



Updated 2026-03-22 in Point 6.1.4 !

Rules & Regulations of the 34th European Kendo Championships 2026

1. PROMOTER: EUROPEAN KENDO FEDERATION (EKF)
HOST ORGANIZATION: MONTENEGRIN KENDO FEDERATION (KSCG)
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: ALL JAPAN KENDO FEDERATION (AJKF)

2. PLACE & DATE: Podgorica, Montenegro

Hotel Voco Podgorica (Verde Complex),
Donja Gorica, 81000 Podgorica, Montenegro

From Friday 19th to Sunday 21st June 2026.

3. EVENTS & SCHEDULE:

<u>Friday</u>	<u>19th June 2026</u>	Junior Team Championship Senior Female Team Championship
<u>Saturday</u>	<u>20th June 2026</u>	Junior Boys Individual Championship Junior Girls Individual Championship Senior Male Team Championship
<u>Sunday</u>	<u>21st June 2026</u>	Senior Female Individual Championship Senior Male Individual Championship

Further details will be distributed by the Host Organization on the official website
<https://www.ekc2026.me> .



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4. GENERAL REFEREEING RULES.

The regulation of the matches will be made according to "*The Regulations of Kendo Shiai and Shinpan ("The Regulations" and its subsequent amendments)*," published by International Kendo Federation (F.I.K.) in the most recent version, except for the points specified hereafter. In addition, Shinpan will apply the "*Handbook for Kendo and Shinpan Management*" in the most recent version, in particular the rules on *tsubazeriai*.

A competitor who does not show up at the court within 5 minutes after the caller has called out his or her name is regarded as default and is disqualified.

5. CONTENT OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

The content of the EKF Championships is as follows:

- **Senior Male Team Championship** with teams composed of maximum 5 (five) men out of 7 (seven) inscriptions.
- **Senior Female Team Championship** with teams composed of maximum 5 (five) women out of 7 (seven) inscriptions.
- **Junior Team Championship** with teams composed of maximum 3 (three) boys or girls out of a total 4 (four) inscriptions.
- **Senior Male Individual Championship** for maximum **4 (four)** men,
- **Senior Female Individual Championship** for maximum **4 (four)** women.
- **Junior Boys Individual Championship** for maximum 3 (**three**) boys.
- **Junior Girls Individual Championship** for maximum 3 (**three**) girls.

The terms Woman, Man, Female, Male, Boys and Girls are used in the sense of the biological sex at birth. By registration the respective federation confirms this fact.

For the three Junior categories, the participants should be **at least 16 years and younger than 18 years old, at the date of the Championship.** No exceptions will be granted.



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After every championship the first placed will be awarded an official "**European Champion**" title and there will be one second place and two equal third places. Also, for every championship, minimum one "Fighting Spirit" trophy will be awarded. Fighting Spirit Awards are decided by the EKF upon proposal by the shinpan-shunin.

6. SPECIFIC RULES FOR EACH CATEGORY.

6.1. Team Championships.

6.1.1. Senior Male Team Championship.

Every country is represented by a team of five, or by a minimum of three male fighters, chosen freely before every fight out of the maximum of seven official inscriptions arrived in due time. Every competitor should have at least the age of 18 at the time of the actual championship day.

6.1.2. Senior Female Team Championship.

Every country is represented by a team of five, or by a minimum of three female fighters, chosen freely before every fight out of the maximum of seven official inscriptions arrived in due time. Every competitor should have at least the age of 18 at the time of the actual championship day.

6.1.3. Junior Team Championship.

Every country is represented by a team of maximum three, or, in default of, of minimum two fighters, chosen freely before every fight out of the maximum of four official inscriptions arrived in due time. In case of a 2 Competitor team, the 2nd position remains free. The inscriptions will include a maximum of three boys or three girls with a total of 4 (four) inscriptions. For age, the rules of Section 5 are applicable.



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6.1.4. Team Order

For all Team Championships, the initial team order shall be handed in at the Managers' Meeting on the day preceding the Championships and shall remain binding for subsequent fights unless amended in due time. Any amended team order must be submitted immediately after the next fight of the team is published to the tournament system. If the published fight order does not correspond to the submitted team order, it shall be amended accordingly by the kakari-in. It is the responsibility of the team and/or the team manager or coach to verify the published fight order immediately after it is displayed on the screens and to raise any objections without delay. If an objection is not raised in due time (before *sogo-ni-rei* is completed), the fight order shall be deemed accepted as shown on the screen, and the consequences shall be handled in accordance with the Regulations of Kendo Shiai and Shinpan.

6.1.5. Participation.

Senior men can only participate at the Senior Male Team Championship, senior women only at the Senior Female Team Championship. Junior boys can participate in the Junior Boys Individual Championship and Junior girls can participate in the Junior Girls Individual Championship. Both boys and girls are allowed in the Junior Team category.

For the Senior Male Team Championship and the Senior Female Team Championship: In case of a 4 Competitor team, the 2nd position remains free. In case of a 3 Competitor team, the 2nd and the 4th position remain free. For the Junior Team Championship: In case of a 2 Competitor team, the 2nd position remains free.

6.1.6. Common rules for the Team Championships.

6.1.6.1. Preliminary contests (Pool system).

All teams that entered their official inscriptions in due time will be divided by drawing into as many pools of 3 as possible. However, the 4 teams that got the medals at the previous Team Championships will be seeded into different pools and removed to the far end of the grid.

The order of matches will be announced, and pools can be combined, respecting the principle of separation as mentioned in the foregoing paragraph.

If the inscriptions make it necessary, **pools of two (2) or four (4)** will be included.



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The **first two out of every pool** will be entered on the tournament grid. The 1st placed of one pool will compete with the 2nd placed of another pool.

6.1.6.1.1. Specific pool system rules.

The combats are played by "*sanbon-shobu*" and the duration is **4 minutes** for all categories. Equality (*hikiwake*) will be declared in case no points are scored or if the score is one to one.

If two teams remain even at the end of the pool, a supplementary fight between two of the team members will decide on the victory. This fight will be held according to the "*ippon-shobu*"-principle, without time limit.

6.1.6.1.2. Team Classification.

Determination of the winning team in both pool and tournament matches will be made in the following order of precedence:

1. Highest number of individual winners; but, if it is a tie, then
2. Highest number of points scored.
3. Should 1. and 2. still be a tie, a draw will be declared in the pool matches (see next paragraph) and a play-off will be conducted in the tournament matches.
4. A default is regarded as a loss: the opponent is given 2 points.

Determination of the ranking of teams in the pool matches will be made in the following order of precedence:

1. Higher number of team matches won; but, if it is a tie, then
2. Lower number of team matches lost; but, if it is a tie, then
3. Higher number of draws in team matches (see above), if it is still a tie, then
4. Higher number of individual winners; if it is still a tie, then
5. Lower number of individual losses; but, if it is a tie, then
6. Higher number of individual draws (*hikiwake*), if it is still a tie, then
7. Higher number of points scored, if it is still a tie, then
8. Lower number of points lost.

If the situation is still a tie between two teams, either to determine the order between first and second or second and third team in the pool, a play-off (*ippon-shobu*) between representatives of the two teams will determine the ranking.



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Should the situation be a tie between all three teams in the pool, the ranking of teams shall be determined by a pool played by a representative of each team in play-off (*ippon-shobu*) 3 Minutes, like in the individual tournament.

6.1.6.2. Tournament.

The tournament is using the knockout system. The refereeing rules and the principles for discerning the winners are the same as those defined for the pools. **The duration of fights is 4 minutes for juniors and 5 minutes for seniors.**

6.2. Individual Championships.

6.2.1. Senior Male Individual Championship.

Every country may list a maximum of **4 (four)** competitors, following the rules set out earlier. The minimal age is **18 years** at the time of the actual championship day.

6.2.2. Senior Female Individual Championship.

Every country may list a maximum of **4 (four)** competitors, following the rules set out earlier. The minimal age is **18 years** at the time of the actual championship day.

6.2.3. Junior Boys Individual Championship.

Every country may list a maximum of **3 (three)** competitors, following the rules set out earlier. The same conditions as for the team competition will apply for sex and age (see also Sections 5 & 6.1.5).

6.2.4. Junior Girls Individual Championship.

Every country may list a maximum of **3 (three)** competitors, following the rules set out earlier. The same conditions as for the team competition will apply for sex and age (see also Sections 5 & 6.1.5).

6.2.5. Common rules for the Individual Championships.

6.2.5.1. Preliminary contests (Pool system).

Every pool is in principle composed of three fighters, who fight in the following order:
1><2, 1><3, 2><3.



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In the case of pools composed of four, each one will fight **3 (three)** times as follows:
1><2, 3><2, 3><4, 1><4, 1><3, 2><4.

It is possible that in this same order pools may be combined, or a different order of fights is announced. The division into different pools will be handled by drawing, on condition that fighters of the same nation will be kept out of the same pool. Also, the 4 competitors that got the medals at the previous respective Championships will be seeded into different pools and moved to the corner of the elimination bracket.

The combat time is **4 minutes**, following the “*sanbon shobu*” rule. If appropriate an even match (*hikiwake*) may be the result.

The fighters of the same pool will be ranked as follows. The criteria will be applied in that order and the subsequent criteria will be only applied if a clear decision is not reached:

1. The higher number of fights won; if it is still a tie, then
2. The lower number of fights lost; if it is still a tie, then
3. The higher number of *hikiwake*; if it is still a tie, then
4. The higher number of points scored; if it is still a tie, then
5. The lower number of points lost.

In case of equality between two fighters, one supplementary fight will take place immediately after the normal pool fights, to establish the final order among the fighters. These fights will follow the rule of “*ippon shobu*”, without time limit. In pool of four players, supplementary fights will not take place to determine positions three and four, if first and second positions are clear.

In case of equality between all 3 or 4 fighters at the end of the pool, they will fight again the pool of 3 or 4 fighters following the “*ippon shobu*” principle. **If even after two such rounds the order among the fighters is not clarified, the result shall be determined by lot (*chusen*).**

6.2.5.2. Tournament.

After the pool system, **the first** out of every **pool of three** and **the first and second out of pool of four fighters** will be put on the tournament grid. The fights will follow the knockout system.

The combat time is **5 minutes** for seniors and **4 minutes** for juniors, following the “*sanbon shobu*” rule, with the possibility of one prolongation (*encho*). For seniors, there is no time limit on the “*encho*”.



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For juniors, “encho” is a maximum of 6 (six) minutes. Thereafter the decisions will be taken by shinpan-decisions (hantei), except for semi-final and finals, where encho without time limit will apply.

7. SPECIFICATIONS OF THE SHINAI. (CHANGES – TAKE NOTE!)

The shinai will have the format explained in the following table out of "The Regulations of Kendo Shiai and Shinpan", published by F.I.K. as amended 2024:

Specifications for competition use of one Shinai (Itto)				
	Sex		Junior	Senior
Length	Male/Female		≤ 117 cm	≤ 120 cm
Weight	Male		≥ 480 gr	≥ 510 gr
	Female		≥ 420 gr	≥ 440 gr
Diameter	Male	Sakigawa	>26 mm	> 26 mm
		Chikutou	> 21 mm	> 21mm
	Female	Sakigawa	>25 mm	> 25 mm
		Chikutou	>20 mm	21mm

Specifications for competition use of two Shinai (Nito).				
Specification	Gender		Daito (long shinai)	Shoto (short shinai)
Maximum length	Male & female		≤ 114 cm	≤ 62cm
Weight	Male		≥ 440 gr	280–300 g (min/max)
	Female		≥ 400 gr	250–280 g (min/max)
Minimum diameter of sakigawa	Male	Sakigawa	≥ 25 mm	≥ 24 mm
		Chikutou	> 20 mm	≥ 19 mm
	Female	Sakigawa	> 24 mm	> 24 mm
		Chikutou	> 19 mm	≥ 19 mm

FOR all MINIMUM Diameter the operator shall be “bigger than”!

How to measure the diameters of Sakigawa

Sakigawa Length ≥ 50 mm

Core tip ↑
Where to measure (Approx 10mm from the tip)

Where to measure (Diameter)

How to measure the diameters of Chikutou

Where to measure (Approx 65mm from the tip)

Where to measure (Diameter)



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8. RULES CONCERNING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE COMPETITORS AND THE CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION, INCOMPATIBILITY & MISCELLANEOUS.

- 8.1. Every competitor must be a member of an organization which is either a full or affiliate member of the EKF, and the inscriptions must be handed in by that organization.
- 8.2. Every competitor must have the nationality of the country he represents (a passport serves as proof).
- 8.3. **Exceptions from nationality requirement can be allowed by the EKF President. Applications for such exceptions shall be filed not later than Final-Entry (see 17) with the EKF Secretary-General using the Nationality Exemption Request (NER) form published on the EKF - website. Applications will be handled and decided before the Final Entry period expires.**
- 8.4. Competitors must be chosen from among the names that figure on the official inscription lists in every category that were handed in in due time. Each competitor shall wear during the competition a “*nafuda*” (nametag) on the center piece of “*o-dare*” (hip-protector) showing his country (top), flag (center) and family name (bottom), whereby country and person’s name shall be written in capital Latin letters, using the English name of the country. For details see the Annex hereto. The Nafuda / Zekken name (also in the database) should be unique per country.
- 8.5. Furthermore, each competitor should wear during the competition the EKF official number tags as distributed. The number tags will be distributed before the championships and the numbers assigned to each competitor for each championship. **Failure to return the number tags in complete pairs immediately after the closing of the championships will make the respective country liable for payment of EUR 50 / pair of numbers.**
- 8.6. Every other official may participate as a competitor keeping in mind the limited number in every category.
- 8.7. Any competitor may participate in both the Team and the Individual Championships provided that maximum number of persons provided for in Section 5 are not exceeded.
- 8.8. Every team shall bring their own set (5 minimum) of each red and white ribbons (*tasuki / mejirushi*) to be used in all tournaments for the labeling of competitors.



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9. REFEREES.

- 9.1. Appointment of Referees of the European Championships is entrusted to the EKF, assisted by the ZNKR; they are chosen among those who are proposed by the EKF Member Countries for the EKF/FIK Referee Seminar. **Referees are appointed after the EKF/FIK Referee Seminar and before the beginning of the Final Entry period (see 17.).**
- 9.2. **Referees cannot participate as competitors.**
- 9.3. **The function of Referee is also incompatible with that of Coach or Manager.**
- 9.4. The cost of the referees (**lodging in single rooms**, meals, bus transport, sayonara party) is taken in charge by the organizing country for four nights, starting from **Thursday evening before the EKC to Monday morning after the EKC.**
- 9.5. Each referee will bring his own set of flags.
- 9.6. All referees will wear the same uniform: a plain white shirt, a plain deep red necktie, plain light grey trousers, a plain dark blue pair of socks and a plain dark blue jacket.

10. MANAGER.

Every Team should nominate a Team Manager, which also can be a competitor. The manager of each team is responsible for the attitude of every competitor (the correct way of wearing their *bôgu*, the **length of the “men-himo” (max 40 cm)**, good condition of *bôgu* parts and equipment, etc.), and everything that may improve the harmonious flow of events during the championships. He or she should maintain a general attitude that corresponds with the Budo spirit and *reigi*.

11. DRAWING.

The drawing for all categories will be conducted under the authority of the EKF prior to the event.

12. COMPLAINTS.

Any complaints should be brought to the respective Shunin during a match, or to the Shinpan Cho or E.K.F. Technical Director or his representative outside of a match. These are to be handed in by the Team Manager (unless she/he is a competitor in this competition), Coach or the Delegation



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Leader, all other people will be refused. Any complaint needs to be filed immediately but by in any case not later than by the end of the possibly affected competition.

13. INSURANCE AND LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE.

Every delegation shall ensure that all its officials, all members and all participants are insured against any possible mishaps (sickness, injury, loss or theft, liability for damage....) during travel and stay. **Delegations are also responsible for proper conduct of their members in the context of the event, and liable to compensate for all damage which has been caused by their members to or in the EKC premises, hotels and means of transport.**

Host organizations **must have** insurance against any civil liability. In case of an accident or incident (in particular, but without limitation to, injury, theft, traffic accident etc.) which might lead to a claim against any third party and/or requires a written attestation by the Host Organization or by the EKF, the accident or incident has to be notified to the Host Organization and the EKF before the departure of the delegation, unless this is impossible due to the circumstances of the accident or incident.

14. APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 30 OF REGULATIONS OF KENDO SHIAI AND SHINPAN - (Injury or Accident)

Delegations must ensure that all their members (coaches, managers and competitors) are duly aware of the provisions of Article 30 of the FIK Regulation of Kendo Shiai and Shinpan, covering injury and accident during *shiai*.

When applying the provisions of Article 30, it is the duty of the referees to determine immediately, through a *gogi*, the responsibility of the opponent for the accident, regardless of whether or not the accident was caused intentionally.

15. DOPING PREVENTION.

A competitor who is judged by decision of the referees to be under the influence of prohibited drugs or alcohol shall be disqualified, be ordered to retire from the match and shall lose the match (Art 15, 18 of the Regulations).

Additionally, the *FIK Anti-Doping Rules 2021* and the *EKF Anti-Doping Rules* (adopted April 8th, 2010, Debrecen) (together "The AD-Rules"), as well as the respective updated and most recent WADA Prohibition List, shall be applicable. In the case of conflict in the AD-Rules, the EKF Anti-



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Hotel reservations:

All accommodation and logistics reservations must be made via the Official Agency Application available at www.ekc2026.me.

Portrait photo files of all official participants (Delegation Leader, Manager, Team Manager, Coach, Competitor and Referee) should **be uploaded in the EKF online system (Person / “Picture Icon”) by Final Entry Date.** Minimum size: 0.3 MB; Maximum size: 1.0 MB, Ratio: 4,5 - 3,5 [Standard for EU-passport-photos]; Orientation: portrait; Resolution: printable [300 dpi - 600 dpi]; One face per picture [No "group photos"]; The face should cover 2/3 of the picture.

The E.K.F. Board of Officers



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ANNEX 1: Nafuda (name-tag) specifications:

	<p>COUNTRY (ROMAN Letters / ENGLISH) Approx. 35 %</p>
	<p>NATIONAL FLAG Approx. 40 %</p>
	<p>FAMILY NAME (as registered in the field “ZEKKEN” in the database! (ROMAN Letters) Approx. 25 %</p>

NAFUDA: APPROX. 26X17 CM