



## EKF Rules for Dan Grading Examinations and Shogo<sup>1</sup>

Dear Friends,

May we ask you to read this every time before you are planning and/or implementing a grading examination as, for your information, the standard procedure for organisation and registration of examinations is listed hereafter from start to finish. As before, we suggest uniform subscription and registration amounts .

### 1. Basic principles:

EKF does not organise Kyu examinations, this falls in the full authority and responsibility of the member countries. In general, the standard for Grading Examinations is according the International Kendo Federation (FIK): “Standard Guidelines for Dan/Kyu Examinations” approved by the General Assembly (GA) in Taipei (Taiwan) on the 06-12-2006 (in the following “FIK Standard Guidelines”).

#### 1.1. National gradings:

Every member country can organise grading examinations from 1st up to 5th Dan, respecting the FIK Standard Guidelines and all rules mentioned herein.

#### 1.2. EKF gradings:

On the occasion of a national grading exam, EKF can add a 6th & 7th Dan according to the principles mentioned hereunder.

On the occasion of EKF events, like the Referee Seminar, Kendo, Iaido & Jodo Championships, etc., an examination from 1st to 7th Dan may be organized by the EKF with a jury composed according to the FIK Standard Guidelines and the present Rules, and from 6th Dan according to the agreements of the GA held in

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<sup>1</sup> As approved at the EKF General Assembly in Novara on May 23rd, 2012 and amended 2015-05-02 (BO).



Barcelona in April 1992, held with the help of an All Japan Kendo Federation (AJKF) delegation, following the AJKF rules for the jury composition as closely as possible.

## 2. Examination Juries.

2.1. Examination Juries have to be composed according to the guidelines hereafter. In exceptional cases when it is impossible to appoint the required number of qualified and suitable examinees for 4-Dan or higher Dan examinations, the number of examiners may, with the approval of the EKF Technical Director, be reduced to 5. In this case, the consent of a minimum of 4 examiners will be required for the decision of passing. In this event please note that no examination will be valid without the explicit written and prior agreement by the EKF Technical Director (TD).

2.2. The **examination jury** is to be composed according to the FIK Standard Guidelines (examiner's qualifications, the number of examiners required and the minimal quorum for approval):

Dan examined:	Examiner:	Number:	Criteria:
1-	4-Dan and over	5	Consent of min 3
2-	5-Dan and over	5	Consent of min 3
3-	5-Dan and over	5	Consent of min 3
4-	6-Dan and over	6	Consent of min 4
5-	7-Dan and over	6	Consent of min 4
6-	7-Dan and over	6	Consent of min 4
7-	7-Dan and over	6	Consent of min 4

2.3. The **applicant's qualifications** shall abide by FIK Standard Guidelines, stating that all applicants shall be registered members in their country and have at least the following practice periods and age:

Dan:	Shortest practice period:	Minimal age:
Shodan	3 months after the ikkyu exam	13
Nidan	1 year after the shodan exam	
Sandan	2 years after the nidan exam	
Yondan	3 years after the sandan exam	
Godan	4 years after the yondan exam	
Rokudan	5 years after the godan exam	
Nanadan	6 years after the rokudan exam	



If an applicant for a 6th, 7th or 8th Dan examination is 60 years old or older on the day of the examination, the following practice periods shall be sufficient:

Rokudan:	Two years or more after godan.
Nanadan:	Three years or more after rokudan.
Hachidan:	Five years or more after nanadan.

2.4. The treatment of the grades higher than 7th Dan is mentioned in Article 7 of the FIK Standard Guidelines.

### 3. Authorization by the President.

Members of another National Federation must provide the **authorization of their President** (See Article 08.01 of the EKF Statutes) to the organization holding the grading.

In examinations organized by the EKF, when registration to the examination is made through the registration tool on the EKF website by the Member Federation concerned, this registration serves as the authorization mentioned above.

### 4. Administrative procedure for all examinations.

4.1. Every national examination is to be announced to the EKF at least two months in advance by entry of the exam in the EKF online system, and shall be published by the member country in the European Calendar; this method gives everyone in Europe the possibility to participate.

4.2. For every examination abroad the written authorisation from the President of one's own Federation is required.

4.3. For practical reasons it is strongly advised to use an inscription form containing all required data (Family Name, Given Name, EKF-Number and Federation of registration of the candidate). The signature by the President thereon is an equivalent for the required written permission. Furthermore, it is strongly advised to enter candidates presenting for a shodan-exam abroad already into the EKF-Database when signing their application.

4.4. The information to the EKF must include the composition of the jury, keeping in mind the FIK Standard Guidelines, to give the EKF TD the opportunity to approve it, as decided in the Budapest GA in 2004, together with the maximum level of the grades which may be obtained.



**4.5.** The '**yellow cards**' of the successful applicants (other than Shodan) will be signed by the responsible grading officer (national or EKF, depending on the case) after the examination. The yellow cards of successful shodan candidates will be prepared by the EKF and sent to Member Federation concerned, unless delivered immediately after the examination. The Member Countries shall send the result lists to the EKF Secretary General and keep the online Dan-Grading register updated. For details, see the relevant documents on the EKF website.

**4.6.** As for **application and registration fees**, independent of the fact if it is an examination held under the authority of the EKF or not, an application fee should be paid beforehand, whereas the registration fee is to be paid, immediately after a successful examination; the organising country decides on the amounts, but we suggest that the fee amounts asked for are based on the ones shown below.

4.6.1. For **national examinations**, the organizer retains both the application and the registration fees.

4.6.2. For EKF examinations, the following application fee is to be paid to the EKF bank account or in exceptional cases to the EKF representative before the examination:

Dan applied for:	Amount:
1 Dan	€ 15,00
2 Dan	€ 20,00
3 Dan	€ 30,00
4 Dan	€ 50,00
5 Dan	€ 70,00
6 Dan	€ 100,00
7 Dan	€ 130,00

4.6.3. At EKF exams, the following registration fees will have to be paid after successful examinations to the EKF:

Dan applied for:	Amount:
1 Dan	€ 20,00
2 Dan	€ 30,00
3 Dan	€ 50,00
4 Dan	€ 70,00
5 Dan	€ 100,00
6 Dan	€ 130,00
7 Dan	€ 170,00



## 5. Provisions for Kendo Examinations

### 5.1. National Examinations.

These examinations are to be held according to the FIK Standard Guidelines.

### 5.2. EKF Examinations.

5.2.1. The **examination subjects** are the following:

Dan applied for:	Examination subjects:
1-Dan up to 7-Dan	Matches & Kata.

5.2.2. The **Kata examination** is organised as follows:

Dan applied for:	Examination subjects:
1-Dan	Tachi ippon- to gohonme (1-5);
2-Dan	Tachi ippon- to nanahonme (1-7);
3-Dan and over	Tachi ippon- to nanahonme and Kodachi sanbon (1-10).

**5.3.** Note: If an applicant fails in the Kata test, he is allowed to take that subject again, and one time only, at an examination held afterwards. The candidate shall receive for that purpose a certificate which he/she shall present in original version at his/her second attempt.

## 6. Provisions for Iaido & Jodo examinations.

6.1. For Iaido, the examination subjects are:

Dan applied for:	Subject:
1st to 3rd Dan	5 Shitei waza from the ZNKR-Iai-Kata; (Note: the first of the Shitei-waza may be replaced by 1 free choice Koryu-Kata);
4th to 5th Dan	1 free choice Koryu-Kata & 4 Shitei waza from the ZNKR-Iai-Kata;
6th & 7th Dan	2 free choice Koryu-Kata & 3 Shitei-waza from the ZNKR-Iai-Kata.



From 6th Dan onwards, the use of a shinken is obligatory, unless *Force Majeure* (including legal restrictions) prevents such use. The elapsed time is a consideration, but there will be no strict time limit.

**6.2.** For Jodo, the examination subjects are the following:

Dan applied for:	Subject:
1st Dan to 5th Dan	5 Shitei waza from the ZNKR-Jodo-Kata,
6th & 7th Dan	6 Shitei waza from the ZNKR-Jodo-Kata.

As a general rule, the candidates will be organised in grading groups of three or four according to grade and age. The partner for each candidate will be appointed in following manner:

In groups of three:

- 1 tachi ><2 jo,
- 2 tachi >< 3 jo,
- 3 tachi >< 1 jo.

In groups of four:

- 1 tachi ><2 jo,
- 2 tachi ><3 jo,
- 3 tachi ><4 jo,
- 4 tachi >< 1 jo,

## **7. Shogo**

According to Art. 08.07. of the EKF Statutes each Member Country may award the Shogo titles (Renshi, Kyoshi & Hanshi) to persons registered with this Member Country of outstanding personal qualities and similar achievements especially in teaching and administration. The shogo titles will be registered after the Member EKF Countries' Shogo Rules have been forwarded to the EKF Technical Director for approval in agreement with two Members of the SCG selected by the GA. For each shogo title entered into the register a fee of EUR 100.- shall be paid to the EKF.

If you have remarks about the administrative aspects, please feel free to send them to the EKF SG. As for technical matters such as Jury composition, please consult the EKF TD.



**EUROPEAN KENDO FEDERATION**  
ヨーロッパ剣道連盟

Signed for approval,  
The EKF Board of Officers:

Alain DUCARME  
President

Dieter HAUCK  
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Technical Director

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