

= Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do =

Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do ( ???? ; ???? ) , also known as Rhee Tae Kwon @-@ Do , Rhee Tae Kwon Do , or Rhee Taekwondo , is a martial art school in Australia and New Zealand teaching the Korean martial art of taekwondo . Its full name is " Rhee International Taekwon @-@ Do " with " ( Australia ) " or " ( New Zealand ) " appended . Chong Chul Rhee , one of the original masters of taekwondo , founded the school in the mid @-@ 1960s . Two of Rhee 's brothers , Chong Hyup Rhee and Chong Yoon Rhee , later came to assist him in the 1970s .

C. C. Rhee claims the title ' Father of Australian Taekwondo ' and Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do is widely publicised as being Australia 's first and biggest taekwondo school . It has at least 294 publicly listed dojang ( training halls ) in Australia ( and at least five such dojang in New Zealand ) , with perhaps around 1 @, @ 400 dojang in total at its peak . Several Australian martial art school founders received their foundational taekwondo training in Rhee 's school .

Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do is an independent martial art organisation . It was once affiliated to the International Taekwon @-@ Do Federation ( ITF ) , but has had no relation to the World Taekwondo Federation ( WTF ) .

= = Chong Chul Rhee = =

Chong Chul Rhee , 8th dan , is the founder and head of Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do . He holds the title ' World Master ' and claims the title ' Father of Australian Taekwondo . ' Rhee is one of the twelve original masters of taekwondo selected from the South Korean military to develop taekwondo under Choi Hong Hi in the Korea Taekwon @-@ Do Association ( KTA ) . Rhee is a former unarmed combat instructor in the Korean Marines , and helped introduce taekwondo to Southeast Asia ( notably in Malaysia and Singapore ) before becoming the first taekwondo master sent to Australia by the Republic of Korea .

Rhee has worked towards the reunification of Korea , serving as a member during the third through ninth terms ? and as Chairman for the eighth term ? of the Oceania Division of the Advisory Council on Democratic and Peaceful Unification . He has also served as Chairman of the Seoul Olympics Supporting Committee and founding President of the Korean Community Hall Construction Supporting Committee . The Republic of Korea awarded Rhee the Dongbaeg Medal ( ??? ) in 2003 for promoting taekwondo and Korean culture over the past 33 years .

Two of Rhee 's brothers , Chong Hyup Rhee and Chong Yoon Rhee , also hold the title of ' Master ' in Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do and assist him in managing parts of the school . Chong Hyup Rhee , 7th dan , is in charge of operations in Melbourne . He appears on the right in the school 's logo . C. H. Rhee is also one of the twelve original masters of taekwondo , and helped introduce the art of taekwondo to Malaysia and Singapore before arriving in Australia in 1970 . He conducts grading examinations in Melbourne and Darwin . Chong Yoon Rhee , 9th dan , is in charge of operations in parts of Sydney . He trained under Nam Tae Hi during the late 1950s , served as a South Korean army officer , and helped introduce the art of taekwondo to Vietnam in the late 1960s . C. Y. Rhee retired from military service at the rank of Major , and moved to Australia in January 1976 .

C. C. Rhee and C. H. Rhee are listed as pioneers in Asia ( 1950s and 1960s ) and Australia ( 1970s ) in Chang Keun Choi 's list of taekwondo pioneers , while C. Y. Rhee came to Australia some time later .

= = Significance = =

Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do occupies a prominent place in Australian taekwondo history . This is reflected in three key claims : ( 1 ) Chong Chul Rhee is the Father of Australian Taekwondo , ( 2 ) Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do is the first taekwondo school in Australia , and ( 3 ) Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do is the biggest taekwondo school in Australia . The school has widely publicised these claims since at least the 1980s .

== = Father of Australian Taekwondo == =

No one has challenged C. C. Rhee 's claim as the Father of Australian Taekwondo . The title might be debated , however , based on claims made about five other martial art masters :

Chan Yong Kim , 9th dan , was the first tang soo do instructor in Australia . He arrived in the early 1960s , sponsored by the Silvertop Taxi Karate Club or the Judo Federation of Australia , and stayed for one or two years before moving overseas . Kim might be considered the first taekwondo instructor in Australia if tang soo do were recognised as taekwondo retrospectively , and so might lay claim to the title . Kim did not establish a taekwondo school in Australia .

Jack Rozinsky , 9th dan ( Jidokwan ) , founded the Shuto Karate Club in 1963 ; it later became the Melbourne Taekwondo Centre . As Rozinsky taught tang soo do there , he might be considered the first taekwondo school founder in Australia ( again , if tang soo do were recognised as taekwondo retrospectively ) , and so might lay claim to the title . Rozinsky did not introduce taekwondo outside Victoria .

Ke Hyung No , 8th dan ( WTF ) , was invited to Australia by the Victoria Judo Federation in 1965 , and taught taekwondo alongside judo . If tang soo do were not recognised as taekwondo retrospectively , No might lay claim to the title . He travelled back to South Korea for further training , returned to Australia in 1971 , and established his own martial arts centre at that time . As with Rozinsky , No did not introduce taekwondo outside Victoria .

Terence Walsh , 8th dan ( World Kido Federation ) , claims to have introduced taekwondo to New South Wales in 1969 . If he was the first to introduce taekwondo to Australia 's most populous state , then he might lay claim to the title . Walsh did not introduce taekwondo outside the eastern states .

Young Ku Yun , 8th dan ( ITF ) , has been described as having introduced taekwondo to Sydney in 1971 . If he was the first to introduce taekwondo to Australia 's largest city , then he might lay claim to the title . Yun arrived around five years after Rhee , however , and himself claimed to be the first ITF instructor ( rather than the first taekwondo instructor ) in Australia .

Kim and No would have been in the lower dan ranks , and would not yet have held the title of ' Master , ' when they were invited to teach in Australia . A biography of No indicates that he had four years ' training when he arrived . Rozinsky and Walsh would have held 1st dan ranking in the 1960s . Both Rhee ( KTA ) and Yun ( ITF ) would have been in the middle dan ranks and held the title of ' Master ' when they arrived , as they were sent to Australia by their respective Korean governing bodies .

== = First taekwondo school in Australia == =

Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do was the first Australian martial art school founded by a Korean master and using the name of taekwondo . Rhee 's school was also the first nationwide taekwondo school in Australia , having operated in South Australia from its founding in the mid @-@ 1960s , Western Australia from at least 1970 , Victoria from at least 1971 , the Australian Capital Territory from 1971 , Queensland from at least 1973 , New South Wales from 1973 , and Tasmania from at least 1983 . The first Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do class was held in the Adelaide YMCA centre .

Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do 's position as the first taekwondo school in Australia might be challenged by the Melbourne Taekwondo Centre ( originally the Shuto Karate Club ) , as tang soo do was one of the arts taught there . Such status would , however , involve recognising tang soo do as taekwondo retrospectively . The Melbourne Taekwondo Centre incorporated taekwondo into its name in the 1970s .

== = Biggest taekwondo school in Australia == =

Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do 's position as the biggest taekwondo school in Australia is supported by independently verifiable listings of dojang . It has at least 294 publicly listed dojang in Australia , with perhaps around 1 @,@ 400 dojang in total at its peak . The claim might be disputed if the Australian member schools of the ITF and the WTF were considered as ' schools ' as a whole , whether in

terms of numbers of dojang or numbers of members . Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do is , however , a single school under the direct leadership of Rhee while both the ITF and WTF are groups of schools ( each with its own head ) under a larger governing body .

= = Ex @-@ Rhee members = =

At least 25 founders of Australian martial art schools ( and at least one in New Zealand ) received their foundational taekwondo training in Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do or are former Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do instructors . Of these ex @-@ members , the highest @-@ ranked was a Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do 6th dan instructor when he left Rhee 's school .

= = International Taekwon @-@ Do Federation = =

Ex @-@ members who founded ITF schools include some of the most senior ITF instructors in Australia . Ming Tuck Low , 8th dan , was promoted to Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do 1st dan in 1971 , and was a Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do instructor at the University of Western Australia in 1972 . Peter Wong , 7th dan , trained in Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do in Western Australia in the early 1970s . Jamie Moore , 8th dan , commenced Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do training in Queensland in 1976 . Several other ex @-@ members have founded ITF schools across Australia .

= = Other taekwondo styles = =

Ex @-@ members who founded non @-@ ITF taekwondo schools include some of the more expansionist instructors in Australia . John Ivanov , 7th dan , was a Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do regional instructor in Queensland in 1995 . Robert Frost , 6th dan , was a Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do regional instructor in New South Wales in 2003 . Lesley Hicks , 6th dan , commenced Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do training in the late 1970s , and was a Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do 3rd dan regional instructor in New South Wales in 2003 . Vernon Low , 6th dan , was the Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do State Master Instructor of South Australia , was the first Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do instructor promoted to 5th dan , and had been ranked at 4th dan as early as 1974 , prior to establishing his own school . Several other ex @-@ members have founded non @-@ ITF taekwondo schools .

= = Other martial arts = =

Ex @-@ members who founded schools teaching martial arts other than taekwondo include three instructors with an eclectic martial arts history . Hans Fricke , 8th dan , first met Rhee in Perth in 1970 ( with Fricke bearing an introductory letter from the ITF , as he had trained briefly in South Korea ) , was a Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do 2nd dan instructor in Sydney during the 1970s , and now teaches battodo . Christopher Nasilowski , 10th dan , trained in Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do in Adelaide from 1972 to 1984 , was a Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do 2nd dan instructor , and now teaches arnis and jujitsu . Graham Healy , 7th dan , trained in Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do in Queensland from 1977 to 1982 , was a Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do 1st dan instructor , and now teaches boxing and taekwondo . Several other ex @-@ members have founded other martial art schools .

= = Training = =

Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do teaches the military style of taekwondo , closer to traditional martial art than modern martial sport in nature . Training consists of exercises that may be classified as : basics ( group drill exercises ; similar to kihon in karate ) , destruction ( breaking ) , hyung ( patterns or forms ) , self @-@ defence , and sparring . Basics , destruction , hyung , and self @-@ defence are similar to equivalent exercises in other traditional martial art schools . Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do teaches the Chang Hon hyung .

Sparring takes three forms : three @-@ step sparring , one @-@ step sparring , and free sparring .

Three @-@ step sparring and one @-@ step sparring are similar to equivalent exercises in ITF and WTF schools , but free sparring is different , having more in common with traditional karate sparring . Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do free sparring is unscored , unarmoured , and usually ' non @-@ contact ' in principle . Members typically achieve non @-@ contact sparring by two methods , whether separately or in combination :

The attacker consciously stops just short of hitting the training partner , while still executing attacks with full speed and power . The attacker has primary responsibility for non @-@ contact , at a given moment during sparring , and this typically occurs when one training partner has more experience than the other . This is normally the practice when one training partner is a beginner .

The defender actively avoids or blocks an incoming attack executed by the training partner . The defender has primary responsibility for non @-@ contact , at a given moment during sparring , and this typically occurs with training partners of similar experience . This is normally the practice when both training partners are in the senior ranks .

= = Ranks = =

Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do ranks are denoted by coloured belts , which indicate a member 's level of experience and responsibility within the school . There are ten coloured belt grades , or kup ranks ( ? ) , and nine black belt degrees , or dan ranks ( ? ) . Members start with white belts and progress through yellow , green , blue , brown , and then black .

Non @-@ black belts , from white through to brown , denote the kup ranks . ' Tips ' denoting odd @-@ numbered kup ranks are marked by a stripe of the higher colour near the right end ( from the wearer 's point of view ) of a belt of the lower colour . Black belts denote the dan ranks . A specific dan rank is represented by the number of white bars embroidered on the black belt . A black belt with no bars is a Junior Black Belt , a rank assigned to members considered too young ( typically 15 years or younger ) for 1st dan . Junior Black Belt members are tested for 1st dan when they reach 18 years of age . One bar denotes 1st dan , two bars denote 2nd dan , and so on . The end of the belt bearing the dan rank also carries embroidery noting the name of the master issuing the promotion ( Chong Chul Rhee , Chong Hyup Rhee , or Chong Yoon Rhee ) .

To attain Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do 1st dan ranking typically takes around four to five years of regular training . Progression through the school 's dan ranks is by invitation , and is usually slower than in other taekwondo schools . Invitation appears to be based on a combination of technique and knowledge . Promotion to 2nd dan might come after 10 ? 15 years , in which time someone might have reached 4th dan ( ITF ) or 5th dan ( WTF ) . Promotion to 3rd dan might come after 20 ? 25 years , in which time someone might have reached 6th dan ( ITF ) or 7th dan ( WTF ) . Several former Rhee Taekwon @-@ Do instructors who joined other taekwondo organisations received new ranks consistent with these approximations .