

A FEW ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR THE NEW KENDO STUDENT

Beginning Kendo Class information Sheet

Welcome aboard, you have signed up for the beginning kendo class of the parks and recreation dept. This is an ongoing class offering all levels of kendo. The class fees cover facilities use and instruction costs. These fees are paid to and stay with the Parks Department. This class is offered at a very low price because kendo teachers in general receive no pay or minimal expenses. Most of the instruction is voluntary and most of the Sensei are not compensated. All but the head sensei pay the same as everyone else.

Bellevue, Highline, and Sno-King Kendo Clubs

Bellevue Kendo Club web site [http:// http://bellevuekendo.org/](http://bellevuekendo.org/)

Highline Kendo Club web site [http:// http://www.highlinekendo.org/](http://www.highlinekendo.org/)

Sno-King Kendo Club web site [http:// http://www.snokingkendo.org/](http://www.snokingkendo.org/)

The following activities are provided by membership in the Bellevue, Highline or Sno-King Kendo Clubs (**which are not part of the parks departments program**).

Membership is completely voluntary; **a person can participate in the Parks departments program indefinitely without becoming a member of a kendo club.**

Do not ask the parks department about club items as they have no knowledge of how this works.

Even if you are a club member you must register every quarter with the parks department, being in the kendo club does not change this.

Club Activities:

1. Seminars (kata, shinsa, shiai, shimpan, waza/kihon)
2. Rental Kendo Armor
3. Equipment including uniforms, shinai and bokken,
4. Rank testing and promotion
5. Tournaments (currently about 8 per year)
6. Summer camps
7. Videos

The kendo clubs themselves do not actually have membership dues but rather we collect dues for membership in the following organizations.

Pacific Northwest Kendo Federation (allows participation in the open-door policy) PNKF's open door policy allows its members to practice at other member club as long as you are a member in good standing at your home club. PNKF performs the ranking examinations up to 4th degree blackbelt.

Web site <http://www.pnkf.org>

All United States Kendo Federation <http://www.auskf.info/> (allows participation at clubs throughout the United States) membership automatically makes you a member of the **International Kendo Federation**. The AUSKF puts on seminars both nationally and regionally across the country. It also provides the US Team that competes in the world championships

every 3rd year. A US Championship is hosted by AUSKF every 3rd year in the year prior to the IKF World Championship.

All rank certification and registration are provided by the AUSKF and are recognized by the IKF. This means your rank is good in 70 other countries.

Membership fees for PNKF/AUSKF are collected every January for the next year. The dues year is from April 1st to March 31st of each calendar year. Total costs are currently: \$50/year for 17 years and under. \$65/ year for full time college students and \$90/year, 18 Years and over (at the time the dues are collected). We generally will collect dues through the first 6 months of the current year. Fiscal year runs April 1st -March 31st. Collection notices go out in January.

Here are some answers to some of the most common questions.

When will I get into armor or dogu? When your skill level is sufficient enough that you can work in the advance group and perform the drills and understand how to be a partner you are ready. This depends on your class attendance and progress. Usually people get armor somewhere between the second and third quarter.

How do I get the equipment and uniform? The Kendo Club maintains a stock of bokkens, shinai, uniforms and rental armor. These may be purchased from the club at a discount from the normal retail price. You are under no obligation to purchase from the club; however you will save money if you do.

When can I take my Promotion test? Eligibility is determined by two things: a minimum number of practice hours and time in grade as well as skill level. Attendance hours are logged for every student and will be the first consideration for testing. However, even if the student has enough hours of practice they still must have attained sufficient progress to have a reasonable chance of success to obtain recommendation from the sensei. Promotion tests are given by the PNKF in February and August. You must be a member of the PNKF/AUSKF prior in order to be eligible for the test. The rank certificates are issued by the AUSKF national organization and registered with the international. The ranks are recognized everywhere in the world that the organization is a member of the FIK. Currently the FIK member countries number over 70.

Membership in the club includes an open door policy with all the associated clubs in the United States. You can practice 6 to 7 days a week here in the Puget Sound area. **You may not visit any other school without express permission of the Sensei.** This is because you must be of a minimum skill level so that you are not a burden on the other clubs. Cross traffic between the clubs is welcomed and encouraged.

When I purchase my uniform does that mean I am ready for armor? Uniforms may be purchased at any time; it does not mean you are ready for armor. Price is a flat fee as we pay the same amount no matter what the size. You are always welcome to order off of the internet.

How much does the armor cost? Armor costs anywhere from \$300 and up. It can be purchased off the Internet at a couple of places; e-bogu.com and Maruyama will deliver within a couple of days usually on off the shelf items. Japan special orders take about three months to receive and we very seldom purchase from Japan any more. The club is a very non-profit sports corporation. **Please see the Sensei before ever placing an order for equipment.** Rental armor is for club members only.

You will start the class using the oak sword called a bokken, about half way through the quarter you will need the bamboo sword called the shinai.