



# **Grading Policy**

## Kendo

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### **1. Summary**

The grading policy of Kendo na hÉireann defines a grading process for kendoka grading in Ireland which is fully compliant and consistent with the directives and guidelines from the European Kendo Federation (EKF) and the International Kendo Federation (FIK).

These rules are based on the following revisions of FIK and EKF documents:

- IKF Standard Rules for Dan / Kyu Examination, March 26, 1997
- Revised IKF Standard Rules for Dan / Kyu Examination, July 3, 2003
- Standard Guideline for Dan / Kyu Examination, FIK, Dec 7, 2006
- EKF159AZ Dan grading exams, December 25, 2007

### **2. Official Grades**

Within Kendo na hÉireann the first official grade is 6th Kyu and the grading topics described below are the minimum that each applicant must perform during a grading.

Any member club may optionally offer gradings below this grade starting from 9<sup>th</sup> Kyu. These grades (9<sup>th</sup> kyu to 7<sup>th</sup> kyu inclusive) are regulated and certified by the individual club and are not officially recognized by Kendo na hÉireann.

### **3. Proof of Grade and Membership**

Before any grading, applicants must furnish Kendo na hÉireann with proof of their current grade, and that sufficient time has passed since their last grading by presenting any of the following forms of proof;

- a) copy of the certificate for their current grade
- b) the EKF Yellow Card
- c) letter from secretary of Kendo na hÉireann stating their grade and when it was achieved.

In order to grade to 4th Kyu or above, applicants must also furnish proof of membership of Kendo na hÉireann. An exception is made for members of other FIK accredited organisation (see below).

### **4. Forms and Registrations**

Before any grading applicants must complete the “*Application form for Grading in Kendo*”, and for Dan grade gradings they must also complete “*EKF Dan registration file*”. After a completed grading examination the organising club needs to send in a signed copy of the “*Grading Examination Summary for Kendo*” to the Secretary of Kendo na hÉireann.

Kendo na hÉireann shall maintain a register of all gradings conducted under Kendo na hÉireann, including those of non Kendo na hÉireann members for both Kyu and Dan grades. This registration is achieved by member clubs sending in the “*Grading Examination Summary for Kendo*” or by applicants sending a copy of their certificate to the Secretary of Kendo na hÉireann.

### **5. Examiners**

All grading examiners must be registered members of Kendo na hÉireann or have permission from the President of Kendo na hÉireann, and from the president of the FIK-accredited organization or which they are a member, before assisting in a grading.

### **6. Grading Abroad**

Kendo na hÉireann members who wish to grade abroad must first obtain signed written permission from the President of Kendo na hÉireann. To obtain this permission simply contact the secretary of Kendo na hÉireann no later than 2 weeks in advance of the proposed grading date.

### **7. Members of Other FIK-accredited Organisations**

Foreign applicants who intend to participate in a grading in the Republic of Ireland must have a written authorisation signed by the President of their home FIK-accredited organisation, showing that he / she may participate in the grading. If such authorisation is not presented then the applicant will not be permitted to grade.

## 8. Grading Topics – Kyu Grades

Grade	Topics
<b>6 Kyu</b>	No uniform required Rei, Sonkyo and Kamae Ashi-sabaki: Okuri ashi Suburi: Men, Kote-Men, Joge-Suburi, Haya-Suburi
<b>5 Kyu</b>	Correct wearing of Hakama & Kendo-gi *Uchikomi: Men, Kote, Kote-Men Kirikaeshi
<b>4 Kyu **</b>	Bogu, Uchikomi: Men, Kote, Do, Kote-Men Kirikaeshi Jitsugi (Jikeiko)
<b>3 Kyu **</b>	Bogu, Uchikomi: Men, Kote, Do, Kote-Men, Kote-Men-Do Kirikaeshi Jitsugi (Jikeiko)
<b>2 Kyu **</b>	Bogu, Kirikaeshi, Jitsugi (Jikeiko), Nippon Kendo Kata (tachi 1-3), written test
<b>1 Kyu **</b>	Bogu, Kirikaeshi, Jitsugi (Jikeiko), Nippon Kendo Kata (tachi 1-5), written test

\* Only as Kakarite

\*\* Membership Kendo na hÉireann (or other FIK-accredited organisation) required

## 9. Grading Topics – Dan Grades

Grade	Topics
<b>1 Dan</b>	Kirikaeshi, Jitsugi (Jikeiko), Nippon Kendo Kata (tachi 1-5), written test
<b>2 Dan</b>	Kirikaeshi, Jitsugi (Jikeiko), Nippon Kendo Kata (tachi 1-7), written test
<b>3 Dan</b>	Kirikaeshi, Jitsugi (Jikeiko), Nippon Kendo Kata (tachi 1-7, kodachi 1-3), written test
<b>4 Dan</b>	Jitsugi (Jikeiko), Nippon Kendo Kata (tachi 1-7, kodachi 1-3), written test
<b>5 Dan</b>	Jitsugi (Jikeiko), Nippon Kendo Kata (tachi 1-7, kodachi 1-3), written test
<b>6 Dan</b>	Jitsugi (Jikeiko), Nippon Kendo Kata (tachi 1-7, kodachi 1-3), Ability to judge Shiai
<b>7 Dan</b>	Jitsugi (Jikeiko), Nippon Kendo Kata (tachi 1-7, kodachi 1-3), Ability to judge shiai

## 10. Grading Questions

Grade	Topics
<b>Kyu*</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the targets in Kendo and what is the method of hitting them?</li> <li>Describe a Shinai and its parts.</li> <li>Describe the Kendo Bogu and its main parts.</li> <li>What is Kirikaeshi and how is it performed?</li> <li>What is Reigi in Kendo and why is it important?</li> <li>Briefly explain what Maai is.</li> <li>Briefly explain what Ki-Ken-Tai is.</li> <li>Briefly explain what Zanshin is.</li> <li>What is Daitotsubui?</li> <li>Describe Chudan-no-kamae</li> <li>What are the basic kamae in Kendo and their use?</li> <li>What is Suburi and why is it fundamental in Kendo?</li> <li>Describe two of the basic foot movements (Ashi-Sabaki) in Kendo.</li> <li>What are the differences between Kakarigeiko, Uchikomigeiko and Gikeiko?</li> <li>What is Budo and why is it important in Kendo?</li> </ul>
<b>1 Dan**</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is Oji-waza? Briefly explain two techniques.</li> <li>Why is Kirikaeshi central to Kendo practice?</li> </ul>
<b>2 Dan**</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is Shikake-waza? Briefly explain two techniques.</li> <li>What is the importance of Ki-ken-tai-no-ichi in Kendo?</li> </ul>
<b>3 Dan**</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the role of either Uchidachi or Shidachi in Nippon Kendo Kata?</li> <li>Explain what Zanshin is?</li> </ul>
<b>4 Dan**</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the main points in Refereeing a Kendo Match?</li> <li>What is the importance of the Motodachi in Kendo?</li> </ul>
<b>5 Dan**</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain the meaning of Yoku-Datotsu.</li> <li>Explain Metsuke.</li> </ul>

\* Kyusha can choose any one question to answer before grading. Answers should be no more than 100 words and handed in by applicants no later than on the day of registration for the grading.

\*\*Applicant should answer both questions, using no more than 250 words. Answers should be handed in by applicants no later than on the day of registration for the grading.

## 11. Grading Panel

Grading for	Judge grade	Minimum number of judges	Number of votes to pass
6 Kyu	1 Dan or higher	1	1
5 Kyu	1 Dan or higher	2	1
4 Kyu	1 Dan or higher	3	2
3 Kyu	1 Dan or higher	3	2
2 Kyu	2 Dan or higher	3	2
1 Kyu	2 Dan or higher	3	2
1 Dan	4 Dan or higher	5	3
2 Dan	5 Dan or higher	5	3
3 Dan	5 Dan or higher	5	3
4 Dan	6 Dan or higher	6	4
5 Dan	7 Dan or higher	6	4
6 Dan	7 Dan or higher	6	4
7 Dan	7 Dan or higher	6	4

## 12. Minimum Times

Level to be examined	Minimum time	Minimum Age
6 - 1 Kyu	2 calendar months since last grading	Minimum of 12 year for 1 Kyu
1 Dan	3 calendar months after 1 Kyu	Minimum of 14 years
2 Dan	1 year after 1 Dan	
3 Dan	2 years after 2 Dan	
4 Dan	3 years after 3 Dan	
5 Dan	4 years after 4 Dan	
6 Dan	5 years after 5 Dan	
7 Dan	6 years after 6 Dan	

## 13. Fees

Level to be examined	Application fee	Registration fee
6 - 1 Kyu	-	20 Euro
1 Dan	10 Euro	15 Euro
2 Dan	15 Euro	25 Euro
3 Dan	25 Euro	40 Euro
4 Dan	40 Euro	60 Euro
5 Dan	60 Euro	90 Euro
6 Dan	90 Euro	120 Euro
7 Dan	120 Euro	160 Euro