

Kendo na hÉireann policy for new dojos

Change Log

Date	Author	Comment
3rd May 2012	Kathryn Cassidy	Initial Draft
6th October 2016	Kathryn Cassidy	Rewrote Garda vetting to bring in line with new legislation, and fixed typos. Some reformatting.
3rd December 2017	Kathryn Cassidy	Update Grading requirements to reflect decision of AGM in light of IMAC advice.

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1 Purpose of this Document

This document is concerned with the processes, rules and guidelines for new or existing Kendo, Iaido or Judo dojos in Ireland who are interested in affiliating with Kendo na hÉireann. It sets out the benefits for a dojo of Kendo na hÉireann affiliation, and also outlines the responsibilities of both club leaders and Kendo na hÉireann.

2 Benefits of affiliation with Kendo na hÉireann

Affiliation with Kendo na hÉireann brings many benefits to a new dojo. Some of these benefits are outlined in the following sections, but this document does not attempt to present a comprehensive list.

2.1 Membership of the EKF and FIK

Kendo na hÉireann is a member of the European Kendo Federation (EKF) and the International Kendo Federation (FIK). Membership of these organisations is required in order to attend seminars, competitions or gradings in any other member country. In particular, these organisations set out the standards for dan grades in the arts of Kendo, Iaido and Judo, and gradings conducted by bodies not affiliated with the EKF or FIK will not be recognised by any affiliated organisation.

2.2 Participation in National events

Membership of Kendo na hÉireann is required before an individual can register for or participate in any national events organised by Kendo na hÉireann. This includes the Irish National Kendo / Iaido Championships, as well as seminars, gradings and international competitions.

2.3 Insurance

The federation organises an annual insurance policy which offers Public Liability Insurance to dojos.

2.4 Membership of the Irish Martial Arts Commission

Kendo na hÉireann is a member of the Irish Martial Arts Commission (IMAC), the governing body in Ireland for Martial Arts in Ireland. Membership of this organisation

gives the federation and clubs access to a range of training courses organised by IMAC, such as sports first aid courses and sports coaching courses. IMAC also oversees the Garda vetting process for coaches and others involved in teaching young people.

2.5 Advice and support for the new dojo

Kendo na hÉireann will provide support and advice to all new dojos to help them to get started. The federation will endeavour to make at least one official trip per year to a new dojo for the first two years of its existence.

2.6 Advertising

Affiliated dojos are listed on the website of Kendo na hÉireann and all publicity and advertising materials.

2.7 Access to Equipment

Kendo na hÉireann has a limited amount of equipment (e.g. Kendo Bogu) available to members on payment of a deposit. The deposit is fully refundable when the equipment is returned. Bogu rental is administered through the clubs and only members of affiliated dojos are permitted to participate.

Kendo na hÉireann will also, from time to time, be in receipt of grants or donations of equipment, some of which may be distributed to the clubs free of charge. This equipment will, unless otherwise stated, remain the property of Kendo na hÉireann (or IMAC in the case of equipment purchased as part of the Irish Sport's Capital Grant scheme).

3 Process for creating a new dojo

If a member wants to create a new dojo affiliated to Kendo na hÉireann they must apply in writing to the federation for permission to do so. If the Management Committee are satisfied that the proposed dojo is sustainable then provisional affiliation will be granted within one month. The "provisional affiliation" status gives the dojo leader(s) to fulfil the requirements for full affiliation set out in the following sections.

3.1 Grades

The leader(s) of the proposed new dojo should be active within the federation and in principle hold at least 3rd Dan grade in their art. This requirement may be waived in certain circumstances (for example, where the dojo is located in a geographic

location far from other existing dojos). If the requirement is waived, however, it is expected that the dojo leader(s) will work towards achieving the grade of 3rd Dan within a reasonable time period.

3.2 First Aid

At least one member of the dojo and preferably more than one must have a recognised First Aid certification.

3.3 Child Protection

All dojo leaders and anyone involved in providing training to juniors should attend an IMAC or Local Sports Partnership Safeguarding Level 1 workshop.

At least one member of each dojo should also attend the IMAC Safeguarding 2 training and be the designated Child Protection Officer for that dojo.

This is now a legal requirement to operate in Ireland, even if your dojo does not currently have junior members, please be aware that the law applies equally to vulnerable adults and thus it is a requirement of affiliation that the appropriate training be attended.

3.4 Garda Vetting

All dojo leaders, those involved in providing training to juniors and dojo volunteers coming in contact with juniors are required to be Garda vetted. This is done via IMAC. The individual being vetted will never have to provide information directly to a member of Kendo na hÉireann. This is a legal requirement and it is a requirement for affiliation.

3.5 Sports Coaching training

Dojo leaders and all instructors are required to complete a Coaching Ireland Level 1 coaching course. These are organised at intervals by the Kendo na hÉireann Coaching Officer.