



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 9, 2024

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ATA Announces New Policy for Leadership Collars

For Immediate Release

Little Rock, AR – December 9, 2024 –

ATA International is pleased to announce updated requirements for earning blue, silver and gold leadership collars.

Presiding Grand Master M.K. Lee, the Songahm Masters' Council and a select group of seniors have developed a system that rewards instructors for the impact they have on students of Songahm Taekwondo.

Under the old policy, leadership collars were based on the number of testings submitted within a single calendar year. The new policy instead awards collars based on the number of testings submitted throughout the instructor's career. This means that even if your annual numbers are relatively low, you will have the opportunity to earn a collar eventually through your cumulative numbers over the course of your years as an instructor.

The new policy also explicitly outlines how instructors can earn leadership collars even if they are not Licensees. This includes instructors who are employed by Licensees, as well as instructors who operate schools or clubs alongside their Licensee spouses.

"Last week, we announced new requirements for earning high ranks and mastership titles," said ATA Presiding Grand Master M.K. Lee. "With the release of this updated collar policy, we are now offering our members clear guidance on how to reach the highest levels of achievement, both through their individual development as martial artists and through their contributions to the growth of Songahm Taekwondo."

Because the new policy will require ATA Headquarters to organize and analyze data reaching back several decades in order to award leadership collars, the ATA is investing in an upgrade to its database and customer management software. The goal is to complete this upgrade by the end of 2025. Assuming this goal is accomplished, the new collar policy will take effect for all ATA members on January 1, 2026.

As a pilot program, the new policy will be effective January 1, 2025, for people who are candidates for induction as Chief Master or Grand Master at the 2025 mastership ceremony.

[View the entire Collar Policy document HERE.](#)

New Testing and Title Requirements

Last week, ATA International announced new requirements for earning high ranks and mastership titles. The document summarizing the updated requirements was withdrawn due to an editing error.

[You can view the corrected summary of Testing, Midterm, & Title Policy HERE.](#)

A more comprehensive description of the ATA International high rank testing policy is available to Licensees in the School Operations section of www.atamartialarts.com.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the new testing and title requirements or about the new collar requirements, please submit the form below **by December 18, 2024**. ATA Headquarters will review all submissions and prepare a Frequently Asked Questions document to ensure you fully understand these policies.

[Submit Questions](#)

About ATA International:

Founded in 1969, ATA International is headquartered in Little Rock, Arkansas, and stands as America's largest martial arts organization. With a global presence in 28 countries, ATA has trained over one million students, emphasizing martial arts excellence and character development. In 2024, ATA Martial Arts celebrates its 55th anniversary with over 1,100 licensed locations worldwide. For more information, visit www.atamartialarts.com.

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