



## AUSTRALIAN KENDO RENMEI

*Kendo – Iaido - Jodo*

# 45<sup>th</sup> Australian Kendo Championships (AKC) Competition Rules

Melbourne, Victoria, April 2023

*By the AKR Kendo Board*

**Promoter:** Australian Kendo Renmei (AKR)  
**Host Organisation:** Victorian Kendo Renmei (VKR)  
**Technical Assistance:** All Japan Kendo Federation (AJKF)

## COMPETITION RULES

### 1 INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Only life members and affiliate members whose membership fee and the relevant art fees have been received by the AKR are eligible to participate in the AKR National Competitions.
- A member whose fees have not been received prior to 30<sup>th</sup> of November of the year is ineligible to participate in AKR National Competitions held in that membership year.
- All *shiai-shas* (competitors) must be an Australian Citizen or a Permanent Resident of Australia.

### 2 REGISTRATION OF SHIAI-SHAS

- Each State and Territory Organisation must lodge a list of registered *shiai-shas* for the individual championships with the host organization by the prescribed closing date.
- Late registrations will not be accepted.
- Registered *shiai-shas* may participate in both individual and team championships, under the conditions described in the rules for each division.
- Registration criteria of age, grade and any other relevant factors are determined **as at the date of the relevant championship**. For example, *shiai-shas* registered for *kyu* grade events must be of *kyu* grade at the time of the *kyu* grade championship.
- The attire for *shiai-shas* comprises of *kendo-gi* and *hakama* in dark blue, black, or white.

### 3 GENERAL RULES

- **FIK Rules and Regulations:** All *shiais* (matches) will be conducted in accordance with *The Regulations of Kendo Shiai and Shinpan and the Subsidiary Rules of Kendo Shai and Shinpan* published by The International Kendo Federation (FIK) on 2 September 2017. All amendment made hereafter to the regulations shall be included.
- All *shiais* will be *sanbon shobu* (three-point match) based unless otherwise specified.
- **Competition Draws and Referees:** The Kendo Board is responsible for the allocation of the draw for each championship and allocation of *shinpan-ins* (referees) to each event.
- **Shomen-no-rei (Bow to the Front):** *Shomen-no-rei* will be conducted at the beginning and end of each day. Only *shiai-shas* and *shinpan-ins* are required to conduct a *rei* to the front.
- **Nafuda (Name Tag):** Registered *shiai-shas* must wear a dark blue or black *nafuda* on the centre panel of the *tare*.
  - For team championships, state or territory team *nafudas* must be worn. The state or territory name (abbreviations such as NSW, VIC and WAKR are accepted) must be written across the top in English block capital letters, state or territory logo or family name (Japanese characters accepted) in the middle, and their family name in English written across the bottom in block capital letters. The printed/embroidered name must be consistent with the name registered.
  - For individual championships, *shiai-shas* can choose either state or territory team *nafudas* or *dojo* (club) *nafudas*. The *dojo* name on a *dojo nafuda* must be written in English block capital letters across the top, a *dojo* logo or family name (Kanji characters accepted) in the middle and a family name in English block capital letters across the bottom. The printed/embroidered name must be consistent with the name registered.

Specifications and diagrams are located at the URL below:

[http://www.kendoaustralia.asn.au/content/?page\\_id=1230](http://www.kendoaustralia.asn.au/content/?page_id=1230)

#### 3.1 Competition specific rules

##### 3.1.1 Colour of Men-gane

The external surface of the *men-gane* (the grill) must not be black colour coated. Such equipment will be considered as *fusei-yogu* (prohibited kendo equipment). Players found using prohibited equipment will be penalised in accordance to the *FIK Shiai and Shinpan Regulation concerning fusei-yogu*

##### 3.1.2 Covid-19 Considerations

This event will be conducted in accordance with Victorian COVID-19 guidelines.

- All attendees, competitors, *shinpan-in* (judges), *kakari-in* (volunteers and officials) should get tested if they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and refrain from attending if a positive test is returned.
- The use of facemasks by *shiai-sha*, *shinpan-in* (judges), *kakari-in* (volunteers and officials) is optional.
- The use of face shields (full or partial) by *shiai-sha* is optional.

##### 3.1.3 COVID Modified Tsubazeriai Rules for Shiai-sha

The following rules will apply during *shiai*

1. *Shiai-sha* must avoid *tsubazeriai*.
2. When *tsubazeriai* cannot be avoided and there is contact, *shiai-sha* must either:

- Proactively execute hikiwaza, or waza after taiatari, as soon as they come in contact with each other, or,
  - if no waza can be executed, both shiai-sha should swiftly separate themselves from each other.
3. Shiai-sha must attempt to separate themselves without waiting for the shushin to call “wakare”. If this does not happen and tsubazeriai or other contact continues, shushin must call “wakare” immediately. Shinpan-in should observe the situation carefully and refrain from calling “wakare” if the shiai-sha have started to separate by themselves.
  4. When mutually separating, whether of their own accord or as a result of “wakare” being called by the shushin, shiai-sha
    - a. must move to a distance where their kensen do not touch. Shiai-sha must do so together, in equal spirit, and with the shinogi in contact. Shiai-sha must not open or lower their kensen. Shiai-sha should not make gestures such as bowing when separating.
    - b. must **not** start to separate, then stop, and then press forwards to force their opponent to retreat backwards.
    - c. must **not** attempt waza separating. If a waza is executed, that waza must not be considered yuko-datotsu.
    - d. must **not** strike, maki (twist), or gyaku-kousa (press their opponent’s shinai down using the right face of their shinai) their opponent’s shinai whilst separating.
    - e. must **not** push their opponent backwards before separating.
    - f. must **not** chase their opponent in tsubazeriai when their opponent starts to separate.
    - g. must **not** approach their opponent in a defensive posture (i.e. to avoid fighting).
    - h. In each situation above (b - g), shinpan must confer in gogi and make judgement as to whether to award hansoku based on each cause and circumstance.
  5. When separating if one of the shiai-sha is close to the court boundary line, the shushin must adjust the shiai-sha positions to prevent this shiai-sha from stepping out of the court. The other shiai-sha may need to take additional steps backward if required. Both shiai-sha are expected to mutually adjust their positions. If one of the shiai-sha cannot avoid stepping out of the court, the shushin must call “yame” and bring the shiai-sha back to the kaishi-sen.

## 4 CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES

The following individual championships are to be contested:\*

1. Individual Kyu Grade Men’s Championship.
2. Individual Kyu Grade Women’s Championship.
3. Individual Dan Grade Men’s Championship.
4. Individual Dan Grade Women’s Championship.
5. Veteran’s Individual Championship (eligible *shiai-shas* must be 45 years of age or over, and hold a dan grade on the date of the championship).

\* Note that each registered *shiai-sha* may compete in one individual championship only.

The following team championships are to be contested: \*\*

1. Teams Kyu Grade Men’s Championship.
2. Teams Kyu Grade Women’s Championship.
3. Teams Dan Grade Men’s Championship.
4. Teams Dan Grade Women’s Championship.

## 5. Teams Kata Championship.

\*\* Note that each registered *shiai-sha* may compete in one team event only. Men and women cannot compete in each other's events, and kyu and dan grades cannot compete in each other's events. The exception is the *kata* championship in which mixed pairs of *shiai-shas* can perform.

## 5 RESTRICTION ON TECHNIQUES IN KYU GRADE SHIAIS

- In Kyu Grade *shiais*, the use of *tsuki* techniques, *jodan-no-kamae*, or *nito* (two swords) is not permitted. The use of prohibited techniques, if found during a match, may result in a *hansoku* or the disqualification of the offending player.

## 6 INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

- Preliminary rounds will be conducted using a pool system with the *san bon shobu* rule.
- In general, each pool will comprise 3 *shiai-shas*. However, 4 *shiai-shas* may constitute a pool in some cases due to the number of *shiai-shas* registered.
- In pools of 3 the order of *shiais* is as follows: A><B, B><C, C><A.
- In pools of 4 the order of *shiais* is as follows: A><B, B><C, C><D, D><A.
- There will be no *encho* (*time extension*) in preliminary rounds.
- The winner of a pool will be determined by number of wins (draws are not counted).
  - If two or more *shiai-shas* equal on wins, the winner will be determined by the number of points scored (points conceded are not counted).
  - If two *shiai-shas* are still equal, a sudden death play-off by a *ippon shobu* (one-point *shiai* will be conducted with no time limit to determine the winner.
  - If all *shiai-shas* in the pool are equal on wins and points scored, the pool is repeated in full (*san bon shobu*).
- *Shiais* after preliminary rounds will progress on a knock-out basis. In the case of a draw, *encho* is applied to these *shiais* with no time limit.
- The following durations are applied to individual championships:
  - Individual Kyu Grade Men's 4 minutes.
  - Individual Dan Grade Men's 5 minutes.
  - Individual Kyu Grade Women's 4 minutes.
  - Individual Dan Grade Women's 5 minutes.
  - Veteran's Individual 4 minutes.

## 7 TEAM COMPETITIONS

### 7.1 Competition Rules

- Preliminary rounds will be conducted using a pool system. In general, two pools (Pool A and Pool B) are set up.
- For the first round, team managers must submit team order list to the *shinpan-shunin* (the court referee) of a relevant court 30 minutes prior to the commencement.
  - The team order list should also include any reserve players.
  - Team managers must also submit team order lists for subsequent rounds to the *shinpan-shunin* of the relevant court immediately after the last event.

- Team managers must submit team order lists to the *shinpan-shunin* whether or not there is any change to the order from the last event.
- In case where the competitor's order is different from the one described in the submitted order :
  - If it is noticed before a *shushin* (chief referee) in charge declares a '*hajime*', the team order can be corrected in accordance with the submitted order. No penalty applies.
  - If it is found after the *shiai* begins, *shinpan-ins* in charge must stop the *shiai* immediately. The *shiai-sha* whose order is incorrect, and any other *shiai-sha(s)* of the same team whose orders are also incorrect will lose their respective *shiais*. Their opponents will be awarded 2 points per *shiai*, respectively.
  - If it is found, before *sogo no rei* (mutual bowing) is exchanged at the conclusion of the *shiais*, that members from both teams were in violation of the order submitted, all *shiai-shas* whose orders were incorrect will lose his/her *shiai* and each opponent will be awarded 2 points per *shiai*, respectively.
  - If both teams are found in violation after the *shuryo no rei* (mutual bowing at the end of *shiai*), the *shiai* outcome must not be changed.
- Pools will comprise 3 teams, but may comprise 4 teams in some cases, depending on the number of teams in the event.
- In pools of 3 teams the order of *shiais* will be as follows: A><B, B><C and C><A.
- In pools of 4 teams the order of *shiais* will be as follows: A><B, B><C, C><D and D><A.
- There will be no *encho* in team championships.
- The winning team will be determined by the number of wins.
  - If the number of wins is equal, then the winning team will be determined by the number of points scored (points conceded are not counted).
  - If the number of wins and the number of points are equal, there will be a *daihyosha-sen* with a representative from each team contesting an *ippon-shobu* (one point match) with no time limit. *Shiai-shas* for the *ippon-shobu* play off must be selected from registered team members listed in submitted team orders that played in that team match.
- A *kiken* (default) will be regarded as a loss with the opponent awarded 2 points.
- The top 2 teams will progress to a play-off with the winning team from Pool A playing-off the second team from Pool B and the winning team from Pool B playing-off the second team from Pool A.
- The final team *shiai* will be the winning teams from the play-offs.
- The following *shiai* durations are applied to team events:
 

○ Men's Kyu Team Competition	4 minutes.
○ Men's Dan Team Competition	5 minutes.
○ Women's Kyu Team Competition	4 minutes.
○ Women's Dan Team Competition	5 minutes.

## 7.2 **Kantoku (Team Manager)**

- Only team managers may accompany their teams and sit with them in designated waiting areas.
- Team managers will provide their own *kantoku-ki* (team manager's flag) for signalling an *igi* (protest) if required.
- The use of a *kantoku-ki* will conform to the FIK Rules and Regulations.

- Team managers and *shiai-shas* must not bring watches or any timing device into the designated waiting area. In addition, they must not engage in providing coaching or encouragement to the players during their *shiai*.

### 7.3 Men's Dan and Kyu Team Shiais

- Men's Dan or Kyu Teams comprise of 5 *shiai-shas* (1, *senpo*; 2, *jiho*; 3, *chuken*; 4, *fukusho*; and 5, *taisho*) and up to 2 reserves per side, with a minimum of 3 *shiai-shas*.
- If a team of 4 *shiai-shas* competes, their *shiai-sha* positions are 1, 3, 4, and 5.
- If a team of 3 *shiai-shas* competes, their *shiai-sha* positions are 1, 3 and 5.

### 7.4 Women's Dan Team Shiais

- Women Dan Teams comprise of 5 *shiai-shas* (1, *senpo*; 2, *jiho*; 3, *chuken*; 4, *fukusho*; and 5, *taisho*) and up to 2 reserves per side, with a minimum of 3 *shiai-shas*.
- If a team of 4 *shiai-shas* competes, their *shiai-sha* positions are 1, 3, 4, and 5.
- If a team of 3 *shiai-shas* competes, their *shiai-sha* positions are 1, 3, and 5.

### 7.5 Women's Kyu Team Shiais

- Women Kyu Teams comprise of 3 *shiai-shas* (1, *senpo*; 2, *chuken*; and 3, *taisho*) and up to 1 reserve per side, with a minimum of 2 *shiai-shas*.
- If a team of 2 *shiai-shas* competes, their *shiai-sha* positions are 1 and 3.

### 7.6 Nihon Kendo Kata Shiai

- Kata Teams comprise of 2 *shiai-shas* (*uchitachi* and *shitachi*) per team.
- *Shiai-shas* are required to perform the *Nihon Kendo Kata* from *ippon-me* (Kata 1) to *nanahon-me* (Kata 7).

## 8 SHINPAN-IN

- All *shiai-shas* holding a 4 Dan or above must be available as *shinpan-ins*.
- *Shiai-shas* competing in a championship are not allowed to participate as *shinpan-ins* in the same event.
- The attire for *shinpan-ins* comprises of:
  - A plain dark blue jacket;
  - A plain grey pair of trousers; ○ A plain white shirt;
  - A plain deep red necktie; and
  - A plain dark blue or black pair of socks.
- *Shinpan-ins* on standby will wait in the designated waiting area.
- *Shinpan-ins* will refrain from conversing with others near *shiai-jos* (match court) where possible.

## 9 TIMING AND LOCATION OF EVENTS

- The Kendo Board reserves the right to adjust the commencement and *shiai-jos* of relevant events.

## 10 SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR KENDO-GU, KENDO-GI, AND SHINAI

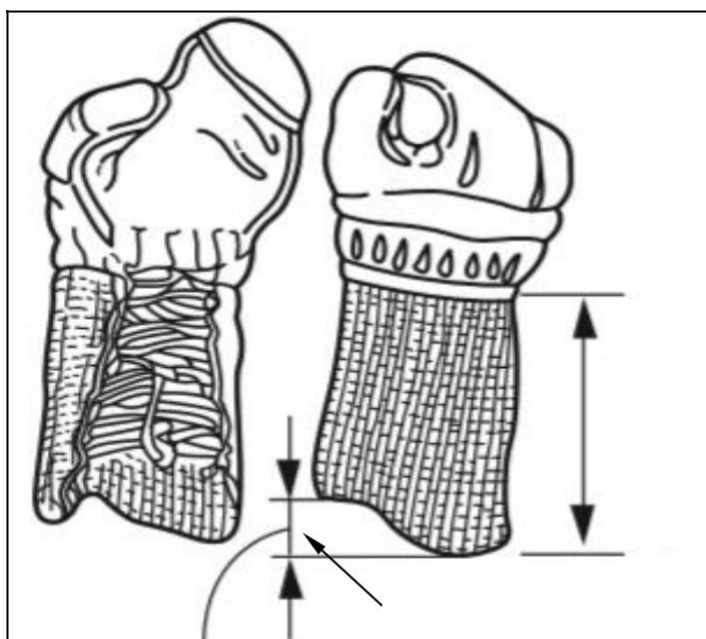
The aim of the Safety Guidelines for Kendo-gu, Kendo-gi, and Shinai is to reinforce the safety aspects of the current AKC competition rules, with the intention of ensuring that shiai-shas (competitors), shinpan-in (referees), kakari-ins (supporting staff), and AKR officials are all familiar with safety requirements, and act with due care and diligence in a manner that safeguards the health and safety of all these stakeholders.

Whilst *kendo-gu*, *kendo-gi*, and *shinai* which don't meet the specifications below will not be regarded as *fusei-yogu* for the time being, all competitors are encouraged to comply with the guidelines set out below for safety reasons.

### 10.1 Kendo-gu and Kendo-gi

- *Men* fitted with polycarbonate laminated board must be the one approved by All Japan Kendo Federation.
- The sleeves of a *kendo-gi* must be long enough to protect the elbow joints.
- The *men-buton* (*flaps*) must be long enough to protect the shoulder joints and have sufficient impact absorbing capacity.
- The depth of *eguri* (cut) in *kote-buton* (padding) should be no wider than 2.5cm between the longest part and the shortest part of the *kote-buton* (see *Figure 1 – A description of eguri*).
- *Kote-buton* (padding) should protect more than half of the forearm (distance between wrist and elbow) and the fist area of *kote* and *kote-buton* area should have sufficient impact absorbing capacity.

Figure 1 A description of *eguri*



The maximum *eguri* must be 2.5 cm or less.

## 10.2 Shinai

The *shinai* dimensions must satisfy the following requirements in addition to those listed in the FIK Rules & Regulations, 2 Sep 2017.

Specifications and diagrams are located at the URL below:

[http://www.kendoaustralia.asn.au/content/?page\\_id=1230](http://www.kendoaustralia.asn.au/content/?page_id=1230)