



AUSTRALIAN KENDO RENMEI

Kendo - Iaido - Jodo

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STANDARD RULES FOR DAN and KYU EXAMINATIONS (Manual of Documents, Section 1, clause 1.5.3).

Effective from 1 February 2020.

1. DAN and KYU GRADES

The Dan and Kyu grades comprise from 6 Kyu to 10 Dan.

Grades shall be granted by the decision of a correctly assembled Grading Examination Panel and will be in accordance with the overall ability of the candidate.

The Australian Kendo Renmei Incorporated (AKR) does not conduct Grading Examinations for 7 Dan and above.

2. AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT EXAMINATIONS

In each calendar year, State and Territory Affiliated Associations (affiliate/s) of the AKR are authorised to arrange the following exams for each of Kendo, Iaido and Jodo:

- Kyu exams.
- No more than two Dan exams up to and including 4 Dan.

In the case of national examinations any decision or clarification in relation to any and all examination details will be made by the board chair on or before the day of the exam. Such decisions are final and not subject to deliberation under any circumstances

In the case of state examinations, the designated procedural officers' decisions or clarifications in relation to any and all examination details will be made by the board chair on or before the day of the exam. Such decisions are final and not subject to deliberation under any circumstances

In addition, in each calendar year, the AKR Kendo, Iaido and Jodo Boards (Boards) are authorised to conduct:

- One exam up to 6 Dan, for their respective art.
- One exam up to 6 Dan, for their respective art on special occasions, such as at seminars where visiting expert sensei may be attending.

3. GRADING PROCEDURAL OFFICER

The AKR President, after consulting the relevant Board Chairman and affiliate President may appoint a Grading Procedural Officer to attend any Dan examination conducted by an affiliate or Board.

The role of the Grading Procedural Officer is to assist compliance with AKR rules, guidelines and standards. The Grading Procedural Officer may advise or be consulted on the conduct of the exam, the relevant rules, procedures and ensure all elements of grading examinations are conducted correctly. The Grading Procedural Officer shall not be an Examiner. Organisers of grading exams shall provide suitable seating and work area at the Examination venue for the Grading Procedural Officer.

The Grading Procedural Officer will provide a report to any and all of National Council, the relevant affiliate, the relevant Board or Executive Committee. The report will include comments on the conduct of the grading exam and compliance with the relevant AKR rules and procedures for Dan examinations.

4. CONDUCT OF EXAMS

Dan or Kyu exams conducted by an affiliate or Board shall be in accordance with the rules set forth below and elsewhere in the AKR Manual of Documents. In the case of a conflict, these rules shall override rules that may be published elsewhere in the AKR Manual of Documents.

All examination elements must be assessed at each exam session. No element may be deferred, so as to be re-examined separately, or at another time.

Exams for Kendo 1 to 5 Dan shall include matches (jitsugi), Kendo Kata and a written test. Exams for Kendo, Iaido or Jodo 5 Dan may also include questions on Shinpan duties. (No written test is required for 6 Dan).

Examiners should wear business like attire.

- Males - white shirt a dark tie and suit and socks.
- Females should dress to a similar standard.

5. ASSESSMENT RULES FOR EXAMS

The AKR guidelines and criteria for technical assessment are detailed in the Kendo, Iaido and Jodo sections of the AKR Manual of Documents.

6. APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINATION PANEL MEMBERS

A Committee that is formed by the President of the affiliate or Chairman of the Board that is conducting the Grading Examination shall meet and appoint the examiners.

7. QUALIFICATION OF EXAMINATION PANEL MEMBERS

Examination panel members must be:

- Affiliate members or life members of the AKR or a member of an overseas FIK affiliated organisation.
- A current and regular practitioner of the art being examined.
- Graded at the prescribed examiner's Dan level in the art that is being examined.
- In sound physical and mental condition with good health and fitness levels.

Examiners should be selected on a combination of their seniority, coaching qualifications, experience as instructors and the ability to remain impartial to the member being examined.

Practitioners residing overseas, who are not members of the AKR are also eligible for appointment as examination panel members. They must also meet the qualification criteria and in addition, if considered to be suitable, must be authorised in advance by the President of their home organisation and the AKR President and after consulting the relevant Board Chairman.

Note that members of the All Japan Kendo Federation (AJKF) in addition to a request from the AKR, are required by their organisation to also personally apply and obtain prior approval from the President of the AJKF to join a Grading Examination Panel outside of Japan.

8. EXAMINER'S DAN LEVEL, REQUIRED NUMBER OF EXAMINERS AND CONSENT CRITERIA

8.1 Examiners Consent Criteria To Pass An Examination

Number of Examiners	Consent to pass
3 person panel	2
5 person panel (Sandan & below)	3
5 person panel (Yondan & Godan)	4
6 person panel	4
7 person panel	5

8.2 Minimum Panel Requirements

Level to be Examined	Art	Examiners Qualifications	Minimum Number
Kyu	Iaido & Jodo	Nidan and above	3
Kyu	Kendo	Sandan and above	3
Shodan	Iaido & Jodo	Sandan and above	3
Shodan	Kendo	Yondan and above	5
Nidan	Iaido & Jodo	Yondan and above	3
Nidan	Kendo	Godan and above	5
Sandan	Iaido, Jodo and Kendo	Godan and above	5
Yondan	Iaido, Jodo	Rokkudan and above	5
Godan	Iaido, Jodo	Nanadan and above	5
Rokkudan	Kendo	Nanadan and above	6

Article 5. FIK Standard Guideline for Dan/Kyu Examination: Concerning the 4 -DAN or higher Dan examination, if the required number of qualified and suitable examiners cannot be appointed by the method stipulated in 8.2, the number of the examiners may be reduced to 5. In this case the consent of minimum 4 examiners shall suffice for the decision of passing.

9. APPLICANT

Applicants for a Grading Examination shall be affiliate members or life members of the AKR or a member of an overseas FIK affiliated organisation.

The applicant shall have the following periods of practice. (Refer to 1.4.2, Grading Examinations for details):
(For this purpose the respective AKR National Championships will be regarded as being one year apart).

Level to be Examined	Time interval between gradings	Minimum age
Kyu grades (Kendo)	5 months or more	
Kyu grades (Iaido & Jodo)	3 months or more	
1 Dan (Kendo)	5 months or more after granting of 1 Kyu	13 Years
1 Dan (Iaido & Jodo)	3 months or more after granting of 1 Kyu	13 Years
2 Dan	One year or more after granting of 1 Dan	
3 Dan	Two years or more after granting of 2 Dan	
4 Dan	Three years or more after granting of 3 Dan	
5 Dan	Four years or more after granting of 4 Dan	
6 Dan	Five years or more after granting of 5 Dan	
7 Dan	Six years or more after granting of 6 Dan	

9.1 Age Allowance.

This provision was removed by decision of AKR National Council on 27 March 2009. AJKF also discontinued the age allowance as from April 2009.

10. FEES

Grading Registration fees are decided by the AKR.

Grading Application fees for AKR Grading Exams are decided by the AKR. Grading Application fees for state affiliate Exams may be decided by state affiliates. Refer to Manual of Documents, Section 1, for details.

11. RESULTS

- a. Exam results are effective as of the date of the exam.

12. REGISTRATION

When registering the result of a Grading Exam, organisers shall inform the AKR of:

- a. Dan and Kyu grades granted for each member examined.
- b. The name and Dan of all examiners.

The results of Grading Examinations that do not comply with these rules and elsewhere in the AKR Manual of Documents will not be registered by the AKR.