

British Kendo Association

Policy for under 18 Grading

PREAMBLE

Introduction

The BKA kendo grading rules are based on the European Kendo Federation (EKF) guidelines which in turn are taken from the FIK (International Kendo Federation) guidelines. However, these guidelines do not cater adequately for Child Protection rules and regulations that exist within the UK legal structure. As such, this document seeks to clarify those rules and regulations specific to the United Kingdom environment. Note also that both the BKA and its international affiliates **do not** identify separate junior grading events or *junior grades*. In this respect a 14 year old junior may hold 1 Kyu that is directly equivalent to an adult 1Kyu.

Standard Approach to Grading

The standard approach in all grading events, for any age, is that applicants are arranged in age order and grouped into sets of 3, 4 or 5 individuals. For example, in a three person group, 1 fight 2, 2 fight 3 and 3 fight 1, with number 1 being the youngest in the group.

Physical Issues

The physical size shape and condition of both sexes under the age of 18 is extremely variable. These factors dictate the requirement for a flexible approach to grouping junior competitors at any one grading event so as to prevent injury or to avoid gross physical differences between applicants.

THE POLICY

1. All grading applications must be submitted via the BKA on-line system or via the approved form (see reference Material section below).
2. Any applicant under the age of 18 on the day of the grading event must supply a completed consent form to the Grading Officer. The consent form to be signed by both parent/guardian of the child and a senior member of the responsible dojo (typically the Dojo Leader).
3. A copy of this form can be found in **Attachment** below.

Event Organisation

On the day of the event the BKA Grading Officer will ensure that all applicants under the age of 18 have lodged an authorised consent form. He will then take the following action: -

Ikkyu Applicants

Consider all applicants individually; taking account of age, sex, size, shape and physical condition, and placing them into appropriate groups for the grading event. Typically and assuming sufficient numbers (a minimum of 3 in each category), this will result in:

1. Ages 12 to 15 **typically** to fight each other in a separate group.
2. Ages 16 to 17 **typically** to fight each other in a separate group.
3. Wherever the above age groups ages do not reach the minimum number for a group or significant physical differences are observed within or between the groups, the Grading Officer, in consultation with the grading panel head, will allocate individuals to an appropriate grading group for the event.
4. If, for the age 16 to 17, there are less than 3 applicants, consideration will be given to using an 18+ applicant who has appropriate physical characteristics.

Shodan / Nidan Applicants

The BKA Grading Officer will view SHODAN and NIDAN junior applications individually on the day of the grading, grouping them together or mixing them where appropriate with 18+ applicants of suitable physical characteristics.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

BKA Information on Grading

1. General information can be found on the BKA website at the following url:- <https://www.britishkendoassociation.com/grading-requirements/>
2. Application to grade by BKA members are advised to use the on-line booking system. The cut off for such an application is 3 weeks prior to the event. The booking system can be found at the following url:- <https://britishkendoassociation.com/membership/events.php>
3. BKA and overseas applicants can use a form to apply for an event. However, the form and cash/cheque payment must be received 4 weeks prior to the event. The form can be found at the following url:- <https://www.britishkendoassociation.com/overseas-grading/>
Note: overseas applications to grade from a BKA affiliated organisation must have a letter of authority from their parent organisation's Chairman confirming their eligibility to participate in the grading event.

International Grading Rules

These can be found at the following url:-

<https://www.britishkendoassociation.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Standard-Guidelines-for-Kyu-Dan-Examination.pdf>

ATTACHMENT

JUNIOR GRADING CONSENT FORM

POLICY

The British Kendo Association (BKA) policy requires that all applicants under the age of 18 years must have signed permission from both parent/guardian *and* their Dojo to participate in a grading event. This is to enable the BKA to comply with the appropriate Health & Safety / Child Protection guidelines. Details of this policy can be found above in the master of this document.

GRADING EVENT DATE

Event to take place at (venue)..... On (date).....

DECLARATION

I confirm that I have read the document "Policy for under 18 Grading" issued by the BKA Kendo Bu and fully understand its content.

Name of Student

Name Date of Birth Relationship.....

Name Date of Birth Relationship.....

Name Date of Birth Relationship.....

Name Date of Birth Relationship.....

Parent/Guardian

Name (of Parent or Guardian) dated.....

Print name.....

Dojo Leader

I confirm that the above are members of my Dojo and I recommend their participating in this grading event.

Name (of dojo leader or representative) dated.....

Print name.....

Dojo name.....