PROCEDURES FOR THE TRIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE YŪKŌ-DATOTSU VERIFICATION SYSTEM

2026 Zone Seminar

1. Purpose

As an initial trial at the Kendo Shinpan Zone Seminar, this system aims to improve referees' ability to accurately identify *yūkō-datotsu* (valid strikes) and to promote greater consistency in the application of the criteria for *yūkō-datotsu* through the use of video footage.

2. Basic Policy

After a referee has declared *yūkō-datotsu*, if the competitor who was struck considers that it did not hit the designated target area, they may request that Shushin verify the strike.

This system is not intended to allow competitors to challenge or dispute the referees' decision. Rather, it is intended to respect the honest opinion of the competitor to verify the facts concerning the *yūkō-datotsu*, and thereby contribute to the improvement of refereeing skills as a learning tool.

In principle, verification under this system shall be limited to determining whether the strike accurately hit the designated target area.

3. Procedures

(1) Declaration of Yūkō-datotsu

After the referees decide *yūkō-datotsu*, both competitors return to their respective starting lines.

(2) Request for Verification by a Competitor

If the competitor who received the strike considers that it did not hit the designated target area, they may raise their hand immediately after returning to the starting line and request verification by the Shushin.

The competitor shall then state:

"Please verify *yūkō-datotsu*."

(3) Verification with the Opposing Competitor

The Shushin shall ask the competitor who made the strike whether they believe it had hit the designated target area.

(4) When Both Competitors Have the Same Understanding

If both competitors state that the strike did not hit the designated target area, the referees shall hold *gōgi* and cancel the declared *yūkō-datotsu*. In principle, video footage shall not be reviewed in this case.

(5) When the Competitors Have Different Understanding

If the competitor who received the strike states that it did not hit the designated target area, while the opposing competitor states that it did, or that they are unsure, the strike shall be reviewed using video footage.

(6) Video Review and Decision

The referees and instructors shall review the video footage of the strike and discuss whether it accurately hit the designated target area. The outcome of the discussion shall be handled as follows:

① When it is clearly confirmed that the strike did not hit the designated target area:

The declared *yūkō-datotsu* shall be cancelled.

② When it is confirmed that the strike did hit the designated target area:

The original decision shall stand.

(7) When the Strike Cannot Be Clearly Confirmed on Video

If it is not possible to clearly determine whether the strike hit the designated target area due to the camera angle, the competitors' bodies obstructing the view, image quality, or any other reason, the instructors and the referees who officiated the match shall discuss the matter and make the final decision.

4. Points to Note

Requests for verification shall be made in a respectful and appropriate manner, with due consideration to the opposing competitor and the referees. This system is being implemented on a trial basis for educational and training purposes only. The results and issues identified through its implementation shall be reviewed and used to contribute to the future development and improvement of international kendo refereeing.