



*All United States Kendo Federation*

**REGULATIONS FOR  
KENDO PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
SECTIONS I - X**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTIONS:</u>	<u>Page(s)</u>
<u>Section I:</u> REGULATIONS FOR CONDUCTING PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATIONS	3-5
<u>Section II:</u> REGULATIONS FOR KYU PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATIONS	6
<u>Section III:</u> REGULATIONS FOR DAN PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATIONS	7-9
<u>Section IV:</u> REGULATIONS FOR ISSUANCE OF SHOGO TITLES	10-12
<u>Section V:</u> REGULATIONS FOR WRITTEN PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATIONS	13
<u>Section VI:</u> REGULATIONS FOR KENDO RANKING AND SHOGO TITLE CERTIFICATES	14
<u>Section VII:</u> REGULATIONS FOR REVOKING OF RANK AND/OR SHOGO TITLES	15
<u>Section VIII:</u> REGULATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROVIDING PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATIONS	16
<u>Section IX:</u> REGULATIONS FOR CONDUCTING IAIDO PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATIONS	17
<u>Section X:</u> REGULATIONS FOR CONDUCTING JODO PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATIONS	17



## **Section I:**

### **REGULATIONS FOR CONDUCTING PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATIONS**

- Article 1** All member kendo federations [hereafter referred to as “MKF”] and the All United States Kendo Federation [hereafter referred to as “AUSKF”] shall follow the specific Regulations For Kendo Promotional Examinations as approved by a majority of the AUSKF Board of Directors in the manner provided for in the AUSKF Bylaws.
- Article 2** Promotional examinations conducted for the ranks of 4 Dan and below shall be supervised by either the MKF or AUSKF. When a conflict arises between the MKF and AUSKF regulations for conducting kendo promotional examinations, the AUSKF regulations shall take precedence
- Article 3** Promotional examinations conducted by the MKF and the AUSKF shall be held before a Promotional Examination Board [hereafter referred to as ‘PEB’] consisting of qualified examiners.
- Article 4** If the MKF is unable to set up a qualified PEB, additional qualified examiners may be authorized by AUSKF Vice-President of Promotions and Examinations [hereafter referred to as “AUSKF VP of P&E”] after receiving a request from the MKF for assistance from the AUSKF.
- Article 5** The MKF conducting a promotional examination shall not be able to request the assistance from AUSKF of a specific qualified examiner by name; requests for AUSKF assistance shall be for the number of qualified examiners needed by the MKF to set up a qualified PEB.
- The determination of the specific qualified examiners to be provided by the AUSKF will be negotiated with the MKF.
- At its discretion, the AUSKF may request that the MKF send its promotional examination candidates to another MKF to take the promotional examination.
- Article 6** Each MKF shall be limited to request AUSKF assistance for qualified examiners to set up a qualified PEB once per calendar year.
- Article 7** Each MKF shall submit to the AUSKF VP of P&E the MKF promotional examination date and an alternate date; this information is due by the end of February of each calendar year.
- Article 8** A MKF candidate seeking to take a promotion examination for the rank of 4 Dan and below outside their MKF shall be required to obtain the approval of the candidate’s MKF President and the approval of the MKF President that will be conducting the promotional examination.



## **Regulation for Conducting Promotional Examination [continue]**

- Article 9** Candidates seeking to take a Promotional Examination outside. The United States with a member federation of the International Kendo Federation [hereafter referred to as “IKF”] shall be required to take the following steps:
1. Obtain approval of the candidate’s MKF President ~ the approval of the AUSKF VP of P&E; the candidate shall then submit the request to the President of AUSKF for final approval.
  2. If final approval is given the President of AUSKF shall give notice of the authorization to the member federation of the IKF that is conducting the promotional examination.
  3. Candidates applying for promotional examinations [including requests for Shogo titles] in another countries kendo federation, other than AUSKF, shall be responsible for paying all fees and any registration fees upon receiving the requested promotion/shogo title.
  4. Candidates applying for promotional examinations in other countries shall also be required to pay for all initial processing fees required by the AUSKF.
  5. All ranking kendo certificates of other countries kendo federations shall be issued to the candidate and upon receipt, a photocopy of the ranking certificate shall be sent by the candidate to the AUSKF VP for P&E.
- Article 10** When a candidate has previously resigned their membership with the MKF/ AUSKF and during that time period was granted a promotional rank/shogo title by a MKF who was not affiliated with AUSKF; all such promotional ranks/shogo titles shall not be recognized by the AUSKF, except those promotional ranks/shogo titles granted by the AUSKF under the guidelines for the granting of promotional ranks/shogo titles to non-members of AUSKF.
- Article 11** The qualified examiners selected to be on the PEB for the MKF / AUSKF promotional examinations shall be required to attend a minimum of two (2) training seminars for examiners on required subject matters considered during the promotional examinations.
- Article 12** The selection of the PEB and procedures for the 5 Dan and above Shinsa shall be made in accordance with the AUSKF Policy and Procedure Sections 8.00.00 through 8.02.03.
- Article 13** Candidates who fail an initial promotion examination for 5<sup>th</sup> Dan and above-Retesting Waiting Period. Once 5 Dan and Above candidates meet eligibility criteria to take the initial examination, there is no longer a retesting waiting period.
- Article 14** All individuals who belong to a new AUSKF member association approved to join the AUSKF and who have received a kendo rank which was not given by an authorized International Kendo



## Regulation For Conducting Promotion Examinations [continue]

**Article 15** Federation [“IKF”] member Federation Country shall be requested to take a qualifying examination given at an AUSKF member Federation or AUSKF promotion examination. These individuals will then be recommended for promotion by the qualified AUSKF member Federation/ AUSKF Examination Board.

1. If the individual in the above described circumstance decides not to take the qualifying examination; then alternatively, the kendo rank of 1-kyu will be given to such individuals until taking the next AUSKF member Federation/AUSKF promotion examination.
2. The individual taking the qualifying examination given by the AUSKF member Federation/AUSKF Examination Board, shall be given a recommended kendo rank and following payment of the AUSKF menjo fees a menjo with new kendo rank will be issued.
3. If the previously granted Kendo rank by an unauthorized IKF member Country is determined at the AUSKF member/AUSKF qualifying examination to be valid; the waiting period for the next kendo rank shall begin from the date of the initial granting of the kendo rank given by the unauthorized IKF member Country.

**Article 16** The AUSKF promotion examination for 1 Kyu—8 Dan shall require the candidate to pass both Kendo and kata portion of the examination

1. For all candidates 1 Kyu through 8 Dan **if the candidate passes the Kendo portion but fails the Kata portion**, the candidate can re-test for the kata portion of the examination only. If done within one year from the initial promotion examination date. However a second promotion fee will be assessed if taken under the supervision of the AUSKF.
2. For the candidate taking the promotion examination for 4 Dan and below if the candidate passes the kendo portion **but fails the kata portion , a re-test within one year may be taken at the next AUSKF or regional federation promotion examination.** The AUSKF re-test fee policy is the same as in Article 20 above. However the regional federation may assess a new promotion examination fee for the re-test if taken one year from the previous AUSKF or regional federation promotion Examination.



## **Section II**

### **REGULATIONS FOR KYU PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATIONS**

- Article 1** Kyu promotional examinations of the AUSKF shall be in accordance with the regulations set forth below.
- Article 2** Kyu ranking shall consist of six (6) classes, 6th Kyu to 1st Kyu.
- Article 3** Candidates for the Kyu promotional examination shall be member of good standing of a MKF affiliated with AUSKF.
- Article 4** The Kyu promotional examination shall be conducted by 4 Dan and above with 5 Examiners.
- Article 5** Examination fees for the Kyu promotional examinations shall be set forth and stipulated by the MKF / AUSKF.



**Section III:**

**REGULATIONS FOR DAN PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATIONS**

**Article 1** The Dan shall be comprised of 8 degrees from 1st Dan through 8th Dan.

**Article 2** Candidates for the Dan promotional Examination shall:

1. Be a member in good standing of a MKF affiliated with the AUSKF.
2. Satisfy the following requirements:
3. The highest rank shall be Hanshi.

<b><u>Rank</u></b>	<b><u>Practice Period</u></b>	<b><u>Minimum Age</u></b>
1st Dan	Trained over 3 months after granting of 1st Kyu	14 years and older
2nd Dan	Trained over 1 years after granting of 1st Dan	N/A
3rd Dan	Trained over 2 years after granting of 2nd Dan	N/A
4th Dan	Trained over 3 years after granting of 3 rd Dan	N/A
5th Dan	Trained over 4 years after granting of 4th Dan	N/A
6th Dan	Trained over 5 years after granting of 5th Dan	N/A
7th Dan	Trained over 6 years after granting of 6th Dan	N/A
8th Dan	Trained over 10 years after granting of 7th Dan	46 years and older

**Article 3** AUSKF shall conduct a Promotional Examination for the 5th Dan through 7th Dan as determined by the AUSKF Board of Directors.

**Article 4** Dan Promotional Examinations shall be conducted as set forth below:

<b><u>Rank</u></b>	<b><u>Examination Subjects and Requirements</u></b>
1st Dan through 8th Dan	Kendo matches, Kendo Kata, Written Examination Must be an active, practicing kendoist. Must submit and complete promotion request form. Must be recommended by affiliated MKF. Promotion must be approved by the AUSKF VP of P&E.



<b>Kendo Kata</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Kyu	Tachi #1 through #3
1 <sup>st</sup> Dan	Tachi #1 through #5
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan	Tachi #1 through #7
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan through 7 <sup>th</sup> Dan	Tachi #1 through #7 and Kodachi #1 through #3

### Regulations For Dan Promotional Examinations [continued]

<b>Dan Examination</b>	<b>Examiners</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
1 Kyu-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 7 over	6	Consent of min 4 Examiners
8 Dan	8 Dan Hanshi	If only 9	Consent of min 7 Examiners
8 Dan	8 Dan Hanshi	If only 8	Consent of min 6 Examiners
8 Dan	8 Dan Hanshi	If only 7	Consent of min 6 Examiners

#### Article 5

Kendo 8th Dan candidates must meet all of the eligibility requirements set forth below:

1. Candidate must be an active practitioner of kendo, i.e. practicing a minimum of or twice a week.
2. Candidate shall demonstrate ones kendo skill level and prowess of ken do.
3. Candidate shall be knowledgeable and capable of demonstrating and explaining kendo "waza" [techniques], and Nihon Kendo Kata. In addition, a videotape interview will be conducted to document the candidates' kendo philosophy, experiences and history.

(A)The criteria for the selection of examiners for the promotional examinations are as follows:

Rank to be examined	Criteria for Examiners	Examinations	No. of Examiners
1 Kyu -1 Dan ( Sho Dan)	4 Dan and above	Matches, Kata, Written examination	5
2 <sup>st</sup> Dan (Ni-Dan) to 3 Dan (San-Dan)	5 <sup>th</sup> Dan and above	Matches. Kata, Written examination	5
4th Dan ( <i>yon-Dan</i> )	6th Dan and above	Matches, Kata, Written examination	5
5th Dan ( <i>go-Dan</i> ) to 7th Dan ( <i>nana-Dan</i> )	7th Dan and above KYOSHI	Matches, Kata, Written examination	6
8th Dan ( <i>hachi-Dan</i> )	Hanshi or 8th Dan Below age 76	Matches, Kata	9

The criteria for passing the promotional examinations are as follows.

1. For 1<sup>st</sup> dan through 3<sup>rd</sup> dan) the consent of minimum of 3 examiners is required.
2. For 4<sup>th</sup> dan through 7<sup>th</sup> dan) the consent of minimum of 4 examiners is required.
3. For 8<sup>th</sup> dan, the consent of minimum of 6 examiners is required.

(b)The following exemptions are made for the eligibility of the promotional examinations.

With special consideration and approval of regional federation presidents. Those of age 60 and above are eligible for the promotional examinations in-accordance with the following criteria;

Rank	Training Period
5 Dan	Two (2) years or more after receiving 4 Dan
6 Dan	Two (2) years or more after receiving 5 Dan
7 Dan	Three (3) years or more after receiving 6 Dan
8 Dan	Five (5) years or more after receiving 7 Dan

4.MKF that the candidate is affiliated with shall submit a written request and recommendation to the AUSKF Board of Directors recommending the candidate for the requested rank.

5. There will be a two-step evaluation process of each candidate.

(a.) Step one will consist of available 8<sup>th</sup> Dan AUSKF qualified examiners and two (2) 8<sup>th</sup> Dan Kendo Sensei from Zen Nippon Kendo Renmei [hereafter referred to as ZNKR] who will evaluate the candidates for recommendation for promotion.

(b.) Step two will consist of the review by the AUSKF Board of Directors of the candidates recommended for promotion from step one above.



## **Section IV:**

### **REGULATIONS FOR ISSUANCE OF SHOGO TITLES**

**Article 1** The issuance of Shogo Titles by the AUSKF shall be in accordance with the regulations set forth below.

**Article 2** The Shogo Titles will be separated into three ranks:

1. Renshi
2. Kyoshi
3. Hanshi

The above three ranks will be given to qualified candidates based on the following character traits: personality, knowledge, initiative, shimpan capability, and leadership based on the level and degree with which the individual dedicates themselves to the development and promotion of kendo.

**Article 3** Any candidate who wishes to be considered for a Shogo Title must meet the following qualifications:

1. Be a member of a MKF or group affiliated with the AUSKF.
2. Specific requirements for each of the three ranks which must be met are as follows:

(1.) Renshi

- a) 1 year after receiving 6th Dan.
- b) Participated in AUSKF Kendo Seminars and able to Shinpan
- c) Kendo resume must be submitted.
- d) Recommendation by the President of the KF.

(2.) Kyoshi

- (a.) 2 years after receiving 7<sup>th</sup> Dan Renshi participation in AUSKF Kendo Seminar and able to teach kendoist
- . (b.) Kendo thesis must be submitted.
- (c.) Kendo resume must be submitted.
- (d.) Recommendation by the President of the MKF.

(3.) Hanshi

- (a.) 8 years after receiving 8<sup>th</sup> Dan Kyoshi
- . (b.) Kendo resume must be submitted.
- (c.) Recommendation by the President of the MKF and the president of AUSKF..

## **Regulations For Issuance of Shogo Titles [Continued]**

**Article 4** Examination Testing For Shogo Titles shall be conducted as follows:

1. The test for Shogo Titles for all three ranks shall be held once a calendar year in conjunction with the Kodansha Shinsa as determined by the AUSKF Board of Directors, if time allows; otherwise, the test may be held at any time, due to special necessity.

2. The Examination Method will be as follows:

(a.) For the ranks of Renshi and Kyoshi, the test is conducted by the examining board through the review of the recommendation documents submitted by the KF.

(b.) The examining board shall consist of 7 Kodansha examiners. Appointed/elected each year by the committee of eight (8) identified in the AUSKF PPG 8.02.02-8.02.02.06

(c.) Approval of 5 or more of the examiners is required to pass the test and be awarded the Shogo Title recommended by the MKF .

(d.) The examiners will review the submitted documents to determine the candidate's qualifications and then approve the request based on the qualifications of the candidate.

**Article 5** The Hanshi Examining Board shall be composed of 10 examiners.

1. Upon review of the recommendation documents submitted by the MKF , approval of 8 or more of the examiners shall be required to pass the test.

**Article 6** The AUSKF Board of Directors can deprive individuals of a previously awarded Shogo Title or order that the person return the Shogo Title when it acknowledges the person has dishonored the shogo by their actions or upon request of the President of the MKF.

**Article 7** The President of the AUSKF may award the Shogo Title for the ranks of Kyoshi or Renshi to a deceased individual who was the holder of the rank of Renshi or 5 Dan and had been dedicated to the development of Kendo, at the request from the President of the MKF

The President of the AUSK may award the Shogo Title for the rank of Hanshi to a deceased individual with the following qualifications, at the request from the President of the MKF:

- 1) Holder of Kyoshi 8th Dan.
- 2) Holder of Kyoshi 7th Dan and has been Kyoshi over twenty (20) years
- 3) Holder of Kyoshi 7th Dan less than twenty (20) years and over fifty five (55) years of age
- 4) Person was dedicated to the development of Ken do



**Article 8** Testing fees and registration fees are stated separately.

**Regulations for Issuance of Shogo Titles {continued}**

**Article 9** Special Condition Shogo Titles may be awarded as follows:

1. Renshi

- a. After 5 years of receiving 5<sup>th</sup> Dan and 50 years old or older.
- b. Individual displays leadership and working for the development of kendo
- c. After receipt of the special condition Renshi this individual cannot apply for 6<sup>th</sup> Dan..

3 Kyoshi

- b. After 7 years of receiving Renshi 6<sup>th</sup> Dan and 60 years of age or older.
- c. Individual displays leadership and working for the development of ken do.
- d. After receipt of the special condition Kyoshi this individual cannot apply for 7<sup>th</sup> Dan

3 Hanshi

- a. Kyoshi 7<sup>th</sup> Dan and 70 years old or older.
- B Individual who possesses complete maturity of the principle of Kendo and has superior discernment as well as nobility of character and virtues..
- c After receipt of the special condition Hanshi, this individual cannot apply for 8<sup>th</sup> Dan.



## **Section V:**

### **REGULATIONS FOR WRITTEN PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATIONS**

- Article 1** A written kendo examination shall be required for the 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu through 7<sup>th</sup> Dan.
- Article 2** The test questions to be administered during each calendar year and the corresponding official answer sheets shall be sent out to each MKF by January 31 of each calendar year. The official answer sheets shall be kept confidential by each respective MKF, in the care of the MKF President.
- Article 3** Each candidate's answers to the written questions will be brought to the promotional examination/PEB for grading.
- Article 4** The written examination for 1<sup>st</sup> kyu through 4<sup>th</sup> Dan will consist of two (2) questions and the candidate shall answer only one (1) question of their choice.
- Article 5** The written examination for 5<sup>th</sup> Dan and above will consist of three (3) questions and the candidate shall answer two (2) questions of their choice.
- Article 6** The written kendo examination shall be completed and submitted in the English or own language.
- Article 7** The written kendo examination will be graded as either pass or fail by the PEB.
- Article 8** The PEB has the option of conducting an oral kendo examination in addition to the written examination.

**Section VI:**

**REGULATIONS FOR KENDO RANKING AND SHOGO TITLE CERTIFICATES**

- Article 1** All kendo ranking [6<sup>th</sup> Kyu through 8<sup>th</sup> Dan] and Shogo Title certificates shall be issued by the AUSKF-
- Article 2** The MKF or AUSKF who conducts the promotional examination shall submit the request for the kendo ranking certificates specifying to which MKF each of the kendo ranking certificates are to be sent to.
- If the candidate is not a member of the MKF conducting the promotional examination, it is the responsibility of the MKF with whom the candidate is affiliated with to provide the MKF conducting the promotional examination the necessary information required for the promotional examination certificate to be issued by AUSKF .
- Article 3** The kendo ranking and Shogo Title certificates shall be in the English language.
- Article 4** The candidate who wishes to have a certificate in the Japanese language may request the certificate be issued in the Japanese language. An additional fee **will be** required for this request, as determined by the AUSKF Board of Directors.
- Article 5** The kendo ranking and Shogo Title certificates issued by AUSKF shall be copied and placed into the AUSKF Promotional Examination Records, prior to the presentation of the certificate to the candidate
- Article 6** Kendo ranking and Shogo Title certificates issued by other countries kendo federations shall be issued as set forth in the AUSKF Regulations for Conducting Promotional Examinations. Article 9.
- Article 7** AUSKF kenshi who passes the promotion Examination and **DOES NOT PAY** the Menjo (certificate) recording fee **Within one year from the date of the Promotion Examination, then the new promotion rank will be considered INVLAID**



## **Section VII:**

### **REGULATIONS FOR REVOKING OF RANK AND/OR SHOGO TITLE**

- Article 1** Kendo ranks and/or Shogo Titles previously granted by the AUSKF may be revoked by the AUSKF Board of Directors.
- Article 2** The AUSKF Board of Directors shall appoint a seven (7) member Board of Inquiry to investigate any alleged grounds for revoking the kendo rank and/or Shogo Title of a MKF member affiliated with the AUSKF.
- The AUSKF VP of P&E shall be the Chairman of the Board of Inquiry.
- Article 3** The Board of Inquiry shall prepare a report of their findings and make a recommendation to the AUSKF Board of Directors whether or not the kendo rank and/or Shogo Title of the MKF member affiliated with AUSKF should be revoked.
- Article 4** The recommendation by the Board of Inquiry to revoke the kendo rank and/or Shogo Title of a MKF member affiliated with AUSKF shall be reviewed by the AUSKF Board of Directors; approval of the Board of Inquiry recommendation for revocation shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum [as set forth in the AUSKF Bylaws] of the AUSKF Board of Directors.



**Section VIII:**

**REGULATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROVIDING PROMOTIONAL EXAMINERS**

- Article 1** The AUSKF shall provide each MKF affiliated with the AUSKF, financial assistance to provide qualified promotional examiners under the following guideline:
- (a) AUSKF shall pay fifty (50) per cent of the cost of transportation and hotel accommodations for the number of promotional examiners needed by each MKF affiliated with the AUSKF, upon receipt of a request for AUSKF assistance to provide qualified promotional examiners.
  - (b) Other financial assistance required by a MKF affiliated with the AUSKF for the purpose of conducting a promotional examination shall require a written request to be submitted to the AUSKF Board of Directors, in advance of the MKF promotional examination to be conducted.



**Section IX.**

**REGULATIONS FOR CONDUCTING IAIDO PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATIONS**

**Article 1** IKF regulations shall be in effect, the AUSKF Board of Directors may modify these regulations as it deems necessary.

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**Section X:**

**REGULATIONS FOR CONDUCTING JODO PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATIONS**

**Article 1** IKF regulations shall be in effect, the AUSKF Board of Directors may modify these regulations, as it deems necessary.