



Kendo Grading Requirements

The following fine points should be considered when examining but please keep in mind that these are a 'wish list' only, and a single miss shouldn't be leaped upon to justify a harsh decision. None of us, I'm afraid, could bear intense scrutiny on every single point set out below.

The judges will use their judgment, formed through experience, of the overall picture of the applicant's kendo. They are looking for skills not just for the errors.

In the following text, 'appropriate' means exactly that; appropriate for the grade examined. In other words judges don't expect more than the grade requires or more than you could reasonably expect from the age and fitness level of the applicant. To apply the requirements below without considering age and infirmity then none but the super fit could ever attempt a grading. ***This is obviously wrong!***

Roku (6) kyu Requirements

- Correct Hakama & Keikogi
- Correct Bogu
- Rei and Sonkyo
- Ashi-sabaki

Kihon-waza to be executed with Motodachi, candidates wearing Tare and Do:

- Kihon Men
- Kihon Kote
- Kihon Do
- Kihon Kote-Men
- Kihon Kote-Do
- Kiri-Kaeshi

Go (5) kyu Requirements

As for rok-kyu plus:

- Kihon Kote-Men
- Kihon Kote-Do
- Kiri-Kaeshi

Yon (4) kyu Requirements

Full Bogu and demonstrating against each other.

As for go-kyu plus:

- Nidan-waza
 - Sandan-waza
 - Kiri-Kaeshi
 - Kiri-Kaeshi as Motodachi
 - Uchi-Komi Geiko
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Kendo Grading Requirements

San (3) kyu Requirements

As for yon-kyu.



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Ni (2) kyu Requirements

As for 3 kyu plus:

- Kakari Geiko
- Ji Geigo

Ik (1) kyu Requirements

As for ni-kyu plus:

- Kata - 0-dachi Ipponme (1) to Sanbonme (3)

Overall Requirements

Act correctly on the Shiai Jo, be tidily dressed, show correct etiquette on and off court

Expect to see the initial Rei with the left arm extended (Teito), after Rei assume Taito posture placing the thumb onto the Tsuba.

If wearing Kendo Gi and Hakama they should be clean and pressed, not necessarily new.

If wearing armor then Tenugui should be worn in such a way that it doesn't slip down during the grading. Make sure that Men Himo are untied properly at the end of the bout and that the Men is not just slipped off, the inside of the Men should be wiped before the face. Have the examinees entered the dojo with clean feet?