

# IAI-DO & BATTO-DO

Endorsed By

Senior Official  
Division Officials

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Jikishin-Kai

Rules Kokusai Nippon Budo Kai

Key Points

- Competitors must register based on their age as-of August 18, 2012.
- Divisions are subject to change and/or reassignment.
- Divisions may be split or combined at the discretion of the 2012 Origins International Martial Arts Festival™ and/or the Division Officials in order to provide fair, safe, and exciting competition.
- All weapons are subject to inspection by Officials at any time.
- Loss of control shall result in immediate disqualification.

Level

- Level is the competitor's experience determined by years of training and/or rank:
  - **First Timer:** Beginner competing for the first time
  - **Beginner:** < 2 years
  - **Intermediate:** 2-3 years
  - **Advanced:** > 3 years



GROUP	AGE	M/F	LEVEL	CODE
Iai	All	M/F	< 2 years	IA-S01
Iai	All	M/F	2 - 4 years	IA-S02
Iai	All	M/F	> 4 years	IA-S03
Batto	All	M/F	< 2 years	IA-B01
Batto	All	M/F	2 - 4 years	IA-B02
Batto	All	M/F	> 4 years	IA-B03
Tameshigiri - Individual	All	M/F	Shodan, Nidan	IA-T01
Tameshigiri - Individual	All	M/F	Sandan and Above	IA-T02
Tameshigiri - Team (3 people)	All	M/F	All	IA-T03

## REGULATIONS FOR IAIDO & BATTODO DIVISIONS

### APPROVED SWORD STYLES

This TaiKai is for practitioners of Traditional Japanese koryu. Sword styles not recognized in Japan are not allowed to compete. Due to the number of different styles available in Japan, an exhaustive list is not available.

For those competitors who do not follow a Traditional lineage you may try one of the open tournaments.

The following is a short listing of approved sword styles. If your style is not on the list please contact the Competition committee at: Sword Competition Committee [hq@jikishin-kai.com](mailto:hq@jikishin-kai.com) to find out if your style is approved for competition.

- Muso Jikiden Eishin Ryu
- Toyama Ryu
- Nakamura Ryu
- Muso Shinden Ryu
- Suio Ryu
- Sekiguchi Ryu
- Mugai Ryu
- SHinKage Ryu
- Hayashizaki Ryu
- Araki Ryu
- ZNKR Seite Iai

### IAI AND BATTO

- **Contestants must be members of a Sword Art recognized in Japan. If you have questions on what constitutes an appropriate art, please see the list of approve styles or contact the Competition committee.**

### General Rules

- Safety of both contestants and audience will be observed at all times.
- Contestants must be a minimum of 13 years of age to compete.
- Contestants must be students or practitioners of a sword art recognized in Japan or have permission of the Competition committee to compete.
- The Judges panel and Inspection committee have final say on all matters pertaining to the competition. There are no appeals or challenges. All decisions are final.

### Safety

- Ignoring or violating the rules of safety will result in immediate disqualification from further competition.
- If a sword should touch the floor at any time the contestant will be disqualified and must stop.
- Only Iaito (unsharpened metal alloy blade) will be allowed during Kata competition. Bokken will not be permitted as an alternative to a proper Iaito.

- 440 stainless steel/replica/homemade swords will not be permitted.
- All swords should have traditional wooden saya.
- All contestants must submit their swords for safety inspection prior to competition.
- Swords that pass will be tagged or marked – any Iaito missing the safety inspection tag will not be allowed for competition.
- Swords will be inspected for the following:
  - Cracked or bent blades
  - Loose or defective mekugi
  - Excessively loose tsuka and nakago
  - Excessively loose tsuka maki
  - Cracked or defective saya
  - Loose or dangerous fit of habaki in koiguchi
  - Any other defect in design or manufacture that will endanger the safety of the contestants or observers.
  - The Inspection committee has final say on swords permitted for use in the competition.

### **Uniform**

- All contestants must wear a full length traditional hakama (pants), obi (belt) and do-gi (uniform top).
- Loud fancy colored uniforms will not be allowed.
- Traditional tabi (sandals) are permitted during competition. Contestants may also compete barefooted while in the competition area. Sandals or shoes are not allowed in the competition area but are recommended outside of it.
- The Judges panel has final say on what is appropriate dress.

### **Etiquette**

- This is a Japanese style tournament. Proper etiquette in keeping with Japanese sword arts will be observed by all contestants both inside the competition area and outside.
- Competitors should never approach the judges table. A liaison will be available.
- Respect and courtesy for other contestants will be shown at all times. Disrespect to the Judges or other competitor will result in immediate disqualification from the tournament.
- All contestants will refrain from loud talking or other actions that result in distracting behavior for other contestants. Purposely distracting other contestants at any time will result in immediate disqualification.
- Proper etiquette and handling of swords will be shown at all times. Improper care and handling of one's sword will result in immediate disqualification.
- Contestants will only wear their swords in preparation for their turn at competition and while in the competition area.
- The Judges' panel has final say in any violations of the rules of etiquette.

## Events and Divisions

- Contestants may enter a tougher division.
- If there are less than 5 competitors, divisions may be combined.
- The divisions below are the basic divisions – actual divisions during competition may vary due to the number of competitors.
- **laido:**
  - ***Division I:*** Less than 2 years training
  - ***Division II:*** 2-4 years of training
  - ***Division III:*** More than 4 years of training
- **Batto Ho:**
  - ***Division I:*** Less than 2 years training
  - ***Division II:*** 2-4 years of training
  - ***Division III:*** More than 4 years of training

## Tournament Format

- The tournament format will be single elimination.
- laido contestants must do at least 1 kata from seiza.
- Elimination format:
  - The elimination format consists of two contestants paired for an elimination round.
  - Each contestant will demonstrate 3 kata, at the same time, with a winner declared by the judging panel.
  - The winner continues on for the subsequent rounds until there are only 4 remaining contestants.
  - Any loss in any round results in elimination from the tournament, except for the semi finals. The losers in the semi-final will be paired to determine 3rd place. The winners will be in the final for 1st and 2nd place.

## Individual Competition Rules

- Contestants will be paired up for elimination rounds by the judging panel and called up when it is their turn to compete.
- Both contestants will approach the competition area with their sword already worn in their obi (belt).
- Both contestants will stop at the back line of the competition area and bow first to the judges, then to each other.
- Both contestants will enter the competition area and perform three kata.
- Each contestant will bow again when they complete their 3 kata and await the judges' decision.

## TAMESHIGIRI (CUTTING)

- Contestants must be members of a Sword Art recognized in Japan. If you have questions on what constitutes an appropriate art, please see the list of approved styles or contact the Competition committee.

### General Rules

- Safety of both contestants and audience will be observed at all times.
- Uniform and Etiquette rules listed under the Basic Tournament rules.
- Contestants must be a minimum of 18 years of age to compete.
- Contestants must have a minimum of 1 year of instruction and practice in tameshigiri/suemonogiri (test cutting).
- The Judges panel and Inspection committee have final say on all matters pertaining to the competition. There are no appeals or challenges. All decisions are final.

### Safety

- Ignoring or violating the rules of safety will result in immediate disqualification from further competition.
- This competition is for Japanese styled katanas only.
- No stainless steel 440 blades or sword replicas will be allowed for cutting competition.
- All contestants must submit their swords for safety inspection prior to competition.
- Swords that pass will be tagged or marked – any sword missing the safety inspection tag will not be allowed for competition.
- Swords will be inspected for the following:
  - Cracked or bent blades
  - Loose or defective mekugi
  - Excessively loose tsuka and nakago
  - Excessively loose tsuka maki
  - Cracked/ defective or non-traditional (wooden) saya
  - Loose or dangerous fit of habaki in koiguchi
  - Any other defect in design or manufacture that will endanger the safety of the contestants or observers.
- **The Inspection committee has final say on swords permitted for use in the competition: there will be NO appeals.**

### Events and Divisions

- There will be main two events for Tameshigiri competition. Individual and Team.
- **Individual:**
  - **Division I:** Shodan-Nidan
  - **Division II:** Sandan and above
- Competitors can enter a division higher but never a lower one for their rank.
- **Team (3-person)**
  - There will be only one division for team cutting.
  - Each team must have exactly 3 people.
  - Teams may contain contestants of any rank – Shodan or above.

## **Tournament Format**

- The tournament format will be single elimination.
- Elimination format:
  - The elimination format consists of two contestants/teams paired for an elimination round.
  - Each contestant will cut in order
  - The winner continues on for the subsequent rounds until there are only 4 remaining contestants/teams.
  - Any loss in any round results in elimination from the tournament, except for the semi finals. The losers in the semi-final will be paired to determine 3rd place. The winners will be in the final for 1st and 2nd place.

## **Individual Competition Rules**

- Contestants will be paired up for elimination rounds by the judging panel and called up when it is their turn to compete.
- Both contestants will approach the competition area with their sword already worn in their obi (belt).
- Both contestants will stop at the back line of the competition area and bow first to the judges, then to each other.
- Each contestant will wait until called by the judges' panel to start their round.
- Each contestant will approach their target and bow first before starting their round.
- Contestants are not allowed to touch or otherwise adjust the target or stand when competing.
- Each contestant will perform the required sequence of cuts based on their division.
  - Shodan/Nidan – Rokudangiri for all rounds
  - Sandan and above – Rokudangiri for all rounds except the finals. Final round is 1 mat free form.
- When finished with their sequence, each contestant must perform noto to mark the end of their round.
- Each contestant will bow again and exit the competition area to wait the judges' decision.
- Both contestants will bow first to the judges after their final decision, then to each other and exit the competition area.

## **Team Competition Rules**

- Teams will compete in the same format as individual competition.
- Each team will be paired up against another team for elimination rounds by the judging panel.
- The required cutting sequence is Rokudan-giri for all teams and for all rounds.
- Teams will alternate, one member at a time, in performing two cuts per team member:
  - First team will send their first member to perform the first two cuts of Rokudan-giri
  - Then the second team will send their first member and so on.

## **Judging Criteria – both Individual and Team**

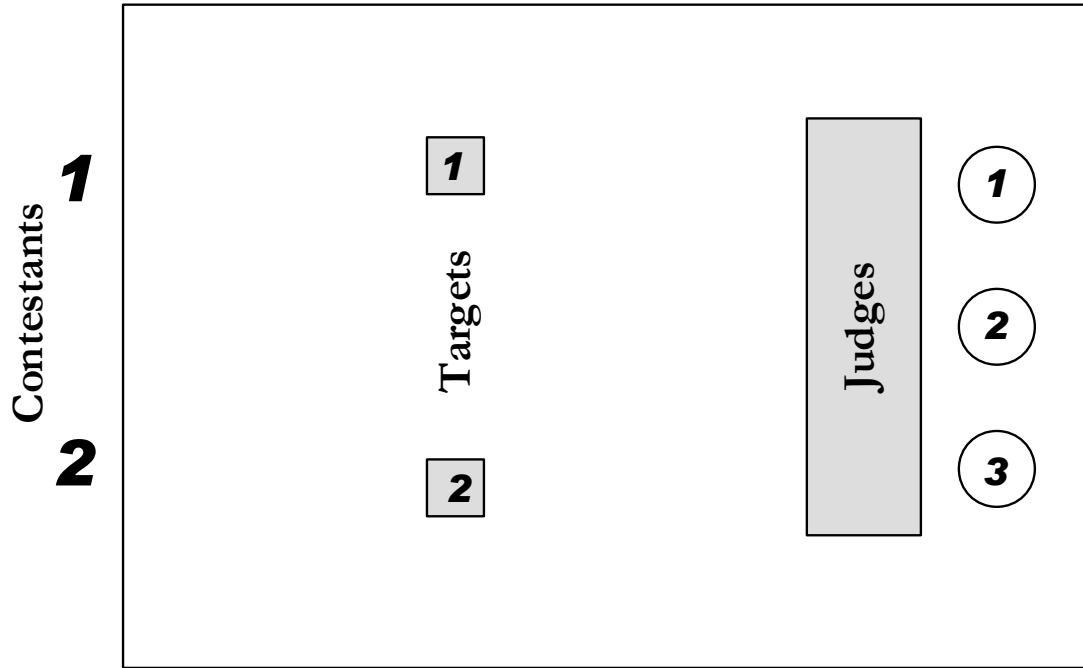
- The criteria for judging is based on three elements: technique, timing, and spirit.
- Technique
  - Technique is primarily based on successfully performing the required sequence of cuts based on the contestant's division.
  - Failure to perform all the required cuts in that sequence may result in loss for that round.
  - The judges' decision is also based on the precision of each cut.
  - How close are the kesa/kiri-age cuts to a 45-degree angle.
  - How close are the yoko cuts to horizontal.
  - Is the cut surface clean, smooth and even.

- Timing
  - The judges will be watching for a flow to the cuts in the required sequence.
  - How natural is the timing during the cutting sequence.
  - Are there excessive pauses between each of the cuts.
  - Is the timing too uniform/fixed between each of the cuts.
  
- Spirit
  - The judges will be expecting proper attitude, focus, and projection of spirit in keeping with the ideals embodied in Japanese swordsmanship.
  - Lapses or breaks in spirit will effect scoring (especially for missed cuts).
  - Does the contestant exhibit dignity, respect, and sincerity before, during, and after the required cutting(not showing off, more than mere technical ability ).

### **Competition Area and Targets**

- The competition area will be as shown in the diagram below.
- Contestants will be paired for eliminations and will cut one at a time in front of a panel of 3 judges.
- Target stands are provided for the competition and will be a uniform 30” in height.
- Targets will consist of one tatami omote mat, rolled, banded, soaked, and then drained for proper consistency.
- Targets will be ‘spiked’ to the stand using a ¾” diameter soft wood dowel.
- Targets will be set up and cleaned up by the competition volunteers – contestants are not to touch or adjust targets or stands at any time.
- Other tournament events will likely be taking place during the cutting competition – be prepared for extraneous noise and sounds.

Diagram A: Tameshigiri Competition Area

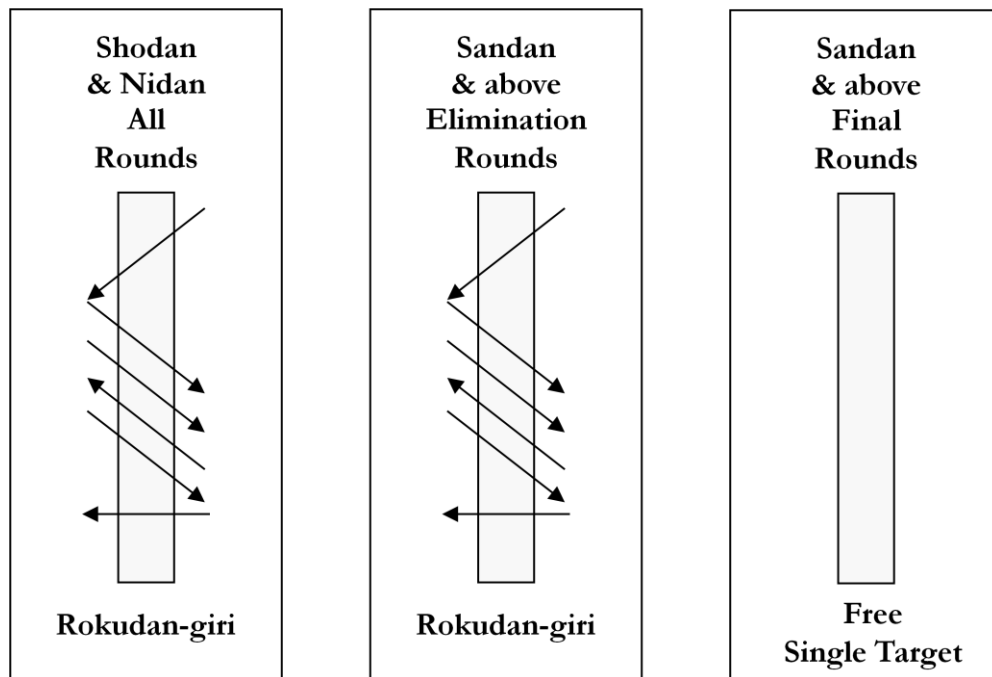




## Required Cutting Sequences

- Shodan to Nidan will perform a 6 cut sequence, rokudan-giri, for all rounds. Rokudan giri can start from migi (right) or hidari (left).
- Sandan and above will perform a 6 cut sequence, rokudan-giri, for all elimination rounds. Rokudan-giri can start from migi(right) or hidari (left).
- Final rounds for Sandan and above for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places will be a 'free' sequence on one target: any cuts, any sequence.
- Judging for the final rounds are based on difficulty of cuts and number of cuts – but still include the criteria for technique, timing, and spirit as detailed above.

**Diagram B: Required Cutting Sequences**



## Disqualifications in a round

- Knocking a target off of the stand.
- Knocking the stand over.
- Hitting the ground or stand with one's sword.
- Missing a cut.
- Cutting the wrong sequence.
- Unable to sheath the sword (bent sword).
- Dropping your sword.
- Touching the stand or target by a competitor.
- Cutting the peg.
- Not cutting all the way through the target.