



EKF Rules for Dan Grading Examinations and Shogo¹

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 Federations. In general, the standard for Grading Examinations is according to the International Kendo Federation (FIK): “Standard Guidelines for Dan/Kyu Examinations” approved by the FIK General Assembly.

1.1. National gradings:

Every Member Federation can organise grading examinations from 1 up to 5-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 6 & 7-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 1 to 7-Dan may be organized by the EKF with a jury composed according to the FIK Standard Guidelines and the present Rules.

¹ As approved at the EKF General Assembly in Novara on May 23rd, 2012, amended 2015-05-02 (BO) and 2019-05-23 (GA).



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 (five). In this case, the consent of a minimum of 4 (four) 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). This agreement is given via the EKF website.

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 Federation 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 6, 7 or 8-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 7-Dan is mentioned in Article 7 of the FIK Standard Guidelines.

3. Authorization by the President.

3.1. 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.

3.2. In examinations organized by the EKF or a National Federation, 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 Federations in the European Calendar (online); 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 (in the online system) 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 Federations concerned, unless delivered immediately after the examination. The Member Federations 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 laido & Jodo examinations.

6.1. For **laido**, the examination subjects are:

Dan applied for:	Subject:
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<u>1 to 3-Dan:</u>	<u>5 Shitei-waza from the ZNKR-lai-Kata; (Note: the first of the Shitei-waza may be replaced by one free choice Koryu-Kata, if so decided by the organizing federation). Time limit 6 minutes.</u>
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<u>4 to 5-Dan:</u>	<u>5 Shitei-waza from the ZNKR-lai-Kata; (Note: the first of the Shitei-waza may be replaced by one free choice Koryu-Kata, if so decided by the organizing federation). Time limit 6 minutes.</u>
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6 to 7-Dan: 6 Shitei-waza from the ZNKR-lai-Kata; (Note: the two first of the Shitei-waza may be replaced by two free choice Koryu-Kata, if so decided by EKF). Time limit 7 minutes.

From 6-Dan onwards, the use of a shinken is obligatory, unless Force Majeure (including legal restrictions) prevents such use.

Torei (protocols for sword etiquette) must be that used in ZNKR lai.

Examination time commences from the bow to the Shomen after entering the examination area and ends when the candidate stands up holding the sword to the side after performing the final bow.

When EKF is the organizing federation, the option of koryu kata will be applied for examinations of 4 to 7-Dan. In 1 to 3-Dan examinations, the examination subjects will be ZNKR lai only.

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

Dan applied for:	Subject:
1-Dan to 5-Dan	5 Shitei waza from the ZNKR-Jodo-Kata,
6-Dan & 7-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 Federation may award the Shogo titles (Renshi, Kyoshi & Hanshi) to persons registered with this



Member Federation of outstanding personal qualities and similar achievements especially in teaching and administration. The shogo titles will be registered after the Member Federations' 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 EKF 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.

Signed for approval,
The EKF Board of Officers:

Dieter HAUCK
President

Zsolt VADADI
Vice-President

Jean-Pierre LABRU
Technical Director

Donatella Castelli
Treasurer

Pekka NURMINEN
Secretary-General

