

# UniSport Australia Guideline

## Kendo

### Men and Women

UniSport kendo competitions are conducted in accordance with the rules of the [Australian Kendo Renmei \(AKR\)](#) and the *Rules and Regulations for Kendo Competition and Shinpan Management* published by the *International Kendo Federation (FIK)* on 26 July 2023. All amendments made hereafter to the FIK rules and regulations shall be included. Where these differ from UniSport guidelines, the latter shall take precedence.

#### 1. Preamble

- 1.1. Competitors shall play in a fair and square fashion in accordance with the principles of the sword, and that shinpanins (referees) perform their duties without prejudice. A display of disrespect and unfairness will be dealt with in accordance with relevant rules and regulations.
- 1.2. Safety is of paramount importance. As such, the use of *fusei-yogu* (prohibited equipment), prohibited acts or techniques, and other items or behaviour which are deemed to be non-conformant to the purpose mentioned above will be dealt with by the *Shinpan-cho* (Technical Officer) or authorised officials in accordance with relevant rules and regulations (e.g. instant disqualification).

#### 2. Team/squad size

- 2.1. Each university team can register up to 7 men in the Individual *Kyu* Grade Men's Championship. These *shiai-sha* may participate in both the Individual *Kyu* Grade Men's Championship and the Teams *Open* Grade Men's Championship, under the conditions described in the rules for each event.
- 2.2. Each university team can register up to 7 women in the Individual *Kyu* Grade Women's Championship. These *shiai-sha* may participate in both the Individual *Kyu* Grade Women's Championship and the Teams *Open* Grade Women's Championship, under the conditions described in the rules for each event.
- 2.3. Each university team can register up to 7 men in the Individual *Dan* Grade Men's Championship. These *shiai-sha* may participate in both the Individual *Dan* Grade Men's Championship and the Teams *Open* Grade Men's Championship, under the conditions described in the rules for each event.
- 2.4. Each university team can register up to 7 women in the Individual *Dan* Grade Women's Championship. These *shiai-sha* may participate in both the Individual *Dan* Grade Women's Championship and the Teams *Open* Grade Women's Championship, under the conditions described in the rules for each event.
- 2.5. For the Teams *Open* Grade Men's Championship:
  - 2.5.1. Each university may enter one team of 5 *shiai-sha* and up to 2 reserves, with a minimum of 3 *shiai-sha*.
  - 2.5.2. The *shiai-sha* in each team may be a mix of *Dan* and *Kyu* grades.
  - 2.5.3. *Open* Grade Men's Teams comprise of 5 *shiai-sha* (1 – *senpo*, 2 – *jiho*, 3 – *chuken*, 4 – *fukusho*, and 5 – *taisho*) and up to 2 reserves per side, with a minimum of 3 *shiai-sha*.
    - 2.5.3.1. If a team of 4 *shiai-sha* competes, their *shiai-sha* positions are 1, 3, 4, and 5.
    - 2.5.3.2. If a team of 3 *shiai-sha* competes, their *shiai-sha* positions are 1, 3 and 5.
- 2.6. For the Teams *Open* Grade Women's Championship:
  - 2.6.1. Each university may enter two teams of 3 *shiai-sha* and up to 1 reserve, with a minimum of 2 *shiai-sha* in each team.
  - 2.6.2. If a university enters two teams, one of the teams must be a full team (i.e. team of 3 *shiai-sha*). Entering two teams of 2 *shiai-sha* is not allowed.
  - 2.6.3. The *shiai-sha* in each team may be a mix of *Dan* and *Kyu* grades.
  - 2.6.4. If a university enters two teams, the makeup of each team (including the reserve) cannot change between *shiai* nor rounds. This means the same two or three *shiai-sha* must compete in the same team for the entirety of the Teams *Open* Grade Women's Championship. The team order may be changed in accordance with the conditions for submission of team orders in f).

- 2.6.5. Depending on the total number of women *shiai-sha* registered, and the size of the competition draw, the number of *shiai-sha* in each *Open Grade Women's* team may be adjusted (i.e. from teams of 3 to teams of 5). This will be confirmed and announced by the Competition Manager no later than 1 August 2024.
- 2.6.6. *Open Grade Women's Teams* comprise of 3 *shiai-sha* (1 – *senpo*, 2 – *chuken*, and 3 – *taisho*) and up to 1 reserves per side, with a minimum of 2 *shiai-sha*.
- 2.6.6.1. If a team of 2 *shiai-sha* competes, their *shiai-sha* positions are 1 and 3.
- 2.7. Competitors must be a current Ordinary Affiliate Member of the AKR or if an overseas student, a member of an International Kendo Federation (FIK) affiliate.
- Membership fees must be received by AKR no later than 30 days prior to the competition.
  - The competitor's grade must have been recognised by AKR no later than 30 days prior to the competition.

### 3. Competition format

- 3.1. All matches will be using the format of a *sanbon-shobu* ('three point match'), unless otherwise specified.
- 3.2. The following individual competitions will be contested\*:
- Individual Kyu Grade Men
  - Individual Kyu Grade Women
  - Individual Dan Grade Men
  - Individual Dan Grade Women
- Depending on the total number of women, and the size of the competition draw, women may be permitted to compete in both the Individual Dan Grade Men's and the Individual Dan Grade Women's competitions. This will be announced and confirmed at the event.
- 3.3. The following team competitions will be contested\*\*:
- Teams Open Grade Men
  - Teams Open Grade Women

\*\* Teams Open Grade Championship *shiai-sha* may be of *Kyu* or *Dan* grade.

- 3.4. **Fighting Spirit Awards**  
The *shimpan-in* shall select the *shiai-sha* who demonstrate Fighting Spirit by secret ballot, allocating one fighting spirit award for each event.
- 3.5. **Individual competitions:**
- Individual competitions consist of preliminary rounds and knock-out rounds.
  - Preliminary round will be conducted using a pool system with the *san bon shobu* rule
  - In general, each pool will comprise 3 *shiai-shas*. However, up to 5 *shiai-shas* may constitute a pool in some cases due to the number of *shiai-shas* registered.
    - In pools of 3, the order of shiais is as follows: A><B, B><C, C><A.
    - In pools of 4, the order of shiais is as follows: A><B, B><C, C><D, D><A.
    - In pools of 5, the order of shiais is as follows: A><B, B><C, C><D, D><E, E><A.
  - If a *shiai-sha* in a pool of 4 fails to register on the morning of an event the pool of 4 will be changed to a pool of 3.
  - If a *shiai-sha* in a pool of 5 fails to register on the morning of an event the pool of 5 will be changed to a pool of 4.
  - There is no *encho* (time extension) in preliminary rounds.
  - The winner of a pool will be determined by number of wins (draws are not counted).
    - If two or more *shiai-shas* equal on wins, the winner will be determined by the number of points scored (points conceded are not counted).
    - If two *shiai-shas* are still equal, a sudden death play-off by an *ippon shobu* (one-point *shiai*) will be conducted to determine the winner. These matches will be time-limited as described in 4.3. If at the end of the time-limited *encho* there is still no result, a *hantei* (three referees appoint a winner based on the *shiai-shas* overall performance) must be called by the *Shushin* to determine the winner.
    - If all *shiai-shas* in the pool are equal on wins and points scored, the pool is repeated in full (*san bon shobu*).

- h) Shiais after preliminary rounds will progress on a knock-out basis. In the case of a draw, time-limited encho is applied as described in 4.3. If at the end of the time-limited encho there is still no result, a hantei must be called by the Shushin to determine the winner.

### 3.6. Teams competition:

- a) Preliminary rounds will be conducted using a pool system. In general, two pools (Pool A and Pool B) are set up.
- b) Pools will comprise 3 teams but may comprise of up to 5 teams in some cases, depending on the number of teams in the event.
- c) In pools of 3 teams the order of shiais will be as follows:  $A > < B$ ,  $B > < C$  and  $C > < A$ .
- d) In pools of 4 teams the order of shiais will be as follows:  $A > < B$ ,  $B > < C$ ,  $C > < D$  and  $D > < A$ .
- e) In pools of 5 teams the order of shiais will be as follows:  $A > < B$ ,  $B > < C$ ,  $C > < D$ ,  $D > < E$  and  $E > < A$ .
- f) Team orders for pool matches must be submitted by the team manager to the *shimpan-shunin* (*shiai-jo* referee) of a relevant *shiai-jo* prior to the commencement of the pool and within 10 minutes of order submission final announcement made by *shiai-jo shimpan-shunin*.
- i) The team order list should include any reserve players.
- ii) Team orders for pool matches can be different, however each order list must be submitted at the same time prior to the commencement of the pool. Once submitted team members must compete in that order.
- iii) Team managers must also submit team order lists for subsequent (knock-out) matches to the *shimpan-shunin* of the relevant *shiai-jo* prior to the commencement of the round and within 3 minutes of order submission final announcement made by *shiai-jo shimpan-shunin*. Even if there is no change to the order from the previous match, an order list must be submitted for each match.
- g) A kiken (default) will be regarded as a loss with the opponent awarded 2 points.
- h) There will be no encho in team championships.
- i) At the conclusion of each team match, the team with the most matches won will be declared the winner.
- j) If the number of wins is equal, then the winning team will be determined by the number of points scored (points conceded are not counted).
- k) If the number of wins and the number of points are equal, there will be a daihyosha-sen with a representative from each team contesting an ippon-shobu within the duration of a time-limited encho specified in 4.3. If at the end of the time-limited encho there is still no result, a hantei must be called by the Shushin to determine the winner. Shiai-shas for the ippon-shobu play off must be selected from registered team members listed in submitted team orders that played in that team match. The Kantoku (team manager) must submit the name of the selected representative shiai-sha to the shimpan shunin before the daihyosha-sen.
- l) The top 2 teams will progress to a play-off with the winning team from Pool A playing-off the second team from Pool B and the winning team from Pool B playing-off the second team from Pool A.
- m) The final team shiai will be the winning teams from the play-offs.
- n) Depending on award conditions, matches for the third place may be held. This must be determined by the Competition Manager.

### 3.7. Management of team order miss

- a) In case where the competitor's order is different from the one described in the submitted order:
- i) If it is noticed before a shushin declares "Hajime" (start), the team order can be corrected in accordance with the submitted order. No penalty applies.
- ii) If it is found after the declaration of "Hajime" by the shushin, *shimpan-in* of the *shiai-jo* must stop the shiai immediately. The shiai-sha whose order is incorrect, and any other shiai-sha(s) of the same team whose orders are also incorrect will lose their respective shiais. Their opponents will be awarded 2 points per shiai, respectively. All points scored by the violating members of the team prior to the finding shall be forfeited.
- iii) If it is found, before shuryo no rei (mutual bowing exchanged at the conclusion of the shiai), that members from either teams were in violation of the order submitted, all shiai-shas whose orders were incorrect will lose their shiai and each opponent will be awarded 2 points per shiai, respectively. All points scored by the violating members of either team prior to the finding shall be forfeited.
- iv) If either team are found in violation of the order submitted after the shuryo no rei, the shiai outcome must not be changed.

- 3.8. Third place match
  - a) Depending on award conditions, matches for the third place may be held. This must be determined by the Competition Manager.
- 3.9. Suspension of a match
  - a) *Shinpanins* need to determine whether to continue the match within five minutes from the time when the *Shushin* suspends the match by calling a *yame* (interruption).
- 3.10. Restriction on technique
  - a) The use of *tsuki* (thrust to the throat) techniques, *jodan-no-kamae* (posture where the *shinai* is held above the head), or *nito* (kendo which uses two swords) is not permitted in the Individual Kyu and Teams Open Grade events. The use of prohibited techniques, if found during a match, may result in a *hansoku* or the disqualification of the offending player.
- 3.11. As the Team Open competition provides for mixed dan and kyu competitors, the above restriction is also applied to the Team Open Grade competition. Any matches between dan and kyu competitors prohibit the aforementioned techniques. Either or both competitors intending to use or using any of the techniques in these matches will be penalised.
- 3.12. *Kantokukis* (manager flag) are available for team managers in team competitions only. If the team manager of a team in action wishes to raise an *igi* (protest), this person must contact the *Shinpan-shunin* in charge or *Shinpan-cho* until the match of question completes. No other persons are permitted to raise an *igi* to *shinpanins*.

#### 4. COVID Modified *Tsubazeriai* Rules for *Shiai-sha*

- 4.1. This event will be conducted in accordance with the COVID-19 regulations of the hosting state or territory.
- 4.2. All attendees, *shiai-sha*, *shinpan-in* and *kakari-in* (volunteers and officials) should get tested if they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and refrain from attending if a positive test is returned.
- 4.3. The use of facemasks by *shiai-sha*, *shinpan-in* and *kakari-in* is optional.
- 4.4. The use of face shields (full or partial) by *shiai-sha* is optional.
- 4.5. The following rules will apply during *shiai* (match).
- 4.6. *Shiai-sha* must avoid *tsubazeriai* (when the distance between two opponents is at its closest and the sword guards come in to contact).
- 4.7. When *tsubazeriai* cannot be avoided and there is contact, *shiai-sha* must either:
  - a) Proactively execute *hikiwaza* (striking technique executed when retreating from *tsubazeriai*), or *waza* (technique) after *taiatari* (colliding with the opponent), as soon as they come in contact with each other, or,
  - b) if no *waza* can be executed, both *shiai-sha* should swiftly separate themselves from each other.
- 4.8. *Shiai-sha* must attempt to separate themselves without waiting for the *shushin* to call “*wakare*” (separate). If this does not happen and *tsubazeriai* or other contact continues, *shushin* must call “*yame*” (stop), and call for “*gogi*” (referee conference during a match), to decide if a *hansoku* (penalty) needs to be given. *Shinpan-in* should observe the situation carefully and refrain from calling “*wakare*” or “*yame*” if the *shiai-sha* have started to separate by themselves.
- 4.9. When mutually separating, whether of their own accord or as a result of “*wakare*” being called by the *shushin*, *shiai-sha*:
  - a) must move to a distance where their *kensen* (tip of the sword) do not touch. *Shiai-sha* must do so together, in equal spirit, and with the *shinogi* (ridge on the side of a sword’s blade) in contact. *Shiai-sha* must not open or lower their *kensen*. *Shiai-sha* should not make gestures such as bowing when separating.
  - b) must not start to separate, then stop, and then press forwards to force their opponent to retreat backwards.
  - c) must not attempt *waza* separating. If a *waza* is executed, that *waza* must not be considered *yuko-datotsu* (valid strike).
  - d) must not strike, *maki* (twist), or *gyaku-kousa* (press their opponent’s *shinai* down using the right face of their *shinai*) their opponent’s *shinai* whilst separating.
  - e) must not push their opponent backwards before separating.
  - f) must not chase their opponent in *tsubazeriai* when their opponent starts to separate.
  - g) must not approach their opponent in a defensive posture (i.e. to avoid fighting).
- 4.10. In each situation above (4.5 a to 4.5 g), *shinpan-in* must call “*yame*” and decide in *gogi* whether to award *hansoku* (foul) based on each cause and circumstance.

- 4.11. When separating if one of the shiai-sha is close to the shiai-jo boundary line, the shushin must adjust the shiai-sha positions to prevent this shiai-sha from stepping out of the shiai-jo. The other shiai-sha may need to take additional steps backward if required. Both shiai-sha are expected to mutually adjust their positions. If one of the shiai-sha cannot avoid stepping out of the shiai-jo, the shushin must call “yame” and bring the shiai-sha back to the kaishi-sen (starting line).

## 5. Competition time/duration

- 5.1. *Shomen-ni-Rei*  
 a) Competitors and *Shinpanins* perform the shomen-ni-rei (a bow to the frontage) at the first and last matches of each day.
- 5.2. Match Commencement and Closure  
 a) The *Shinpan-cho* indicates an audible signal to the first match of the day. In response, the *Shushin* of the court commences the match.  
 b) When the last match of the day has been completed, the competitors and *Shinpanins* of the match mutually bow and then bow to the frontage before leaving the court. The *Shinpan-cho* also bows to the frontage.
- 5.3. Individual Match Durations  
 a) The following shiai and encho durations are applied to individual championships:  
 i) Individual Kyu Grade Men: 4 minutes.  
 ii) Individual Kyu Grade Women: 4 minutes  
 iii) Individual Dan Grade Men: 5 minutes.  
 iv) Individual Dan Grade Women: 5 minutes.  
 b) The following shiai and daihyosha-sen durations are applied to team events:  
 i) Teams Open Grade Men: 4 minutes.  
 ii) Teams Open Grade Women: 4 minutes

## 6. Point score

- 6.1. In the event that universities finish on the same points in either an award division or the overall point score, the winner will be determined by a count back in the following order:  
 a) Number of first placing in sports divisions.  
 b) Joint winners awarded.
- 6.2. Final placings in each division will be awarded the following points (note that all points will be tallied to determine the winner of each overall pennant):  
 a) 1st place: 3 points  
 b) 2nd place: 2 points  
 c) 3rd place: 1 point
- 6.3. Teams Open Grade Women competition points will combine with the women's points, and the Teams Open Grade Men competition points will combine with the men's points, and thus contribute to each.
- 6.4. Second teams are permitted to earn points for their University as per the point score outlined in section 6.2

## 7. Shinpan-In

- 7.1. All shiai-shas holding a 4 Dan or above must be available as shinpan-in.  
 7.2. Shiai-shas competing in a championship are not allowed to participate as shinpan-in in the same event.  
 7.3. The uniform of a *Shinpan-in* must be as follows:  
 • A plain, dark blue jacket.  
 • A plain, grey pair of trousers.  
 • A plain, white business shirt.  
 • A plain, deep red necktie.  
 • A plain, dark blue or black pair of socks.  
 • No wrist watch or a similar device (e.g. a smart phone) must be worn or carried.
- 7.4. Shinpan-in on standby will wait in the designated waiting area.  
 7.5. Shinpan-in will refrain from conversing with others near shiai-jo (match shiai-jo) where possible.

## 8. Team managers

- 8.1. Team managers must be those directly affiliated with teams. These managers must also be registered as team managers and confirmed by the Competition Manager.
- 8.2. The uniform of a Team Manager follows the standard professional dress code (business suits with a tie, paired with a solid-coloured dress shirt, business pants, and dark-coloured socks); unless the manager is involved in *shinpan* duties or as a competitor.
- 8.3. No watches or devices equipped with time functions are to be worn or carried during the match.
- 8.4. Kantoku will provide their own kantoku-ki (team manager's flag) for signalling an igi (protest) if required.
- 8.5. The use of a kantoku-ki will conform to the FIK Rules and Regulations.
- 8.6. Only one designated team manager is permitted to stay with associated team members in a designated waiting area during the entire period of the team match. No other persons are permitted to enter the area with the exception of emergency circumstances. Should the manager be replaced with another, this must be informed of and agreed upon by the *Shinpan-shunin*.
- 8.7. Team Managers must not indicate a signal to a competitor engaged in a match or allow other team members or associates to indicate a signal to the competitor, in any shape or form. Non-conformance to these rules may result in instant team disqualification and additional punitive actions against the team including the manager, at the discretion of the *Shinpan-cho*.

## 9. *Kakariin* group

- 9.1. A *Kakariin* group generally consist of time keepers, scoreboard recorders and score recorder. There may be other *Kakariins* assigned to relevant administration duties. *Kakariins* perform their duties in accordance with relevant AKR and FIK rules and regulations.
- 9.2. *Kakariins* follow the standard professional dress code.

## 10. Uniform requirements

- 10.1. The specific uniform requirements for Kendo are as per the national sporting organisation standard with the following UniSport uniform requirements:
  - a) The standard Kendo uniform for competitors consists of Kendo-gi (Kendo Attire) and Hakama. A Kendo-gu (Kendo Equipment) consists of Men, Tenugui, Kote, Do, and Tare. No other external fittings are permitted unless approved by the *Shinpan-cho* or authorised officials.
  - b) Competitors must wear a dark blue or black nafuda (also known as zekken) on the centre panel of their tare in accordance with Figure 1 in the Supplementary AKR Kendo Competition Rules (also shown below). Non-conformance to this rule will be dealt with by the *Shinpan-cho* or authorised officials.

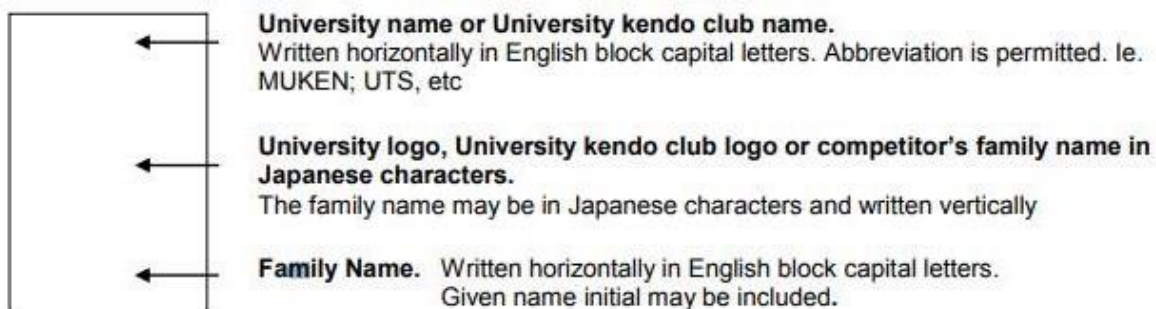


Figure 1: Supplementary AKR Kendo Competition Rules Guideline for Nafuda (Zekken)

- c) A *shinai* shall be made of bamboo, or of synthetic material as a substitute of bamboo. Quality and dimension conditions must meet relevant AKR and FIK requirements. Each *shinai* must be inspected by officials authorised by the *Shinpan-cho* for correct weight and safety by the time specified by the Competition Manager.
- d) The use of inappropriate and/or unsafe items is prohibited. The Technical Officer and authorised officials are empowered to exercise full discretion to determine the appropriateness of those items.
- e) Competitors may use supporters and/or other medical equipment for medical reasons only. These items must be neatly fitted and shall not be obstacles to others or

competitions in any shape or form. The use of the items may be inspected by the *Shinpan-cho* and authorised officials.

10.2. In addition to the FIK Rules and Regulations, the following AKR-specific rules will apply:

- a) The external surface of the *men-gane* (the grill) must not be black colour coated. Such equipment will be considered as *fusei-yogu*. Penalties apply if used.
- b) The *shinai* dimensions must satisfy the requirements as indicated in Tables 1 and 2. The *chikuto* diameters mentioned are measured using the prescribed shinai gauge, as indicated in Figure 2. Minimum *chikuto* diameter is the diagonal diameter to be measured at the section, 8cm down from the tip of *shinai sakigawa*.

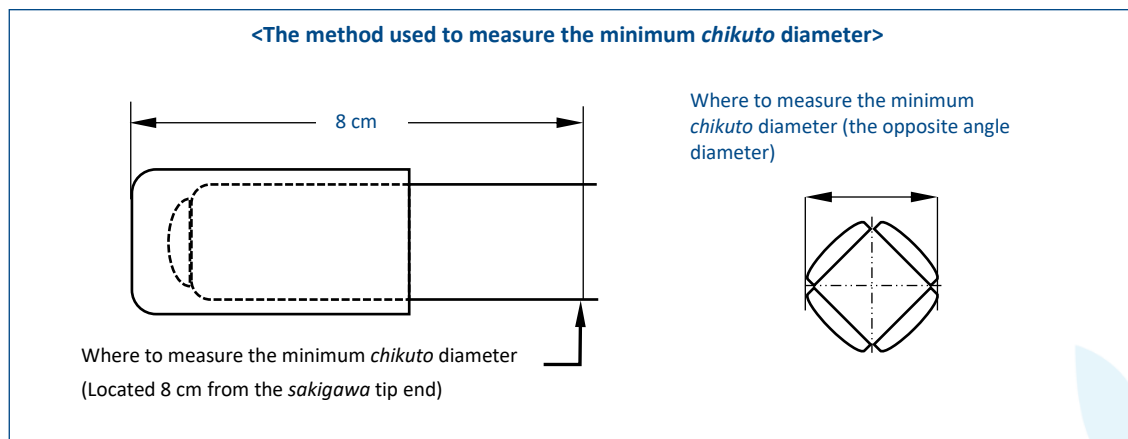


Figure 2: A schematic diagram of method used to measure the minimum *chikuto* diameters

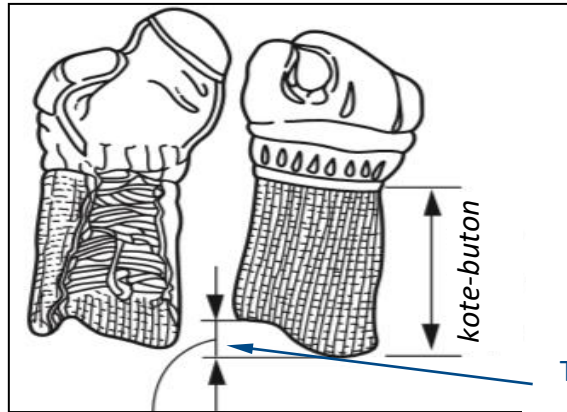
- c) Minimum *chikuto* diameter: Diagonal diameter to be measured at the section, 8cm down from the tip of *shinai sakigawa*

|                 | <b>Gender</b> |                                  | <b>Senior High School (15-18yrs; also the same age bracket)</b> | <b>University Students and other Adults (18yrs and up)</b> |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Diameter</b> | <b>Men</b>    | Minimum <i>chikuto</i> diameter* | 21 mm or wider  | 21 mm or wider   |
|                 | <b>Women</b>  | Minimum <i>chikuto</i> diameter* | 20 mm or wider  | 20 mm or wider   |

Table 1: Criteria of Shinais for Ittou (one sword)

10.3. AKR has adopted the following regulations as guidelines for *Kendo-gu* and *Kendo-gi*. Whilst *Kendo-gu* and *Kendo-gi* which do not meet the specifications below will not be regarded as *fusei-yogu* for the time being, all competitors are encouraged to comply with the guidelines set out below for safety reasons:

- a) Men fitted with polycarbonate laminated board must be the one approved by *All Japan Kendo Federation*.
- b) The sleeves of a *kendo-gi* must be long enough to protect elbow joints.
- c) The *men-buton* (flaps) must be long enough to protect shoulder joints and has sufficient impact absorbing capacity.
- d) The depth of *eguri* (cut) in *kote-buton* (padding) should be no wider than 2.5cm between the longest part and the shortest part of the *kote-buton* (see Figure 3).
- e) *Kote-buton* should protect more than half of the forearm (distance between wrist and elbow) and the fist area of *kote* and *kote-buton* area should have sufficient impact absorbing capacity



The maximum *eguri* is 2.5cm or smaller

Figure 3: A description of *eguri*

- 10.4. In addition to the guidelines stipulated, AKR may include additional supplementary rules that may include, but not limited to: recommended or mandatory Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), social distancing requirements, considerations for local health and safety regulations, etc.

**Previous amendments**

September 1999 | August 2002 | May 2004 | July 2005 | May 2008 | March 2011 | May 2012 | May 2013 | February 2015 | April 2016 | April 2017 | February 2018 | March 2018 | August 2018 | April 2019 | February 2020 | April 2021 | August 2023 | May 2024

\*All competitions will be held in accordance with the UniSport competition guidelines.