

INDIVIDUAL

Belgian Iaido Championships 2026

Official Programme



ALL BELGIUM KENDO FEDERATION

ABKF

Michel Daerden Omnisports Hall
Rue de L' Abattoir 65
4040 Herstal
2026

| Welcome from the ABKF President

Dear friends, welcome to Herstal, and welcome to the Belgian Iaido Championships.

As president of the ABKF, it is my privilege to open today's championships.

To everyone who has come to Herstal for the Belgian Iaido Championship: welcome.

Shiai is important in iaido, even though it is often overlooked or frowned upon. There are those who regard competition as something foreign to this discipline, a concession to sport, perhaps, or a distraction from what really matters. However, in my view, shiai is not a footnote to iaido practice. It is one of its most valuable teachers.

We train alone. We repeat. We refine. But the body under pressure is a different body than the body in the dojo on a quiet evening. Shiai forces a confrontation that regular practice cannot replicate, with your nerves, with your doubt, with the parts of your technique that only reveal themselves when something is genuinely at stake. You cannot wait until you feel ready, because you never will. You draw, and you find out.

That is why I have great respect for everyone who made the journey here today. You chose to put yourself in that situation. You chose discomfort over safety. Whatever happens on the shiai-jo, I hope you carry something away from it, a clearer picture of where you are on the path, and a renewed sense of where you want to go.

My thanks go to the Butokukan for their hospitality and the months of work that lie behind this event; to our shinpan, who carry the integrity of the competition on their shoulders; and especially to our kakari-in, without whom none of this would function.

On behalf of the ABKF: thank you for being here.

Let today be a championship of strong shiai, good spirit, and mutual respect. Let us honor the values we share and let us enjoy the day together.

Nicolas Pauwelyn

President, All Belgium Kendo Federation

| Welcome from the BKR President

En tant que présidente de la BKR, j'ai le plaisir de vous souhaiter la bienvenue au Championnat de Belgique d'Iaido, organisé cette année à Herstal.

Cet événement est un moment important pour notre discipline. Il incarne à la fois l'exigence technique, la rigueur, et l'esprit du budō qui nous rassemble toutes et tous. Il offre également une opportunité de rencontre, d'échange et de progression pour l'ensemble des pratiquants.

Si la compétition ne constitue pas une finalité en soi dans la pratique de l'iaido, elle représente néanmoins une occasion rare et précieuse. Dans une discipline essentiellement solitaire, où l'absence de partenaire ne permet pas toujours de percevoir immédiatement ses déséquilibres et ses imperfections, elle devient un moment de vérité. Se confronter au regard des shinpan, accepter de se mettre en danger, exposer son iaido avec humilité : tout cela participe pleinement à la progression sur la voie. C'est aussi, au-delà de l'évaluation, une chance de partager un même engagement et de tisser de nouveaux liens, de rencontrer d'autres passionnés, et de faire naître des amitiés durables au sein de notre communauté.

Je tiens à exprimer mes remerciements sincères au Butokukan, pour l'organisation et l'accueil de ce championnat, ainsi qu'aux shinpan, dont l'engagement et la vigilance garantissent le respect de l'esprit et de l'équité de cette rencontre. Mes remerciements vont également aux kakari-in, pour leur travail discret mais indispensable au bon déroulement de cet événement, et au comité technique d'iaido, pour son implication constante dans la transmission, le développement et l'exigence de notre discipline.

Je souhaite à toutes et à tous un championnat à la hauteur de votre engagement, dans le respect du reigi, avec sincérité et détermination.

Yuki KANTO,
Présidente BKR.

Referees

SHINPAN-CHO

Patrik Demuynck **K7**

SHINPAN-SHUNIN

SHIAIJO A		SHIAIJO B	
Philippe Bruwier	K7	Emilio Gomez	K7

SHINPAN (Shushin & Fukushin)

shiaiyo to be defined

Michael Simonini	K7	Luc Defraeye	K7
Yuki Kanto	K7	Freddy Carlier	R6
Van Alsenoy Jacques	R6	Guy Loncelle	R6
Vaes Nicolas	R6	Nicolas Pauwelyn	R6
Frédéric Hontoir	6	Valentin Vervack	5
Kim Croes	5	Dimitri Bataillie	5
Grégory Van Ilsen	5	David Damoiseau	5
Guy Quintart	4	Milos Jovicic	4
Pramit Basu	4	Boujraf Soumaya	4

| Championship Schedule

The day is divided into preparation, competition, ceremonies, and examinations. Please arrive in time for your category's call.

09:00 – 09:00	Doors open
09:15 – 09:40	Briefing SHINPAN & Briefing KAKARI-IN
09:40 – 09:50	Briefing COMPETITORS
09:55 – 10h00	Opening Ceremony
10:00 – 13:00	Start Competition – Pools
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch + Confirmation of Examinations
14:00 – 15:30	Knockouts
16:20 – 16:30	Enbu
16:40 – 16:50	Closing Ceremony
17:00 – 17:25	Examinations

Note This schedule is subject to change on the day of the event.

| Competition

See the pool and knockout grids on the following pages, organised by category. Grids are also posted at each shiaiyo and at the main administration table.

Grids follow on the next pages.

| Detailed Championship Schedule

SHIAIJO A		SHIAIJO B	
<u>Competition Morning</u>			
Rokudan Pool 1	30'		
Godan Pool 1	15'		
Godan Pool 2	30'	Mudan Pool 1	15'
Nidan Pool 1	15'	Mudan pool 2	15'
Nidan Pool 2	30'	Mudan Pool 3	15'
Nidan Pool 3	30'	Mudan pool 4	30'
Sandan Pool 3	15'	Shodan Pool 1	50'
Yondan Pool 1	15'	Sandan Pool 1	15'
Yondan Pool 2	15'	Sandan Pool 2	30'
	195'		170'
Lunch + Examination confirmation			
<u>Competition Afternoon</u>			
Godan KO	12'	Mudan KO	36'
Yondan KO	12'	Nidan KO	24'
Sandan KO	36'		
	60'		60'



BIC 2026 · 2026-05-31

O. Mudan

4 POOLS · 13 PARTICIPANTS



Pool 1 — Shiaijo B

#	Name	Dojo	Grade
1	Skrzypek Mateusz	Butokukan	0
2	Meda Miriam	Butokukan	0
3	Hutsebaut Arne	Kenhachi	0

Pool 2 — Shiaijo B

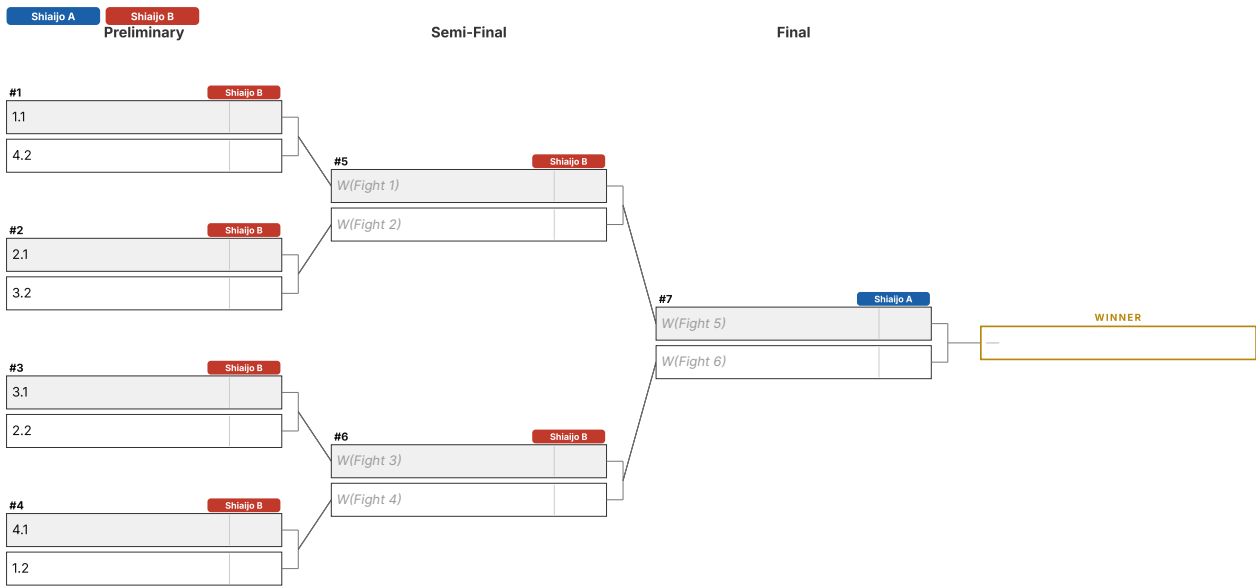
#	Name	Dojo	Grade
1	Fernandez Ana	Butokukan	0
2	De Backer Jimmy	Kendo-laido Gent	0
3	Baldini Sara	Muso-Kai Brussels	0

Pool 3 — Shiaijo B

#	Name	Dojo	Grade
1	Zacon Alexandru	Butokukan	0
2	Thienpondt Bart	Kendo-laido Gent	0
3	Michel Antoine	Shoshinkan	0

Pool 4 — Shiaijo B

#	Name	Dojo	Grade
1	Azaroual Chams	Butokukan	0
2	Penagos Jorge	Butokukan	0
3	Devos Edwig	Kenhachi	0
4	Van Cauter Luca	Sasori Dojo	0





BIC 2026 · 2026-05-31

1. Shodan

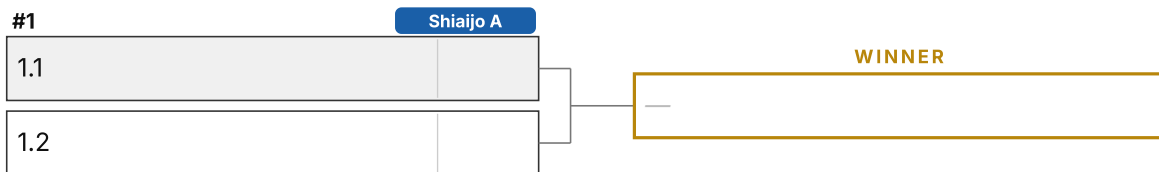
1 POOL · 5 PARTICIPANTS



Pool 1 — Shiaijo B

#	Name	Dojo	Grade
1	Vermeiren Dieter	Koomyookai	1
2	Madou Xander	Koomyookai	1
3	Cucino Davide	Butokukan	1
4	De Smedt Philip	Sasori Dojo	1
5	Deboeuf Jordan	Shoshinkan	1

Final





BIC 2026 · 2026-05-31

2. Nidan

3 POOLS · 11 PARTICIPANTS



Pool 1 — Shiaijo A

#	Name	Dojo	Grade
1	Anseeuw Sander	Agehacho	2
2	Yamamoto Takehito	Butokukan	2
3	Tuypens Jurgen	Raitō	2

Pool 2 — Shiaijo A

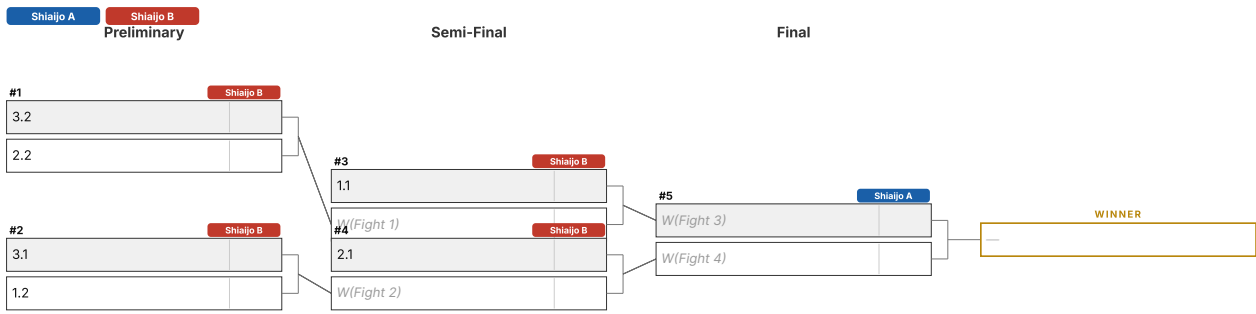
#	Name	Dojo	Grade
1	Van Costenoble Gerrit	Agehacho	2
2	Bartels Jamie	Muso-Kai Brussels	2
3	Carroué Claude	Butokukan	2
4	Daems Joël	Mushinkai	2

Pool 3 — Shiaijo A

#	Name	Dojo	Grade
1	Iway Ayumi	Agehacho	2
2	Alaerts Robin	Muso-Kai Brussels	2
3	Tuypens Jurgen	Raitō	2
4	Permentier Luc	Kenhachi	2

2. Nidan — Knockout Bracket

BIC 2026 — 2026-05-31





BIC 2026 · 2026-05-31

3. Sandan

3 POOLS · 11 PARTICIPANTS



3. Sandan — Pools

BIC 2026 — 2026-05-31

Pool 1 — Shiaijo B

#	Name	Dojo	Grade
1	Nguyen Khang	Butokukan	3
2	Arnould Michel	Shidokan 2004	3
3	Vanderhoven David	Mushinkai	3

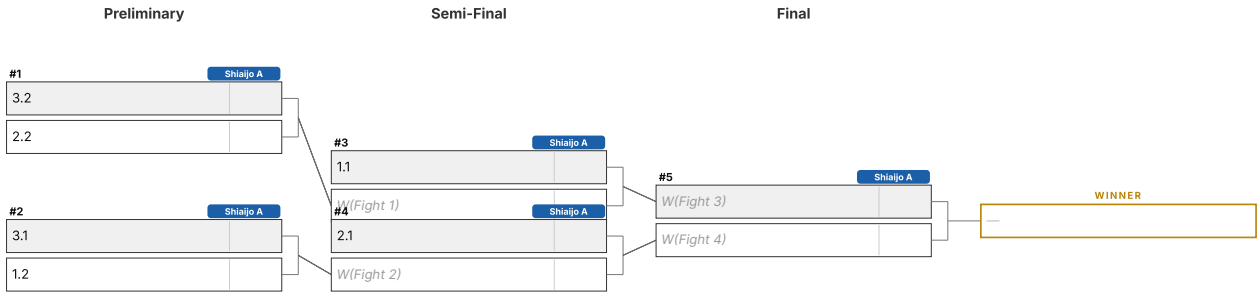
Pool 2 — Shiaijo B

#	Name	Dojo	Grade
1	Le Tuan	Butokukan	3
2	Platelis Edgaras	Butokukan	3
3	Demyunck Axel	Koomyookai	3
4	Vanderstraeten Alain	Raitō	3

Pool 3 — Shiaijo A

#	Name	Dojo	Grade
1	Doume Erwan	Butokukan	3
2	Motiejunas Aurelijus	Butokukan	3
3	Meert Illias	Agehacho	3
4	Vujadinovic Jana	Muso-Kai Brussels	3

3. Sandan — Knockout Bracket





BIC 2026 · 2026-05-31

4. Yondan

2 POOLS · 6 PARTICIPANTS



Pool 1 — Shiaijo A

#	Name	Dojo	Grade
1	Moors Stephan	Sasori Dojo	4
2	Basu Prमित	Kenhachi	4
3	Jovicic Milos	Muso-Kai Brussels	4

Pool 2 — Shiaijo A

#	Name	Dojo	Grade
1	Coppens Ine	Sasori Dojo	4
2	Boujraf Soumaya	Butokukan	4
3	Quintart Guy	Shoshinkan	4





BIC 2026 · 2026-05-31

5. Godan

2 POOLS · 7 PARTICIPANTS



5. Godan — Pools

BIC 2026 — 2026-05-31

Pool 1 — Shiaijo A

#	Name	Dojo	Grade
1	Van Gilsen Grégory	Muso-Kai Brussels	5
2	Wittoeck Paul	Kendo-laido Gent	5
3	Croes Kim	Kenhachi	5

Pool 2 — Shiaijo A

#	Name	Dojo	Grade
1	Damoiseau David	Muso-Kai Brussels	5
2	Vervack Valentin	Kendo-laido Gent	5
3	Bataillie Dimitri	Sasori Dojo	5
4	Lesire Philippe	Shidokan 2004	5





BIC 2026 · 2026-05-31

6. Rokudan

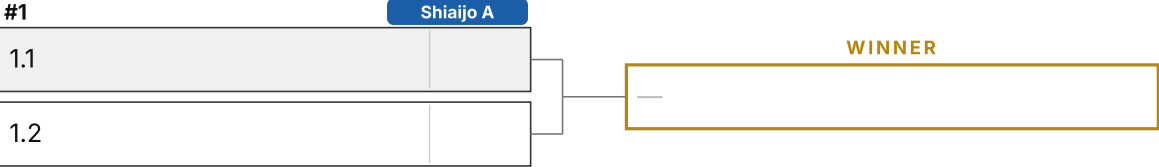
1 POOL · 4 PARTICIPANTS



Pool 1 — Shiaijo A

#	Name	Dojo	Grade
1	Hontoir Frédéric	Shoshinkan	6
2	Pauwelyn Nicolas	Kendo-laido Gent	6
3	Vaes Nicolas	Mushinkai	6
4	Van Alsenoy Jacques	Tamiza	6

Final



ALL BELGIUM KENDO FEDERATION

ABKF

RULES & REGULATIONS

Belgian Individual Iaido Championship

(BIC)

Version 2026 — Issued by the ABKF Board of Officers
Supersedes all previous editions

Preamble

The Belgian Individual Iaido Championship (BIC) is the national title event for Iaido practitioners organised under the authority of the All Belgium Kendo Federation (ABKF). These rules and regulations govern the conduct of the BIC. They are based upon and shall be interpreted in light of the Rules and Regulations of Iaido Shiai and Shinpan published by the Zen Nippon Kendo Renmei (ZNKR), as applied at European level by the European Kendo Federation (EKF).

1. Organisation

Promoter:

All Belgium Kendo Federation (ABKF)

Competent Technical Body:

ABKF Technical Committee Iaido (TC Iaido), composed of representatives of the VKIJF and BKR technical committees.

Organising federation:

Designated by the ABKF Board per event edition, and communicated to all member federations in advance.

2. Eligibility

2.1 Membership

Every competitor must be a correctly registered member of either VKIJF or BKR. Both regional federations shall verify the list of participants before the final draw. Any participant accepted for the final draw is considered a valid entrant and cannot be removed from the grids after the draw has taken place.

2.3 Grade

Competitors must hold the grade corresponding to the category in which they participate. The grade is verified at the time of final entry. The grade or category cannot be changed after the final entry deadline has passed.

Should a competitor be promoted to a higher grade after the final entry deadline, they will not be able to participate in the original category.

2.4 Nationality and residency

Every competitor must hold Belgian nationality. However, residents of foreign nationality holding a valid VKIJF or BKR licence for at least two consecutive years prior to the championship are also eligible to participate. Competitors holding a foreign nationality who are competing in any other national championship during the same competition season are not eligible.

3. Categories

Participants are divided into the following individual categories:

Category	Grade
Mudan	Kyu
Shodan	1st Dan
Nidan	2nd Dan
Sandan	3rd Dan
Yondan	4th Dan
Godan	5th Dan
Rokudan	6th Dan

Every category championship gives the right to the attribution of the official title of Belgian Champion, together with Vice-Champion and two equal third places.

4. Competition Format

4.1 Pool system

All participants who have entered by the official deadline shall be divided by draw into as many pools of three (3) as possible. Where the number of entries makes it necessary, pools of two (2) or four (4) may be used.

The draw is conducted by or under the authority of the ABKF TC laido in cooperation with the VKIJF and BKR TC laido representatives. Competitors from the same dojo shall be kept out of the same pool as much as possible. Previous edition medallists shall be seeded into different pools and placed at the far end of the tournament grid where possible.

The order of matches within a pool of three is as follows: 1 vs 2, 1 vs 3, and 2 vs 3. In a pool of four: 1 vs 2, 3 vs 4, 1 vs 4, 3 vs 2, 3 vs 1, and 4 vs 2.

The maximum combat time per match in the pool system is 4 minutes for three (3) kata of the ZNKR. Opening and closing reiho are included in this time as a general principle. The court judge (shushin) may announce, where timing requires, that reiho is conducted outside the shiai-jo.

Ranking within a pool is determined in the following order:

1. Number of matches won.
2. If equal, the total number of flags (referee decisions) in favour is counted across all pool matches.
3. If still equal, a knockout (hantei) match of one (1) shitei waza is held. The shushin shall announce the shitei waza before the start of the match.

The first two (2) classified competitors from each pool advance to the tournament phase.

4.2 Tournament (knockout phase)

The tournament operates under the knockout system. The first two (2) qualifiers from each pool are placed on the tournament grid, respecting the principle of separation as much as possible. In principle, the 1st placed of one pool will compete against the 2nd placed of another pool.

The maximum combat time per match in the tournament phase is 6 minutes for five (5) kata of the ZNKR. Opening and closing reiho are included in this time as a general principle.

The ABKF TC laido may impose one or more koryu kata on competitors holding 4th dan (yondan) or above. Where this applies, it shall be communicated to all participants and dojos in advance of the championship.

4.3 Kata

Competitors shall perform kata from the ZNKR lai-do curriculum. Techniques must be performed from the starting positions prescribed in the ZNKR lai-do Book (torei, seiza, or tatehiza), in accordance with the relevant category and kata set.

Practice in standing (tachi-iai) position may be permitted at the discretion of the ABKF TC laido and shall be communicated in advance. Where standing participation is authorised, competitors performing from a standing position shall be evaluated on the same criteria and ZNKR standards as those performing from seated positions. Given the inherent difficulty of comparing techniques performed from different starting positions on an equal basis, the ABKF TC laido will communicate explicit guidance prior to the event regarding the specific kata and evaluation criteria applied to standing participants.

5. Equipment and Dress

5.1 Keikogi and hakama

Every competitor must wear a neat, correctly fitting keikogi (jacket) and hakama. The keikogi shall have tight sleeves (iaido style).

5.2 Zekken (name tag)

Every competitor must wear a zekken displaying their family name in Roman characters on the left side of the keikogi. The zekken shall also display the name of the competitor's dojo.

Note: Recommended size is 15 cm × 10 cm, consistent with EKF nafuda specifications.

5.3 Sword

Every competitor must use a Japanese sword of good quality. Permitted swords:

- Mogi-to (模擬刀): iaito of appropriate quality
- Shinken: live blade of appropriate quality

The following are explicitly prohibited:

- Bokken or bokuto (wooden training sword) in any form
- Any sword not meeting the quality requirements as determined by the shinpancho (chief referee) or equipment inspector

The dojo manager is responsible for ensuring all competitors' equipment meets these requirements. A sword check may be conducted by the organisation prior to or during the event.

6. Referees

6.1 Selection

The list of referees shall be established by the ABKF TC laido, taking into consideration attendance at and performance during any obligatory preliminary referee seminar. The TC laido shall communicate the selection criteria and seminar requirements to the member federations in advance.

6.2 Participation as competitor

A referee selected by the ABKF TC laido shall, by default, also be registered as a competitor in their grade category, unless they explicitly withdraw from competition. To withdraw, the referee must inform the organising federation in writing (letter or e-mail) prior to the registration deadline. The aim of this policy is to foster continued competitive experience among the referee body.

6.3 Grades and roles

The shinpancho (chief referee of the championship) should hold the highest available grade and shall oversee all shiai-jo. One shinpan-shunin (court referee leader) shall be appointed per shiai-jo.

Minimum grade requirements:

- Shinpancho and shinpan-shunin: 5th dan (godan) minimum
- Shusin (chief referee per match) and fukushin (assistant referees): 4th dan (yondan) minimum

6.4 Conduct

Referees shall wear formal dress (black montsuki or equivalent) as prescribed by the ZNKR refereeing guidelines.

The function of referee is incompatible with that of coach or manager. Referees shall maintain strict impartiality and neutrality, and shall not mix with competitors during the championship.

Each referee shall bring their own set of referee flags.

6.5 Expenses

Drinks and meals for referees & official staff during the championship shall be covered by the ABKF organization. Travel and accommodation arrangements are communicated per edition.

7. Awards

7.1 Championship titles

In each category, the following titles and awards are conferred:

- 1st place: Belgian Champion (with trophy or medal)
- 2nd place: Vice-Champion (with trophy or medal)
- 3rd place (ex aequo): two equal bronze places (with trophy or medal)

7.2 Fighting Spirit (Kanto-sho)

A minimum of one Fighting Spirit award (Kanto-sho) shall be awarded per category, subject to the number of participants and the quality of performances.

Guidelines for Fighting Spirit award:

- **Eligibility:** The Kanto-sho is awarded exclusively based on performances in the knockout (tournament) phase. Pool-phase performances do not constitute grounds for a Fighting Spirit award.
- **Medallist exclusion:** The Kanto-sho may be awarded to a competitor who did not receive a medal. A medallist may only receive the award in exceptional circumstances, to be motivated by the shinpancho.
- **Timing:** The selection is made by the shinpancho, in consultation with the shinpan-shunin, as soon as possible after the relevant category concludes, while the performances remain fresh in the referees' memory.
- **Presentation:** The Kanto-sho is presented by a senior ABKF representative at the closing ceremony.

8. Registration and Fees

8.1 Submission

Registration shall be submitted by the dojo manager on behalf of the participants within the deadline communicated by ABKF. Late registrations will not be accepted.

8.2 Fees

Subscription fees must be paid in full by bank transfer to the ABKF account before the deadline. The applicable fee amounts are published on the official ABKF event website (abkfevents.be). Dojos that have not paid their subscription fees in full and on time will be considered as not participating in the event.

No refund of subscription fees is possible without the explicit permission of the ABKF Board. Refund requests must be submitted by letter or e-mail no later than one week after the event.

8.3 Responsibility of the dojo manager

The dojo manager is responsible for:

- the correct and timely payment of all subscription fees;
- the attitude, behaviour, and conduct of all members of the dojo during the championship;

- the use of correct, safe, and regulation-compliant equipment by all competitors (costume, sword, etc.).

9. Draw

The draw shall be held at ABKF headquarters or at a location determined by the ABKF Board in cooperation with the ABKF TC laido. The date, time, and location of the draw shall be communicated to all member federations in advance.

Both VKIJF and BKR shall verify the final list of participants before the draw takes place. All participants accepted at the time of the draw are considered confirmed entrants.

10. Complaints

All complaints must be filed immediately and in any case no later than the end of the competition session in which the disputed event occurred. Complaints may only be filed by the dojo manager or the appointed team leader of the relevant federation. Complaints from any other person will not be accepted.

Complaints shall be addressed to the shinpancho. The decision of the shinpancho is final and without further appeal.

11. Anti-Doping

The anti-doping prescriptions and prohibitions established by the FIK (International Kendo Federation) and the applicable regulations of the relevant Belgian sports authorities apply to the BIC. All participants are presumed to have full knowledge of and to comply with these regulations. A competitor judged by the referees to be under the influence of prohibited substances or alcohol shall be immediately disqualified and retired from the match.

12. Insurance

Every participant is responsible for ensuring they are covered by appropriate insurance against injury and civil liability for the duration of the championship. The host organisation shall maintain civil liability insurance for the event. Incidents that may lead to third-party claims must be reported to the ABKF organisation before the delegation departs.

13. Final Provisions

For all matters not covered by these rules, the provisions of the ZNKR Rules and Regulations of laido Shiai and Shinpan, and the EKF equivalent as applicable, shall apply. The ABKF Board reserves the right to modify these rules. Any modifications shall be communicated to member federations in advance.

These rules supersede all previous editions of the BIC Rules & Regulations.

Affiliated to FIK · EKF · AJJKF