

Criteria for Iaido Squad Selection

Iaido Bu Squad Selection/De-selection policy

1. All participants (Officers and competitors) shall act in accordance with the constitution and policies of the BKA. A breach of the constitution (including but not limited to any equipment/monetary debt/default; breach of the anti-doping policy) shall immediately disqualify the participant from participation in all squad activities until a satisfactory conclusion is reached by the relevant official, complaints or investigating committee. A member under active police investigation, or who has been charged with a criminal offence pending trial shall not attend any squad activities or put themselves forward for selection until such time as the investigation is dropped or their innocence is established by trial.
- 2.
3. The Selection/De-selection Panel and process shall be in accordance with the BKA Constitution.
4. The Selection/De-selection panel will comprise the Bucho, the Squad Manager and the Squad Coach with all decisions based on the majority, democratic voting principle.
5. Panel Roles and responsibilities:-
 - 1) **Bucho (Chair):**
 - a. **Selection period:** to arrange the Selection Panel venue and agenda
 - b. **Selection Panel:**
 - Chair the panel and formally record all decisions made
 - Impose financial constraints for the proposed event
 - Along with the Manager and Coach, debate and agree the squad and team final selection
 - 2) **Squad Coach:**
 - a. Provide up to date information to the panel on individuals' performance and those who show promise for forthcoming Taikai
 - b. Along with the Bucho and Manager, debate and agree the final squad and team selection
 - 3) **Squad Manager:**
 - a. Propose a list of the most suitable candidates for the event(s) assessed from the inputs noted below in item 4
 - b. Compile and maintain a "points tracker" as per Appendix 1
 - c. Along with the Bucho and Coach, debate and agree the final squad and team selection
 - 4) **Selection Inputs:**

The following non-exclusive inputs to selection are a **guideline**, members being selected on a **balance** of the following criteria (in no particular order):

- a. Member's acceptance of the Code of Conduct (**mandatory requirement**)
- b. This year's form and performance as evidenced at recent training events and Taikai.
- c. Previous years' performance at National and International Taikai.
- d. Appropriate attendance at squad training and seminars. This will be tracked via a points system by the Squad Manager (see appendix 1). The Selection Panel may agree mitigating circumstances, contribution to squad activities, history of any disciplinary issues if any etc.
- e. Other factors including the positive impact selection of an individual will have on his/her physical and intellectual development in their art, their dojo, the squad and the Association as a whole.
- f. Eligibility based on the rules of the IKF/EKF/BKA.

Appendix 1

1. Attendance at a seminar, squad training or taikai will give the candidate 1 point towards their squad selection.
2. 1 point is allocated per seminar/squad training and is not dependent of the number of days of the seminar.
3. 1 point will be allocated for attendance at the BKA Nationals.
4. 1 additional point will be allocated for 3rd place at the BKA Nationals.
5. 2 additional points will be allocated for 1st or 2nd place at the BKA Nationals.
6. All seitei based IKF seminars and large private seitei based seminars will be recognised (which must be open to all BKA members and publicised in an inclusive manner).
7. If a candidate is unsure if a seminar qualifies for a “squad point” they should refer to a member of the Squad Selection Panel before the seminar.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why do we need this points system?

- We want to select people who show the best chance of winning medals and who we think would significantly benefit from being on the National squad. These people are most likely to be those that show the most commitment to their training. Rather than judge this subjectively we want to use an objective and transparent system based on training records.
- As the Association has grown we have slowly moved away from the old manner of selection which was at the sole discretion of the squad manager, with no formal selection criteria other than performance at the Nationals. We now recognise that selection criteria should be more transparent. Squad managers in the past have used criteria similar to this, we are simply formalising the process.
- The points system ensures that from the management side, a candidate’s commitment through attending events is formally tracked.
- We also realise that funding a squad is a large financial commitment for the BKA and the funds belong to all the members and not just those who enjoy taikai. By using the points system as one of the criteria for selection we hope to ensure that we reward not only excellence but commitment to representing the BKA at events.

2. Why is a one day or half day intensive training allocated the same amount of points as a 3 day seminar?

Squad training is the cheapest one day event that candidates can attend. We wish to

- a. Encourage attendance at intensive training as the core of squad selection
- b. Weight the points system towards this cheaper event to go some way to even out the financial burden