

Southern California Kendo Federation Tournament Rules and Regulations (Adopted Version: ver. 3.1) Adopted January 10, 2009

1. Definition of tournament regulations for SCKF

- a. The following document shall serve as the tournament regulations for the Southern California Kendo Federation, referred to as, SCKF, and will require approval by the SCKF Board of Directors for any changes or additions.
- b. The term “member” may refer to a dojo (club) or individual/kenshi of a dojo (club). As such, clarification of the word member shall be immediately associated with the word *dojo* or *individual* to designate specific intent of the word. For example: “member dojo” or “individual member”.
- c. The term *yudansha* is applied to those who hold the Kendo rank of one-dan and higher.
- d. The term *kyu* is applied to those who hold the Kendo rank of 1-Kyu or lower, including mu-kyu (no rank) or mudansha (no degree).

2. Tournament Regulations

- a. Events which are covered by these regulations
 - i. SCKF sponsored events
 1. Mori-hai
 2. Kubota Memorial
 3. SCKF Individual Championships and Open Individual Tournament
 4. Nisei Week Tournament
 5. Nikkei Games Budo Tournament
 6. SCKF Team Championships and Fall Team Tournament
 7. Other SCKF sponsored events/tournaments
 - ii. North/South (California) annual tournament
 1. Tournaments held in Southern California may use these regulations and guidelines but must inform the Northern California Kendo Federation (NCKF) and guests, of the final rules and regulations along within the invitation of the tournament.
 - iii. Guests of SCKF tournaments
 1. Guests of SCKF must be informed of the tournament rules and regulations within the tournament invitation.
- b. Events not covered by these regulations
 - i. Non-SCKF Sponsored events
 1. SCKF Member Dojo Tournaments
 2. Events/Tournaments outside of SCKF
 - ii. SCKF Promotion Exams

3. Tournament eligibility and divisions of tournament(s)

- a. Unless otherwise noted below, the tournaments in the above section 2-a, shall have the following general requirements for eligibility.
 - i. Individual member in good standing of SCKF
 - ii. Invited guest/dojo/federation

1. The SCKF Individual Championships and the SCKF Team Championships are limited to members of SCKF who have been members for at least one year prior to the date of the championship match.
- iii. North/South (California) Tournament
 1. These regulations are applicable when SCKF is the host of the tournament
 2. Primary guest is Northern California Kendo Federation (NCKF)
- iv. Nikkei Games Budo Tournament
 1. SCKF and the Southern California Kendo Organization (SCKO) are standing participants of this event
 2. Individual participants must be good standing members of either the SCKF or SCKO
 3. Invited guests/dojo/federations
- b. Unless otherwise noted below, for the tournaments in the above section 2-a, the tournament divisions and their regulations are at the discretion of the tournament committee.
 - i. SCKF Individual Championships and Open Individual Tournament
 1. Individual Championships
 - a. Yudansha Division
 - i. Participants shall be of the Yudansha rank by date of SCKF championship.
 2. Open Individual Tournament
 - a. Divisions as provided by the tournament committee
 - ii. Nikkei Games Budo Tournament
 1. Regulations shall follow the guidelines of SCKF Tournament Regulations and SCKF tournament committee.
 2. Selected tournament divisions and their regulations are at discretion of tournament committee.
 - iii. SCKF Team Championships and Fall Team Tournament
 1. SCKF Team Championships
 - a. "Best 5" tournament format
 - i. 2 alternate members are eligible.
 - ii. Format of Championship Team matches shall be used for team make-up.
 - iii. Individual team members must be in good standing of SCKF for at least one year from date of specified championship.
 - iv. The format of the Team Championship matches shall follow section 4.b.iv.2.a.iv, with no age, rank, or gender specifications.
 2. Fall Team Tournament
 - a. Individual member in good standing of SCKF
 - b. Invited guest/dojo/federation
 - c. The above shall apply to the following groups if such team tournaments are held:
 - i. Youth/Kyu division
 - ii. Adult kyu division

- iii. Ages 18 years and above on date of specified event
 - iv. Women's division
 - 1. "Best (team available) Women" format
 - 2. Tournament committee shall determine the number of team members
 - v. Modification of above team divisions are at discretion of tournament committee
- c. Other SCKF sponsored events/tournaments
- i. Divisions are at discretion of the tournament committee until time the SCKF Tournament Rules and Regulations are amended to accommodate such changes
- d. Non-SCKF Sponsored events
- i. SCKF Member Dojo Tournament
 - 1. May set own regulations and rules
 - 2. Must publish set regulations within invitation
 - 3. May use SCKF rules as a guideline
- e. Events outside of SCKF
- i. Eligibility requirements and divisions of SCKF do not apply to events outside of SCKF

4. Tournament Rules

- a. Basic Rules of tournament
 - i. Federation of International Kendo (FIK) – (formerly IKF-International Kendo Federation) Rules and Regulations
- b. Special circumstances
 - i. The following tournaments shall be covered by this section
 - 1. Mori-hai
 - 2. Kubota Memorial
 - 3. North/South (California) Tournament
 - 4. SCKF Individual Championships and Open Individual Tournament
 - 5. Nisei Week Tournament
 - 6. Nikkei Games Budo Tournament
 - 7. SCKF Team Championships and Fall Team Tournament
 - 8. Other SCKF sponsored events/tournaments
 - ii. Time limitations of matches
 - 1. As set by tournament committee
 - iii. Limitation of valid points for SCKF tournaments
 - 1. "Tsuki" shall not be considered as a valid point for Kyu groups.
 - 2. Kyu groups shall not use any kamae position except the "standard chudan" kamae, any point attempted, from other kamae positions shall not be considered valid.
 - 3. Kyu groups shall not use the "nito" form.
 - iv. Specification and rules/regulations of team tournaments

1. Unless specified above in Sec. 3 (Eligibility and Divisions of SCKF Tournaments), the qualifications of individual team members is set by the Tournament Committee
2. The Tournament Committee may set the type of eligible team members for a team tournament unless specified below.
 - a. Team formats
 - i. A Yudansha team must be limited to Yudansha only
 - ii. A Kyu team must be limited to Kyu only
 - iii. An “age or gender limitation” may be used to further qualify a team makeup.
 - iv. A “Best Members” team shall have the following:
 1. “Best Members”: All members/substitutes may be of any age/rank/gender, for any team position if so specified by the Tournament Committee.
 2. A “best members” format shall have all waza and kamae as valid. (Note: Dojo head instructors who submit team members, must be aware of qualifications of each of their team members.)
 3. “Best Members” team with “rank specifications” format:
 - a. If specific positions are set by rank, then Kyu positions should follow the regulations as set in Sec. 4, b, iii (limitations of valid points)
 - b. Number of members required for a team
 - i. The number of team members and substitutes for a team is set by the Tournament Committee
 - ii. The minimum requirement for any team shall be set at 3 individual members, unless a special circumstance is allowed in team tournaments where 3 members are the maximum, then 2 members may be allowed.
 - iii. As set in the FIK Rules and Regulations, each team must have in position the following: Sempo, Chuken and Taisho
 1. In case of 3 maximum members, and a 2 member team is allowed, each team must have a Sempo and Taisho
 - c. Non-SCKF Sponsored events
 - i. SCKF Dojo
 1. May set own regulations and rules
 2. Must publish set rules within invitation
 3. May use SCKF rules as a guideline
 - ii. Events outside of SCKF
 1. These rules and regulations have no bearing outside of SCKF
 2. Participants must abide by the rules and regulations set by the sponsoring dojo/federation

5. Equipment Regulations

- a. Kendo dogi
 - i. Attire must be within proper spirit of Kendo.
 - ii. At time of individual matches, referees in charge (court judge or match referees), may have discretion of disallowing unsafe or improper kendo wear.
- b. Kendo bogu
 - i. All equipment must meet safety regulations of FIK Kendo requirements. (Bogu distributors/vendors should be up-to-date on such regulations)
 - ii. At time of individual matches, referees in charge (court judge or match referees), may have discretion of disallowing unsafe or improper equipment or improper usage of equipment.
 - iii. Footwear
 - 1. All footwear must be approved by the appointed official, either the chief judge or court judge.
 - iv. Other guards
 - 1. Any other guards must be approved by the appointed official, either the chief judge or court judge.
 - v. Elbow guards
 - 1. Elbow guards may be used if covered by the Kendo-gi.
- c. Shinai specifications
 - i. Specified tournaments
 - 1. SCKF Championships
 - a. Individual
 - i. Shinai specifications in the FIK Rules and Regulations shall be applied and enforced.
 - b. Team
 - i. Shinai specifications in the FIK Rules and Regulations shall be applied and enforced.
 - 2. Non-Championship events (“Tournaments”)
 - a. Shinai specifications shall be applied but not subject to enforcement.
 - b. If enforcement is applicable, Tournament Committee must announce at least 1 month prior to the event and must send notice within invitations to guests.
 - 3. Non-SCKF sponsored events by an SCKF Dojo
 - a. At discretion of hosting dojo, should send notice within invitations
 - 4. For all events, match referees may use their discretion as to the safety of a shinai in disrepair. Match referees may disqualify a shinai or recommend immediate repair.
- d. Nafuda (formerly “zekken”)
 - i. SCKF individual members must wear their dojo nafuda when participating in an SCKF tournament.
 - ii. These regulations do not apply to guest kenshi from outside of SCKF.
 - iii. New members to a dojo are encouraged to purchase their nafuda within a timely manner to wear at an SCKF tournament.

- iv. SCKF dojo nafuda
 1. Last name in English block letters at bottom
 - a. First name initial is recommended.
 - b. Name must match tournament registration last name.
 2. Dojo name or abbreviation of dojo name at top in English block letters.
 - a. Dojo are encouraged to standardize their nafuda name or abbreviation.
 3. Last name in center of nafuda written in either standard Chinese characters or Japanese kana is encouraged.
 4. All letters or characters are in white color with background in black or dark blue.
 - v. Nafuda outside of SCKF events
 1. Individual kenshi may only wear “SCKF” designated nafuda outside of SCKF events if permission of SCKF President is granted or if participating as a designated representative of SCKF.
 2. Other than above regulation of “SCKF nafuda”, when participating in an event outside of SCKF, individual kenshi may only wear their specific SCKF member dojo nafuda.
 - a. Exception to this rule is granted only when participating as part of a legitimate college or university team of which the kenshi is a member.
- e. Mejirushi (formerly “tasuki”)
- i. All participants should provide their own set (1 red, 1 white) of “mejirushi”, of width and length provided by the FIK rules and regulations.
 - ii. Guests of SCKF should be informed of such at time of invitation
 - iii. Participants are responsible for their own set of “mejirushi” and SCKF will not be responsible for any loss or damage

Note: To SCKF Tournament Committee and others who may use this document as guidelines for a tournament.

When sending invitations to non-SCKF dojo or federations to participate in a SCKF tournament/event, you must inform them of the following (exact wording) at least 30 days prior to the event:

- For all kyu divisions, including adult kyu, the tsuki point will **not** be considered as a valid point.
- For all kyu divisions, including adult kyu, a participant may only use the chudan position to strike from. All points from other non-chudan kamae will **not** be considered as a valid point.
- Participants are to bring and be responsible for their own set of “mejirushi”. SCKF will not be responsible for any loss or damage to mejirushi.