



25-12-07 Raf BERNAERS  
General Secretary EKF  
Lepelstraat 26  
B-9140 TEMSE (Steendorp)

All EKF-Members & future  
members AM, AZ, BEL, GE,  
IR & KA, EKF B.O.  
EKF159AZ

**DAN GRADING EXAMS** - FIK;  
- - ZNKR.

Dear Friends,

May we ask you to read this part of the Newsletter carefully every time you are planning a grading examination as, for your information, the standard procedure for organisation and registration of examinations is listed hereafter from start to finish. As before, we insist on uniform subscription and registration amounts (see 7.2.2. & 3.) all over Europe.

This year the **EKF/FIK Rules for Dan Grading Examinations** have been changed.

## 1. Basic principles:

*EKF* doesn't organise Kyu examinations.

In general, the standard for *EKF* Grading Examinations is the text edited by the International Kendo Federation (*FIK*): "Standard Guidelines for Dan/Kyu Examinations" approved by the General Assembly (*GA*) in Taipei (Taiwan) on the 06-12-2006.

### 1.1. National gradings:

Every member country can organise grading examinations from 1<sup>st</sup> up to 5<sup>th</sup> Dan, in respect of the *FIK* guidelines (see above) & all administrative clauses mentioned at the end of this letter in chapter 6.

### 1.2. European gradings:

- *At the occasion of a national grading exam*, *EKF* can add a 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Dan according to the principles mentioned hereunder;

- *At the occasion of EKF events*, like the Referee Seminar, Kendo, Iaido & Jodo Championships, etc., an examination from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Dan is organised with a jury composed according to the *FIK* rules mentioned hereafter and from 6<sup>th</sup> Dan according to the agreements of the *GA* held in Barcelona in April 1992, held with



the help of an All Japan Kendo Federation (*AJKF*) delegation, following the *AJKF* rules for the jury composition as closely as possible.

- Models of Exam Subscription & Dan Registration File forms.

## 2. National Examination Juries.

See the references to the *FIK* guidelines hereafter.

In case it is impossible to appoint the required number of qualified and suitable examinees for 4-Dan or higher Dan examinations, the number of examiners may be reduced to 5. In this case, the consent of minimum 4 examiners will be required for the decision of passing. Especially in this case no exam will be valid without the explicit approbation by the *EKF* Technical Director (*TD*) (See also § 6.2.1.).

## 3. EKF Examination Juries.

**3.1** The **examination jury** is to be composed according to the Standard Guidelines for Dan Examination (see under 1); Article 6 (1) explains about the examiner's qualifications, the number of examiners required and the minimal quorum for approval:

Dan examined:	Examiner:	Number:	Criteria:
1-Dan 4-Dan and over	5	5	Consent of min 3
2-Dan 5-Dan and over	5	5	Consent of min 3
3-Dan 5-Dan and over	5	5	Consent of min 3
4-Dan 6-Dan and over	6	6	Consent of min 4
5-Dan 7-Dan and over	6	6	Consent of min 4
6-Dan 7-Dan and over	6	6	Consent of min 4
7-Dan 7-Dan and over	6	6	Consent of min 4

**3.2** The **applicant's qualifications** shall abide by Article 3 (1) of the *FIK* guidelines mentioned above, stating that all shall be registered members in their country and have at least the following practice periods and age:

Dan:	Shortest practice period:	Minimal age:
Shodan	3 months after the ikkyu exam	14
Nidan	1 year after the shodan exam	
Sandan	2 years after the nidan exam	
Yondan	3 years after the sandan exam	
Godan	4 years after the yondan exam	
Rokudan	5 years after the godan exam	
Nanadan	6 years after the rokudan exam	

**3.3** The treatment of the grades higher than 7th Dan (as mentioned in Article 7 of the Guidelines) will be treated later on.



#### 4. Authorisation of the President.

Foreigners must present the **authorisation of their president** (See Article 08.01 of the *EKF Statutes*).

#### 5. Examination parts.

##### 5.1 National Examinations.

These examinations are to be held according to the *FIK* guidelines.

##### 5.2 EKF Examinations.

5.2.1. The **examination subjects** are the following:

Dan applied for:	Examination subjects:
1-Dan up to 7-Dan	Matches & <i>Kata</i> .

5.2.2. The ***Kata* examination** is organised as follows:

Dan applied for:	Examination subjects:
1-Dan	Tachi ippon- to gohonme (1-5);
2-Dan	Tachi ippon- to nanahonme (1-7);
3-Dan and over	Tachi ippon- to nanahonme and Kodachi sanbon (1-10).

**5.3** Note: If an applicant fails in the *Kata* test, he may be allowed to take that subject again, and one time only, at an examination held afterwards.

#### 6. Administrative procedure for all examinations.

**6.1** Every national examination is to be **announced** to the *EKF* at least two months in advance, in order to allow for publishing in the European Calendar; this method gives everyone in Europe the possibility to participate.

For every examination abroad a written authorisation by the own country federation's President is imperatively required.

For practical reasons it is strongly advised to use the model of inscription form included hereafter: it contains all required data and the sign of the President is an equivalent for the required written permission.

**6.2** This letter to the *EKF* must include the following **information**:

6.2.1. the *composition* of the jury, keeping in mind the guidelines of the *FIK*, as mentioned under 2.1, to give the *EKF TD* the possibility to approve, as decided in the Budapest *GA* in 2004 (see also § 2).

6.2.2. the *possible grades* to be obtained.



## 7. After the examination.

**7.1** The following documents are to be returned or **sent to the EKF**:

7.1.1. the complete *list of successful participants*, for numbering purposes;

7.1.2. the '*yellow cards*' of the successful applicants (other than Shodan); these cards will be returned to the member's federation after having been registered by *EKF*; as decided by the *GA* of 22-04-2004 in Budapest, the cards will be signed by the *EKF TD*, or somebody indicated by him (see Article 08.04 of the Statutes);

7.1.3. the filled-in green *Dan Registration File forms*, of which a model is joined to this letter, which will be returned with the '*yellow cards*'.

**7.2** As for **application and registration fees**, independent of the fact if it is an examination held under the authority of the *EKF* or not, an application fee should be paid beforehand, whereas the registration fee is to be paid on the spot, immediately after a successful examination; the organising country decides on the amounts, but we suggest that the fee amounts asked for are based on the ones shown on the next page.

7.2.1. For national organisations, the organiser collects as well the application as the registration fees.

7.2.2. For *EKF* organisations, the following *application fee* is to be paid to the *EKF* representative before the examination:

Dan applied for:	Amount:
1 Dan	€ 10,00
2 Dan	€ 15,00
3 Dan	€ 25,00
4 Dan	€ 40,00
5 Dan	€ 60,00
6 Dan	€ 90,00
7 Dan	€ 120,00

7.2.3. At *EKF* events, the following *registration fees* will have to be paid after successful examinations:

Dan applied for:	Amount:
1 Dan	€ 15,00
2 Dan	€ 25,00
3 Dan	€ 40,00
4 Dan	€ 60,00
5 Dan	€ 90,00
6 Dan	€ 120,00
7 Dan	€ 160,00



## **8. Iaido & Jodo examinations.**

**8.1** All rules mentioned above are applicable.

**8.2** For Iaido, the examination subjects are the following:

Dan applied for:      Subject:

1st Dan to 3rd Dan      5 ZNKR-*Kata*  
(the first of the Shitei-waza may be replaced  
by a Koryu-*Kata*;

4th to 5th Dan      One free Koryu-*Kata* & 4 ZNKR-*Kata*;

6th & 7th Dan      2 Koryu- & 3 Shitei-waza ZNKR.

From 6<sup>th</sup> Dan onwards, *shinken* is obligatory. The elapsed time is taken in account, but there will be no strict time limit.

**8.3** For Jodo, until further notice, the examination subjects are the same.

If you don't find this information useful and complete, or if you have remarks about the administrative aspects, please feel free to send them to the *EKF SG*. As for technical matters as Jury composition, please consult the *EKF TD*.

Signed for approval,  
The *EKF* Board of Officers:

Alain DUCARME  
President

Hein ODINOT  
Vice-President

Jean-Pierre RAICK  
Technical Director

Dieter HAUCK  
Treasurer

Raf Bernaers  
Secretary-General EKF