

AUSTRALIAN KENDO RENMEI MANUAL OF DOCUMENTS

SECTION Two

Australian Kendo Board

Effective and amended 19 October 2008

Section 2 - Kendo Board - Index

- 2.0 Introduction
- 2.1 Structure and Administration
 - 2.1.1 Organisational Structure
 - 2.1.2 Roles and Responsibilities
 - 2.1.3 Financial Controls
 - 2.1.4 Communications Systems
- 2.2 Development Plan
- 2.3 Grading System
 - 2.3.1 Technical Rules for Kendo Grading Examinations
 - 2.3.2 Kyu Grading Examinations Requirements and Procedures
 - 2.3.3 Dan Grading General Requirements
 - 2.3.4 Kendo Shogo (Honorary) System
 - 2.3.5 Rokkyu Grading Examination Technical Requirements
 - 2.3.6 Gokyu Grading Examination Technical Requirements
 - 2.3.7 Yonkyu Grading Examination Technical Requirements
 - 2.3.8 Sankyu Grading Examination Technical Requirements
 - 2.3.9 Nikyu Grading Examination Technical Requirements
 - 2.3.10 Ikkyu Grading Examination Technical Requirements
 - 2.3.11 Shodan Grading Examination Technical Requirements
 - 2.3.12 Nidan Grading Examination Technical Requirements
 - 2.3.13 Sandan Grading Examination Technical Requirements
 - 2.3.14 Yondan Grading Examination Technical Requirements
 - 2.3.15 Godan Grading Examination Technical Requirements
- 2.4 Australian Championships
 - 2.4.1 Organisation and Division of Responsibilities
 - 2.4.2 Competition Rules
- 2.5 Coaching Accreditation System
- 2.6 Shinpan System
 - 2.6.1 Introduction and description of System
 - 2.6.2 Standard Uniform for Shinpan.
- 2.7 World Championship Team
 - 2.7.1 Selection System for the Australian Kendo Team
 - 2.7.2 Australian Kendo Team Manager
 - 2.7.3 Australian Kendo Team Coach
 - 2.7.4 Assistant Australian Kendo Team Coach
 - 2.7.5 State Coach

Section 2 - Kendo Board

2.0 Introduction

The role of the Kendo Board is to promote and facilitate the study of Kendo in Australia leading to an increase in the number of people practicing Kendo and an increase in the standard of Kendo being practised. A balance of classical style kendo and shiai kendo needs to be maintained to encourage members to gain the long term benefits of the martial art. The longer term development of the spirit of Budo into all practitioners of Kendo will ensure a strong and in-depth association of members such as is experienced in Japan.

2.1 Structure and Administration

2.1.1 Organisational Structure

The Kendo Board consists of five members elected at a National AGM of the AKR. The Chairman of the Board is elected from those members. In addition the National Coaching Director and the President of the AKR are ex-officio members of the Board. Each Board will determine the method and Office Bearers required to enable their Board to best function during the three year period they are in office.

The present system consists of the Chairman who also co-ordinates the members and information flow.

2.1.2 Roles and Responsibilities

The Kendo Board has the following roles and responsibilities:

- Conduct Annual Kendo Championships including a Grading examination.
- Publish Kendo Grading Regulations.
- Publish Competition Regulations.
- Cultivate the development of the Australian National Kendo 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.
- Conduct one National Seminar each year for the purpose of improving some aspect of Kendo practise in Australia.
- Improve the level of Shinpan skills in Australia. Establish Shinpan Accreditation Scheme.
- Improve the level of Kendo Instruction in Australia. Administer and develop the Coaching Accreditation Scheme.
- Organise Australian Team to compete at the World Kendo Championships.
- Encourage the appreciation of Iaido and Jodo by Kendo Students.
- Distribute any published material or information which will contribute to our overall goal.
- Document your activities and report to the National Council and Kendo students on them.
- Promote fellowship among Kendo students for the mutual benefit of all.

2.1.3 Financial Controls

The Kendo Board does not directly hold finances. It should present a budget for the forthcoming years activities to the AKR National Executive Committee whenever possible for approval at the Delegates Meeting. Such activities should include:

- National Championships - trophies, visiting Sensei expenses, programmes, 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 Kendo Board discussions and conference call hook-ups.
- Postage accounts for mailing newsletters and other Kendo Board related documents to State representatives and Board members.

2.1.4 Communications Systems

The use of facsimile, telephone, E-mail and Internet are encouraged to expedite the information flow between Board Members and the Kendo membership. The Chairman represents the Kendo Board on the National Council and communicates directly with the Executive Committee.

2.2 Development Plan

(TBA)

2.3 Grading System

2.3.1 Technical Rules for Kendo Grading Examinations

- The Australian Kendo Renmei's (AKR) Standard Rules for Grading Examinations are based on the Standard Rules for Dan/Kyu Examinations of the International Kendo Federation plus such additional rules as determined by the AKR.
- The applicant for a Grading Examination 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.
- The applicant must have paid the Grading Application fee prior to attempting the Grading Examination. The Grading Application fee will be retained by the State or National Renmei responsible for conducting that particular grading.
- The applicant who has passed the grading must pay the Registration Fee on the day of the examination. After this fee has been paid the grading will be registered by the AKR.
- Results of the Grading Examinations, together with the Registration Fees collected shall be forwarded to the AKR, so that the appropriate registers can be updated. The AKR shall then forward the results of the grading to the Australian Kendo 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 Championships. The Kendo Board are responsible for the organisation of the Grading Examination, allocation of the examiners based on the seniority of examiners available to participate and the allocation of Dojo Steward briefed on his duties. National Kyu Grade examinations will be held only for State Renmei who do not have an examination panel within their State.
- The AKR Executive will coordinate members requiring grading, checking of their membership status, time in their present rank has been met and that all examination fees are collected before the grading commences. They are also responsible for collecting the registration fees at the completion of the grading and the issue of Grading Certificates through the Chairman of the Grading Committee.

2.3.2 Kyu Grading Examination Requirements and Procedures

- Beginners should be training for 5 months or more prior to their first grading examination. Other applicants should spend 5 months or more between gradings.
- 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. 6 kyu to 4 kyu. However, to obtain 1 Dan, the applicant must have held 1 kyu for 5 months or more.

Examination subjects are as follows:

Kyu Applied for	Examination Subjects	Examination Subjects
1 Kyu	Matches (Jitsugi), Nippon-Kendo-Kata	Tachi-no-Kata 1-3

2.3.2.1 6th kyu Technical Requirements

Candidates wearing Tare and Do.

- Correct hakama & keikogi
- Correct bogu
- Rei and sonkyo
- Ashi-sabaki
- Suburi

Kihon-waza to be demonstrated against motodachi,

- Kihon men
- Kihon kote
- Kihon do

2.3.2.2 5th kyu Grading Technical Requirements

Candidates wearing tare and do.

- Correct hakama & keikogi
- Correct bogu
- Rei and sonkyo
- Ashi-sabaki

Kihon-waza to be demonstrated against motodachi,

- Kihon men
- Kihon kote
- Kihon do
- Kiri-kaeshi

2.3.2.3 4th kyu Grading Technical Requirements

Candidates wearing full bogu and demonstrating against each other.

- Correct hakama & keikogi
- Correct bogu
- Kihon men
- Kihon kote
- Kihon do

Nidan-waza

- Kihon kote-men
- Kihon kote-do

- Kiri-kaeshi
- Kiri-kaeshi as motodachi
- Uchi-komi geiko

2.3.2.4 3rd kyu Grading Technical Requirements

Candidates wearing full Bogu and demonstrating against each other.

- Correct hakama & keikogi
- Correct bogu
- Kihon men
- Kihon kote
- Kihon do

Nidan-waza

- Kihon kote-men
- Kihon kote-do

Sandan-waza

- Kiri-kaeshi
- Kiri-kaeshi as motodachi
- Uchi-komi geiko

2.3.2.5 2nd kyu Grading Technical Requirements

- Kiri-kaeshi
- Kiri-kaeshi as motodachi
- Uchi-komi geiko
- Kakari geiko
- Ji geiko

2.3.2.6 1st kyu Grading Technical Requirements

- Kiri-kaeshi
- Kiri-kaeshi as motodachi
- Uchi-komi geiko
- Kakari geiko
- Ji geiko
- Kata:

2.3.3 Dan Grading General Requirements

- Refer to common rules between all arts listed in Section 1 para 1.5
- Examinations for Dan grades shall be conducted by the Kendo Board at the National Championships and at such times and places as determined by the AKR in conjunction with the Kendo Board.

Examination subjects are as follows:

Dan Applied for	Examination Subjects
1 Dan - 5 Dan	Matches (Jitsugi), Nippon-Kendo-Kata and Written Test
6 Dan	Matches (Jitsugi), Nippon-Kendo-Kata

(2) Nippon-Kendo-Kata shall be examined as follows:

Dan Applied for	Examination Subjects
1 Dan	Tachi-no-Kata 1-5
2 Dan	Tachi-no-Kata 1-7
3 Dan	Tachi-no-Kata 1-7
4 Dan – 6 Dan	Tachi-no-Kata 1-7 and Kodachi-no-Kata 1-3

2.3.10 Shodan Grading Technical Requirements

- Kiai
The application of kiai to be in harmony with yoko-datotsu.
- Chudan No Kamae
Application of Chudan-no-kamae is maintained before and after Yoko-datotsu.
- Grip of shinai
Correct grip on shinai should automatically assume the Chudan-no-kamae and be the prelude to Ten-uchi.
- Ashi-waza
The main reference being the correct foot placing and attention to the height of the heel.
- Appearance
The reflection of the spirit of Kendo in dressing.
- Kihon-waza - Basic blows
An understanding and display of all pre-requisites prior to the cut are exhibited.
- Etiquette
Correct attitude and manners displayed throughout the grading period.
- Shisei
Correct posture and attitudes maintained appropriate to the actions being carried out.
- Kiri-kaeshi
Fluency of Kiri-kaeshi is maintained without loss of maai and correct striking of Men with the mono-uchi.
- Kata: tachi-no-kata, Written exam:
What do you want to learn from training in Kendo.
Explain Maai.

2.3.11. Nidan Grading Technical Requirements

- Shikake waza
Ability to display correct form in executing methods of shikage-waza.
- Oji waza
Ability to display correct form in executing methods of oji-waza.
- Shin - Spirit
Demonstrate a true spirit during shiai.
- Timing for blow
- Maai (advanced)
- Kiri-kaeshi (advanced)
- Kata:
- Written exam
Explain why etiquette is important to Kendo.
Explain the opportunity for Datotsu.

2.3.12. Sandan Grading Technical Requirements

- Timing for blow before and after opponents attack
- Blow from Seme

- Usage of Maai
- Effective blow
- Attitude and posture
- Spirit
- Zanshin
- Kata:
- Written exam
 - Explain why it is important to do Kendo Kata.
 - Explain why it is necessary to do Kiri-kaeshi.

2.3.13 Yondan Grading Technical Requirements

- Nobility and appearance
 - Nobility is a requirement which is not considered for Sandan. For Yondan, nobility and near perfect kendo spirit are required. Nobility is something naturally generated as one progresses to a higher level in terms of technique and spirit.
- Attitudes and manners
 - This requirement applies to any grade but for Yondan, an irreproachable attitude and manners are required. In this regard more composite attitudes than ones required for Sandan and they include manners, appearance and the state of shinai.
- Rational blow
 - In short, this means that one never misses opportunities to attack, use of maai to the advantage demonstrate a good body manoeuvre and utilize San-sappo (Kill sword, kill spirit and kill technique of opponent). A state of Kendo where one does not miss opportunities to attack, control Maai, do not engage in unnecessary attacks and utilizes San-sappo.
- Seme with effective Kensen
 - For Sandan a blow from Seme was a requirement, which is an indispensable in Kendo. For Yondan, additional types of Seme are also required, including Seme in Spirit and Seme in sword. To place oneself in a state of total concentration and coerce opponent with Kensen.
- Qualifications as an instructor
 - After achieving requirements for Shodan, Nidan and Sandans, Yondan is required to obtain a higher level of techniques such as Suri-age, Kaeshi-waza, Uchi-otoshi-waza, Nuki-waza and apply these techniques depending on opponents. Required to understand Kendo both in techniques and in theory with achievement in a higher level of Kendo than Sandan. Also required to perfect all ten Kata and able to instruct them.
- Rational response to opponents attacks and change in techniques
 - The more senior one becomes, more rational response to a change is required, such as not to be perturbed by opponents, show rational response to attacks or a change in opponents attacks. It is a condition to be Yondan that one remains calm against any changes in opponents techniques and respond rationally to it with desirable techniques.
- Zanshin
 - The more senior one becomes, better Zanshin is required.
- Speed and Te-no-uchi
 - Brilliance in cuts and good Te-no-uchi are a barometer to measure improvement in Kendo. Requirements of good Te-no-uchi applies to Sandan also but for Yondan and above this becomes of further importance.
- Kata
- Written exam
 - What is the important thing about learning basics in Kendo.
 - Explain the meaning of Zanshin.
 - Explain the correct manner of Kendo.

2.3.14 Godan Grading Technical Requirements

The process from Yondan to Godan involves polishing through further training what has been achieved so far. For Godan, one would have to have mastered all requirements for Shodan up to Yondan through long persistent training and all the requirements up to Yondan would need to be brought up to completion in Godan. While the requirements to be qualified as Godan are similar to that for Yondan, there is a certain variation in the order of priority, that is, ones' quality as an instructor becomes more important. For instance, the following are the requirements for Godan in order of priority.

- Rational blow
 - In techniques, Godan should be able to utilise Shikake-waza, Oji-waza spontaneously in a match and should never miss opportunities to attack. One is also required to demonstrate a good footwork, good manoeuvre and good Zanshin after blows. Rational blow is the highest state in Kendo technique one can achieve. There should be no unnecessary movement or blows, it is a result of perfect balance,

hit, techniques and spirit. Once one achieves this level of Kendo it becomes a beauty in its style and makes ones sense of the art in it.

- Nobility
For ordinary people, Kendo carries either a high or low nobility. Which one one's Kendo would end up with depends on one's personality. If one trains both physical and mental aspects of kendo and face opponents with a belief of winning rather than being possessed by winning, his Kendo will achieve high nobility. High nobility, this is what is required for Godan.
- Qualifications as an instructor
Quality as an instructor becomes important for Godan. They are required to instruct Yondan and below with theory, kata, techniques and style of Kendo. While qualifications as an instructor is one of the most important requirements for both Yondan and Godan, Godan is required to possess a higher level of this requirement.
- Attitudes
- Zanshin
- State of Kensen
- Kata
- Written exam
 - Explain your own mental attitude toward being a Kendo Instructor.
 - Explain the meaning of Yuko-datotsu.
 - Explain the importance of Kihon (Fundamentals) in Kendo.
 - Explain the Referee's duties.
 - Explain when it is the best time to attack.

2.4 Australian Championships

2.4.1 Organisation and Division of Responsibilities

The Australian Kendo Board is responsible for the overall running of the Australian Kendo Championships. The State Renmei hosting the event is responsible to the Kendo Board for providing support in conducting a successful championship and seminar if required. The Australian Kendo Renmei Executive Committee are responsible for controlling any funding required in addition to the normal. The following details the major responsibilities of each body but is not limited to these requirements as each championship may vary:

Australian Kendo Board

- Arrange championship events for Kyu Grade Individual and Team, Dan Grad individual and Team, Womens individual, Veterans Individual and Kata Team.
- 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 and selection of members into Australian Kendo Squad.
- Conduct the overall direction of the Championships.
- Provide a timetable covering all Kendo competitions and meetings.
- Liaise with Iaido & Jodo Board when holding joint championships, gradings or seminars.
- Co-ordinate Examiners for the Grading panels at National Gradings.

State Kendo 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.
- Provide suitable facilities with a minimum of two shiaiyo 11 metres by 11 metres square allowing for a safety zone around each area.
- Mark out all shiaiyo areas prior to the championship start.
- Provide a registry table with suitable weighing scales and stamp for shinai.
- Provide a championship tenegui for each member and official.
- 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 and weighing stewards, 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 Kendo Board and AKR Executive Council meetings and any AGM (every three years) requirements.
- Provide a budget to cover all costs.
- Provide adequate trophies for championships.
- Provide any gifts if required, for Official guests.
- Assist in sponsoring AJKF senior Sensei during their visit (if any) in liaison with AKR Executive and the Kendo Board.

Australian Kendo Renmei Executive Committee

- Co-ordinate event with the Kendo Board and State Renmei
- Organise suitable senior Sensei with the AJKF to assist in Shinpan, Seminars and Grading Examinations
- Provide dan grade certificates
- Determine budget allocation with the Kendo Board for senior Sensei visitors if required
- Ensure the timely flow of information to the Kendo Board and State Renmei to enable early planning of each years events
- Assist the Kendo Board with conducting Gradings by co-ordinating all applications, administration duties, checking appropriate membership details and finances associated with conducting the gradings

2.4.2 Competition Rules

All State and National Competitions should be conducted in accordance with the International Kendo Federation (FIK) Regulations and Subsidiary Rules of Kendo Shiai and Shinpan.. The Kendo Board will determine any additional rules required for the National Championships and Selection Squad training seminars to ensure a fair and equitable competition is achieved. The following Rules apply for the conducting of the National Championships:

- All participants must be members of the AKR as defined in section 1.4.
- No membership fees will be accepted at the National Championships for participation in the Championships or Gradings unless prior written approval is received from the President of the AKR.
- Members have to be approved by their State Renmei to participate in the Open and Women's Individual Events.
- No member may represent another State body without being a current financial member of that State Renmei.
- The Kendo Board will investigate and determine a result of any grievance or interpretation of these rules without recourse.
- The Kendo Board has the right to determine rules of participation to ensure the future integrity of the Australian Kendo Renmei is maintained.

Individual competitions:

- Each State Renmei has the right to enter a maximum of seven individual and seven team members in the championship (subject to the rules limiting representation to a total of 48 players in each individual competition).

The following three paragraphs are under review. In the interim, any clarification required on this subject should be requested from the Kendo Board.

The First Tier consists of 48 players split into four groups (A,B,C & D) of 12 players. Each Group is then split into four pools of three players. The sixteen pools will be seeded with one member from the top 16 point scorers participating over the previous three years of AKR National Championships. The first into Group A, second into Group B, etc, until all pools are located with one seeded player and then the remainder of competitors are drawn by ballot from state lists in the same manner (this should avoid state players meeting in the same first pool).

All 48 positions are to be filled from the state squads. If each state submits the maximum number (which will equal 49 players) the previous host state will limit entry to 6 members only. If there is a shortfall the current host state will have first option to fill one position and then rotate through each state in the following order after the host state:

Queensland, ACT, Western Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania.

Each state is to submit the total numbers with names in selection order to the Kendo Board two calendar months prior to competition. The Kendo Board will then apply the above process and determine the draw six weeks before the competition sending only the names of selected members to each state before the event. (Draw to remain confidential until the day preceding the championships).

Any vacancy occurring prior to the match will be filled by the host state or decision by the Kendo Board at the time to reflect all pools being operated.

- Veterans Individual competition is limited to members having obtained the minimum age of forty years at the commencement of the competition and is not limited by the Grade they hold.
- Competitions will be competed by Pools of three players with the Pool winner going forward into the tournament which will be conducted on a knock-out system. The match will be conducted according to Sanbon-Shobu, and its duration is five minutes. If no winner is determined within five minutes, the match will continue (Encho), according to Ippon-Shobu until the winner is determined. (The Kendo Board may limit the number of Encho before the commencement of the competition in which case Hantei will determine the contest if no result is reached - this should only be done in the event of a shortage of time exists to conduct the whole competition).
- Matching of competitors is to be done by seeding the first sixteen members as referred earlier, and then by drawing. Competitors from the same State Renmei will be placed into different pools.
- The determination of a winner in the Pools section will be made in the following order of precedence:
 - Higher number of matches won; but, if it breaks even, then
 - Higher number of points scored.
 - Should there still be a tie, a play-off will be conducted according to Ippon-Shobu, until a winner is determined.

Team competitions:

- A team consists of seven members. Five-member system is applied to determine the winner of the match. Should a team fail to have five members, it may compete with four or three members.
- The Team should be selected from registered members of the State Renmei. The team members and the order of members in the team may be changed freely for every match.
- An order list of members must be presented to the Presiding Referee by the ending of the immediately preceding match; if not presented in time, the last order list is considered unchanged. The order list for the first match, however, must be submitted to the Presiding Referee thirty minutes before the first Team competition unless otherwise directed.
- The State Teams will be placed into two pools of three teams. The first and second places from the previous years championships will be seeded into different pools and the remainder by draw. The first two teams in each pool will go forward into a play-off. The winner of Pool A will play off against the second place in Pool B. The winner of Pool B will play the second place of Pool A.
- The match will be conducted according to Sambon-Shobu, and its duration is five minutes. If no winner is determined within five minutes, a draw will be declared. A play-off is conducted according to Sambon-Shobu, and its duration is five minutes. If no winner is determined within five minutes, the match will continue with an addition of a three minute Encho until a winner is determined according to Ippon-Shobu.
- Determination of the winning team will be made in the following order of precedence:
 - Higher number of individual winners; but, if it breaks even, then
 - Higher number of points scored
 - Should the above turn out to be even, a play-off between a representative of each team will determine their positions.

2.5 Coaching Accreditation System

(To be developed further)

- 2.5.0 Introduction
- 2.5.1 Level 1
- 2.5.2 Level 2
- 2.5.3 Level 3
- 2.5.4 Coaching Seminars

2.6 Shinpan System

2.6.1 Introduction and description of System

The shinpan will be developed through continuation training at the Australian Kendo Championships, State Championships and National and International seminars. Until a more formal system, using a Level structure similar to the NCAS Coaching system, is devised the following criteria should be adopted wherever possible.

Shodan and Nidan Grades:

Used as Shinpan in National and State Kyu Grade competitions to gain experience. This experience should be encouraged within club shiai practise using full rules and flags whenever possible

Sandan and above:

Used as Shinpan in National and State Dan Grade competitions and for the Semi final and Final events of Kyu Grade competitions. When numbers are short or experience in Shinpan duties lacking for available lower Dan grades the senior Dan Grades should be split into teams and the experienced shinpan act as the senior Shinpan only to allow the new shinpan to acquire skills and confidence before taking on this role.

2.6.2 The Standard Uniform for Shinpan should be the same as in the FIK Regulations.

- ie Grey trousers
- White shirt
- Deep red tie
- Black socks
- Blue jacket

2.7 World Championship Team

2.7.0 Introduction

The World Championships are conducted every three years. Teams consist of a maximum of ten members - five Team members and five individuals, with two individuals making up the reserves of the Team. An additional member outside of the participants can be filled from the position of Coach or Manager allowing the overall squad to consist of eleven people. At the 1997 World Championships an International Competition for Women was added with the intention of gauging a World Championship event for Women. In the Womens event the squad consisted of five individuals and two teams of three players. It is envisaged this event will continue and the teams will convert to one of five players with two reserves as sufficient countries participate with more players able to field full strength teams. Participation at the World Championships is a small area of Kendo but an important one. It must provide an ongoing improvement to the development of traditional Kendo in Australia and participants must be able to pass on their experiences to other members on their return.

The following guidelines have been drawn from experiences and shortcomings from selecting past Australian Teams and should be further developed through constructive experiences and documented requirements so all members can appreciate and demonstrate their Kendo abilities with equal opportunity so that Australia can provide the best team membership for the longer term benefit of Australian Kendo and not the individual benefit of a few players.

2.7.1 Selection System for the Australian Kendo Team

Pre-selection process

A points weighting system will be introduced at the 1998 AKR Championships for all participants in the Open Event and Women's Event based on results from the 1997 AKR Championships. A tier scoring system will be given to these events with 24 points for the winner and decreasing by 4 points at each level below for where the contestant finishes in the competition. It is a requirement of members to have participated in State Championships and be an active member at Club and State Squad training sessions.

Example:

(See Figure 1)

Determining the final Selection Squad.

The participants of the AKR National Championship in the Open and Women's events will have their score maintained on a data base showing the last three years point scores and total points accrued. Seeding will be determined by the total points only and **not** the previous years points. The Open events score will only be used for the Open Team selection and the Women's event scores will only be used for the Women's Team Selection. The top sixteen members will automatically be invited to join the Selection Squad. The Kendo Board will review all other members and decide on their inclusion only if they feel an exceptional circumstance merits their inclusion and must take into effect their continuance of membership, kendo participation, potential to make the final selection and benefit to the AKR in future participation.

Selection process from the Squad.

The Kendo Board will hold a Team Selection training camp within four months of the final team lists being required by the IKF. All participants in the selection process must commit themselves to attendance at the World Kendo Championships before the training camp in writing to the Chairman of the Kendo Board. Inclusion of members outside of this camp into the final team can be done only by a majority decision of the Selection Board after considering their continued participation in kendo training, attendance at previous AKR National Championships and the effort put into making the team selection. Such cases as overseas travel/work situations can be considered providing adequate proof of participation and achievement can be

equated to the Squad members efforts and achievements as to determine an accurate placement within the final team rankings.

Technical points considered by the Selection Committee.

The following points are to be considered carefully:

Kihon (Basics)	Ashiwaza (footwork) Shisei (Posture) Attitude
Waza (Technique)	Range of waza Effective Datotsu Ki-ken-tai-no-uchi (timing of one) Use of Ma-ai (distance)
Shin (Spirit)	Perseverance Courage and fighting spirit
Mental	Ability to change tactics Out thinking opponents Dealing with stress
Team attributes	Leadership Co-operation Ambassadorial skills Discipline Loyalty Personal communication skills
Skills	Ability to play against World Championship level by holding kamae and responding to opportunities to score datotsu.

Training Camp

Session One-basic skills

Session one is to review basic skills of the squad members to:

- Review basic skills of the squad members through waza training.
- Allow appropriate coaches appointed by the Kendo Board to give advice to participants on how to improve personal skills at the conclusion of the session.

Session Two-test and adjust rankings

Session two consists of a series of shiai limited in time but without scoring limits or shinpan to:

- Access individuals ability and potential ability to respond to a World Class opponent at the top level of competition. Scores against are not as important as the ability to respond to any opening presented.
- Revue and access ability to prevent openings for attack through loss of posture, ashiwaza or kamaewaza.
- Access reaction to opportunities in opponents loss of shisei, ashiwaza or kamae.
- Ability to apply kaeshiwaza in place of ukewaza (blocking action) without counter-attack.
- Speed in response to actions
- Explosive power from basic defence into attack and the maintenance of control throughout with zanshin.
- Rank squad into groups of capability to achieve selection as a player.
- Method of shiai is to line up in basic order and rotate with two shiai of two minutes. I.e. 1 v's 2; 2 v's 3; 3 v's 4 etc until the last person V's 1.

On completion of session two the Kendo Board will:

- Discuss overall selection and agree on a basic group ranking order.
- Formulate an individual shiai group of pools consisting of three players with one spare position - the lowest group to be of four names without a spare position. **See Fig. 2 & 3.**

Session three - Shiai to place final groupings

- Conduct shiai, limit five minutes no encho, with Shinpan scoring as normal (Hantei to determine winner if necessary). All four players in the lowest pool to be placed in order 1st to 4th using Figure 2 method to determine correct scoring positions (repercharge system). Commence with the lowest group pool.
- The winner from the lowest pool moves into the next pool, continue the process until all positions are determined in a correct ranking order through shiai.
- Process is to be completed for both Open Team and Women's Team.

- On completion of the above the Kendo Board Members adjoin and finalize team selection, including Managers, Coach and Team Captain/Vice Captains positions for the Open Squad and Women's Squad. Each are to be listed into individual positions. The top players are to be selected into the Team Event with the remainder filling the individual events. The first two places in the individual listing are to be the Team Event reserves. The Chairman is to then announce the results of the selection. Note: it is preferable the Coach & Assistant Coach positions are known well before the final selections - if possible they should be selected immediately after the World Championships and retain office for three years until completing the World Championships with the Squad they have been coaching.

Session four - National Coach feedback to selected Squad

All team members will assemble for a final Coaches training session to enable feedback to be given to each member of the squad. This event will be conducted by the National Coach aided by the Assistant National Coach.

Session Five - Squad briefing & administration

- Where possible all administration paperwork should be prepared before the start of the selection camp and processed by the Kendo Board Members before handing to the Team Manager.
- Three each colour photographs 5cm x 5cm each with full name and country on the back of the photograph. Team Members and all AKR Delegation members should be photographed wearing suit jacket and tie for males and similar for females.
- Full name, address, telephone e-mail, facsimile numbers and date of birth details.
- Passport number, place of issue and expiry date (must have a minimum of six months remaining at end of World Championships).
- Intended travel arrangements if selected (if any).
- Declaration of Acceptance to comply with Team Officials and Kendo Board/FIK requirements for team participation.
- Intention to undergo grading on completion.
- Deposit for group bookings.

2.7.2 Australian Kendo Team Manager

2.7.2.1 General

The Australian Kendo Team Manager will be appointed by the Australian Kendo Board and will act as the Chairman of the Kendo Board's representative in his absence. The efficiency of the Team Manager is important to the overall smooth running of the team members participation in the championships and is the national liaison officer to the organisers of the championship and other countries National Team Managers. The Team Manager should be appointed twelve months prior to the World Championships to enable time to appraise the full requirements of managing the team and prospective members. He should liaise with the organisers of the World Championships through the President of the AKR and maintain an information flow through the Chairman of the Kendo Board.

2.7.2.2 Skill Base

The Australian Kendo Team Manager must have excellent communication and people skills, together with strong organisational and management competency. He must be capable of demonstrating ambassadorial skills with other country representatives and demonstrate a high code of etiquette and ethics to all participants and attendees at the championships. A workable knowledge of transport logistics in the country holding the championship event would be an advantage but not essential. Fluency in the language of the host country would also be of an advantage.

2.7.2.3 The Role

The Australian Kendo Team Manager will be an official member of the Australian Kendo Delegation to participate in the World Kendo Championships.

The Australian Kendo Team Manager will be:

- responsible for coordinating the departure travel arrangements for the team
- responsible for the management of the Australian Training Squad Camps held in Australia as arranged by the Australian Kendo Board
- in charge of daily briefings to the team members and supporters on the days events, timetables, logistics and transport arrangements and costs
- in attendance at the official briefings for Team Managers at the championships
- required to assist the Australian Kendo Team Coach in organising players to the shiai-jo etc.
- required to carry the Australian First Aid Kit

- required to operate as an Executive Manager and coordinate closely with the AKR President, Kendo Team Coach and Kendo Team Captain during the championships.
- required to submit a full written report to the Chairman of the Australian Kendo Board, within one month of the conclusion of the championships, covering any recommendations for improvements to the overall organisation of the Australian Team requirements with the intention of improving future championship attendance.
- capable of handling any Media and Public Relations requirements for the Team.

2.7.3 Australian Kendo Team Coach

2.7.3.1 General

The Australian Kendo Team Coach will be appointed by the Australian Kendo Board and will be responsible to the Chairman of the Kendo Board for the overall coaching of the AKR Australian Kendo Team comprising of the Open Team and Women's Teams. The efficiency of the Australian Team Coach is important to the overall smooth training of the team members for their participation in the championships and will be assisted by the Assistant Australian Kendo Team Coach. The Coach should be appointed by the Kendo Board immediately after the World Championships so that he may coach the squad of players wishing to train towards representing Australia at the following World Championships for a full three year period.

2.7.3.2 Skill Base

The Australian Kendo Team Coach must have excellent communication and people skills, together with strong organisational and management competency. He must be capable of demonstrating ambassadorial skills with other country representatives and demonstrate a high code of etiquette and ethics to all participants and attendees at the championships. He is required to have experience in coaching kendoists and must have a minimum qualification to NCAS Level 2 Coach Award. It is preferred that he has experience in coaching at State Team level and hold godan in kendo, but not essential. Experience or attendance at previous World Championships would be beneficial.

2.7.3.3 The Role

The Australian Kendo Team Coach will be an official member of the Australian Kendo Team Delegation to participate in the World Kendo Championships.

The Australian Kendo Team Coach will be:

- responsible for liaison with State Renmei Coaches in identifying potential squad members and assist in analysing their training needs and programmes with State Coaches and/or Club Instructors.
- responsible for coordinating the training programme for the team during the lead up to the World Championships and at the Championships.
- responsible for the coaching assessment of members at the National Training Squad Camps held in Australia as arranged by the Australian Kendo Board
- in charge of daily training programmes for team members.
- required to organise players to the shiai-jo etc.
- required to ensure the Australian First Aid Kit has been provided by the Team Manager when required.
- required to liaise closely with the AKR President, National Team Manager and Team Captains during the championships to ensure a smooth transition between events and locations.
- required to submit a full written report to the Chairman of the Australian Kendo Board, within one month of the conclusion of the championships, covering any recommendations for improvements to the overall organisation of the Australian Team requirements with the intention of improving future championship attendance from the coaching aspects.
- required to submit a written report every six months to the Chairman of the Australian Kendo Board on members identified for selection squad and their progress during that period (liaise with State Coaches).
- Provide a detailed coaching plan to the Kendo Board within three months of being appointed covering the full period to the completion of the next World Championships.
- capable of handling any Media and Public Relations requirements for the Team in conjunction with the Team Manager if required.

2.7.4 Assistant Australian Kendo Team Coach

2.7.4.1 General

The Assistant Australian Kendo Team Coach will be appointed by the Kendo Board and will be responsible to the National Team Coach in assisting in the continued training of Squad and Team members as required by him. He will assume the duties of the National Team Coach in his absence.

2.7.4.2 Skill Base

The Assistant Australian Kendo Team Coach must have excellent communication and people skills, together with strong organisational and management competency. He must be capable of demonstrating

ambassadorial skills with other country representatives and demonstrate a high code of etiquette and ethics to all participants and attendees at the championships. He was exhibit an ability to work closely with the Australian Kendo Team Coach and support his training programmes. He is required to have experience in coaching kendoists and must have a minimum qualification to NCAS Level 2 Coach Award. It is preferred that he has experience in coaching at State Team level and hold Sandan in Kendo, but not essential.

2.7.4.3 The Role

The Assistant Australian Kendo Team Coach may be an official member of the Australian Kendo Team Delegation to participate in the World Kendo Championships and will assume the role of the Australian Team Coach should he be unable to attend.

The Assistant Australian Kendo Team Coach will be:

- responsible for assisting the Australian Kendo Team Coach in all his duties.
- Be available to travel to State Renmei as required by the Kendo Board to assist the Australian Kendo Team Coach and State Coaches in continued development of potential Selection Squad Members during the period between World Championships.
- Assist in the development of coaching programmes for potential Team members.
- Provide reports to the Australian Kendo Team Coach on members fitness and training commitments as required by the Australian Kendo Team Coach.

2.7.5 State Coach

The State Coach is appointed by the State Renmei and is responsible in training the State Squad members. In addition he is to co-ordinate and assist the National Team Coach and the Assistant National Team Coach in identifying potential members for the selection squad. He is also required to liaise with the National Team Coach in regard to conducting and accessing suitable training programmes for selected members.

2.8 Summer School Attendance Criteria

Background

One of the roles of the Kendo Board is to improve the level of instruction in Australia. A significant way of doing this is to encourage & support AKR members to attend the Saitama Summer School for foreign instructors.

A selection (in the form of a ranking) of participants was undertaken based upon criteria agreed to at the Kendo Board meeting held in Easter 2001. Feedback received to the Board indicated that the criteria used may need to be strengthened to ensure that our senior instructors have the opportunity to develop their ability to instruct.

The importance of seniority and grading have been promoted within the criteria as the board agrees the more senior grades we achieve the more we are self sufficient to conduct our own gradings, hence raising the standard of Kendo here in Australia. This will also ensure commitment from applicants and consistency of future selections.

2.8.1 Selection of applications to the Foreign Leaders Summer Seminar are based upon the following criteria:

1. Be a Citizen or Permanent Resident of Australia living in Australia, if living overseas, then for a maximum of nine months.
2. Member of the AKR.
3. Seniority
4. Eligible to attend a grading
5. Has not attended a Summer Seminar before
6. In a teaching capacity (Level of teaching)
7. 3rd Dan or above
8. Applications must be in by prescribed date on correct form (supplied by the state bodies) or they will not be considered (The application form is contained within Section 6 of the AKR Manual)