

Pacific Northwest Kendō Federation - Kendō Shinsa Requirements

Mudansha Ranks:

- 6 Kyu:** 9 years of age; 6 months practice
Put on bogu, basics with motodachi, minimum 1 keiko.
- 5 Kyu:** 10 years of age; 6 months practice (or 6 months in previous rank)
Put on bogu, basics with motodachi, minimum 1 keiko.
- 4 Kyu:** 11 years of age; 6 months practice (or 6 months in previous rank)
Put on bogu, basics with motodachi, minimum 1 keiko.
- 3 Kyu:** 12 years of age; 6 months practice (or 6 months in previous rank)
Put on bogu, basics with motodachi, minimum 1 keiko.
Highest "first rank", see notes section.
- 2 Kyu:** 13 years of age; 6 months practice (or 6 months in previous rank)
Juniors, age 17 & below: Put on bogu, basics with motodachi, minimum 1 keiko.
Adults, age 18 & above: Minimum 2 keiko
- 1 Kyu:** 13 years of age; 6 months in previous rank
Minimum 2 keiko, kendo kata #1 through #3, written test.

Yudansha Ranks:

- 1 Dan:** 15 years of age; 6 months in previous rank.
Minimum 2 keiko, kendo kata #1 through #5, written test.
- 2 Dan:** 16 years of age; 1 year in previous rank.
Minimum 2 keiko, kendo kata #1 through #7, written test.
- 3 Dan:** 18 years of age; 2 in previous rank.
Minimum 2 keiko, kendo kata #1 through #7, kotachi kendo kata #1 through #3, written test.
- 4 Dan:** 21 years of age; 3 years in previous rank, 4 Shinpan Event credits (signed form required)
Minimum 2 keiko, kendo kata #1 through #7, kotachi kendo kata #1 through #3, written test.
Four (4) shinpan credits are required for PNKF members applying for a 4 dan exam.

Notes:

- Age is the minimum age as of the date of the Promotional Examination (Shodan Shinsa). If the applicant's birthday is within one (1) month of the promotional examination, the applicant will be eligible.
- Number of months of practice or months in rank is the minimum number of months. The amount of time in the previous rank must be within 15 days of the required time.
- 7 kyu and 8 kyu may be awarded by dojo/club.
- 3 kyu is the highest "first test" rank, without prior approval by the PNKF president.
- Format for basic demonstration; Kirikaeshi, 2 Men Uchi, 2 Kote Uchi, 2 Doh Uchi in bogu.
- If applying for 1 Dan and not currently 1 kyu, the Dojo Head/Sensei must submit a special request recommending promotion, and the applicant must submit a detailed kendo history.
- If a candidate passes keiko but fails kata, they may retake the kata portion only. The retest must be done within 12 months after passing keiko.
- The written exam essay must be submitted in English.

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Kendō Shinsa Examination Panel:

Dan Examination	Examiners	Number	Criteria
Kyu – 1 Dan	4 Dan & over	5	Consent of 3 examiners
2 - 3 Dan	5 Dan & over	5	Consent of 3 examiners
4 Dan	6 Dan & over	6	Consent of 4 examiners

Kendō Shinsa Kata Requirements:

Dan Examination	Required Kata
1 kyu	Tachi #1 - 3
1 Dan	Tachi #1 - 5
2 Dan	Tachi #1 - 7
3 Dan	Tachi #1 - 7, Kotachi #1 -3
4 Dan	Tachi #1 -7, Kotachi #1 -3

❖ Kendo Kata:

1. The uchitachi and shitachi may be oriented with uchitachi on either the examiners' right or left side according to the preference of the head examiner.
2. The bow to the head table is only done as a group by examinees during the line up to bow at the start and end of the shinsa. The uchitachi and shitachi do not bow to the head table, only to each other during the performance of their kata.
3. For kotachi kendo kata #1 thru # 3, the kotachi and tachi are to be placed on the floor approximately 5 steps behind and to the right of the shitachi. Shitachi kneels down with the left knee up when placing the tachi/kotachi on the floor. This is done regardless of which side the head examiner places them.
4. During the kendo kata portion of the exam, each examinee is allowed to repeat one kata. They must indicate their request to "repeat" that kata by raising their hand in order to signal the tachi ai (shinsa floor director).

Kendō Shinsa Age and Practice Requirements:

Dan Examination	Minimum Age	Minimum Time at Rank
8 Kyu	No age requirement	N/A
7 Kyu	No age requirement	N/A
6 Kyu	9 years old	6 months in previous rank, or 6 months total practice
5 Kyu	10 years old	6 months in previous rank, or 6 months total practice
4 Kyu	11 years old	6 months in previous rank, or 6 months total practice
3 Kyu	12 years old	6 months in previous rank, or 1 year total practice if not 4 kyu
2 Kyu	13 years old	6 months in previous rank
1 Kyu	14 years old	6 months in previous rank
1 Dan	15 years old	6 months in previous rank
2 Dan	16 years old	1 year as 1 Dan
3 Dan	18 years old	2 year as 2 Dan
4 Dan	21 years old	3 year as 3 Dan

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Revision History

Nov 19, 2015; Added text indicating that four shinpan event credits were required for to 4 dan.

Feb 10, 2017; added text permitting kata only retesting. And English requirement for written exam.

June 20, 2017; added 4 dan shinpan credit requirements.