



EKF Rules for Dan Grading Examinations and Shogo

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 propose 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 to 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, in respect of the FIK Standard Guidelines and all rules mentioned herein.

1.2. EKF gradings:

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

At the occasion of EKF events, like the Referee Seminar, Kendo, Iaido & Jodo Championships, etc., an examination from 1st to 7th Dan may be organised 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 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



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number of qualified and suitable examinees for 4-Dan or higher Dan examinations, the number of examiners may be reduced to 5. In this case, the consent of minimum 4 examiners will be required for the decision of passing. Especially in this case no examination will be valid without the explicit written and prior approbation 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	14
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	

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

3. Authorisation of the President.

Foreigners must present the **authorisation of their president** (See Article 08.01 of the EKF Statutes) to the organisation holding the grading..

4. Examination parts.

4.1. National Examinations.



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

4.2. EKF Examinations.

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

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

4.2.2. 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).

4.3. Note: If an applicant fails in the Kata test, he may be allowed to take that subject again, and one time only, at an examination held afterwards.

5. Administrative procedure for all examinations.

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

5.2. For every examination abroad a written authorisation by the own country federation's President is imperatively required.

5.3. For practical reasons it is strongly advised to use the model of inscription form as published on the website: it contains all required data and the sign of the President is an equivalent for the required written permission.

5.4. 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 possibility to approve it, as decided in the Budapest GA in 2004 and the possible grades to be obtained.

5.5. Approbation of the the '**yellow cards**' of the successful applicants (other than Shodan); these cards will be returned to the member's federation after the examination; as decided by the GA of 22-04-2004 in Budapest, the cards will be signed by the EKF TD, or somebody indicated by him (see Article 08.04 of the



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Statutes); the member countries shall seek to keep the online Dan-Grading register updated.

5.6. 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 on the next page.

5.6.1. For national examinations, the organiser collects as well the application as the registration fees.

5.6.2. For EKF examinations, the following application fee is to be paid to the EKF representative before the examination:

Dan applied for:	Amount:
1 Dan	€ 10,00
2 Dan	€ 15,00
3 Dan	€ 25,00
4 Dan	€ 40,00
5 Dan	€ 60,00
6 Dan	€ 90,00
7 Dan	€ 120,00

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

Dan applied for:	Amount:
1 Dan	€ 15,00
2 Dan	€ 25,00
3 Dan	€ 40,00
4 Dan	€ 60,00
5 Dan	€ 90,00
6 Dan	€ 120,00
7 Dan	€ 160,00



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6. 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 in especially teaching and administration. The shogo titles will be registered after the Member EKF Countries' Shogo Rules have been forwarded to the EKF Technical Director who approved it 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.

7. Iaido & Jodo examinations.

7.1 All rules mentioned above are applicable.

7.2. For Iaido, the examination subjects are the following:

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

From 6th Dan onwards, shinken is obligatory. The elapsed time is taken in account, but there will be no strict time limit.

7.3. For Jodo, until further notice, the examination subjects are the same.

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.

Signed for approval,
The EKF Board of Officers:

Alain DUCARME
President

Hein ODINOT
Vice-President

Jean-Pierre RAICK
Technical Director

Dieter HAUCK
Treasurer

Raf BERNAERS
Secretary-General