

**Rules & Regulations of the
33rd European Iaido Championships 2026 (E.I.C.) – Munich, Germany
6th – 8th November 2026**

1. Organisations

Promoter:	European Kendo Federation	(E.K.F.)
Host Organization:	Deutscher Iaido Bund e.V.	(DiaiB)
	Deutscher Kendo Bund e.V.	(DKenB)
Technical Assistance:	All Japan Kendo Federation	(A.J.K.F.)

2. Place

Sports Hall: Sport School Oberhaching. Im Loh 2, 82041 Oberhaching

Main Hotel: Sport School Oberhaching. Im Loh 2, 82041 Oberhaching

3. Dates

The 7th and 8th November 2026 are the EIC days. There will be a one-day Iaido seminar on Friday 6th November 2026. Please see the EIC website for event information. An examination 1-7 Dan will take place on Sunday 8th November 2026 after the Championships.

4. Events & Schedule

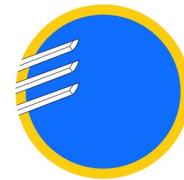
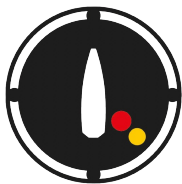
Event info, schedule and costs are shown on the Host Organisation website: www.eic2026.info

Host organisation is best reached via e-mail: info@iaido.de

5. General Refereeing Rules

The regulation of the matches will follow “*The Rules and Regulations of Iaido Shiai and Shinpan*”, published by ZNKR, 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.



6. Content of the Championships

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

- **Individual Championships** for maximum two competitors (male or female) in category per country divided into the following 6 categories:

1. Up to Shodan (1st dan)
2. Nidan (2nd dan)
3. Sandan (3rd dan)
4. Yondan (4th dan)
5. Godan (5th dan)
6. Rokudan (6th dan)

Please note that for time management reasons, the former Mudan category has been merged with the Shodan category. There is no longer any separate Mudan category. Instead **both Mudan and Shodan are eligible to compete in the Shodan category.**

- **Team Championship** with teams composed of 3 persons and a maximum total of "10 dan". The grade of the competitors may range from Mudan up to, and including, Rokudan, 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.**

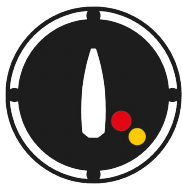
Every Championship gives the right to the attribution of an official "European Champion" title, together with one "Vice-Champion" and two equal third places. Also, for every championship, a minimum of one **personal** so called "Fighting Spirit" trophy is awarded. Fighting Spirit Awards are decided by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

Please see information on SHINKEN provided by the Organising Federation on the event website.

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 09.4).



7.2. 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 competitors that go on will be separated from then on into different grid locations.

The maximal combat time is **4 minutes for three kata. In principle, opening and closing reiho are included in this time. If the timing of the competition so requires, it can be announced that opening and closing reiho are conducted outside the shiai-jo.**

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.

7.3. 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 7.2) as much as possible. In principle, the 1st placed of one pool will compete with the 2nd placed of another pool.

The maximal combat time is **6 minutes for five kata. In principle, opening and closing reiho are included in this time. If the timing of the competition so requires, it can be announced that opening and closing reiho are conducted outside the shiai-jo.**

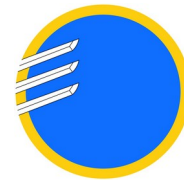
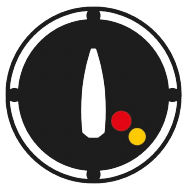
8. Team Championships

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 *Sempo*, the second is *Chuken*, the third is *Taisho*. **In teams of two, the *Chuken* position remains vacant.**

The grade of the competitors may range from Mudan up to, and including, Rokudan, but the total of the Dan of the three players shall not exceed ten. Mudan are counted as a Shodan. **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 Shiai-jo or the administration table, at the official start of the competition, at the latest. After-



wards, this information will be handed in immediately after the end of the previous fight at the administration table.

8.2. Pool system

Teams will be divided by drawing 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 ends of the grid.

The order of matches will be announced. Pools can be combined.

The first two teams will move on to the tournament matches. They will be separated from then on into different grid locations.

The maximal combat time is 4 minutes for three kata. Opening and closing reiho are included in this time. For the detailed conduct of reiho see the Annex hereto.

The ranking of the Teams 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 individual victories is counted.
3. If this is equal, the number of flags is counted.
4. If this is equal as well, a supplementary match will be held (*daihyosen*). This match shall be held in the same way as a normal match in the pool system. The competitor of the supplementary match will be one of the competitors who competed in that pool.

8.3. Tournament

The tournament operates under the knockout system. The first two out of every pool will be entered on the tournament grid. In principle, the 1st placed of one pool will compete with the 2nd placed of another pool.

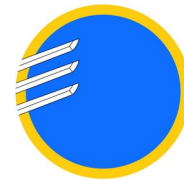
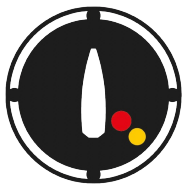
The fights will follow the knockout system. The maximal combat **time is 4 minutes for three kata. Opening and closing reiho are included in this time. For the detailed conduct of reiho see the Annex hereto.**

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

9. Rules and Conditions for the Qualification of the Competitors

09.1. 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.

09.2. Every competitor must have the nationality of the country he or she represents (the passport serves as proof) and be **at least 16 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 Pre-Entry Deadline (see Section 16) using the NER form published on the EKF Website. In handling the applications, the EKF President will follow the guidelines of EKF General Assembly at Skopje on 31st March 2016.

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

09.4. 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 and rokudan categories is not limited to time period in grade.

09.5. Team entry and calculation of total of number of dan shall be based on compliance with rule 09.04.

09.6. 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 09.4.

09.7. 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 colour as the gi.

10. Referees

10.1 The EKF Member Countries are invited to nominate the candidates for Referee selection to the EKF by the Pre-Entry Deadline (see Section 16). 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.

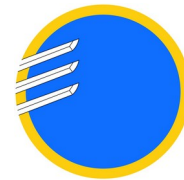
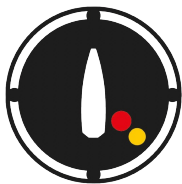
10.2. Appointment of Referees of the European Iaido Championship is entrusted to the E.K.F., assisted by the A.J.K.F.; they are chosen from among those proposed by the E.K.F. Member Countries. Appointment of referees to semi-finals and finals is done by the E.K.F Technical Director or his representative during the competition.

10.3. Referees may not participate as competitors.

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

10.5. The on-site expenses for the referees (lodging in single rooms, meals, local transport & sayonara party) during the event are covered by the Host Organization for three nights, starting from **Friday evening until Monday morning**.

10.6. Each referee shall bring his own set of flags. **Official dress code of Referees is black montsuki.**



11. 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.

12. Drawing

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

13. 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.

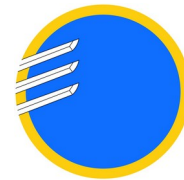
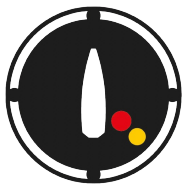
14. Insurance

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, 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.

15. 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, as amended April 2020) 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 List 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 Pre-Entry Deadline (see Section 16).**



16. Deadlines

Register at:

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

Pre-Entry, Referee nomination, TUE and NER:

1st - 30th June 2026

Final Entry period:

1st August - 13th September 2026

Payments must be RECEIVED by:

30th September 2026

The final entry registration covers:

- Competitors per category
- Team Members (if team registered)
- Referees
- Iaido Seminar participants
- Officials
- Sayonara party participants
- Meal packages
- Additional nights (Thu) for Referees

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>.

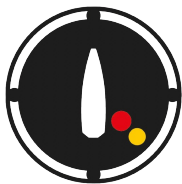
Hotel reservations:

Each delegation should make reservations directly, according to instructions given at the event website.

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.

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,



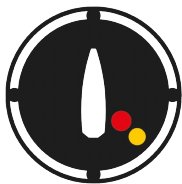
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and published on the internet or in print media and that there may be videos taken during the event, stored, published, and live streamed in connection with the event. All personal data will be handled according to EKF Privacy Statement published on EKF website.

The E.K.F Board of Officers



ANNEX: The procedure of REIHO for Iaido team matches

At the start of each team match, both teams line up facing each other outside the *shiai*jo, sit down, and do the “*sogo ni rei*” (sword at their right side). Then they stand up, and the first 2 competitors will enter the *shiai*jo in “*keito*” position while the others wait outside in “*keito*” position.

1st bout

On the command “*hajime*” all competitors will do the “*shomen ni rei*” and “*torei*” together.

The competitors inside the *shiai*jo perform the required *kata*, and the competitors outside stand up and wait. When the competitors inside have finished their *kata* they will remain standing with the sword in the belt and the left thumb on the *tsuba*.

At the command “*hantei*” the referees raise the flags to announce their decision.

2nd bout

The first competitors leave the *shiai*jo with the left thumb on the *tsuba* while the second competitors enter the *shiai*jo with the left thumb on the *tsuba*.

On the command “*hajime*” the second competitors perform the required *kata*.

At the command “*hantei*” the referees raise the flags to announce their decision.

3rd bout

The second competitors leave the *shiai*jo with the left thumb on the *tsuba* while the third competitors enter the *shiai*jo with the left thumb on the *tsuba*.

On the command “*hajime*” the third competitors perform the required *kata*.

Then they will sit down and together with the other competitors they will do the “*torei*” and “*shomen ni rei*”.

At the command “*hantei*” the referees raise the flags to announce their decision.

Finally, the last competitors leave the *shiai*jo and line up with the other team members to do the “*sogo ni rei*” (see start of the match).