

Kobudo Rules

1. Competition area
 - a. As described in the WKF rule book
 - b. Hardwood floor is preferred where possible
2. Uniforms
 - a. Competitors may wear a traditional white uniform as in Karate competition or traditional black uniform or a combination of black top-white bottom or black bottom-white top.
 - b. Hakama may not be worn for competition.
 - c. Sleeves may be rolled up for Sai performance.
3. Judging Panel
 - a. A judging panel of specifically trained Kobudo Judges will be appointed by the Tatami Manager when possible.
 - b. Preferably, the panel of Judges will include those representing the different Kobudo Ryuha
4. Criteria for judging
 - a. Consistent with regular kata judging as described in the WKF rule book with additional considerations specific to kobudo (see explanation section)
5. Fouls and disqualifications
 - a. As described in the WKF rule book with the following additions:
 - i. DQ
 1. Using a non-approved weapon according to the KBC rules
 2. Dropping or losing control of the weapon during the performance of the kata
 - ii. Fouls
 1. A weapon leaving the competitor's hand or mistakenly touching the floor
 2. A kyu competitor may restart a kata with an automatic 1.0 deduction
6. Explanation
 - a. Weapons should not touch the floor unless it is part of the kata
 - b. Weapons should be kept close to the body
 - c. All long weapons are controlled by the two little fingers
 - d. Long weapons are pulled through their trajectory, not pushed
 - e. Both hands must remain on the bo/eku unless changing grip or it is part of the kata
 - f. Bo tsuki travels in a straight line
 - g. Bo/Eku strikes like shomen uchi, age uchi, yoko uchi, and gyaku uchi: palms must point in the direction of force

- h. Short weapons tsuki and closed position blocks must have the weapon tight to the forearm
- i. Powerful hip motions, rooted stance, and the return to “San To Bun” or handling equal thirds of the Bo are typical of Ryukyu Kobudo
- j. Yamani Ryu is generally recognized by its flowing footwork and “bouncing Bo” methods. Influenced by the Chinese long weapons techniques, it employs many circular and spinning motions in upright stances

Weapons

1. List of allowed weapons

- a. Bo
- b. Eku
- c. Sai
- d. Tonfa
- e. Kama
- f. Nunchucku -plastic/rubber only
- g. Joh
- h. Tinbe/Rochin

2. No sharpened weapons will be permitted

3. All weapons must be examined and approved by the Judging Panel/TM prior to competition to ensure that they are safe and of authentic design and construction. Weapons must be of official size and weight as described below. In children’s divisions where there is no restriction on size or weight listed, weapon qualification will be at the discretion of the Judging Panel/TM

4. Description of weapon requirements

a. Long Weapons

Bo

- 1. must be made of wood with or without tapered ends
- 2. if tapered, diameter at end of taper to be not less than 2cm;
- 3. should be at least as tall as the top of the competitor's head or 6 feet
- 4. must weigh 800 grams minimum for adults (18 & over) no minimum weight for under 18 divisions but must be wood
- 5. Bo must be at least 2.5cm diameter in the center

Eku

- 1. should be a minimum of the height of the competitor's ear lobe
- 2. blade must be a minimum of 8.5cm wide

3. must weigh 800 grams minimum for adults
4. no minimum weight for under 18 divisions but must be wood

b. Short Weapons

Sai

1. Must be made of metal
2. Two sai must be used, no single sai kata permitted, or other combination of weapons
3. Must weigh 600 grams minimum each for adults, no minimum weight for under 18 divisions
4. Must reach the competitor's elbow when held in closed position

Tonfa

1. Must be made of wood
2. Must reach the competitor's elbow when in closed position

Kama

1. Must have wood, steel, or aluminum blades
2. Must not be sharpened
3. No weight restrictions
4. Handle must be made of wood

Nunchaku

1. Must be made of rubber or some other flexible material
2. Wood or metal nunchaku are illegal in NS and not allowed in competition

Joh

1. Must weigh 500 grams minimum for adults, no minimum weight for under 18 divisions
2. Must be made of wood, with or without tapered ends
3. Height should reach the competitor's solar plexus from the floor

Tinbe/Rochin

1. Must be made of safe, realistic material
2. Rochin may not be sharpened and may not be thrown
3. Rochin handle must be made of hardwood

Divisions

1. Long weapon/short weapon
2. Age groups and levels
 1. 16 & Over Kyu (Under Black) – Male
 2. 16 & Over Kyu (Under Black) – Female
 3. 16 & Over Black – Male
 4. 16 & Over Black – Female
3. Kyu belts will only do one kata; **black belts** will do 2 different ones.
4. Can be combined by TD according to registration numbers and other considerations

Kata List

LONG WEAPONS KATAS

Bo

Chatan Yara No Kon (Dai; Sho)	Tokumine No Nunti Bo
Chinen Shikiyanaka No Kon	Choun (Shoun) No Kon
Kaatin No Kon	Kihon Kata Ichi
Kihon Kata Ni	Kongo Kon
Oshio No Bo	Oshiro No Kon
Sakagawa No Kon (Chu; Dai; Sho)	Shirotaru No Kon (Dai; Sho)
Shi Shi No Kun	Shushi No Kon (Dai; Sho; Koshiki)
Tawada No Kon	Tenryu No Kon
Tokumine No Kon (Dai; Sho)	Urashi No Kon
Yonegawa No Kun (Hidari No Kun)	

Ekū

Akahachinio Eku
Chikin (Tsuken) Sunakake No Eku
Tokushin No Eku

SHORT WEAPONS KATAS

Sai

Chatan Yara No Sai (Dai; Sho)
Tsuken Shitahaku No Sai
Hamahiga No Sai
Hantagwa No Sai
Kojo No Sai
Kusanku Sai
Kyan No Sai
Manji No Sai
Matsuhiga No Sai
Nicho Sai
Sancho Sai
Yakaa No Sai

Kama

Gushikawa Tairagua Nichokama (1/2)
Hamahiga No Kama
Kanegawa No Nichokama (Dai; Sho)
Kishiba No Nichokama
Kuzushisho No Nichokama
Naku No Kama
Ryuei Nichokama
Soken No Nichokama
Toyama (Tozan) No Nichokama

Joh

Arakaki No Joh
Jusan Jo
Noboriryu No Joh Dai
Noboriryu No Jo Sho

Tonfa

Chatanyara No Tonfa
Hamahiga No Tonfa
Matsu Higa No Tonfa (Dai/Sho)
Nakazato No Tonfa
Oyadomari No Tonfa
Tokuyama no Tonfa
Yaraguwa No Tonfa

Nunchaku

Akamine No Nunchaku
Maezato No Nunchaku (single)
Maezato No Nunchaku (double)
Maezato No Nunchaku (small 3)
Nunchaku (Dai/Sho)
Sanbon Nunchaku
Sakagami Nuchuku (ichi; ni)

Tinbe / Rochin

Kanegawa No Tinbe
Kuniyoshi No Tinbe
Matayoshi No Tinbe

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