

The Australian Kendo Renmei National Competitions

Safety Specific Rules for Kendo-Gu and Shinai

AKR Kendo Board

June 2023

Background

The Australian Kendo Renmei (AKR) National competitions (Australian Kendo Championships and University Nationals) adhere to the *Regulations of Kendo Shiai and Shinpan and the Subsidiary Rules of Kendo Shai and Shinpan* (the FIK Rules and Regulations) issued by the International Kendo Federation (FIK) on 2 September 2017.

While the FIK Rules and Regulations provide the main decision-making framework for competition including *shinai* (bamboo sword) specifications, it does not provide guidance related to the safety requirements of *kendo-gu* (kendo equipment). The All Japan Kendo Federation (AJKF) revised its *shiai* and *shinpan* rules and regulations¹ on 4 April 2020 and included various safety related rules and regulations for *kendo-gu* and *shinai*. With the published guidance provided by the FIK and AJKF, the AKR Kendo Board has included additional rules for *kendo-gu* and *shinai* into the competition rules for the AKR National competitions in the interests of safety.

Purpose

The Kendo Board believes the safety requirements stated in the revised AJKF Rules and Regulations help to mitigate risks associated with equipment safety^{2,3,4}.

The proposed Safety Specific Rules for *Kendo-gu* and *Shinai* presented here, aim to reinforce the safety aspects of the current AKR National competition rules. The intention is to ensure that *shiai-shas* (competitors), *shinpan-ins* (referees), *kakari-ins* (court staff) and AKR officials are all familiar with the safety requirements, and act with due care and diligence in a manner that safeguards the health and safety of all stakeholders⁴.

Implementation

The Safety Specific Rules for *Kendo-gu* and *Shinai* are distributed to State and Territory Affiliates and will be implemented in upcoming AKR National Competitions – 2023 Uni Nationals, 47th AKC in 2024 and beyond.

¹ Available at https://www.kendo.or.jp/wp/wp-content/themes/kendo/assets/library/pdf/kendo-shiai_regulations.pdf. Last viewed on 19 January 2020.

² Available at <https://www.productsafety.gov.au/product-safety-laws/legislation/product-liability>. Last viewed on 19 January 2020,

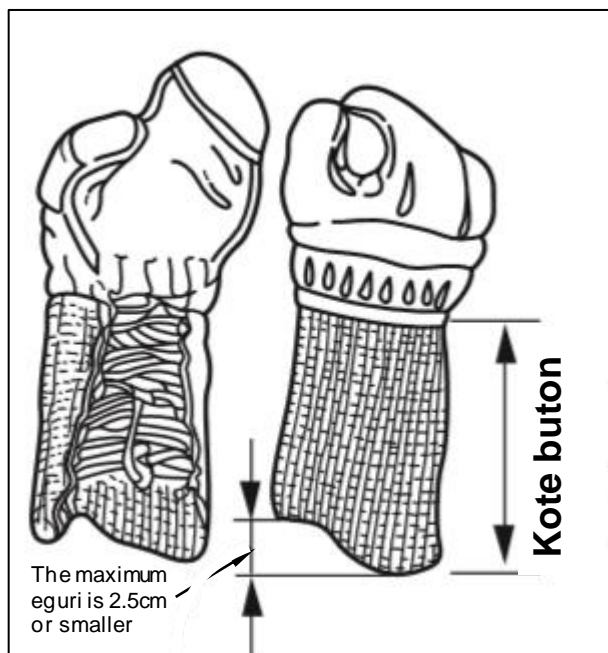
³ Available at <https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/sport/File/1449> and <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/club-support/rules-regulations>.

⁴ Australian Government, Australian Sports Commission, Code of Conduct, Version 2.0, January 2020. Available at https://www.sportaus.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/684236/Code-of-Conduct.pdf. Last viewed on 18 January 2020.

Safety Specific Rules for *Kendo-Gu* and *Shinai*

Kendo-Gu and *Kendo-gi*

- The sleeves of a *kendo-gi* (kendo top) must be long enough to protect the elbow joints.
- The external surface of *men-gane* (the grill) must not be colour coated.
- *Men* (protective mask for head, face, throat and shoulders) fitted with polycarbonate laminated board must be the one approved by All Japan Kendo Federation.
- The *men-buton* (flaps) must be long enough to protect the shoulder joints and have sufficient impact absorbing capacity.
- The *tsuki-dare* and *youjin-dare* (throat protectors) must be sufficiently large with appropriate integrity and firmly fitted to the men.
- *Kote-buton* (glove padding) should protect more than half of the forearm (distance between wrist and elbow) and the fist area of *kote* (gloves) and *kote-buton* area should 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*). (**Figure 1**)



Original information source: https://www.kendo.or.jp/wp/wp-content/themes/kendo/assets/library/pdf/kendo-shiai_regulations.pdf. Last viewed on 19 January 2020.

Figure 1 – A description of *eguri*

Shinai

Shinai dimensions must satisfy requirements stated in **Table 1** and **Table 2**. The diameters mentioned in **Table 1** and **Table 2** are measured using the prescribed *shinai* gauge, as indicated in **Original information** source: https://www.kendo.or.jp/wp/wp-content/themes/kendo/assets/library/pdf/kendo-shiai_regulations.pdf. Last viewed on 20 January 2020.

Figure 2.

Table 1 – Shinai criteria for itto

	Gender\Age		16 to 18 Years old	19 years old or above
Length	Unisex		117 cm or shorter	120 cm or shorter
Weight excluding attachments	Men		480 g or greater	510 g or greater
	Women		420g or greater	440 g or greater
Diameter	Men	Minimum <i>sakigawa</i> diameter	26 mm or wider	26 mm or wider
		Minimum <i>chikuto</i> * Diameter	21 mm or wider	21 mm or wider
	Women	Minimum <i>sakigawa</i> diameter	25 mm or wider	25 mm or wider
		Minimum <i>chikuto</i> Diameter	20 mm or wider	20 mm or wider

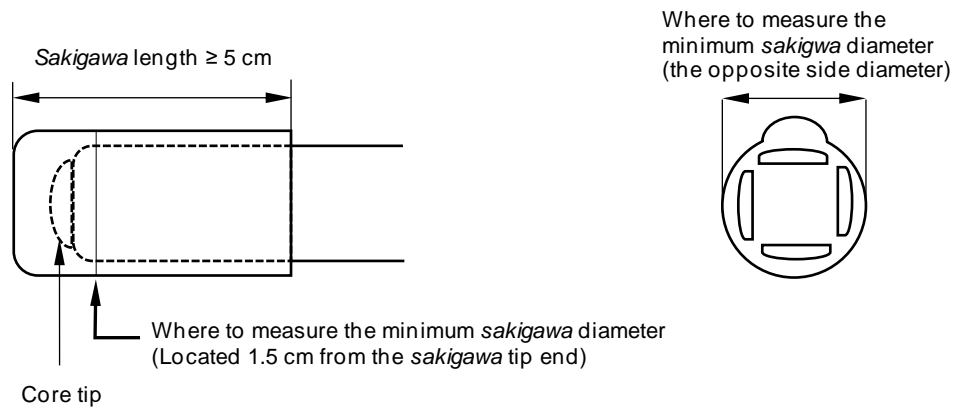
Table 2 – Shinai criteria for nito

	Gender\Age		19 years old or above	
			Daito	Shoto
Length	Unisex		114 cm or shorter	62 cm or shorter
Weight excluding attachments	Men		440 g or greater	280 to 300 g
	Women		400 g or greater	250 to 280 g
Diameter	Men	Minimum <i>Sakigawa</i> diameter	25 mm or wider	24 mm or wider
		Minimum <i>chikuto</i> diameter	20 mm or wider	19 mm or wider
	Women	Minimum <i>sakigawa</i> diameter	24 mm or wider	24 mm or wider
		Minimum <i>chikuto</i> Diameter	19 mm or wider	19 mm or wider

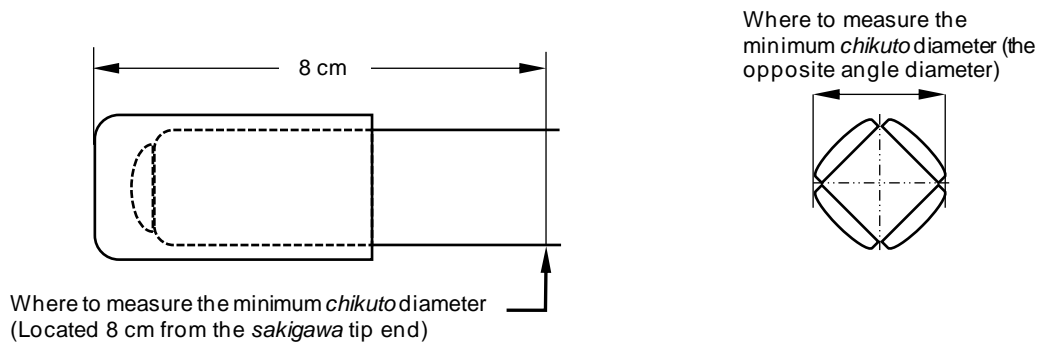
*The *Chikuto* is an 8 cm long section measured from the tip of a *shinai*. This section includes the *sakigawa* (leather cap on the tip of a *shinai*).

- A *tsuba* (sword guard) must be circular-shaped and made of suitable leather and synthetic materials. The *tsuba* diameter is 9 cm or smaller. A *tsuba* must be fitted to a *shinai* firmly with no clearance. No use of adhesive tapes or any other materials other than a suitable *tsuba-dome* (sword guard stopper made of leather or rubber) is allowed for fitting.
- The length of *sakigawa* must be 5 cm or longer.

<The method used to measure the *sakigawa* length and the minimum *sakigawa* diameter>



<The method used to measure the minimum *chikuto* diameter>



Original information source: https://www.kendo.or.jp/wp/wp-content/themes/kendo/assets/library/pdf/kendo-shiai_regulations.pdf. Last viewed on 20 January 2020.

Figure 2 – A schematic diagrams of methods used to measure the minimum *sakigawa* and *chikuto* diameters