



EUROPEAN KENDO FEDERATION

ヨーロッパ剣道連盟



Rules & Regulations of the

24th European Judo Championships 2026 (E.J.C.) – Mérignac, France

25th - 27th September 2026

1. Organizations:

Promoter:	European Kendo Federation	(E.K.F.)
Host Organization:	Comité National de Kendo et Disciplines Rattachées	(CNKDR)
Technical Assistance:	All Japan Kendo Federation	(A.J.K.F.)

2. Place

Sports Hall: Gymnase Alice Milliat, 116 rue du Pradas, 33700 Mérignac

Main Hotel: Hotel Kyriad Prestige, 116 Avenue de Magudas. 33700 Mérignac

Aside from referees, accommodation for delegations should be booked directly with the hotel via the link at <https://www.ejc2026.fr/accomodations/>

3. Date

The 26th and 27th September 2026 are EJC - days. There will be a one-day Judo seminar on Friday 25th September. Please see the EJC website for event information. An examination 1-7 Dan, organized by EKF, will take place on Sunday 27th September after the Championships.

4. Events & Schedule

Event info, schedule and costs are shown on the Host Organization website: <https://www.ejc2026.fr/>

Host organization is best reached via the contact form on the website <https://www.ejc2026.fr/contact/> or by email: ejc2026@cnkendo-dr.com .

5. General Refereeing Rules

The regulation of the matches will follow “*The Rules and Regulations of Judo Shiai and Shinpan*”, published by A.J.K.F., as closely as possible.



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.

As a safety precaution, tsuba for tachi should be made from leather.

6. Content of the Championships

The content of the E.J.C. is as follows:

- **Individual Championships** for maximum two competitors (male or female) divided into the following 6 categories:
 1. Mudan (kyu)
 2. Shodan (1st dan)
 3. Nidan (2nd dan)
 4. Sandan (3rd dan)
 5. Yondan (4th dan)
 6. Godan (5th dan)
- **Team Championship** with teams composed of 3 persons.

Every Championship gives right to the attribution of an official “European Champion” title, together with one “Vice-Champion” and two equal third places. Also, for every championship, minimum one personal so called “Fighting Spirit” trophy is awarded. Fighting Spirit Awards are decided by the EKF upon proposal of the shinpan-shunin.

7. Individual Championships

7.1 Competitors

A maximum of two competitors per country (male or female) will be allowed to participate for each category. **The competitors must have the exact grade of the category in which they participate at the time of the competition. The grade is verified at the registration in the final entry. The grade or the category cannot be changed after the final entry is closed. In case the competitor is promoted to higher grade after the final entry, he/she will not be able to participate in the competition. (See also rule 10.4).**

7.2 Kata

For every match in all categories, 3 kata shall be performed. The kata for the categories Mudan through Godan will be selected from the A.J.K.F. Jodo Kata (Shitei Waza). These Shitei Waza will be announced to the competitors before the start of the Individual Championship.



7.3 Judging

Only the Shidachi (Jo side) will be judged. The Uchidachi may be any of the competitors who are not competing at that moment. All registered competitors have to be available to act as Uchidachi. However, the Shidachi may choose any registered competitor to act as his/her Uchidachi. The Dan of the Uchidachi may not exceed the Dan of the Shidachi by two and shall be limited to Godan.

7.4 Pool system

The competitors will be divided into as many pools of three as possible. **If the inscriptions make it necessary, pools of two (2) or pools of four (4) will be included.**

The 4 competitors who received the medals at the previous Individual Championships will be seeded into different pools and moved to the far end of the grid. As much as possible, competitors with the same nationality will be kept out of the same pool.

The order of matches will be announced. Pools can be combined respecting the principle of separation as mentioned above in the previous subparagraph.

The ranking of the individuals out of the same pool will be based on the following:

1. The number of matches won;
2. If this is equal, the number of flags is counted;
3. If this is equal as well, a “knock out” match of only one Shitei Waza will be played. The Court Judge will announce the Shitei Waza before the start of the match.

The first two out of each pool will move on to the Tournament matches.

7.5 Tournament

The tournament operates under the knockout system. The first two out of every pool will be entered on the tournament grid, respecting the principles of separation (refer to Section 07.4.) as much as possible. The 1st placed of one pool will compete with the 2nd placed of another pool.

8. Team Championships

8.1 Competitors

Every country is represented by a team of 3 or minimum 2 competitors, chosen freely before every fight out of the maximum of 4 officially entered inscriptions. The first one is Senpo, the second is Chuken, the third is Taisho. **In teams of two, the *Chuken* position (middle position) remains vacant.**



The grade of the competitors may range from Mudan up to, and including Godan, but the total of the Dan of the three players shall not exceed ten. Mudan are counted as a Shodan. (For example, player 1 may have Godan, player 2 Shodan and player 3 yondan: $5 + 1 + 4 = 10$; but a team may also consist of three Shodan: $1 + 1 + 1 =$ less than 10). For a team composed by two persons, the maximum total sum of dan is 9.

For the first round, the names and the order of combat will be handed in to the Head Judge of the Shiaijo or the administration table, at the official start of the competition, at the latest. Afterwards, this information will be handed in immediately after the end of the previous fight

8.2 Kata

For every match, 3 Kata shall be performed. Kata will be selected from the A.J.K.F. Jodo Kata (Shitei Waza) and will be announced to the competitors before the start of the competition.

8.3 Judging

On the 1st match, the Senpo is judged with the Taisho as Tachi. On the 2nd match, the Chuken is judged, again with the Taisho as Tachi. On the 3rd match, the Taisho, is judged with the Chuken as Tachi.

Match	Judged	Tachi
1	Senpo	Taisho
2	Chuken	Taisho
3	Taisho	Chuken (or Senpo in a team of two)

8.4 Pool system

Teams will be divided into as many pools of three as possible. **If the inscriptions make it necessary, pools of two (2) or pools of four (4) will be included.**

The 4 teams who received the medals at the previous Team Championships will be seeded into different pools and moved to the far end of the grid.

The order of matches will be announced. Pools can be combined respecting the principle of separation as mentioned above in the previous subparagraph.

The ranking of the Teams out of the same pool will be based on the following:

1. The number of **team** matches won;
2. **If this is equal, the number of individual fights won is counted;**
3. If this is equal, the number of flags is counted;



4. If this is equal as well, a “knock out” match of only one Shitei Waza will be played by the Taisho with Senpo or Chuken. The Court Judge will announce the Shitei Waza before the start of the match.

The first two teams out of each pool will move on to the tournament matches.

8.5 Tournament

The tournament operates under the knockout system. The first two out of every pool will be entered on the tournament grid, respecting the principles of separation (refer to Section 08.4.) as much as possible. The 1st placed of one pool will compete with the 2nd placed of another pool.

The refereeing rules and the principles for discerning the winner are the same as defined for the preliminary pools.

9. 6th Dan Open Competition

A Jodo 6th Dan Open Competition will be included in the EJC schedule this year; special rules will apply as below.

- a. Participation is open for all 6 dan holders without any limitations per country, time in current grade etc.
- b. Registration will take place through EKF System.
- c. Referees may and are encouraged to participate.
- d. Minimum number of participants eight.
- e. Matches will take place before all other divisions, up to and including Final match.
- f. Kata, will be from AJKF Jodo Kata (Shitei waza), as above para 7.2
- g. Uchidachi may be selected or chosen, in the context of para 7.3 above, among registered Yondan, Godan or Rokudan competitors only.

10. Rules and Conditions for the Qualification of the Competitors

10.1. Every competitor must be a member of an organization adhering to the E.K.F. and be mentioned on the official inscription lists handed in for every category in due time by that organization.

10.2. Every competitor must have the nationality of the country he or she represents (the passport serves as proof) and be **at least 18 years old** at the time of the Championships. No exceptions on age will be granted. Exceptions as to nationality can be allowed by the EKF President and need to be given prior to registration. Applications for such exceptions shall be made by the Deadline (see Section 17). In handling the applications, the EKF President will follow the guidelines of EKF General Assembly at Skopje on 31st March 2016.

10.3. Any competitor may participate in both the Team and the Individual Championships.



10.4. A competitor may participate in a category shodan to yondan while holding the respective grade for a time period that is equal to the grade in years plus 12 months as per the day of the championship. Participation in godan category is not limited to time period in grade. Participation in the mudan category is possible only one time.

10.5. Team entry and calculation of total number of dan shall be based on compliance with rule 10.04.

10.6. During the online registration procedure of competitors, the EKF database shall only provide the names of possible competitors whose last grading date is not in violation with rule 10.4.

10.7. Every competitor must wear an official nafuda (name tag) on the left side of the gi (jacket), showing clearly in Roman characters the names of the country and the competitor. The size shall be 15 cm by 10 cm, the nafuda should be black (with white letters), blue (with white letters) or white (with black letters). Ideally the nafuda should be the same color as the jodogi.

11. Referees

11.1 The EKF Member Countries are invited to nominate the candidates for Referee selection to the EKF **by the Deadline (see Section 17)**. The nomination shall be done on the EKF website with the relevant event registration, at the “Flag-Icon – Nominate Shinpan”. Please upload a picture of each nominated referee also to the EKF online system, “Persons” / click – “Image” icon. This picture can be used in following events.

11.2 Appointment of Referees of the European Jodo Championship is entrusted to the E.K.F., assisted by the A.J.K.F.; they are chosen among those who are nominated by the E.K.F. Member Countries.

11.3 Appointment of referees to semi-finals and finals is done by the EKF Technical Director or his/her representative during the competition.

11.4 Referees may not participate as competitors, with the exception of 6 dan Open Competition as per paragraph 9 above.

11.5 The function of Referee is incompatible with that of Coach or Manager. Obviously, a certain reservation and neutrality remain required as general attitude for Referees.

11.6 The onsite expenses for the referees (lodging in single rooms, meals, local transport & sayonara party) are covered by the organizing country for **three nights**, starting from **Friday evening until Monday morning of the EJC weekend**.

11.7 Each referee shall bring his own set of flags.



12. Managers

The Manager of each team is responsible for the behaviour and attitude of the team members and for the correct way of handling and wearing their equipment.

13. Drawing

The drawing will be held under the authority of the E.K.F. prior to the event.

14. Complaints

All complaints to the E.K.F. Technical Director or his representative are to be handed in by the Manager or the Team Leader; all other people will be refused. Any complaint needs to be filed immediately, but in any case, not later than by the end of the possibly affected competition.

15. Insurance

Every delegation will see to it that all its members are insured against any possible mishaps. Host Organization **must have** an insurance against any civil liability. In case of an accident or incident (like theft, traffic accident, accident not covered by travel or sports insurance, incident leading to civil liability...) which might lead to a claim against any third party except the insurance company of the delegation or requires a written attestation by the Host Organization or by the EKF, the event 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.

16. Anti-Doping

The prescriptions and prohibitions established by the FIK (International Kendo Federation) will be applicable at these championships. 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. Additionally, the *FIK Anti-Doping Rules* (approved August 27th, 2009, Sao Paulo and amended May 28th, 2016 in Tokyo) and the *EKF Anti-Doping Rules* (adopted April 8th, 2010, Debrecen, the later shall prevail in case of conflict – together "The AD-Rules") including the respective updated and most recent WADA Prohibition Lists shall be applicable. Tests relating to the Championships shall be conducted according to the AD-Rules. In case of disqualification following any anti-doping violation, the shift of ranks method determined by FIK during the past WKC shall be applied.

All TUE exemption requests must be submitted to EKF Vice-President (vice-president@ekf-eu.com) **by the Deadline (see Section 17).**



17. Deadlines Final Entry and Pictures

Register at: <http://www.ekf-eu.com>

There will be no pre-entry.

Deadline Referee nomination, TUE and NER: 21st June 2026

Final Entry period: 11th May – 21st July 2026

Payments must be RECEIVED by 31st July 2026

The final entry registration covers:

- Competitors per category
- Team Members (if team is registered)
- Referees
- Jodo Seminar participants
- Officials
- Sayonara party participants
- Lunch at Competition and Seminar
- Additional nights (Thu) for Referees
- Transport

In case of ‘force majeure’, names of competitors may be altered until the date of the drawing for the event, after permission has been granted by the E.K.F. President.

Exam Registration: until 14 days prior to the exam at <http://www.ekf-eu.com>.

Hotel reservations:

Each delegation should make reservations directly, according to instructions given at the event website <https://www.ejc2026.fr/accomodations/>.

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.

Note that all Team Manager’s must have a valid email address configured in their Person record within the EKF System.



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By registering, all participants and officers agree that their names, gender, tournament category, results and pictures as filed or taken during the event may be stored, processed, and published on the internet or in print media and that there may be videos taken during the event, stored, published, and live streamed in connection with the event. All personal data will be handled according to EKF Privacy Statement published on EKF website.

The *EKF* Board of Officers



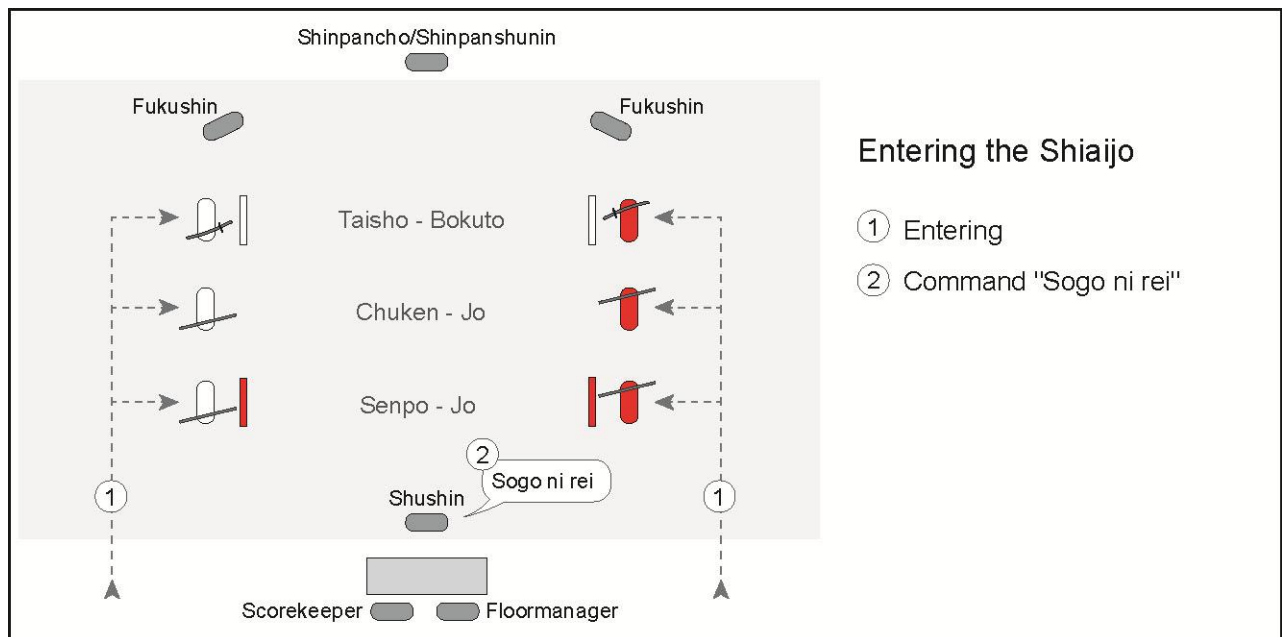
ANNEX: The procedure and REIHO for Jodo team matches

At the beginning of the match the 3 *shinpan* stand in front of their respective chairs, flags unrolled.

The red team enters the *shiaiyo* on the right-hand side and the white team on the left hand side of the *shushin*, in the order of *taisho* (with *bokuto*) walking up to the white start line, *chuken* (with *jo*) in the middle and *senpo* (with *jo*) stopping at the red start line.

(Note: if it is the first match of the day the *shinpan cho* or the *shushin* of the central *shiaiyo* now announces “*shomen ni rei*” which will then be executed by the *shinpan cho*, the *shinpan shunin*, the *shinpan* and the competitors present on all *shiaiyo*. This might also apply at the beginning of the final match of the championship. After the *shomen ni rei* everyone faces inward the *shiaiyo* again and the *shinpan cho* will give the signal for the start of the matches.)

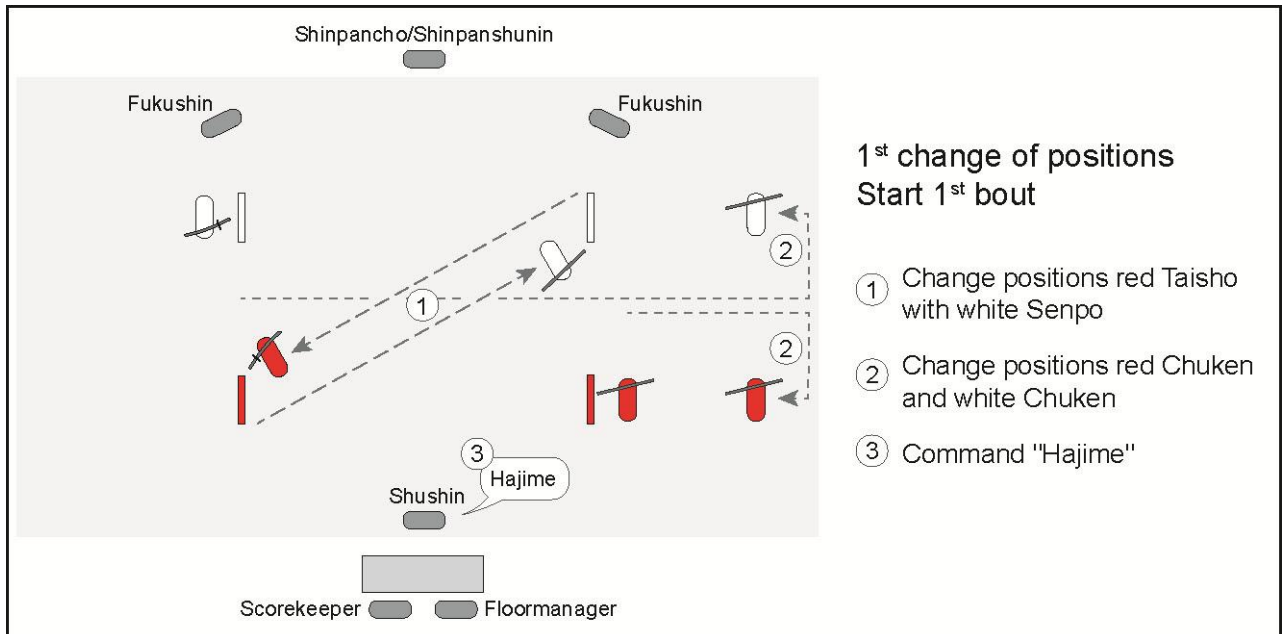
The *shushin* now gives the command “*sogo ni rei*” for the competitors to bow to each other.



Without further command the red *taisho* and the white *senpo* will exchange places, passing each other on their respective right side so that *bokuto* and *jo* cannot clash. The red *chuken* walks backwards and the white *chuken* walks across the *shiaiyo*, both taking their places approximately 3 meters behind their respective *senpo*.

(Note: if space is limited the *chuken* - for the 1st bout - and the *senpo* - for the 2nd and 3rd bout - should place themselves closer to their teammates and approximately 1,5 meters outside their respective centerline to avoid *uchidachi* from neighbouring *shiaiyo* running into them during fights. This especially applies if form 11 *midaredome* is among the selected *shitei waza*.)

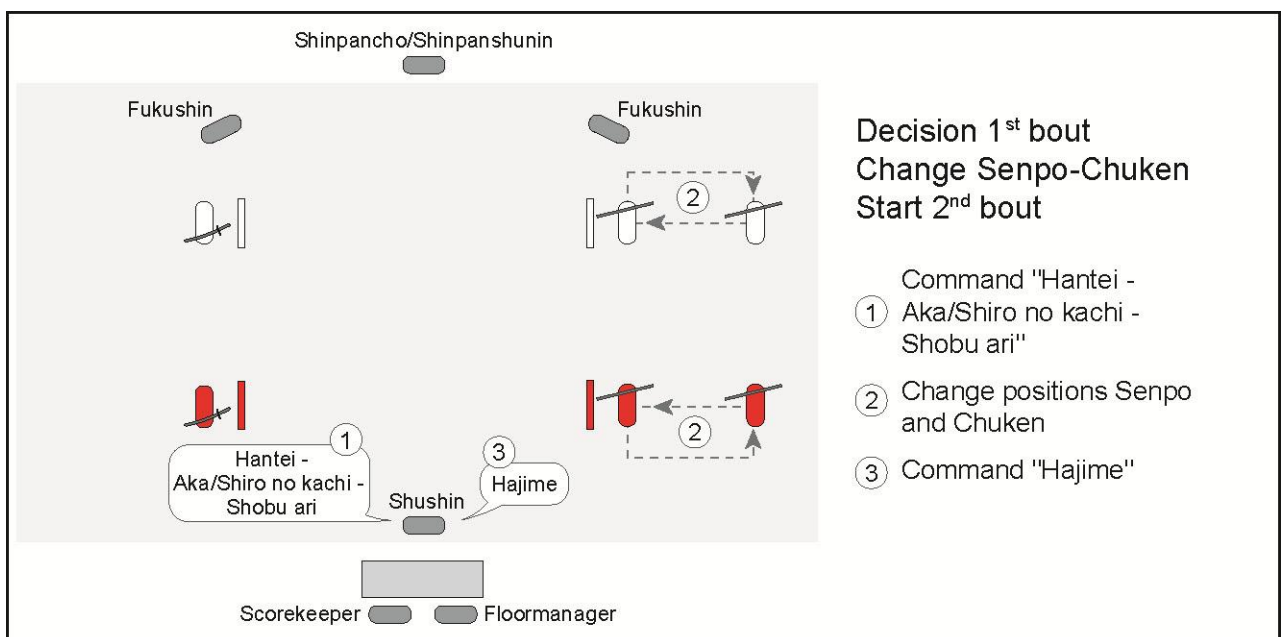
On the command “*hajime*” the *senpo* now perform the **1st bout** with the *taisho* as *uchidachi*.



The *shinpan* will then decide the winner in the same way as in the individual competition (“*hantei*” – “*aka/shiro no kachi*” – “*shobu ari*”).

After the decision has been announced both *senpo*, without further command, step to the outside (i.e. red *senpo* to the left, white *senpo* to the right) and walk backwards making way for the *chuken* to step forward to the start line. During the change all *shinpan* remain standing.

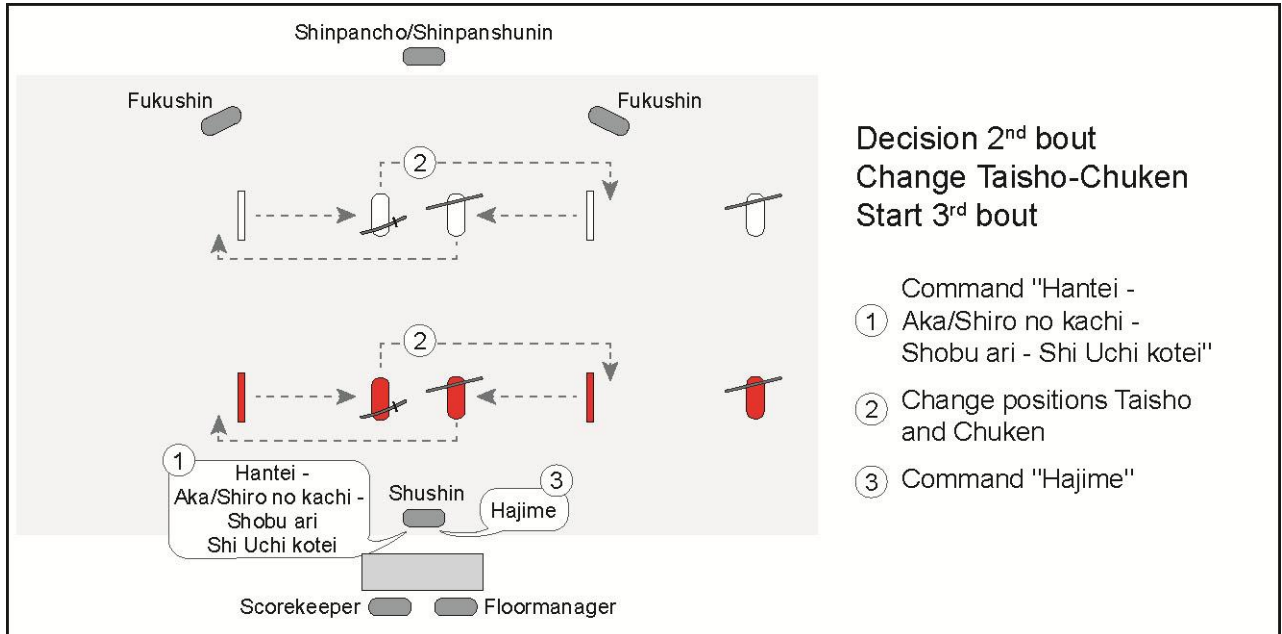
On the command “*hajime*” the *chuken* now perform the **2nd bout** with the *taisho* as *uchidachi*.



The *shinpan* will then decide the winner in the same way as in the individual competition.

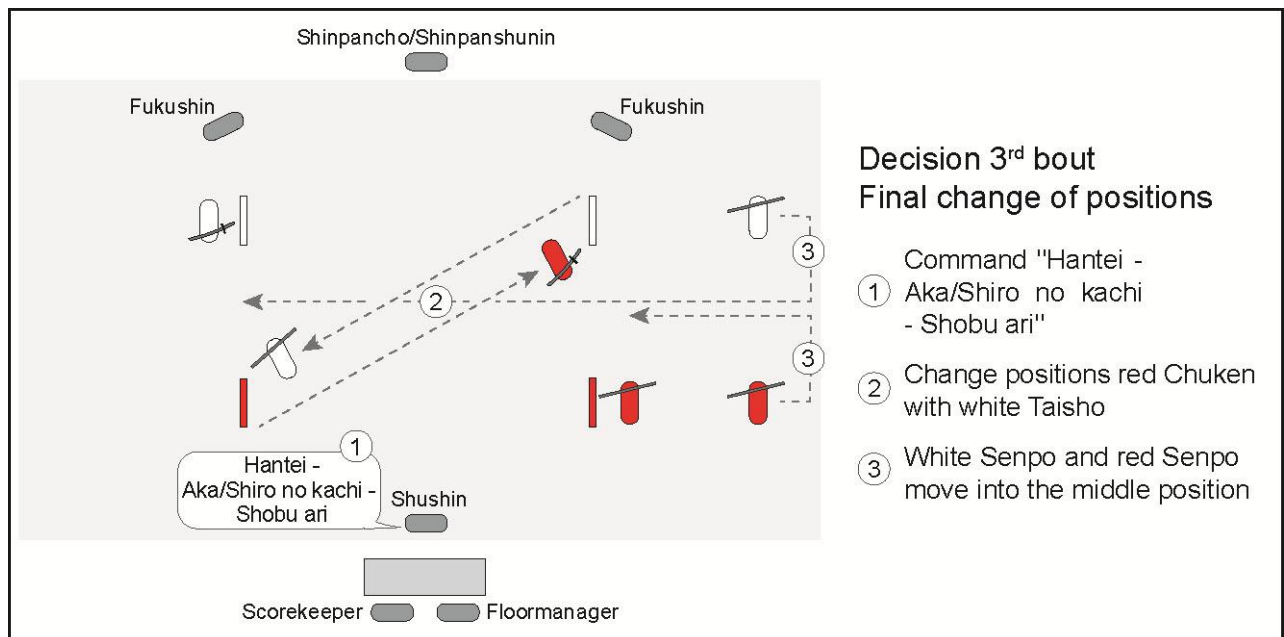
After announcing the decision, the *shushin* gives the command “*shi uchi kotai*” for the *chuken* and the *taisho* to exchange weapons and place. Again, all *shinpan* remain standing.

On the command “*hajime*” the *taisho* now perform the **3rd bout** with the *chuken* as *uchidachi*.



The *shinpan* will then decide the winner in the same way as in the individual competition.

After the decision has been announced the white *taisho* and the red *chuken*, without further command, will exchange places, passing each other on their respective right side so that *bokuto* and *jo* cannot clash. The white *senpo* walks across the *shiaiyo* and the red *senpo* steps forward, both taking the places between their respective *taisho* and *chuken*. During the change all *shinpan* remain standing.



The *shushin* will now, after consulting the scorekeeper if necessary, announce the winning team by raising the respective flag and calling “*shobu ari*”, followed by the command “*sogo ni rei*” for the competitors to bow to each other.

(Note: if it was the final match of the day the *shinpan cho* or the *shushin* now announces “*shomen ni rei*” which will be executed by the *shinpan cho*, the *shinpan shunin*, the *shinpan* and the competitors present on the *shiaiyo*.)

Both teams then leave the *shiaiyo* in the order of *taisho* (with *jo*), *senpo* (with *jo*) and *chuken* (with *bokuto*).

