

Part 5 - KOBUDO Competition

Article 13 - Kobudo

13.1 KOBUDO competition shall be conducted under guidelines as set forth by the National AAU Karate Committee.

13.2 Competition Area - (Same as KATA)

13.3 Organization of Competition - (No Compulsory KATA shall be required for KOBUDO competition.)

13.3.1 Individual

13.3.1.1 Individual KOBUDO competitors shall compete in the age and skill divisions as prescribed in the appendix.

13.3.1.2 The individual KOBUDO match consists of individual performance in separate male and female divisions.

13.3.1.3 KOBUDO competition shall be based on the same experience level as the KATA or Kumite divisions.

13.3.1.4 Individual KOBUDO competition shall also be subdivided into short and long weapons. Intermediate & Advanced Competitors may participate in one or both subdivision.

13.3.2 Team - Team KOBUDO competition shall be conducted in the same manner as in team KATA.

13.4 Criteria for Decision - In principle, KOBUDO KATA shall be judged using the same criteria as KATA, with the additional criteria that the KOBUDO KATA demonstrate the individual and unique characteristics of the weapon being utilized. The flag judgement system may be used with the approval of the Executive Committee, however only one competitor will compete at a time before the flag judgement is given.

13.4.1 In addition to the criteria of empty hand KATA the loss of control of a weapon (dropping) in competition will be grounds for disqualification. The panel of judges will conclude that the athlete is disqualified and the referee will dismiss the contestant/team with no score given. (Recorders shall mark a zero for that contestant.)

13.4.2 Any weapon or form used may not be such that it can endanger or damage any person or property (i.e., denting or marring of floors, loose handles, etc.)

13.4.3 In KOBUDO it is acceptable for a contestant to demonstrate dynamic movement rather than a stopped, "weighted down" stance between each movement.

13.4.4 Use of kicks and theatrical movements in principle is not permitted. Thus a violation may result in a major point deduction .04 - .06.

13.4.5 Any manipulation or handling of the Bo that may be construed as dangerous in regards to the safety of all concerned shall not be permitted.

13.5 Scoring - In principle, KOBUDO KATA shall be scored using the same range and procedure as KATA with the inclusion of the following:

13.5.1 Loss of control of the weapon.

13.5.1.1 If the contestant momentarily loses a grip of the weapon, .1-.3 points should be deducted.

13.5.1.2 If the weapon touches the floor at any time during the performance, .1 - .3 points should be deducted.

13.5.1.3 If the contestant uses a dangerous technique that jeopardizes the safety of the judges or other competitors, disqualification will result.

13.6 General Information - At the discretion of the National Committee, KOBUDO weapons may be furnished by the National Committee for use by all athletes during a competition. The use of these weapons shall be made mandatory for all competitors. Failure to use furnished KOBUDO weapons shall result in disqualification. Only KOBUDO weapons that are authorized and deemed as acceptable by the National Committee may be used during competition.

13.6.1 Only the following weapons will be allowed in AAU KOBUDO competition:

13.6.1.1 BO

13.6.1.1.1 The Bo shall be made of hardwood, without tapered ends. The length shall be within one fist of the top of the competitors head, or fall under one of the standard sizes of 78 inches, 72 inches, 66 inches and 60 inches. In addition a Bo may not be less than 3/4" diameter for competitors 18 years and younger and not less than 1" diameter for ages over 18 years. The weight of the Bo for adult male competitor shall be no less than 900g. The weight of the Bo for female adult competitors shall be no less than 850g.

13.6.1.2 TONFA (pair)

13.6.1.2.1 TONFA must be entirely made of hardwood with a minimum length, when grasped by the handle, to reach the end of the competitor's elbow. Two TONFA are used in AAU KOBUDO competition.

13.6.1.3 EKU (Kai-Bo)

13.6.1.3.1 EKU must be made of hardwood and have a length that shall be within one fist of the top of the competitors head when measured from the floor. In addition the EKU blade shall have a flat side and a rounded or beveled side, and the blade tip may not have a sharp point. For adult male competitors, the weight of the eku shall be no less than 1200g. For adult female competitors, the weight of the eku shall be no less than 1100g.

13.6.1.4 NUNCHAKU (pair)

13.6.1.4.1 One pair of NUNCHAKU constitutes of two hardwood handles connected by a cord.

13.6.1.4.2 In principle a minimum handle length of 12".

13.6.1.5 SAI (pair)

13.6.1.5.1 Two Sais must be used for AAU KOBUDO competitions (Sai Katas that use one Sai or three Sais are not allowed). Sai must be made of steel and when grasped in the normal fashion, the tip shall in principle extend past the competitor's elbow.

13.6.1.6 KAMA (pair)

13.6.1.6.1 Two Kamas are used in AAU KOBUDO competitions. Kama handles are made of hardwood and the blades of unsharpened steel. No rope, chord, string, etc. are permitted nor Kamas with holes in blades.

13.6.2 All weapons shall be examined by an official prior to competition to ensure that they are of authentic design, construction and materials. Any weapon that, in the examiner's opinion, gives an unfair advantage may not be used. Grounds for rejecting a weapon include but are not limited to exceptionally lightweight, coating to improve grip, markings (including different color tones of wood) and non-standard construction.

13.6.3 All wood on weapons must be hardwood (oak, teak, mahogany; no rat-tan).

13.7 Official Schedule of AAU KOBUDO Katas - Selections are made from but not limited to the following katas:

13.7.1 Bo or Kon (Staff) (The commonly used term, "no Kon" is the old Ryukuan "nu Kun" meaning "the Bo of...")

Shushi no Kon	Sueyoshi no kon
Sakugawa no Kon	Shinakake no Kon
Tokumine no Kon	Tsuken no bo (Chikin no bo)
Shirataru no Kon	Rohai no kon
Kobo	

13.7.2 Sai:

Chantanyara no Sai	Kishaba no Sai
Tsukenshitahaku no Sai	Arakaki no Sai

13.7.3 Tonfa:

Yaragua no Tonfa	Matayoshi no Tonfa
Hamahiga no Tonfa	

13.7.4 Eku:

Ten no KATA	Chi no KATA
Sunakake no Eku-bo	Furyu no Eku-bo