

**GOVERNANCE POLICY #2 – JUNIOR PRACTITIONERS
FOR SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
ASSOCIATION DE LA SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONALE DU CANADA**
(a federal corporation)
hereinafter referred to as “SGI Canada”.

Policy Type: Governance

Policy # 2

Status: Approved by Corporate Members on September 27, 2014

This Governance Policy emanates from General Operating Bylaw No. 8 for SGI Canada, as amended from time to time, and is to be read in conjunction with Bylaw 8 and the other Policies adopted pursuant to Bylaw No. 8.

The definitions contained in Bylaw No. 8, as amended from time to time, shall apply to the provisions of this Governance Policy.

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INTRODUCTION

This Policy is based on the spirit of the Soka Gakkai, as established by the three successive presidents, which values children and youth as capable successors. Their participation in SGI Canada’s activities is treasured and fostered in every way possible. The establishment of Junior Practitioners is intended to provide young people in their teenage years the opportunity to confirm their faith

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THIS POLICY

This Policy describes Junior Practitioners, who are thirteen (13) to seventeen (17) years of age, inclusive. There is a separate Policy on Practitioners that applies to adult Practitioners who are eighteen (18) years of age and older. It is understood that all children are part of the SGI Canada family and can freely participate in SGI Canada activities. The purpose of formally initiating Junior Practitioners is to give the opportunity to young people reaching the age of 13 (and any age up to the age of 17) to confirm their decision to practise Nichiren Buddhism in SGI Canada and to be officially recognized for making that commitment. Junior Practitioners, being minors, are not asked to take on the responsibilities of adult Practitioners and are under the care and guidance of their parents or guardians. At the age of 18, Junior Practitioners can be reconfirmed as Practitioners, at which time they would take on those full responsibilities.

In order to become a Junior Practitioner, a young Individual (who meets the applicable age requirements) may verbally ask any Leader of the Youth Division or any District Level Leader. Then, the young

Individual will complete a brief seminar for Junior Practitioners where the key aspects of Soka Gakkai Nichiren Buddhism will be reviewed and discussed. The young Individual will be interviewed by two District Level Leaders to confirm that he or she fulfills the qualifications to become a Junior Practitioner. The written consent of the parent or legal guardian for the young Individual will need to be obtained, followed by approval by the District, Chapter and Area Coordinators. The new Junior Practitioner is then entered into the SGI Canada database.

Once approved as a Junior Practitioner, he or she will receive a certificate confirming his or her status as a Junior Practitioner and will have the duty to respect and agree to the procedures of SGI Canada described in the Constitutional Documents. Junior Practitioners also have the privilege of participating in SGI Canada's programs. Junior Practitioners who are sixteen (16) years of age and older and are the only Practitioner in their family (in other words, there isn't a Gohonzon already in the household) have the privilege of receiving a Gohonzon, provided written approval has been obtained from the parent or legal guardian and the other requirements in the Board Policy on the Conferral of the Gohonzon have been met. Upon attaining the age of eighteen (18) Junior Practitioners may apply to become Practitioners of SGI Canada.

1.01 Definition of Junior Practitioners

(a) Definition of Junior Practitioner of SGI Canada

Junior Practitioners of SGI Canada shall consist of those Individuals who:

- (i) profess adherence to Soka Gakkai Nichiren Buddhism;
- (ii) are thirteen (13) years of age or older, but under the age of eighteen (18);
- (iii) have completed the seminar for Junior Practitioners where the major tenets of Soka Gakkai Nichiren Buddhism, practice and study will be discussed;
- (iv) have obtained the prior written consent of the parent or legal guardian of the Junior Practitioner;
- (v) whose status as a Junior Practitioner has been approved by the applicable District, Chapter and Area Coordinators as evidenced by their signatures on the application form for Junior Practitioners.

(b) Admission as a Junior Practitioner of SGI Canada

Application to become a Junior Practitioner may be initiated by oral request to any Leader of the Youth Division or any District Level Leader (for purposes of this section 1.01(b) all references to the Youth Division or District Level Leader shall simply be referred to as "Leader").

- (i) The applicant to become a Junior Practitioner will be expected to attend a Junior Practitioner's seminar where the major tenets of Soka Gakkai Nichiren Buddhism and the privileges and responsibilities of Junior Practitioners will be discussed.

(ii) Once the Leader is satisfied that the applicant has fulfilled the qualifications to be a Junior Practitioner as set out in section 1.01(a) of this Policy, two District Leaders will interview the applicant to confirm that the applicant has fulfilled all the qualifications to become a Junior Practitioner. Where the applicable District Leaders are satisfied that the applicant fulfills all the qualifications for a Junior Practitioner and the application form has been signed by the District, Chapter and Area Coordinators as set out in section 1.01(a) of this Policy, SGI Canada may admit the applicant as a Junior Practitioner.

(c) No Fees to Apply

There shall be no fees that apply to become a Junior Practitioner unless otherwise directed by the Board of Directors.

(d) Record of Junior Practitioners

A record of the Junior Practitioners of SGI Canada shall be kept by the Secretary of SGI Canada.

1.02 Duties and Privileges of Junior Practitioners

(a) Duties of Junior Practitioners

A Junior Practitioner of SGI Canada shall have the following duties:

- (i) the duty to respect and agree to the procedures of SGI Canada as expressed in its Constitutional Documents. However, Junior Practitioners will not be subject to Status Review for Practitioners; and
- (ii) the duty to participate harmoniously in the SGI Canada community.

(b) Privileges of Junior Practitioners

A Junior Practitioner of SGI Canada shall have the following privileges:

- (i) the privilege to participate in SGI Canada's programs;
- (ii) the privilege to receive a certificate confirming the Individual's status as a Junior Practitioner of SGI Canada;
- (iii) for those Junior Practitioners aged sixteen (16) and older, the privilege to receive a Gohonzon for his or her household, provided that there is not already a Gohonzon in the household and that the Junior Practitioner has obtained written approval from his or her parent or legal guardian, all in accordance with the provisions of the Board Policy governing the Conferral of the Gohonzon; and
- (iv) the privilege to apply to become a Practitioner once the Junior Practitioner has reached the age of eighteen (18).

1.03 Resignation as a Junior Practitioner

Junior Practitioners may resign at any time from SGI Canada by delivering a written notification of their resignation to a Leader of the Youth Division, which resignation shall be deemed to have been accepted as of the effective date stated in the resignation, provided that the prior written consent of the parent or legal guardian of the Junior Practitioner has been obtained.

1.04 Children

SGI Canada values and recognizes children. Children of Practitioners and children who participate in SGI Canada's programs are hereby recognized as an important part of SGI Canada. Children of any age can, upon the request of their parents or legal guardians, receive a welcome and congratulatory certificate from SGI Canada.