

# Correct dress for laido taikai

In recent years at the National Championships the subject of correct dress has been raised repeatedly, and still people turn up incorrectly dressed for the event. The manner in which you present yourself for taikai reflects not only on yourself but on your dojo and teachers. There are rules and regulations published by the ZNKR for competition. Those rules and regulations are easily available and include information concerning correct dress. However the ZNKR regulations do include some points of interpretation for regional variation. Those points where they concern the BKA National Championships have now been decided and this document should be referred to for any clarifications needed.

## Competitors:

### Mudan-Godan

Keikogi and hakama of matching colour. These may be white or black (no other colours) with tight sleeves, kendogi may be worn with a black tetron or blue cotton hakama . Nafuda is required. Nafuda should be on material the same colour as the keikogi with lettering in white on black or black on white. Nafuda should not include a union flag except as specified below.

Tabi shall not be worn unless to cover a foot injury. In this case the tabi shall be black and only worn on the injured foot after receiving permission from the Shinpan cho.

### Rokudan

Montsuki and hakama. Montsuki may be black or a dark colour such as brown, green or blue. Hakama should be of a formal striped design, or as near identical colour to the montsuki as possible or black.

For all grades nafuda is required. Nafuda should be on material the same colour as the montsuki with lettering in white (on dark colour) or black (on white background). Where matching a dark montsuki colour is not possible the background should be black. Nafuda should not include a union flag except as specified below

Tabi shall not be worn unless to cover a foot injury. In this case the tabi shall be black and only worn on the injured foot after receiving permission from the Shinpan cho.

## Shimpan (referees):

### Yondan Godan

Referees of these grades who have competed shall wear the same clothing as in competition. White tabi shall not be worn with keikogi unless your koryu is Tamiya ryu or other ryuha where tabi are traditionally part of the costume.

### Rokudan

Rokudan referees shall wear the same clothing as in competition with the addition of white tabi

### Nanadan Hachidan

Montsuki and hakama. Montsuki

may be black or a dark colour such as brown, green or blue. Hakama should be of a formal striped design, or as near identical colour to the montsuki as possible or black.

For all grades nafuda is required. Nafuda should be on material the same colour as the montsuki with lettering in white (on dark colour) or black (on white background). Where matching a dark montsuki colour is not possible the background should be black. Nafuda should not include a union flag except as specified below. White tabi

## **Definitions:**

**Keikogi** shall have narrow sleeves and not have mon attached.

**Montsuki** shall have wide sleeves and shall have mon attached

**Obi** shall match the colour of the keikogi/montsuki or be black. Kaku obi (dark colour with white stripes) is reserved for casual and outdoor wear and is not appropriate for iaido taikai.

**Nafuda** (sometimes referred to as Zekken, though correctly called Nafuda) shall measure 10cm wide by 15cm tall. Since the nafuda is to help identify the player to the referees and to the score keepers, names solely in katakana are to be discouraged as are nafuda with Christian or nicknames (your mates might call you “fluffy bum” but it’s unlikely that the refs will know you under that name). It is advised that your surname, at the very least, is in English script at a size that can be clearly read from a distance of 7 metres (the distance from your shiaijo start line to the shimpan cho’s table) and be identical to the name entered on the taikai application form.

Wearing a nafuda with a Union flag is a privilege reserved for people who have competed in the national team at European taikai or have refereed at an international event. These nafuda are given to qualifying people by the BKA team manager. In no other circumstances should nafuda with the Union flag be used.

## **Additional recommendations:**

The following are not regulations, but are recommended to improve your appearance while performing

The colour of the obi is not specified, but common sense dictates that white obi is worn with white, black with black – if you “fall apart” in the middle of the shiai it doesn’t show as badly.

With montsuki it is recommended that the obi be the same colour as the montsuki, or black.