

STANDARD GUIDELINE FOR DAN/KYU EXAMINATION

INTERNATIONAL KENDO FEDERATION

Rev. December 7, 2006

(Purpose)

Article 1: The purpose of this 'Standard Guideline for Dan/Kyu Examination' is to define the basic standards of the examination, which shall be common to every affiliated organization (herein after called Organization) of International Kendo Federation (hereinafter referred to as IKF). When an Organization conducts a Dan/Kyu examination, this standard guideline applies.

(General Provision)

Article 2: The Dan/Kyu stipulated in this Standard Guideline shall be from 1 Kyu (Ikkyu) to 10 Dan (Jyu Dan), shall be granted by the President of Organization according to the overall Kendo ability of an applicant, and shall be mutually recognized as being equivalent among Organizations.

(Applicant's Qualifications)

Article 3:

(1) An applicant shall be a registered member of Organization and shall have the following periods of practice.

Dan/Kyu	Practice Periods	Lowest Ages
1 Kyu (Ikkyu)	-	-
1 Dan (Sho Dan)	1 Kyu holder	14 years old and over
2 Dan (Ni Dan)	One year or more after 1 Dan	
3 Dan (San Dan)	Two years or more after 2 Dan	
4 Dan (Yon Dan)	Three years or more after 3 Dan	
5 Dan (Go Dan)	Four years or more after 4 Dan	
6 Dan (Roku Dan)	Five years or more after 5 Dan	
7 Dan (Shichi Dan)	Six years or more after 6 Dan	
8 Dan (Hachi Dan)	Ten years or more after 7 Dan	48 years and over
9 Dan (Kyu Dan)	After granting of 8 Dan	65 years and over
10 Dan (Jyu Dan)	After granting of 9 Dan	

(2) Those who desire to apply for a 6, 7 or 8 Dan examination, 60 years old or older and have practiced for a certain years as below shall be allowed to apply.

Dan/Kyu	Practice Periods
6 Dan	Two years or more after 5 Dan
7 Dan	Three years or more after 6 Dan
8 Dan	Five years or more after 7 Dan

(Examination Methods)

Article 4: An examination shall be conducted by Organization; however in case where Organization lacks qualified examiners to meet the required number given below, other Organization(s) may provide qualified examiners with the approval of the President(s) of that Organization(s).

(Examination Subjects)

Article 5:

(1) Examination subjects are as follows:

Dan/Kyu Applied for	Examination Subjects
1 Kyu	Matches (Jitsugi)
1 Dan ~ 5 Dan	Matches (Jitsugi), Nippon-Kendo-Kata and Written Test
6 Dan, 7 Dan	Matches (Jitsugi), Nippon-Kendo-Kata

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

Dan/Kyu Applied for	Examination Subjects
1 Kyu	-
1 Dan	Tachi-no-Kata 3 or more forms
2 Dan	Tachi-no-Kata 5 or more forms
3 Dan	Tachi-no-Kata 7 forms
4 Dan - 7 Dan	Tachi-no-Kata 7 forms and Kodachi-no-Kata 3 forms

(3) When the success of Jitsugi, Nippon-Kendo-Kata and written test are separately announced after each occasion, if an applicant fails in Nippon-Kendo-Kata or in written test after the success in Jitsugi, he/she may be allowed to take that subject only again at an examination held afterwards. This special treatment shall apply only once for one occasion per applicant.

(Examiner's Qualification, Required Number of Examiners and Eligibility Criteria)

Article 6:

(1) Examiner's qualifications, required number of the examiners and eligibility criteria are as follows:

Dan Examined	Examiner	Number	Criteria
1 Dan	4 Dan & over	5	Consent of min. 3 Examiners
2 Dan	5 Dan & over	5	Consent of min. 3 Examiners
3 Dan	5 Dan & over	5	Consent of min. 3 Examiners
4 Dan	6 Dan & over	6	Consent of min. 4 Examiners
5 Dan	7 Dan & over	6	Consent of min. 4 Examiners
6 Dan	7 Dan & over	6	Consent of min. 4 Examiners
7 Dan	7 Dan & over	6	Consent of min. 4 Examiners

(2) Special Treatment

Concerning the 4-Dan or higher Dan examinations, if the required number of qualified and suitable examiners cannot be appointed by the method stipulated in the Article 8,

the number of the examiners may be reduced to 5. In this case, the consent of minimum 4 examiners shall suffice for the decision of passing.

(Examinations for Kyu and 8 Dan & Over)

Article 7: The examinations for Kyu and for 8 Dan and over shall be determined by each Organization. Regarding the 8 Dan and higher Dan examinations, each Organization shall determine a rigorous way of examination including Jitsugi evaluation.

(Method to Appoint Examiners)

Article 8: Examiners shall be appointed by the President of Organization after a discussion with the officials and fully-competent Dan holders. 'Fully-competent Dan holders' here means persons with equal or higher grades stipulated in the Article 6, Examiners' Qualifications.

(Fees for Examination and Registration)

Article 9: Fees for examination and registration shall be stipulated by Organization.

(Return or Deprivation of Dan/Kyu)

Article 10: The President of Organization may, in consultation with the council or the investigation committee of the Organization, order a Dan/Kyu grantee of Organization to return his/her Dan/Kyu or deprive him/her of the same, in case where the grantee disgraced the Dan/Kyu.

(Issuing Certificate and Recording)

Article 11: Organization shall issue a certificate with the signature of the President of Organization to each successful applicant. Organization shall keep the Dan/Kyu records properly.

(Criteria for Awarding Dan Grades; 'Fuyo Kijun')

Article 12: The acceptability criterion of each Dan 'Fuyo Kijun' shall be stated separately as 'Guidelines for Assessing Pass-Fail in Promotion Examinations'.

(Iaido and Jodo)

Article 13: The Dan/Kyu examination for Iaido and Jodo shall be conducted conforming to this standard guideline.

(Dan/Kyu Examinations in a non-affiliated country)

Article 14: In case of a Dan/Kyu examination held in a non-affiliated country, the 'Memorandum of Dan/Kyu Examinations in an FIK Non-affiliated Country' as of May 23, 2005 shall apply.

Appendix:

Article 1: This Standard shall be established and put in force as of April 11, 1975.

Article 2: This Standard shall be revised and put in force as of May 11, 1987.

Article 3: This Standard shall be revised and put in force as of March 26, 1997.

Article 4: This Standard shall be revised and put in force as of July 3, 2003.

Article 5: This Standard shall be revised and put in force as of December 7, 2006.

Criteria for Awarding Dan Grades: 'Fuyo Kijun'
(Guidelines for Assessing Pass-Fail in Promotion Examinations)

At a Kendo Dan examination, examiners evaluate candidates for promotion for each Dan grade based on evidence of an appropriate level of training, and the degree of technical proficiency and stability acquired through the course of their study.

- ① The central concern for evaluation in examinations for the grades of Shodan, 2-Dan and 3-Dan is the level of 'Kihon' (basic techniques) demonstrated by the examinee. The examiner assesses whether the candidate has learnt and correctly acquired the basic Kendo skills.
- ② The central concern for evaluation in examinations for the grades of 4-Dan and 5-Dan is the level of basic Kendo techniques and advanced techniques (Kihon and Oyo). The examiner assesses whether the candidate has fully acquired and able to utilize basic and advanced Kendo skills.
- ③ The central concern for evaluation in examinations for the grades of 6-Dan and 7-Dan is the ability to demonstrate 'Jiri' (technique and theory). Besides the basic and advanced Kendo techniques, the examiner assesses whether a candidate has acquired sufficient knowledge and understanding of Jiri, the techniques of Kendo accompanied with theory or principles.
- ④ The central concern for evaluation in examinations for the grades of 8-Dan and above is whether or not the candidate has reached the highest stage of Jiri referred to as 'Jiri-Itchi' (total integration of Ji and Ri). The candidate will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate a profound understanding of Jiri-Itchi in addition to the aforementioned points for 7-Dan and below.

Points for Observation (Chakugan-ten)

Each Dan examiner is required to make a decision after paying careful attention to the following points in accordance with the above criteria:

Shodan, 2-Dan, 3-Dan

- ① Chakuso and Reiho. The candidates appearance and whether they are correctly wearing the Kendo-gi and Hakama, and are holding the Shinai correctly (Chakuso); Appropriate manners and deportment (Reiho)
- ② Correct posture
- ③ Datotsu (strikes and thrusts) in accordance to the correct basic Kendo techniques
- ④ Strong spirit (Kisei).

4-Dan, 5-Dan

① Chakuso and Reiho. The candidates appearance and whether they are correctly wearing the Kendo-gi and Hakama, and are holding the Shinai correctly (Chakuso); Appropriate manners and deportment (Reiho) ② Correct posture ③ Datotsu (strikes and thrusts) in accordance to the correct basic Kendo techniques ④ Strong spirit (Kisei). ⑤ Level of proficiency acquired in advanced Kendo techniques ⑥ Level of mental and physical discipline demonstrated ⑦ Strategic skills to control and win a match.

6-Dan, 7-Dan 8-Dan and higher Dan

① Chakuso and Reiho. The candidates appearance and whether they are correctly wearing the Kendo-gi and Hakama, and are holding the Shinai correctly (Chakuso); Appropriate manners and deportment (Reiho) ② Correct posture ③ Datotsu (strikes and thrusts) in accordance to the correct basic Kendo techniques ④ Strong spirit (Kisei). ⑤ Level of proficiency acquired in advanced Kendo techniques ⑥ Level of mental and physical discipline demonstrated ⑦ Strategic skills to control and win a match. ⑧ Understanding of 'Riai' (The candidate must be able to execute Waza and move in a way that is rational and purposeful) ⑨ 'Fukaku' and 'Hinkaku' (Demonstrating one's own style which is dignified and elegant.)

The examiners are expected to make their evaluations and final decisions based on the abovementioned criteria within the prescribed examination time