

From the FIK Shinpan Seminar on January 25-26, 2020 in Burnaby, Canada

During a meeting with Takeshi Takamori sensei regarding the AKJF New Regulations for Shinai and Dogu.

The rules were proposed to FIK, tentatively to take effect before the next World Kendo Championships in Paris, France in 2021

For the purpose of fairness and safety, the following new regulations were made by the AJKF, and proposed to the FIK, with the plan to try to institute them before the next World Kendo Championships in 2021 in Paris, France:

- Shinai should be checked for gaps, those with large gaps should not be used. The gaps are most dangerous where the shinai gets thinner. The shinai should be thinnest at the tip, and gradually get thicker as it gets closer to the monouchi.
- The shinai can be inspected with the Shinai Inspection Kit that is currently used in Japan to measure the diameters of the sakigawa (tip of shinai) and the chikuto (8 cm from tip). The Shinai Inspection Kit has 2 gauges: 1 for the sakigawa, and 1 for the chikuto. Diameter requirements vary depending on the age of the kenshi and whether male or female, and are referenced in the chart in the handout that was distributed.
 - The diameter of the sakigawa is measured 10 mm from the tip with the tsuru facing up, and the length should be measured against the wall. If the sakigawa falls into the gauge (i.e., thinner than the requirement), it does not pass inspection.
 - The diameter of the chikuto is measured 8 cm from the shinai tip, diagonally, i.e., with one of the spaces between the slats facing up. If the chikuto falls into the gauge, it does not pass inspection.
- The mendare of the men must be long enough to protect the shoulder joints and be thick enough to protect against strikes.
- The kote should cover half of the forearm and be thick enough to protect against strikes.
- Kendo-gi sleeves should be long enough to cover the elbows.
- If shinai and dogu are found to violate the above rules during shiai, the shiai-sha shall be given a warning after the match is finished.