- 6) Has promoted Taekwondo to the public through organizing public tournaments, conducting demonstrations and exhibitions, and holding public seminars and lectures.
- 7) Demonstrates academic activities dedicated to the study Taekwondo through the publication of books, theses, and/or articles.
- 8) Demonstrates continued dedication within the Taekwondo community as well as the Korean and US Communities.
- 9) Has a reputation for exemplary leadership and sustained contributions as a leader for the advancement of Taekwondo.

- 10) Is a **potential** Member of the USTGS or has positively represented and acted with and for the USTGS.

Members of such organizations as Tang Soo Do, Tae Gyun, Martial Arts Association, and Korean Karate Association, whose teachings are in line of the original eight Korean Kwans, may also be eligible for this Award, however, in order to be nominated, a nominee must agree and explicate clearly that he or she is a Taekwondo-ist.

### **GRANDMASTER OF THE YEAR / TAEKWONDO-IST OF THE YEAR**

Since there are only a few masters who came into this country before 1965 to settle down as Taekwondo masters, this award will eventually be expanded to include candidates who began their teachings after 1965. An Award named, "Grandmaster of the Year" if the inductee is a Grandmaster, or "TaeKwonDo-IST of the Year" if the inductee is not a Grandmaster, will be introduced at the appropriate time to replace the Pioneer Award and become the USTGS's new Grand Award. The criteria for this award will remain the same as the criteria for the Pioneer Award except that No.2, "Began teaching Taekwondo in Taekwondo Do Jangs in the USA before 1965" will no longer be a requirement for nomination.

## OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Outstanding Leadership Award is presented to those masters who have lead by example or inspired others in the study and advancement of the art of Taekwondo in the United States and/or internationally, and have assumed leadership roles in their communities, and US and/or international Taekwondo organizations and events.

The nominees are required to meet at least the following criteria:

- 1) Is a **potential** Member of the USTGS or has positively represented and acted with and for the USTGS.
- 2) Is a senior grandmaster with a long career in Taekwondo, specifically more than 50 years of Taekwondo experience.
- 3) Does not have a record of gross mistake in his/her Taekwondo career, does not have a record of punishment due to his/her misconduct, and has never been convicted of a felony.
- 4) Has a distinct Taekwondo philosophy and upholds the ethical standards of Taekwondo.
- 5) Has been publically acknowledged for his/her leadership accomplishments by Taekwondo colleagues and the general public.
- 6) Has made great contributions to Taekwondo through the training of Taekwondo students and by promoting Taekwondo nationally and internationally.
- 7) Has demonstrated a leadership role in the US or international taekwondo organizations, for at least two years.
- 8) Has demonstrated a leadership role in his/her community through participation in community organizations and/or charitable events.
- 9) Continually provides a positive leadership role model for students.
- 10) Continues to demonstrate commitment for the development of the US national and international taekwondo movement.

# LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual's outstanding, life-long achievements and contributions to the sport and art of Taekwondo. This award honors those individuals who have achieved excellence in their training and teaching and have demonstrated a life time of unwavering commitment to the development and promotion of Taekwondo and Taekwondo philosophy in the United States and internationally.

- 1) Is a **potential** Member of the USTGS or has positively represented and acted with and for the USTGS.
- 2) Is a senior grandmaster with a long career in Taekwondo, specifically more than 50 years of Taekwondo experience and over the age of 70.
- 3) Is recognized and respected as a role model by many Taekwondo students for their teaching skills and dedication to Taekwondo and their role in their community.
- 4) Has contribution to the improvement of Taekwondo as an art and as a sport.
- 5) Has promoted Taekwondo to the public through running public tournaments, conducting demonstrations and exhibitions, holding public seminars and lectures.
- 6) Does not have a record of gross mistake in his/her Taekwondo career, does not have a record of punishment due to his/her misconduct, and has never been convicted of a felony.
- 7) Has a distinct Taekwondo philosophy and upholds the ethical standards of Taekwondo.
- 8) Has been publically acknowledged for his/her accomplishments in Taekwondo by Taekwondo colleagues and the general public.
- 9) Has made great contributions to Taekwondo through the training of Taekwondo students and the promotion of Taekwondo nationally and internationally.
- 10) Continues to demonstrate commitment for the development of the US national and international taekwondo movement.

# COMPETITOR OF THE YEAR

The Competitor of the Year Award recognizes the male or female Taekwondo athlete who has shown extraordinary talent and achievement throughout his or her career and who reflects the values and philosophies of Taekwondo. This award also distinguishes the athlete who has demonstrated a positive image as an athlete and has been a good ambassador for the sport of Taekwondo. Any individual associated with the U.S. Taekwondo movement may be nominated.

The nominees are required to meet at least the following criteria:

- 1) Has competed in his or her final Olympic Games or World Championship at least five years prior to the recognition ceremony. For clarification, athletes who last competed in the 2000 Olympic Games or 2003 World Championships are eligible to be recognized in 2009.
- 2) Demonstrates respect for officials, opponents and parents and espouses a philosophy of fair play.
- 3) Demonstrates personal achievement and excellence in areas outside of Taekwondo.
- 4) Has exceptional leadership qualities that personify excellence.
- 5) Has a record of sustained participation in organized Taekwondo activities and recognized Taekwondo organizations.
- 6) Has achieved advanced positions in competition on the national or international level.
- 7) Has a reputation for exemplary leadership and sustained contributions to the advancement of Taekwondo.
- 8) Has demonstrated Taekwondo character and philosophy through nation and international philanthropic efforts and achievements.
- 9) Has demonstrated a leadership role in his/her community through participation in community organizations and/or charitable events.
- 10) Is a resident of the United States.

The athlete's level of achievement at the Olympic or World Championship level will be considered, but is not the final determining factor of this Award.

# COACH OF THE YEAR

The Coach of the year award honors the Taekwondo coach who best demonstrates responsibility, integrity and excellence in coaching and training Taekwondo Athletes. This award recognizes the outstanding achievements of those coaches who inspire athletes and are dedicated to facilitating the athletic advancement of Taekwondo.

The nominees are required to meet at least the following criteria:

- 1) Is a **potential** Member of the USTGS or has positively represented and acted with and for the USTGS.
- 2) Does not have a record of gross mistake in his/her Taekwondo career, does not have a record of punishment due to his/her misconduct, and has never been convicted of a felony.
- 3) Has a record of sustained participation in training and coaching Taekwondo students at advanced belt levels.
- 4) Has a distinct Taekwondo philosophy and upholds the ethical standards of Taekwondo.
- 5) Demonstrates concern for all-around development of the athletes and instills guidelines reflecting responsible conduct beyond the competitive arena.
- 6) Continuously applies relevant training theory and coaching techniques.
- 7) Demonstrates respect for officials, opponents and parents and teaches a philosophy of fair play.
- 8) Has made great contributions to Taekwondo through the training and coaching of Taekwondo students and by promoting Taekwondo nationally and internationally.
- 9) Has demonstrated a leadership role in the US or international taekwondo competitions, tournament committees, and/or athletic organizations.
- 10) Continually provides a positive leadership role model for students and presents through providing examples a positive image of coaching.
- 11) Continues to demonstrate commitment for the development of the US national and international taekwondo movement.

## LITERARY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Literary Award recognizes the individual who has displayed outstanding merit and achieved effective results in providing educational and innovative training information and raising public awareness for martial arts and particularly the art and sport of Taekwondo through publications.

The nominees are required to meet at least the following criteria:

- 1) Is good standing in the Taekwondo community and has positively represented and acted with and/or for the **any US Taekwondo Organization**.
- 2) Has made outstanding and creative contributions to martial arts in general and Taekwondo in particular through publication of books, articles in related books, journals, theses, magazines or other professional periodicals or multi-media documentaries.
- 3) Demonstrates academic activities dedicated to the study Taekwondo through the publication of books, journals, theses, magazines or other professional periodicals or multi-media documentaries.
- 4) Demonstrates continued dedication within the Taekwondo community as well as the Korean and US Communities.
- 5) Demonstrates exceptional abilities in working with different martial art organizations and disciplines effectively.
- 6) Does not have a record of gross mistake in his/her Taekwondo career, does not have a record of punishment due to his/her misconduct, and has never been convicted of a felony.
- 7) Has long-standing membership in national or international organizations that further the promotion of Taekwondo and has a distinct Taekwondo philosophy.
- 8) Demonstrates a dedication to public service through participation in community organizations and/or charitable events.
- 9) Demonstrates continuous support for the work of major organizations promoting the spread of Taekwondo and Korean culture.
- 10) Continues to demonstrate commitment to the development of the US national and international Taekwondo movement.

# AMBASSADOR AWARD

The Ambassador Award is presented to the individual who embodies the ambassadorial spirit of Taekwondo and has made selfless contributions to the sport of Taekwondo. It honors the leadership and unusual devotion of the recipient to a sport that may not be the recipient's primary athletic focus.

The nominee does not have to have been a Taekwondo practitioner to be considered.

- 1) Is good standing in the Taekwondo community and has either positively represented and acted with and/or for the USTGS or has a good potential contribution to the USTGS. .
- 2) Has demonstrated exceptional abilities in working with different martial art organizations and disciplines effectively.
- 3) Has made noteworthy contributions towards the advancement of and in support of Taekwondo.
- 4) Is recognized and respected as a role model in his/her profession and community.
- 5) Has exceptional leadership qualities that personify excellence.
- 6) Does not have a record of gross mistake in his/her Taekwondo career, does not have a record of punishment due to his/her misconduct, and has never been convicted of a felony.
- 7) Has long-standing membership and/or participation in national or international organizations that further the promotion of Taekwondo and has a distinct Taekwondo philosophy.
- 8) Demonstrates continuous support for the work of major organizations promoting the spread of Taekwondo and Korean culture.
- 9) Continues to publicly demonstrate commitment to the development of the US national and international Taekwondo movement.