

# Policy : CKF Gradings –Organization, Application and Examination.

## Organization

There is a National Chief Examiner for each of the arts of kendo, iaido and jodo. The responsibility of the National Chief Examiner is to oversee all gradings and ensure consistency in standards and policy.

There can also be Regional Examiners. The responsibility of the Regional Examiner is to organize and oversee the Grading Committee that evaluates candidates in that region. In the case where there is no Regional Examiner, this responsibility falls to the National Chief Examiner.

Currently, there exist Western and Eastern Regional Examiners for kendo and iaido. Kendo and iaido gradings that are held in British Columbia, Alberta or Saskatchewan are the responsibility of the Western Examiner. Kendo and iaido gradings that are held in the remaining provinces are the responsibility of the Eastern Examiner.

There is a Grading Secretary whose responsibility is to ensure that the results of all gradings are properly maintained, to oversee the issuing of certificates and to handle any enquiries for lost certificates or letters.

The President oversees all arts. The National Chief Examiner, Regional Examiners and Grading Secretary are appointed or dismissed by the President with approval from the Board of Directors. The President has final approval for all certificates and letters for inquiries issued.

## Organization – Grading Committees:

There is a Written Examination Committee for each of the arts of kendo, iaido and jodo. These committees are standing. Their responsibility is to evaluate the written exam submissions and provide the results to the appropriate Grading Committees before the grading day. The Written Examination Committees are appointed by the President with approval from the Board of Directors.

There are Grading Committees for each of the arts of kendo, iaido and jodo. These committees are not standing but rather are appointed by the responsible Examiner for a particular examination day. The Grading Committees are recommended to the President by the National Chief Examiner or appropriate Regional Examiner. The President then appoints the committee with approval from the Board of Directors.

CKF regularly provides summer and winter gradings each year in the West and the East, plus other regional gradings as approved by the National Chief Examiner and the President.

The committees are to be organized according to the latest FIK guidelines. The normally appointed grading committees may award up to 7th dan and shogo of renshi or kyoshi, so long as their membership meets the FIK guidelines. Upon approval from the appropriate Examiner and the President, committees that do not meet FIK guidelines may be appointed. This might be done to allow a grading for lower ranks to proceed in a location where convening a full panel is not practical either financially or organizationally.

In the special case of awarding hanshi, the President shall select the committee of six members. All members must hold the rank of 7th dan or higher. At least 2 members must reside in western Canada, and at least 2 members must reside in eastern Canada.

After examining the candidates, each grading committee will provide their recommendations to the Chief Examiner for final approval and the granting of their degrees. The CKF President issues all grading certificates.

## Foreign Grading Committees

In the case where someone has been invited to sit on a grading panel in a foreign country, permission must be obtained from the Chief National Examiner and the President.

## Examination Components

### Objectives of Examination Procedure for Dan and Shogo

Examinations for Dan (Degrees) and Shogo (Titles) are set for the purpose of encouraging advancement and improvement in Kendo.

It should be noted that the purpose of examination is not to screen or eliminate, but to encourage candidates to achieve a higher level of the art of Kendo.

### Definition of Dan and Shogo

**Dan:** Granted after assessing the candidate's level of Kendo skills along with an appropriate mental strength.

**Shogo:** Over and above qualifications for dan, the candidate must be deemed an accomplished Kendo-ka, demonstrating leadership and great insight as well as high character.

### Dan

Ranks of Kendo Dan, 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Dan, are granted according to the following merits:

**1<sup>st</sup> Dan:** The candidate has practiced and is able to demonstrate the basic skills.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Dan:** The candidate has learned the basic skills well and is able to demonstrate improvement.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan:** The candidate has mastered the basic skills and is able to demonstrate maturity.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Dan:** The candidate must demonstrate refined basic skills as well as advanced skills of his own.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Dan:** The candidate must demonstrate matured skills, both of basic and his own unique skills.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Dan:** The candidate has understanding of the essentials of Kendo and demonstrates a high level of skill.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Dan:** The candidate has acquired deep knowledge of the arts of Kendo and demonstrates superb skills.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Dan:** The candidate has mastered the highest and deepest level of knowledge regarding the arts of Kendo and demonstrates outstanding skills.

The Kendo grading examination for kyu or dan consists of three components:

- i. Written Examination
- ii. Jitsugi : observation of their shinai Kendo
- iii. Kata: observation of their forms

The Iaido and Jodo grading examination for kyu or dan consists of:

- i. Written Examination
- ii. Kata: observation of their forms

The written examination is provided to the candidates well in advance of each grading. Each candidate submits their answers for the written examination on or before the application deadline, and the examinations are evaluated prior to the day of the physical examination.

Kendo Kata shall be examined as follows:

Kyu/Dan Applied for	Examination Subjects
1 <sup>st</sup> Kyu	Kendo Kihonwaza Keiko Ho 1 – 9 Hon
1 <sup>st</sup> Dan	Kendo no Kata Tachi 1 – 3 Bon
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan	Kendo no Kata Tachi 1 – 5 Hon
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan	Kendo no Kata Tachi 1 – 7 Hon
4 <sup>th</sup> Dan & Up	Kendo no Kata Tachi 1 – 7 Hon & Kodachi 1 – 3 Bon

Iaido Kata shall be examined as follows:

Kyu/Dan Applied for	Examination Subjects
1st Kyu & 1st Dan	5 ZenKenRen* of candidate's choice
2nd through 5th Dan	1 Koryu of candidate's choice 4 ZenKenRen* as selected by the examiners.
6th Dan & Up	2 Koryu of candidate's choice 3 ZenKenRen* as selected by the examiners.

Jodo Kata shall be examined as follows:

Kyu/Dan Applied for	Examination Subjects
1st Kyu	3 Kihon, Seitei Kata* #1-3 Jo and Tachi side
1st Dan	Kihon+Seitei Kata 2 - 6 both sides
2nd Dan	Kihon+Seitei Kata 3 - 7 both sides
3rd Dan	Kihon+Seitei Kata 4 - 8 both sides
4th Dan	Kihon commands+Seitei Kata 7 - 11 both sides
5th Dan	Kihon commands+Seitei Kata 8 - 12 both sides

\* Zen Nihon Kendo Renmei Jodo – All Japan Kendo Federation Jodo set Kihon (Tandouku) will be selected by the examiners.

## Shogo

Titles of Renshi, Kyoshi and Hanshi are granted to those who have attained the following qualifications:

**Renshi:** Fully skilled in Kendo and demonstrates good insight into Kendo.

**Kyoshi:** Masterful in Kendo skills and possesses profound knowledge of the arts of Kendo.

**Hanshi:** Highly accomplished in the arts of Kendo, exalts in reputation, and is a person of noble character.

The Kendo, Iaido or Jodo grading examination for shogo of renschi consists of:

- i. Essay submitted by the candidate
- ii. General evaluation of the candidate

The Kendo, Iaido or Jodo grading examination for shogo of kyoshi or hanshi consists of:

- i. General evaluation of the candidate

In the case of hanshi, the candidate's dedication to CKF is especially considered and a general consensus must be achieved across Canada.

## Application Process for Kyu or Dan

Anyone wishing to apply to challenge a grade at a CKF grading MUST meet the ALL of the following pre-requisites.

### Pre-requisites:

1. The candidate must be a member in good standing of an FIK-affiliated national federation.
  - For CKF members, all membership fees, for the current year, and any outstanding years, must be up to date.
  - Foreigners must be up to date with their own national federation
2. The candidate must have the rank prior to the one being challenged.
  - CKF members who obtained their previous grade outside of Canada must first register as outlined in “CKF Registration of Foreign Grades” below.
  - Foreigners must provide proof of their rank – a high-quality scan or photocopy of their certificate sent in to the Grading Secretary in advance of the grading is required.
3. The candidate must be eligible to grade, based on the CKF time in grade requirements.
4. The candidate must have permission to grade.
  - For CKF members, permission is obtained from their club sensei.
  - Foreigners must provide written permission from their national federation president in advance of the grading.

CKF members may challenge a grade at any CKF grading that has the appropriate panel for the rank being challenged.

Applicants apply online through the CKF website, paying a grading fee and certificate fee in advance. If the candidate fails, the certificate fee is refunded but the grading fee is forfeit. The deadline for application is in general one week before the examination, and is published well in advance. No late applications are accepted.

### Application to Foreign Grading (FIK member nation)

To apply to a grading in another FIK member nation, the candidate must follow all rules and prerequisites of that country. Required fees, including any required to register a CKF certificate will be paid by the candidate to the foreign grading authority. Candidates must be CKF members in good standing. In the case of grading in Japan, the candidate must submit the AJKF out-of-country grading form to the CKF president for approval and signature. This form is available on the CKF website.

### Time in Grade Qualifications for Dan:

Applicants (Kendo, Iaido and Jodo) must have the following periods of practice:

Dan/Kyu	Practice Periods	Minimum Age
1st Kyu		
1st (Sho) Dan	Over 3 months after granting of 1 Kyu	13 Years and over
2nd (Ni) Dan	Over 1 year after granting of 1st Dan	
3rd (San) Dan	Over 2 years after granting of 2nd Dan	
4th (Yon) Dan	Over 3 years after granting of 3rd Dan	

5th (Go) Dan	Over 4 years after granting of 4th Dan	
6th (Roku) Dan	Over 5 years after granting of 5th Dan	
7th (Nana) Dan	Over 6 years after granting of 6th Dan	
8th (Hachi) Dan	Over 10 years after granting of 7th Dan	46 Years and over

## Application Process for Shogo

In general, applicants for shogo must meet the same qualifications as those for dan and also hold rank for the times specified in the chart below. Those who wish to apply for renshi or kyoshi should apply to the President and to the appropriate national Chief Examiner, with a copy to the Secretary. The Secretary will arrange for the appropriate fees to be paid. Renshi and kyoshi applicants will submit a brief history of their kendo experience.

In the case of renshi, the candidate will submit short essay discussing the topic “my life and kendo”.

In the case of kyoshi, the candidate will submit an essay discussing the topic “my kendo philosophy”. The candidate must submit one recommendation letter from a sensei who holds CKF 7<sup>th</sup> dan or higher.

Candidates who fail the essay portion of the exam may retake the exam.

The decision on awarding the shogo will be made by the appropriate grading committee at the usual fall gradings in the West and East.

Candidates for hanshi are nominated by submitting letters of recommendation to the President from at least two sensei who hold CKF 7<sup>th</sup> dan or higher.. If a suitable candidate is nominated, the President will appoint a committee to discuss the matter as outlined in the grading committee section of this policy. If the committee comes to a consensus on the candidate, hanshi will be awarded. There are no fees associated with the awarding of hanshi.

## Time in Grade Qualifications for Shogo:

Applicants (Kendo, Iaido and Jodo) must have the following periods of practice:

Shogo	Practice Periods
Renshi	Over 1 year after granting of 6th Dan
Kyoshi	Over 2 years after granting of 7th Dan
Hanshi	Over 8 years after granting of 8th Dan

## CKF Registration of Foreign Grades:

Registration of a foreign grading certificate for either dan or shogo is subject to a \$50 registration fee.

The candidate must provide proof of the grade in the form of a grading certificate and/or letter from the issuing federation president. Verification of grades up to and including 4th dan may be done by the Grading Secretary or the CKF President. Verification of grades 5th dan and above must be done by the CKF President.

In the case of shogo, the candidate must submit a brief essay introducing themselves and including their kendo history.

## CKF Examination and Certificate Fee Schedule

Item	Examination Fees	Registration (Certificate) Fees	Japanese Certificate*
1st Kyu (junior)	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	N/A
1st Kyu	\$ 35.00	\$ 45.00	N/A
1st Dan (junior)	\$ 30.00	\$ 50.00	+ \$ 80.00
1st Dan	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.00	+ \$ 80.00
2nd Dan	\$ 60.00	\$ 90.00	+ \$ 80.00
3rd Dan	\$ 70.00	\$ 150.00	+ \$ 80.00
4th Dan	\$ 75.00	\$ 325.00	No additional charge
5th Dan	\$ 75.00	\$ 425.00	No additional charge
6th Dan	\$ 75.00	\$ 550.00	No additional charge
7th Dan	\$ 75.00	\$ 700.00	No additional charge
Renshi	\$100.00	\$ 500.00	No additional charge
Kyoshi	N/A	\$ 600.00	No additional charge
Hanshi	N/A	Waived	Waived
Registration of Foreign Certificate	N/A	\$ 50.00	N/A
Replacement Certificate	N/A	\$ 50.00	\$ 70.00
Letter confirming rank	N/A	\$ 20.00	

\*All certificates for 4th Dan and up will be written in Japanese. All names on Japanese Certificates will be written in Roman alphabet unless otherwise specified on the application form.

## CKF Examination Results Reporting

The National Chief Examiner or the Regional Examiner who oversees the grading committee is responsible for submitting the results of the examination to the Grading Secretary, with copies to the President, National Chief Examiner and the Information Technology Committee. The results are to be submitted promptly, no later than one week after the examination date.

The Grading Secretary is responsible for ensuring that the results are properly recorded. Results are reported by submitting an electronic spreadsheet that contains the names of the judges on the committee, the date and place of the examination and for each candidate the following information:

1. Name
2. CKF membership number
3. Kyu, dan or shogo applied for
4. Result (pass or fail)
5. Number of judges that voted pass