

年寄名跡の承継

A study of succession of elder member name in Grand Sumo

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Abstract

The Nihon Sumo Kyokai, a foundation, is managed and operated by elder members (Toshiyori). The elder member name has characteristics of asset, business rights and license. By acquiring one of 105 names, elder member become a councilor and a candidate for a board member of the foundation.

Succession system of the name is unique. The foundation or its board doesn't designate a successor. It is dealt between applicant and predecessor by themselves. Requirement of the foundation's article to an applicant is only that he has high achievement as an athlete, and in case the applicant is an heir the condition of the achievement is eased. It is said that usually an applicant pays more than one hundred million yen for acquiring a name. But if he doesn't have so much money or suitable name for him is used by other elder and he wants to wait till the name is released, he can hire another name. And once he becomes an elder, enough and stable compensation is guaranteed from the foundation.

In this paper, peculiarity of the succession system is examined from three points of view; motivation, selection and deal. And it is found that the system and customs of succession is equivocal and pliable, and these characteristics make the succession system stable.

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