



Australian Kendo Renmei

Australian Iaido Seminar & Championships 2021

Welcome to the Australian Kendo Renmei's Iaido Seminar & Championships for 2021. This document is an overview of the AISC 2021 and includes all the information you will need to register for the Seminar and for the AKR Dan Grading. An event schedule is also included along with some information on the Iaido Championships that are integral to our event each year.

Of course due to COVID-19 we were unable to meet in 2020, and even this year we face several challenges. These include restrictions on international travel which mean we are unable to invite sensei from Japan, and of course a level of uncertainty within the community due to COVID-19.

However, we have a contingent of dedicated sensei from around Australia who are giving up their time to come along and lead training. Couple this with the fact that COVID-19 is largely under control and I am looking forward to a successful seminar and championships.

It is particularly exciting that in 2021 we are able to introduce formal koryu training for the first time at the AISC and this will be open to all participants. I am sure you will all benefit from the training and enjoy taking part in the championships, and I hope you are looking forward to catching up with Iaido friends from across the country as much as I am.

If you have any questions about the event please feel free to drop me an email at marcus@lee-steere.com

Marcus Lee-Steere
Chair, AKR Iaido Board
April 2021



Location

Tallebudgera Leisure Centre

1525 Gold Coast Highway, Palm Beach, North QLD 4221

Website: <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/activities/areas-facilities/centres/tallebudgera-leisure-centre>

Google Maps link: <https://goo.gl/maps/gmHgtUVsT9DswSux5>

Instructors at the Event

To date 9 sensei from around Australia have confirmed their attendance and support of the Australian Iaido Seminar & Championships and will be guiding ZNKR and koryu Iaido training across the weekend.

It should be noted that without the support of these sensei the Iaido Board would not be able to run this event.

Toshiaki Tsukadaira sensei	7 Dan Kyoshi	QLD
Ahloi Lee sensei	7 Dan Renshi	WA
Ramon Lawrence sensei	7 Dan Renshi	WA
Claire Chan sensei	6 Dan Renshi	VIC
Russell Lawrence sensei	6 Dan Renshi	WA
David Kolb sensei	6 Dan Renshi	QLD
Marcus Lee-Steere sensei	6 Dan Renshi	VIC
Jeri James sensei	6 Dan Renshi	WA
Ian Thomason sensei	6 Dan	WA

Other sensei may be available during the event.



Event Schedule

The Australian Iaido Seminar & Championships runs for three days from Saturday 12th to Monday 14th June 2021.

Saturday 12 June	08:30	Dojo open
	08:30 - 90:00	Grading participants registration
	09:00	Opening speeches and Iaido Enbu
	09:30 - 11:00	AKR Iaido Dan Grading
	12:00 - 17:00	29th Australian Iaido Championships
Sunday 13th June	08:30	Dojo open
	09:00 - 17:00	ZNKR Iaido Seminar
Monday 14th June	08:30	Dojo open
	09:00 - 17:00	Koryu Iaido Seminar

Note that on Saturday the schedule is subject to change based on the number of candidates who are attempting a grading.

There will be a lunch break each day but this will be scheduled during the sessions in a way that causes the least disruption to each day's activities.

Important: We are all subject to each State's rules and restrictions surrounding the management of COVID-19. As of writing this we are all able to travel but should the situation change for any State or location it may be necessary to amend the schedule or cancel the event. The AKR Iaido Board will be monitoring the COVID-19 situation continuously and we will update the membership and advise all attendees should any changes be necessary to the schedule or the event itself.

Cost

The Seminar and Championships event will cost **\$140 for the full three days**, with an option to purchase a lunch pack for an additional \$36 covering the three days.

There is **no option to purchase attendance for a single day**. There is no cost for AKR members who are attending the Grading only.



Seminar Registration

Registration is via the online form at:

<https://form.123formbuilder.com/5880675/form>

Payment is via PayPal or Credit Card during registration. If you are unable to use either of these methods please email marcus@lee-steere.com for more information and assistance.

During registration you will be able select the lunch option (sandwiches), and which competitions you would like to take part in.

The **closing date** for seminar applications is midnight **Friday 28th May 2021**.

Grading Applications

A grading will be held for dan grade candidates from 1st Dan to 4th Dan during the morning on Saturday 12th June. There is no kyu grading at this event.

Grading applications must be submitted online as detailed in the grading application process.

The application process is detailed at the end of this document, along with the written questions for the exam.

The process must be strictly adhered to in order to be examined. Failure to comply with this process will result in a candidate NOT being eligible to grade on the day.

The **closing date** to complete the registration process is midnight **Friday 28th May 2021**. No late applications will be considered.



Australian Iaido Championships

This year we will celebrate the **29th Australian Iaido Championships**. This event is an integral part of the weekend and an opportunity to challenge yourself in the individual and teams competitions.

On behalf of the AKR Iaido Board I would like to encourage you to register for the individual competition at your grade and to join in the teams event. The competition will only be successful with the support and involvement of all Seminar participants.

This year there will be two events:

Individual Iaido Competitions

There will be individual competition events for:

6th - 4th Kyu	3rd - 1st Kyu	1st Dan	2nd Dan
3rd Dan	4th Dan	5th Dan	

Note that we may merge or cancel individual events if the minimum number of competitors in any event will not allow for a reasonable competition.

This decision is at the sole discretion of the Iaido Board Chair in discussion with members of the Iaido Board present on the day.

Goodwill Iaido Teams Competition

In 2021 we will hold a goodwill teams event and this will replace the previous State teams event.

3-person teams will be drawn by the Iaido Board. Each team will be made up of people from different States and different grades with a total grade cap to give everyone the chance of a challenging and fair competition.

This event will allow competitors to meet and compete with Iaidoka from around the country and give everyone the greatest opportunity to take part in as many matches as possible throughout the day.

Important: *If you are attempting a Dan grading, please register for the grade you are currently. Grading results will be announced at the end of the day following the competition and will not apply for the purpose of the competition.*



Grading Application Process

Failure to comply with this process will result in a candidate NOT being eligible to grade on the day.

The **closing date** to complete the registration process is midnight **Friday 28th May 2021**. No late applications will be considered.

Step 1: AKR Grading Application Form

Members should **first apply to their club or dojo** using the AKR Grading Application form:

http://www.kendoaustralia.asn.au/publicdocs/akr_grading_application_form.pdf

It is NOT necessary to get the State Body to confirm AKR membership and eligibility as this will be done as part of the laido Seminar grading registration process.

Once members have their AKR Grading Application **approved by their Club instructor** they should scan as a PDF (preferred) or JPEG.

Step 2: Written Examination Paper

Members should choose two questions from the list of questions (attached below) at the level they are attempting, and provide a typed, not hand written, response as follows:

- At the top of the page, write in block letters: Your name and the grade that you are applying to be examined for.
- Answers to the questions are to be in English only and should be no more than 2 x A4 pages in length.

Once members have completed this document it should be converted to either PDF (preferred) or JPEG.

Step 3: Online Registration and Document Upload

Members should now complete the online Grading Registration at:

<https://form.123formbuilder.com/4388555/form>

This will require your details, payment, and uploading the PDF/JPEG versions of the signed AKR Grading Registration form (to show instructor approval) and the submission of answers to the written questions.



AKR Iaido Grading Written Examination

Each applicant testing for Shodan and above is required to answer **TWO** of the questions below for the rank they are testing for. Please provide a typed (not hand written) response. At the top of the page write your name and the grade that you are applying to be examined for. Answers to the questions are to be in English only and should be no more than 2 x A4 pages in length.

Shodan Candidates

1. Name, and briefly describe, the five basic on-guard postures (kamae) used in swordsmanship.
2. What is the purpose of chiburi?
3. List the names of all 12 All Japan Kendo Federation Iaido katas.
4. Explain what is meant by the term saya-biki. Describe its use in one All Japan Kendo Federation Iaido kata.

Nidan Candidates

1. Draw a simple diagram of a katana, label as many parts as you can.
2. Tsuki (thrusts) occur in five of the All Japan Kendo Federation Iaido kata. Name these kata, and identify their target areas.
3. Discuss the concept of zanshin. Describe its use in at least one All Japan Kendo Federation kata.
4. Explain the proper way of gripping the katana when cutting.

Sandan Candidates

1. What is kirioroshi? Describe its use in one All Japan Kendo Federation Iaido kata.
2. Describe how to clean a sword (shinken and/or iaito).
3. How should the left hand function while drawing the sword?
4. Describe the action of furikaburi in All Japan Kendo Federation kata Ipponme (Mae).

Yondan Candidates

1. Write what you know about kokyū (breath control) in Iaido.
2. What is meant by jo-ha-kyū? Describe its application in one All Japan Kendo Federation Iaido kata.
3. Is it important, or is it not important to participate in Iaido Competitions? Explain your rationale.
4. Discuss reiho: What does the word mean, why is it important in the dojo?

Godan Candidates

1. Discuss reiho: What does the word mean, why is it important in the dojo?
2. Discuss metsuke.
3. Name the 2 sitting postures used in Iaido. Describe how to sit in each, and how to get up.
4. What is important when teaching Iaido to beginners?