

Call for members of the Australian Kendo Squad

The Australian Kendo Board has recently announced the Coaching and Management team for the next World Kendo Championships to be held in Novara, Italy, from the 25th to the 27th of May, 2012. The successful applicants were:

Brett Smith: Team Coach
Yuji Sano: Assistant Coach
James Saretta: Team Manager

Speaking on behalf of us all, we are very honoured to have been appointed for another term and are very enthusiastic about the prospect that lies ahead for the Australian Kendo Team in Italy.

As coach, it is now my duty and pleasure to call for applications for the next Australian Kendo Squad.

This squad is formed in the lead up to World Kendo Championships, to prepare a pool of talent from which the Australian Kendo Team will eventually be selected. In order to become an Australian Kendo Team member, you must be an Australian citizen, and more importantly, a committed and contributing member of the Australian Kendo Squad.

The squad will get together over a number of weekends in different locations in the next 18 months or so, for intensive training sessions in the lead up to Team selection. Members of the squad who are residing in Australia will be expected to show a high level of attendance to these weekends. Those members of the squad who are not residing in Australia will also be expected to be contributing members, striving toward the group's aims within their respective environments, as well as make a commitment to be in attendance at Australian Kendo Championships. In all cases, communication with the coach will be paramount.

Once again, due to this campaign's limited timeframe and the expected intensity of work rate required, eligibility to the squad is generally limited to those members of the AKR graded to a level of 2nd Dan or higher, with a high level of commitment to preparing for the next WKC.

As with the last campaign, it is envisaged that there will be a specific cut off point with regard to squad numbers before the Team selection weekend. This means that the initial squad will form and train together over a period of months, following which, only a certain percentage of those initial squad members will be asked to continue on to the next round of preparation. This situation is likely to occur only once in the lead up to Team selection. The decision has been made to enable the coaching staff to extract the most value for time spent on this shortened cycle between WKC.

Squad training sessions will, for the most part be held over various weekends, (A.M. Saturday through to P.M. Sunday) and as before, will be rotated around various cities within Australia. There exists a slight chance of the possibility of a combined training/competition with the New Zealand squad to be held either in Australia or

New Zealand but that option is still in the exploratory stage and is by no means finalised, nor set in stone. As with all past squad trainings, each weekend will include the opportunity for local AKR members to partake in open training sessions with the squad, as this is seen as a valuable contribution toward the success of our objectives.

Applications must be made in writing, via email or mail to:

Brett Smith
Email: fudoshinsmtih@gmail.com

Address: 84 High Street.
Northcote 3070
Victoria

These should be received by 5pm, Friday August 20th, 2010.

Applications should include the following details:

- Name
- Grade including date/place attained
- Length of training time
- Contact details (preferably including email)
- A brief statement of reasons/motivation/objectives/expectations for being a part of the squad

Coaching staff is currently working toward locking in the location and time of the initial squad training weekend, but applicants should expect to be required to attend sometime during September/October 2010.

Brett Smith.