

AUSTRALIAN KENDO RENMEI

MANUAL OF DOCUMENTS

SECTION Four

Australian Jodo Board

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Section 4 - Jodo Board

4.0 Introduction

General

The role of the Jodo Board is to assist State Renmei to promote and facilitate the study of Jodo in Australia leading to an increase in the number of people practising Jodo and an increase in the standard of Jodo being practised on a National basis.

See the Manual of Documents, section 1.2.4 for structure details that are common to all AKR Boards and 1.2.4.1 for details of election procedures that are also common to all AKR Boards.

4.1 Roles and Responsibilities

The Jodo Board has the following roles and responsibilities:

- Conduct and co-ordinate annual Jodo Championships including a Dan Grading examination.
- Publish Jodo Grading Regulations.
- Publish Competition Regulations.
- Conduct a minimum of one National Seminar each year for the purpose of improving some aspect of Jodo practise in Australia.
- Improve the level of Shinpan skills in Australia.
- Establish Shinpan Accreditation Scheme.
- Improve the level of Jodo Instruction in Australia. Administer and develop an *internal* Coaching Accreditation Scheme.
- Encourage the appreciation of Kendo and Iaido by Jodo Students - and vice versa.
- Distribute any published material or information, which will contribute to the overall goal.
- Document activities and report to the AKR National Executive, Council and Jodo students on them.
- Promote fellowship among Jodo students for the mutual benefit of all.
- Develop International Goodwill Competitions and encourage overseas participation at Australian National Jodo Seminars.
- Select and organise an Australian Team to compete in International Goodwill Competitions.
- Cultivate the development of the Australian National Jodo Squad ensuring participation of all members at Club, State and National competition and training squad activities.
- Select and monitor performance of the National Team Coach, Assistant Coach and Manager ensuring they have sufficient time in the job and accessibility to squad members to conduct their duties sufficiently to achieve their goals and objectives in conjunction with State Renmei representatives.
- In the event of the introduction of a World Championship the Jodo Board will develop procedures and organise the Australian Jodo Team to compete at the World Jodo Championships.

4.1.3 Financial Controls

The Jodo Board does not directly hold finances. It should present a budget for the forthcoming three years of activities to the AKR National Council in the first year of election for approval of the Delegates.

Such activities should include:

- National Championships - trophies, visiting Sensei expenses, programs, etc.
- Coaching Seminars - Instructors attendance fares.
- Shinpan Seminars - Instructors attendance fares.
- Seniors Seminars - Instructors attendance fares.
- Coaching/Training team visits - Instructors attendance fares.
- Grading Examiner Support Teams - Examiners attendance fares.
- Telephone accounts for Jodo Board discussions and conference call hook-ups.
- Postage accounts for mailing newsletters and other Jodo Board related documents to State representatives and Board members.
- Provision of documentation for conducting seminars and/or developing coaching manuals.

4.1.4 Communications Systems

The use of facsimile, telephone, E-mail and Internet are encouraged to expedite the information flow between Board Members and the Jodo membership. The Chairman represents the Jodo Board on the National Council and communicates directly with the Executive Committee. Copies of all Jodo Board matters should be forwarded to the Secretary of the Jodo Board for collation of correspondence. The Chairman may select another Board Member as the Board Representative at the National Council meetings.

4.2 Development Plans (Updated 14th October, 2003):

The Development Plans of the Jodo Board are documented in Section 5. It is the responsibility of the Jodo Board to update and develop these plans on an annual basis and submit to the AKR National Council at their respective meetings at Easter and October.

4.3 Grading System

4.3.1 Technical Rules for Jodo Gradings

- The Australian Kendo Renmei's (AKR) standard Rules for Grading are based on the Standard Rules for Dan/Kyu Examinations of the International Kendo Federation after approval by the AJB plus such additional rules as determined by the AJB and approved through the National Council for the AKR.
- The applicant for a grading shall be a financial member of the AKR and his or her state body and club.
- The applicant who wishes to attempt a grading shall have the endorsement of his/her instructor or club President. This endorsement should be based on the applicant's attendance record as well as the skills displayed, and must also take into account the period that has elapsed since the applicant's last grading.
- An applicant transferring from another country or having achieved a grade outside of the AKR must submit copies of the Grading Certification to the Jodo Board for ratification. The Jodo Board should then forward their recommendations to the AKR National Executive for acceptance or rejection. The AKR National Secretary is to then register the outcome and reply to the applicant with the results.
- The applicant must have paid the grading application fee and registration fee prior to attempting the grading, unless otherwise directed. The grading application fee will be retained by the State responsible for conducting that particular grading and the registration fee forwarded with the results to the National Executive. In the case of an unsuccessful candidate the registration fee only will be refunded in full.
- The applicant who has passed the grading will be registered by the AKR.
- Results of the grading examinations, together with the registration fees collected shall be forwarded to the Secretary, AKR, so that the appropriate registers can be updated. The AKR shall then forward the results of the grading to the Australian Jodo Board.
- The grading application fee and registration fee shall be set by the AKR National Council.

National Examinations

- National Dan Grade examinations will be held in conjunction with the Australian Kendo Renmei National Jodo Championships. The Jodo Board are responsible for the organisation of the grading, allocation of the examiners based on the seniority of examiners available to participate and the allocation of a Dojo Steward briefed on his duties.
- The AKR Executive Committee will manage dan exam applications, confirm membership status, time in their present grade has been met and that all examination fees are collected before the grading commences. Prior to the exam, the Executive Committee will provide a list of applicants for examination to the Jodo Board, at a suitable time prior to the exam and as agreed between the Board Chairperson and AKR Secretary. The Executive Committee will collect the application and registration fees and issue Dan Grade Certificates.

Attendance at International Examinations - prerequisites.

Members may undergo International examinations providing they have received approval in writing from the AKR Executive and present a copy of their previous Grading Record. The AKR Executive are to inform the International Examining body of their approval for the member to participate providing all membership fees and credentials are in order before commencing the grading. The AKR Executive only confirms the criteria for grading is met and does not make a judgement on the applicants ability to pass the *exam*.

4.3.2 Kyu Grading Requirements and Procedures

- Gradings are to be held in accordance with the AKR Standard Rules for Grading.
- Beginners should be members of the AKR for at least 3 months prior to their first grading examination. Other applicants should spend at least the minimum required time periods between grading.
- Kyu grades used shall be from Yonkyu (lowest) to Ikkyu (highest).

- Applicants for Grades Yonkyu to Ikkyu shall be examined on the basic movements, by using Tandoku and/ or Kata, and shall perform up to three pre-selected kata combining Reiho etiquette from both Uchidachi and Shidachi positions.
- A written test is not required.
- The examiners qualification, size of examination panel and consent criteria is detailed in the AKR Standard Rules for Grading.
- It is not necessary that the applicant be promoted one grade at a time. If their ability warrants, and by agreement of the examiners, the applicant may progress by more than one grade to a maximum of two grades. i.e. Yonkyu to NIKYU. However, to obtain Shodan, the applicant must have held Ikkyu for at least 3 months. Jumping grades should not be encouraged unless exceptional standards are achieved.
- The guidelines for Kyu grading technical requirements listed in para 4.3.2.1 are listed for the use of State Renmei as a guideline to continuity between states of the minimum standards required at each level.
- The kata selection for all Kyu Grade examinations is determined to show that the student has adequately progressed through all stages of their training at the level being examined and shows improvement on previous techniques.

4.3.3 Dan Grading General Requirements

- Refer to common rules between all arts listed in the AKR Standard Grading Rules..

4.3.3.1 Dan Grade time requirements

- Refer to the AKR Standard Grading Rules for Dan grade time requirements.
- Examinations for Shodan to Godan shall be divided into demonstration of pre-selected techniques as per paragraph 4.3.4 below and performed with Reiho and a written test.
- Examinations for Rokudan and Nanadan shall also be examined on Shinpan duties. Hachidan are examined on overall technical skills and a Thesis. A special committee will adjudicate for promotion to Kudan and Judan ranks.

4.3.4 Kata requirements for Examination

Grade being taken	Graded on
4th Kyu	1-4 Kihon Tandoku
3rd Kyu	1-8 Kihon Tandoku, Kata 1
2nd Kyu	1-12 Kihon Tandoku, Kata 1 & 2
1st Kyu	Seitei Kata 1 to 3
1st Dan	Seitei Kata 1 to 5 and paper
2nd Dan	Seitei Kata 2 to 6 and paper
3rd Dan	Seitei Kata 5 to 9 and paper
4th Dan	Seitei Kata 7 to 11 and paper
5th Dan	Seitei Kata 8 to 12 and paper

Note: When taking a Jodo grading, if you are allowed to choose your own partner, please ensure that you both register (so your partner knows your grading number) and that the person not being examined performs the Tachi (sword) side first.

4.3.5 List of Grading Questions

The following questions are produced for the selection by the AJB/Chief Examiner for Dan Grade Examinations. Selection is not limited to these questions and members are advised to study all areas of training requirements and supporting information offered by their Instructors/Sensei. The following questions may be asked at any level but the answer is expected commensurate with the level you are being examined to see if it is appropriate for that level. When possible the examination questions should be issued well prior to the examination date so that students can do adequate research and submit a typed response that will be handed in at the Grading Registration table before commencing the practical examination.

- a. State the purpose of learning Jodo
- b. State what you know about the founder of Jodo techniques
- c. Give a brief summary of the following terms:
 - Metsuke
 - Ma-ai
 - Zanshin
 - Reiho

- Reigi
- d. Discuss conformity of the mind (kokoro) and will power (kiryoku)
- e. State the details about posture and movement of the feet in Jodo techniques
- f. Explain the matter of respiratory control (kokyu)
- g. Give the name of the Founder of your koryu and the names of the various techniques you have learned
- h. List key procedures and warning advice necessary to the safe practise of Jodo

4.3.6 How to conduct a Grading Examination (under construction)

The method used to conduct an efficient Grading Examination is detailed below. Its implementation will depend on the depth of knowledge and availability of support personnel of suitable levels. It is recommended that the State Renmei adopt this process as closely as possible and use it as part of the development process for senior Kyu and Dan Grade members.

4.4 Australian Championships

4.4.1. Organisation and Division of Responsibilities

The Australian Jodo Board is responsible for the overall running of the Australian Jodo Championships. The State Renmei hosting the event is responsible to the AJB for providing support in conducting a successful championship and seminar, if required. The host State Renmei are responsible to ensure the event remains within their budget controls.

4.4.2 A Guide to Organisation Delegations

The following details the major responsibilities of each body but is not limited to these requirements as each championship may vary:

Australian Jodo Board

- Arrange championship events as appropriate to the number and qualifications of members and the time available.
- The Secretary AJB is responsible with timely informing all State Renmei Delegates or Jodo Representatives of data required by them to ensure maximum participation of members is obtained.
- Provision of Score Sheets
- Allocation of players into pools, including seeding of members where required.
- Allocation of Shinpan during championships
- Maintain a record of results in a data base for future seeding
- Conduct the overall direction of the National Championships
- Provide a timetable covering all Jodo competitions, seminars and meetings
- Liaise with Kendo & Iaido Board when holding joint National championships, gradings or seminars
- Co-ordinate Examiners for the Grading panels at National Gradings.

State Jodo Renmei hosting the Event

- Whenever possible the State Renmei should ensure adequate funding is provided to ensure the championship and seminar is self funded and not rely on AKR funding support.
- Arrange publicity coverage with costs included in budget.
- Provide suitable facilities with a minimum of two shiaiyo areas in accordance with the dimensions laid down in the current Rule Book allowing for a safety zone around each area (subject to the numbers of participants and Shinpan available).
- Provide funding for adequate trophies for the championships
- Provide any gifts required for Official guests on behalf of the AKR/AIB
- Mark out all shiaiyo areas prior to the championship start.
- Provide a registry table with suitable facilities and equipment to inspect Jodo equipment and collate results.
- Provide score boards, judges tables, chairs, medical kits, flags, whistles/gongs, stop watches.
- Provide suitable manpower to fill all requirements in running a smooth competition (i.e. timekeepers, recorders, register, dojo stewards, etc)
- Arrange suitable toilet and shower facilities
- Arrange provision of food and beverages
- Inform visitors and players of suitable accommodation and transport in the area of the championships with sufficient lead time to make bookings
- Provide seminar facilities

- Provide meeting rooms and materials for the AJB and any AKR Executive Council or AGM meeting requirements.
- Provide a budget to cover all costs
- Assist in sponsoring FIK/AJKF senior Sensei during their visit (if any) in liaison with AJB.

Australian Kendo Renmei National Executive Committee

- Co-ordinate event with AJB and State Renmei as necessary
- Organise or arrange approval of suitable senior Sensei through FIK and AJKF to assist in Shinpan, Seminars and Grading Examinations as recommended by AJB
- Provide dan grading certificates for presentation to successful Dan Grade examinees.
- Determine budget allocation for senior Sensei visitors if required
- Ensure the timely flow of information to the AJB and State Renmei to enable early planning of each years events
- Assist Jodo Board with conducting Gradings by co-ordinating all applications, administration duties, checking appropriate financial membership details and collection of fees associated with conducting the grading.
- AKR Treasurer to provide a full list of Financial members to the AJB Chairman as at 31st December by end of first week in January

4.4.2 Competition Rules

All State and National Competitions should be conducted in accordance with Rules for Shinpan of Jodo competitions as determined by the International Kendo Federation (FIK). The Jodo Board will determine any additional rules required for the National Jodo Championships to ensure a fair and equitable competition is achieved.

4.4.2.1 Zekken (Name tags)

The wearing of correct Zekken is an important part of correct uniform together with correct hakama and gi. From 2010 the regulation zekken is:
Dimensions: 15cms high by 10cms wide

Colour: Black background with white letters to be used on Black or Navy Blue Gi The reverse is required for wearing on white Gi.

Text: The dojo/state or Australia to be across the top of the zekken - this can be any of the above depending on the requirements of the competition. In the FIK regulations this is listed as 'Team' so at the National Championships this is the state.

The family name should be in the middle, if in Japanese in either Kanji/Katakana written vertically in the centre of the badge with the family name in English horizontally across the base. The Family name must appear in English either at the base or vertically in the centre.

There should be no logo or mon on the zekken.

4.4.3 Competition Events

One category of Individual and two Team events will be conducted at the National Championships. The AJB may change these requirement should numbers dictate a more equitable method of conducting a fair competition. The emphasis should be on the ability for students to compete against other students of near quality technical knowledge where possible. The AJB may allow the winning two places to compete in the next level of competition should vacancies permit and the students know the required waza.

4.4.3.1 Individuals: (First and Second place trophies in each category only)

The following categories have been implemented to enable a better balance of opportunity to compete for all members.

Ikkyu (1st Kyu) and below : kata 1, 2 & 3 only

Shodan (1st Dan) & Nidan (2nd Dan): kata 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 only

Sandan (3rd Dan) & above:

kata 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 only

4.4.3.2 Teams: (First and Second place trophies in each category only)

Each State Renmei may have several teams entered in the competition. Each team is to be classified in order of priority of selection (Team "A", Team "B", etc). The AJB may reduce the number of participating teams if time limits prevent all teams participating. The team members names and fighting order are to be submitted to the Registration Table 30 minutes prior to the event, or unless announced otherwise at the event, and this fighting order/team content is to remain throughout the event competition.

If the number of team members from each state renmei are sufficient the AJB may alter either event to become a five person team event, however this should be arranged before the full details of the Championships are submitted to the State Renmei to organise the trophies (ideally by the previous September to the event).

Three pairs Kyu Grade teams kata 1, 2 & 3 only

Three pairs Dan Grade Teams kata 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 only

4.5 Coaching

4.5.1 NCAS General Coaching Principles

The NCAS General Coaching Principle courses conducted by the State Sport and Recreational Departments is the recognised coaching course for all Jodo Instructors to safely conduct training within their club and provide "duty of care" requirements. Level 1 and Level 2 General courses under the NCAS system are recommended to all Dan Grades or anybody who may find they are left in charge of a general training session in a club situation. All records of members obtaining these qualifications should be sent by the State Renmei to the AKR Treasurer so they may be recorded in the AKR Database and assist with National insurance applications. Each State Renmei is expected to maintain their own registry of accredited coaches.

4.5.2 Jodo Specific Coaching Qualifications

This subject is now covered in Section 1 of the Manual of Documents.

4.5.3 Jodo Study Guide (Under development)

It is important to consider the proper progress of students throughout their study of Jodo. The following points are forwarded to assist Club Instructors in considering their expected outcomes of students at various levels and are based on other senior Instructors personal experiences but should not be limited to these points only. They are purely an interim guideline for students studying and teaching Jodo:

4.5.3.1 Beginners training towards obtaining Yonkyu:

The beginner has varied reasons for studying Jodo and your approach needs to also be varied depending on the "martial" background of the student. The aim is to teach a basic skill that can be built upon as the student progresses through continuous training practise. Do not be in a rush to teach the Kata as the more sound you develop the individual actions before teaching the kata the faster the student will reach the end result. Do not allow the student to carry forward bad basic techniques into the kata's. As the art of Jodo is to gain personal perfection it is important to get the students mind set from an early beginning. A suitable approach is to follow this basic format:

Instruct on the formal layout of the dojo, etiquette requirements and safety procedures

Inform on the proper dress requirements

Teach how to walk without raising toes and methods of ashi-waza used in training

Explain shisei and its application during techniques, apply exercises to develop the correct stances used throughout all techniques (done as an exercise with and without weapons at different stages of the beginners training)

Teach how to kneel into seiza correctly, and to return to standing position

Teach Metsuke and its application – continue to reinforce throughout all exercises

Explain the use of Kessen Teki in Kihon Tandoku and how it is employed into training in the martial arts

Teach Reiho, with and without the Jo or Bokken

Teach correct handling of the Jo and Bokken, grip and safety checks

Correct and appropriate warm-up, cool-down and breathing exercises

Teach cutting exercises and apply various applications of ashi-waza

Explain “te-no-uchi” and “ki-ken-tai-itchi”

Teach self exercise methods of practising Hontei no uchi, Gyaku no uchi and Hikotoshi from stationary position

Teach Kihon Tandoku progressively

Students should not be progressed in learning any kata until they reach the satisfaction of the dojo Sensei.

Be sure that other senior members within your dojo, and the student, knows the rules regarding learning new techniques.

The Instructor should continuously assess the student and provide feedback on their progress. Do not give too much information on changes or what is incorrect – limit the feedback to the most important areas to be improved and when it has reached a satisfactory level for the grade then move them to the next level of appropriate training.

Feedback is important so that the student not only understands what is required and where they need to concentrate their efforts but it also leads to them learning to “analyse” the techniques in a constructive manner which will enable them to eventually do effective “self analysis” and later instructing junior students as part of their study to become a Club Instructor in the future.

Once the student has reached the required standard for grading they should be examined. If it is sometime before a grading takes place the Instructor should approve the student to learn the next technique in the syllabus.

Students who progress learning quickly should be made to gain a higher standard of skill in each area rather than progress into the learning of more kata early. This will enhance their ability to strive for higher perfection and to demonstrate continued commitment to a regular training regime. This is a difficult call to make and must be balanced with the overall requirements of your dojo and members progress and there are no firm rules that can apply in this situation – only personal experience of the Instructor.

4.5.3.2 Training towards obtaining Sankyu to Ikkyu:

Teach Sotai from Uchidachi and Shidachi positions progressively

The development of good Sotai will enhance the application of kata

Once the student has been graded at the appropriate level you introduce the next kata in the system. Do not progress into the following kata until the student has reached a reasonable level of skill to match his previous kata levels. A few points to keep in mind:

At the introduction of each kata the skills learned in the new kata usually benefit the knowledge of prior kata – therefore ensure they continually practise all previous kata and improve on their performance of timing, accuracy in technique and fluency development of the overall techniques.

Ki-ken-tai-itchi should be improved progressively with each level

The flow and accuracy of Jo and Bokken application should improve at each level in conjunction with the flow of the kata being performed

Breathing correctly with the performance of the kata should also develop at each level

Each student will develop strong points in their training. It is important to get the student to understand the need to keep all their training “in balance” and to spend more time in improving on their weak points so that they achieve an overall balance within all kata on a continual improvement system.

As students become reasonably proficient in their kata it is good to have them demonstrate these skills to a group and gain feedback from the group on the most important points to develop. This achieves several objectives:

Gives the student feedback from their peers

Gives the peer group an opportunity to analyse the kata of a fellow student and to better understand the importance of assisted assessments and also self analysis methods they can use in their own training

Teaches the student to observe other peoples performance “actively” and gain from the experience. This also helps the Instructor to gain a deeper knowledge of all students ability to “see” the technical development of kata.

Students should not be put forward for grading unless the Instructor personally approves the grading of the student. This should be done considering all elements of their training and not only based on a technical performance level. Such things as attitude to training and other members, regularity and consistency of training, commitment to the dojo and its development, etc.

When the Examiners look at students they are looking to see that these requirements are reflected in the student on the day and the more the Instructor ensures this is a pre-requisite to a grading approval the better the dojo and Renmei will become at all levels of the martial arts training.

A student's overall performance at a grading, competition or visit to another club is a reflection of the Dojo and its Instructor.

4.6 Guidelines for Operating a Club within AKR (Under development)

Guidelines are being developed by the Jodo Board for the running of Jodo Clubs within the jurisdiction of the AKR. This is to safeguard the members and State and National Renmei of its obligations to members.

4.7 Risk Management (Under development)

A process of Risk Assessment will be conducted by the Jodo Board as a baseline suggestion for all Clubs and Renmei within the AKR as a general guideline. Risk Management is a requirement that will assist in the reduction of Insurance premiums over time and is currently being supported by state government agencies.