

Press Release

Comment on the News Report on Iaido

The morning edition of Sankei Shimbun on August 17 published a story entitled "Improper Monetary Payment for Iaido Promotion."

The All Japan Kendo Federation has admitted that there was inappropriate monetary transfer in Iaido shogo/dan examination several years ago and that the inappropriate practice of monetary delivery at the time of approaching the examination has existed from old times. In November 2017, the All Japan Kendo Federation has imposed punitive measures on those involved.

This is explained in detail in the December 2017 All Japan Kendo Federation Bulletin "Kenso." Please refer to the attached article.

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Vice President and Executive Managing Director of the All Japan Kendo Federation

Regarding the discipline in the All Japan Kendo Federation Iaido, the Preliminary Advisory Examination Committee initiated an investigation on January 10 this year, total of 28 persons were interviewed, the detailed records were created, and the verification of the evidences was conducted, etc. The committee submitted an opinion on June 20 after the number of meetings as much as 30 times that the official authority of the Disciplinary Committee should be exercised regarding the appropriateness of discipline of those concerned.

The President of the All Japan Kendo Federation consulted the Disciplinary Committee on July 4th and the Committee replied on November 1 by submitting the report after the ten meetings including questioning those who took the examinations.

The results of this investigation by the Preliminary Advisory Examination Committee and Disciplinary Committee certified that the inappropriate practices of monetary payment at the time of approaching the examination has existed for many years. The report of the Disciplinary Committee concluded that it is appropriate to take disciplinary action against the former Chairman of Iaido Committee, the former Committee members, and the former examiners (hereinafter referred to as "former examiners et al.") and examinees.

In response to this report of the Disciplinary Committee, on November 6, the President of the All Japan Kendo Federation imposed the disciplinary action such as voluntary return/suspension of individual membership, shogo/dan to the above-mentioned stakeholders according to the weight of responsibility.

As the former examiners et al. who are subject to the disciplinary action frankly confessed the fact of accepting money and showed deep remorse for the said action, the execution of the

disciplinary action has been suspended for a certain period of time based on the regulations of the Disciplinary Committee of the All Japan Kendo Federation.

Former examiners et al. who are subject to the above disciplinary action, have been requested to submit a pledge regarding the following two points: "to refrain from all the official events of All Japan Kendo Federation Iaido" and "to silently watch the efforts by Iaido Committee junior members to improve the Iaido world" at least during this probation period.

It's been confirmed that the circumstances behind the situation of "The inappropriate practices that have been preserved for many years" in All Japan Kendo Federation Iaido are mainly the following factors.

- (1) Because Iaido examination contains a large proportion of subjective factors in the assessment of examinees' performance, gaining examiners' favor was considered advantageous.
- (2) In the high-level shogo/dan examinations, a situation in which Iaido Committee members doubled as examiners had been in existence for many years and the names of examiners were also known to examinees so that they could easily be contacted before the examination.
- (3) Once appointed as an examiner, it was customary to continue the term of appointment for many years.
- (4) Because Iaido examination placed high value on Koryu, those leading the major schools had an enormous influence on the examinations.
- (5) As a result of the above circumstances, the fixed number of persons in a leadership position of the All Japan Kendo Federation Iaido held tangible and intangible rein of power over the entire All Japan Kendo Federation Iaido.

The All Japan Kendo Federation has decided to conduct the following measures in order to resolve these problems of the Iaido and further develop reforms in the future.

- The Iaido Committee members will be renewed and the term is set to be two years.
- The name of the examiners will be treated as highly confidential until the day of examination.
- Iaido Committee members will be excluded as an examiner.
- The dan examination will be based only on All Japan Kendo Federation Iai, excluding all Koryu.

Based on the reforms above, we have decided to hold the 8th dan Iaido examination, which was cancelled in May, on November 24th.

The new Iaido Committee has cautioned all members to rigorously confirm the "ethics concerning monetary transfer" among members, and addressed to straighten up as a member of All Japan Kendo Federation Iaido by refraining from giving and accepting souvenirs, etc. at seminars and conventions.

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