



剛龍旗

GO RYU KI

2026 TAIKAI PROGRAM

May 24, 2026 · Chicago, Illinois



HOSTED BY GOSEIKAN KENDO

Go Ryu Ki 2026

Welcome to the inaugural Go Ryu Ki Taikai. On behalf of Goseikan Kendo, thank you for joining us in Chicago for this celebration of kendo.

Go Ryu Ki's characters are 剛龍旗. These characters — “strength”, “dragon”, and “flag” — are meant to reflect and symbolize both characteristics of kendo as well as the city of Chicago. The tournament's champion flag honors the spirit of competition. Each year's winning team adds their tag to the travelling flag, carrying forward the legacy of every champion before them.

We are honored to welcome **Shozo Kato Sensei** (8 Dan Kyoshi) as Shinpancho (Head Referee). His presence elevates this event for all participants.

Whether you are competing, refereeing, or cheering from the sidelines, we hope you enjoy the day.

Goseikan Kendo



In the back of this program you'll find a short history of kendo in Chicago, the meaning behind the Go Ryu Ki flag, and a brief look at the city's own flag. We'd love for you to explore them when you have a moment.

CONTENTS

Schedule	4
Tournament Rules	5
Divisions	6
Shinpan & Volunteers	7
Dojos	8
Team Rosters — Adult	9–10
Team Rosters — Women’s & Youth	11
Adult Division — Pools A & B	12
Adult Division — Pools C & D	13
Adult Division — Playoff Bracket	14
Women’s & Youth Divisions	15
Venue	16
Supporters	17
Chicago & Kendo	18
Meaning of the Go Ryu Ki Flag	19
Meaning of the Chicago Flag	20

MAY 24, 2026

TAIKAI DAY SCHEDULE

8:00 AM	Check-in & Warm-up
8:30 AM	Opening Ceremony
9:00 AM	Matches Begin
12:00 PM	Lunch Break
1:30 PM	Adult Playoffs
4:30 PM	Finals
5:00 PM	Awards & Closing Ceremony

** Times are approximate and subject to change.*

Venue: Goodman Center, 501 S. Wabash Avenue, Chicago, IL



TOURNAMENT RULES

General

- ◆ FIK (International Kendo Federation) rules apply.
- ◆ Teams-only format. Teams are not separated by rank.
- ◆ Please provide your own red/white tasuki (mejirushi).
- ◆ Competitors must be ready at courtside when their match is called. 3 minutes late will result in disqualification.

Match Rules

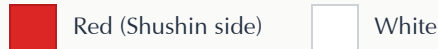
- ◆ **Duration:** Adult — 2 min (pool) / 3 min (single elimination). Women's — 3 min. Junior & Senior Youth — 2 min., Sanbon-shobu (best of 3 points)
- ◆ **Individual Ties:** Individual matches end at time. No encho — ties stand as hikiwake (draw).
- ◆ **Team Match Result:** Team match decided by total individual wins. If tied on wins, total ippons scored. If still tied, daihyosen (representative match) between the two teams in that same match.

Pool Round Scoring

- ◆ Pool standings determined by number of team-match wins.
- ◆ **Tiebreaker:** If tied on wins, total ippons across pool play breaks the tie. If still tied, daihyosen between the tied teams to determine final pool standings.

Tasuki Guide

Red is shushin-side (main referee facing table), right hand. White on left hand.



Team Positions

5-person teams (Adult)	3-person teams (Women's & Youth)
Senpo, Jiho, Chuken, Fukusho, Taisho	Senpo, Chuken, Taisho

Additional Rules

- ◆ Teams with missing members may still compete.
- ◆ If no members from a team appear, that team receives an automatic loss for each match.
- ◆ No substitutions are allowed after registration closes.
- ◆ No 3rd-place matches will be held. For Adult and Women's brackets, both losing semifinalists share 3rd place. Youth placements are determined by round-robin standings.
- ◆ Competitors registered in both Adult and Women's divisions may play back-to-back without rest.

Awards

Medals are awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each division. No 3rd-place matches will be held — for Adult and Women's brackets, both losing semifinalists share 3rd. Youth 3rd is determined by round-robin standings.

1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Gold medal	Silver medal	Bronze medal

The 1st-place adult team also receives the travelling Champion Flag and adds their tag.

DIVISIONS

Adult

Team Size	5 per team
Format	Round robin pools followed by single elimination playoffs
Advancement	All teams advance to single elimination bracket; pool standings determine seeding
Match Duration	2 min (pool) / 3 min (single elim)

Open to all ranks.

Women's

Team Size	3 per team
Format	Single elimination bracket
Advancement	Direct single elimination
Match Duration	3 min

Women only. Open to all ranks.

Junior Youth

Team Size	3 per team
Format	Round robin
Advancement	Round robin standings determine placement
Match Duration	2 min

Under 13 years old. Open to all ranks.

Senior Youth

Team Size	3 per team
Format	Round robin
Advancement	Round robin standings determine placement
Match Duration	2 min

Ages 13–17. Open to all ranks.

SHINPANS & VOLUNTEERS

Shinpan-cho: Shozo Kato Sensei (8-Dan Kyoshi). Courts are shared across all divisions.

4-Dan and above are expected to shinpan their own court during pool play for efficiency. Once knocked out, please report to your originally assigned court below for the remainder of the tournament.

3-Dan are also expected to assist with shinpan duties where help is needed.

Court A	
Shunin: Masahiro Imafuji (7-Dan)	
Takashi Ito	7-Dan
Travis Hill	6-Dan
Travis Stronach	6-Dan
David Chin	5-Dan
Danny Ahn	4-Dan
Jason Rohde	4-Dan
Ai Sasaki	4-Dan
Kosuke Yoshida	4-Dan

Court B	
Shunin: Tomohiko Hayashi (7-Dan)	
Taishi Kato	6-Dan
Tomohiro Kintoki	6-Dan
Dunkin Adams	5-Dan
Mi Hill	5-Dan
Motoki Nagata	4-Dan
Joshua Rhodes	4-Dan
Daichi Sakuma	4-Dan
Paul Westblade	4-Dan

Court C	
Shunin: Kotaro Yoshida (7-Dan)	
Kenichi Hatakeyama	7-Dan
Yuka Saathoff	6-Dan
Phillip Karpowicz	5-Dan
Tim Minowa	5-Dan
Masahiro Muramatsu	5-Dan
Michael Farmer	4-Dan
Lars Schlough	4-Dan
Yudai Yamamoto	4-Dan

Court D	
Shunin: Yutaro Matsuura (7-Dan)	
Shigemitsu Kamata	7-Dan
Nori Sakuma	6-Dan
Gordon Small	6-Dan
Teruya Mochizuki	5-Dan
Zakiah Phillips	5-Dan
Taiga Nickel	4-Dan
Mario Tanabe	4-Dan

VOLUNTEERS

A heartfelt thank you to those dedicating their day to volunteering.

Alexander Apolarin Zamaan Bagban Matthew Flais Christina Garcia Danny James Evelyn Kovarik Kayo Watanabe
Anna Zhong

Equally, our deepest gratitude to every competitor, shinpan, and supporter helping behind the scenes. This tournament would not be possible without you.

DOJOS

Bloomington Normal Kendo Club

Joshua Rhodes	4-Dan
Luke Sztajnkrzyer	2-Dan
Rachel Tam	2-Dan

Central Indiana Kendo Club

Lisa Snell	2-Dan
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Chicago Kendo Dojo

Aaron Chang	Mudan
Jack Sjoldal	Mudan
Odin Sjoldal	Mudan

Choyokan

Tomohiko Hayashi	7-Dan
Ai Sasaki	4-Dan
Ali Attarwalla	3-Dan
Kazusa Tokutsu	2-Dan
Takeshi Nakagawa	Mudan
Calvin Rusiewski	Mudan
Matthew Segal	Mudan

Cleveland Kendo Association

Yulia Gray	Mudan
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Columbus Kendo Club

Teruya Mochizuki	5-Dan
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Detroit Kendo Dojo

Akihito Ohta	3-Dan
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ECUSKF

Kosuke Yoshida	4-Dan
Derek Chen	Mudan
Christopher Glyptis	Mudan
Audrey Kim	Mudan
Akos Szegofi	Mudan

ECUSKF Seniors

Masahiro Imafuji	7-Dan
Takashi Ito	7-Dan
Tomohiro Kintoki	6-Dan
Eunmok Lee	3-Dan

Fudokan

Cory Lipin	1-Dan
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GNE / GNEUSKF

Taishi Kato	6-Dan
Dunkin Adams	5-Dan
Masahiro Muramatsu	5-Dan
Michael Farmer	4-Dan
Mario Tanabe	4-Dan

Goseikan

Gordon Small	6-Dan
Zakiah Phillips	5-Dan
Danny Ahn	4-Dan
Motoki Nagata	4-Dan
Danny James	3-Dan
Mathew Lucante	3-Dan
Hiroki Minawa	3-Dan
Kouki Saathoff	3-Dan
El Faussane	2-Dan
Joe Lee	2-Dan
John Lee	2-Dan
Arthur Macklin	2-Dan
Tyler Chen	1-Dan
Jordan Newell	1-Dan
Bryson Rawlings	1-Dan

Lucy Ammon	Mudan
Cristian Garcia	Mudan
Niles Han	Mudan
Brandon Holmes	Mudan
Haruki Inokuchi-Duncan	Mudan
Shiho Komatsuki	Mudan
Jene Lee	Mudan
John Lillard	Mudan
Logan Lillard	Mudan
Kenshin Minawa	Mudan
Iori Ono	Mudan
Shii Ono	Mudan
Mohammad Osman	Mudan
Jeremiah Schmidt	Mudan
Oriana Shimada	Mudan
Timur Sukhanov	Mudan

Great Lakes Kendo Club

Benjamin Tanaka	2-Dan
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Kansas City Kendo Club

Camtu Nguyen	1-Dan
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Koyokai

Joseph Dalecke	2-Dan
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Macomb

Phillip Karpowicz	5-Dan
Tim Minowa	5-Dan
Yung Jen Cheng	1-Dan

Memphis Kendo Association

Paul Westblade	4-Dan
Abigail Westblade	2-Dan

Miami Valley Kendo Club

Yudai Yamamoto	4-Dan
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Milwaukee Kendo Club

Lars Schlough	4-Dan
Erik Hancock	3-Dan
Stephen Schultze	3-Dan
Anwar Jackson	2-Dan
Paul Kilpatrick	2-Dan
Cameron Constabileo	1-Dan

Minnehaha Kendo Dojo

Jason Rohde	4-Dan
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OSU Kendo Club

Bakusa Conteh	2-Dan
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Pittsburgh Kenyukai

Shigemitsu Kamata	7-Dan
Dong Ytu	2-Dan

Seishinkan

Nori Sakuma	6-Dan
Satoshi Horiguchi	3-Dan
Shane Dasine	Mudan

St. Louis Kendo

Yuka Saathoff	6-Dan
Naomi Saathoff	2-Dan
Ian Choe	1-Dan

Team MWKF

Yutaro Matsuura	7-Dan
Travis Hill	6-Dan
Travis Stronach	6-Dan
Mi Hill	5-Dan
Taiga Nickel	4-Dan
Daichi Sakuma	4-Dan
Sean Kelly	3-Dan
Xue Lin	3-Dan
Sayaka Minami	3-Dan
Nao Umeda	3-Dan
Sarah Chung	2-Dan
Kouta Horiguchi	2-Dan
Taichi Matsuura	2-Dan
Akihiko Moriya	2-Dan
Hinako Naritomi	2-Dan
Michael Krueger	1-Dan
Hyogo Naritomi	1-Dan
Lincoln Vang	1-Dan
Junior Le	Mudan
Jacob Tanaka	Mudan
Shuntaro Tanaka	Mudan
Makoto Umeda	Mudan
Olivia Vang	Mudan

Twin Cities Kenyukai

David Chin	5-Dan
Sanji Murakami	2-Dan
Ash Graber	Mudan
Mason Yun	Mudan

UChicago

Kotaro Yoshida	7-Dan
Yuchen Jin	1-Dan
Athena Roscoe	1-Dan

UW Madison

Andrew Nguyen	2-Dan
Mauricio Araiza	1-Dan
Xiang Li	Mudan
Daniel Liu	Mudan
Tyler White	Mudan
Xinhe Yu	Mudan

Waco Kendo Dojo

Kenichi Hatakeyama	7-Dan
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Washinkan

Edison Mohler	3-Dan
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TEAM ROSTERS — ADULT DIVISION (1 OF 2)

ADULT DIVISION

Adult Mixed A

Rachel Tam	2-Dan
Mauricio Araiza	1-Dan
Yulia Gray	Mudan
Athena Roscoe	1-Dan
Abigail Westblade	2-Dan

Adult Mixed B

Xue Lin	3-Dan
Joseph Dalecke	2-Dan
Yuchen Jin	1-Dan
Erik Hancock	3-Dan
Camtu Nguyen	1-Dan

Adult Mixed C

Sanji Murakami	2-Dan
Lincoln Vang	1-Dan
Nao Umeda	3-Dan
Hinako Naritomi	2-Dan
Sayaka Minami	3-Dan

Choyokan

Ali Attarwalla	3-Dan
Takeshi Nakagawa	Mudan
Matthew Segal	Mudan
Calvin Rusiewski	Mudan
Tomohiko Hayashi	7-Dan

ECUSKF A

Edison Mohler	3-Dan
Yudai Yamamoto	4-Dan
Kosuke Yoshida	4-Dan
Teruya Mochizuki	5-Dan
Akos Szegofi	Mudan

ECUSKF B

Dong Ytu	2-Dan
Derek Chen	Mudan
Bakusa Conteh	2-Dan
Audrey Kim	Mudan
Christopher Glyptis	Mudan

ECUSKF Seniors

Masahiro Imafuji	7-Dan
Paul Westblade	4-Dan
Tomohiro Kintoki	6-Dan
Eunmok Lee	3-Dan
Takashi Ito	7-Dan

GNEUSKF

Michael Farmer	4-Dan
Mario Tanabe	4-Dan
Masahiro Muramatsu	5-Dan
Dunkin Adams	5-Dan
Taishi Kato	6-Dan

Goseikan A

Danny Ahn	4-Dan
Kouki Saathoff	3-Dan
Zakiah Phillips	5-Dan
John Lee	2-Dan
Gordon Small	6-Dan

Goseikan B

Joe Lee	2-Dan
Jene Lee	Mudan
Arthur Macklin	2-Dan
Motoki Nagata	4-Dan
Hiroki Minawa	3-Dan

Goseikan C

Bryson Rawlings	1-Dan
Timur Sukhanov	Mudan
Mathew Lucante	3-Dan
Jordan Newell	1-Dan
El Faussane	2-Dan

Goseikan D

Tyler Chen	1-Dan
John Lillard	Mudan
Mohammad Osman	Mudan
Niles Han	Mudan
Cristian Garcia	Mudan

TEAM ROSTERS — ADULT DIVISION (2 OF 2)

ADULT DIVISION (CONTINUED)

Goseikan Mix

Cory Lipin	1-Dan
Luke Sztajnkrzyer	2-Dan
Lucy Ammon	Mudan
Shiho Komatsuki	Mudan
Jeremiah Schmidt	Mudan

Milwaukee Kendo Club

Cameron Constabileo	1-Dan
Stephen Schultze	3-Dan
Anwar Jackson	2-Dan
Paul Kilpatrick	2-Dan
Lars Schlough	4-Dan

MWKF Men A

Joshua Rhodes	4-Dan
Akihiko Moriya	2-Dan
Daichi Sakuma	4-Dan
Travis Stronach	6-Dan
Travis Hill	6-Dan

MWKF Men B

Sean Kelly	3-Dan
Taichi Matsuura	2-Dan
Taiga Nickel	4-Dan
Yutaro Matsuura	7-Dan
Kotaro Yoshida	7-Dan

MWKF Men C

Kouta Horiguchi	2-Dan
Akihito Ohta	3-Dan
Yung Jen Cheng	1-Dan
Phillip Karpowicz	5-Dan
Tim Minowa	5-Dan

MWKF Men D/Minnehaha/Twin Cities

Ash Graber	Mudan
Junior Le	Mudan
Jason Rohde	4-Dan
Michael Krueger	1-Dan
David Chin	5-Dan

STL Kendo/Seishinkan

Shane Dasine	Mudan
Naomi Saathoff	2-Dan
Satoshi Horiguchi	3-Dan
Nori Sakuma	6-Dan
Yuka Saathoff	6-Dan

University of Wisconsin A

Tyler White	Mudan
Xinhe Yu	Mudan
Daniel Liu	Mudan
Xiang Li	Mudan
Andrew Nguyen	2-Dan

TEAM ROSTERS — WOMEN'S & YOUTH

WOMEN'S DIVISION

Choyokan

Kazusa Tokutsu	2-Dan
Abigail Westblade	2-Dan
Ai Sasaki	4-Dan

MWKF Women A

Lisa Snell	2-Dan
Sarah Chung	2-Dan
Mi Hill	5-Dan

JUNIOR YOUTH

Goseikan Jr Youth A

Iori Ono	Mudan
Kenshin Minawa	Mudan
Haruki Inokuchi-Duncan	Mudan

SENIOR YOUTH

CKD Sr Youth

Jack Sjordal	Mudan
Odin Sjordal	Mudan
Aaron Chang	Mudan

Goseikan Sr Youth

Oriana Shimada	Mudan
Brandon Holmes	Mudan
Ian Choe	1-Dan

MWKF Women B

Hinako Naritomi	2-Dan
Nao Umeda	3-Dan
Sayaka Minami	3-Dan

STL Kendo Girls

Naomi Saathoff	2-Dan
Xue Lin	3-Dan
Yuka Saathoff	6-Dan

Goseikan Jr Youth B

Logan Lillard	Mudan
Shii Ono	Mudan
OPEN	TBD

MWKF Sr Youth A

Hyogo Naritomi	1-Dan
Benjamin Tanaka	2-Dan
Mason Yun	Mudan

Women's Mixed A

Camtu Nguyen	1-Dan
Yuchen Jin	1-Dan
Yulia Gray	Mudan

Women's Mixed B

Lucy Ammon	Mudan
Athena Roscoe	1-Dan
Rachel Tam	2-Dan

MWKF Jr Youth

Jacob Tanaka	Mudan
Makoto Umeda	Mudan
OPEN	TBD

MWKF Sr Youth B

Lincoln Vang	1-Dan
Olivia Vang	Mudan
Sanji Murakami	2-Dan

ADULT DIVISION — POOL ROUNDS (1 OF 2)

Pool A

	Adult Mixed B	ECUSKF Seniors	Goseikan D	MWKF Men A	MWKF Men D/Minnehaha/Twin Cities
Adult Mixed B	—				
ECUSKF Seniors		—			
Goseikan D			—		
MWKF Men A				—	
MWKF Men D/Minnehaha/Twin Cities					—

Match Order: 1. Adult Mixed B vs ECUSKF Seniors | 2. Goseikan D vs MWKF Men A | 3. Adult Mixed B vs MWKF Men D/Minnehaha/Twin Cities | 4. ECUSKF Seniors vs Goseikan D | 5. MWKF Men A vs MWKF Men D/Minnehaha/Twin Cities | 6. Adult Mixed B vs Goseikan D | 7. ECUSKF Seniors vs MWKF Men D/Minnehaha/Twin Cities | 8. Adult Mixed B vs MWKF Men A | 9. Goseikan D vs MWKF Men D/Minnehaha/Twin Cities | 10. ECUSKF Seniors vs MWKF Men A

Pool B

	Adult Mixed A	Choyokan	GNEUSKF	Goseikan B	University of Wisconsin A
Adult Mixed A	—				
Choyokan		—			
GNEUSKF			—		
Goseikan B				—	
University of Wisconsin A					—

Match Order: 1. Adult Mixed A vs Choyokan | 2. GNEUSKF vs Goseikan B | 3. Adult Mixed A vs University of Wisconsin A | 4. Choyokan vs GNEUSKF | 5. Goseikan B vs University of Wisconsin A | 6. Adult Mixed A vs GNEUSKF | 7. Choyokan vs University of Wisconsin A | 8. Adult Mixed A vs Goseikan B | 9. GNEUSKF vs University of Wisconsin A | 10. Choyokan vs Goseikan B

ADULT DIVISION — POOL ROUNDS (2 OF 2)

Pool C

	ECUSKF A	Goseikan C	Goseikan Mix	MWKF Men C	STL Kendo/Seishinkan
ECUSKF A	—				
Goseikan C		—			
Goseikan Mix			—		
MWKF Men C				—	
STL Kendo/Seishinkan					—

Match Order: 1. ECUSKF A vs Goseikan C | 2. Goseikan Mix vs MWKF Men C | 3. ECUSKF A vs STL Kendo/Seishinkan | 4. Goseikan C vs Goseikan Mix | 5. MWKF Men C vs STL Kendo/Seishinkan | 6. ECUSKF A vs Goseikan Mix | 7. Goseikan C vs STL Kendo/Seishinkan | 8. ECUSKF A vs MWKF Men C | 9. Goseikan Mix vs STL Kendo/Seishinkan | 10. Goseikan C vs MWKF Men C

Pool D

	Adult Mixed C	ECUSKF B	Goseikan A	Milwaukee Kendo Club	MWKF Men B
Adult Mixed C	—				
ECUSKF B		—			
Goseikan A			—		
Milwaukee Kendo Club				—	
MWKF Men B					—

Match Order: 1. Adult Mixed C vs ECUSKF B | 2. Goseikan A vs Milwaukee Kendo Club | 3. Adult Mixed C vs MWKF Men B | 4. ECUSKF B vs Goseikan A | 5. Milwaukee Kendo Club vs MWKF Men B | 6. Adult Mixed C vs Goseikan A | 7. ECUSKF B vs MWKF Men B | 8. Adult Mixed C vs Milwaukee Kendo Club | 9. Goseikan A vs MWKF Men B | 10. ECUSKF B vs Milwaukee Kendo Club

ADULT DIVISION — PLAYOFFS

Every adult team advances to a single-elimination bracket. Higher pool finishers earn higher seeds — the four pool winners take the top seeds, then the four runners-up, and so on. The bottom eight seeds participate in play-in matches to fill the Round of 16, and the bracket is drawn so that no two teams from the same pool meet again before the quarterfinals.

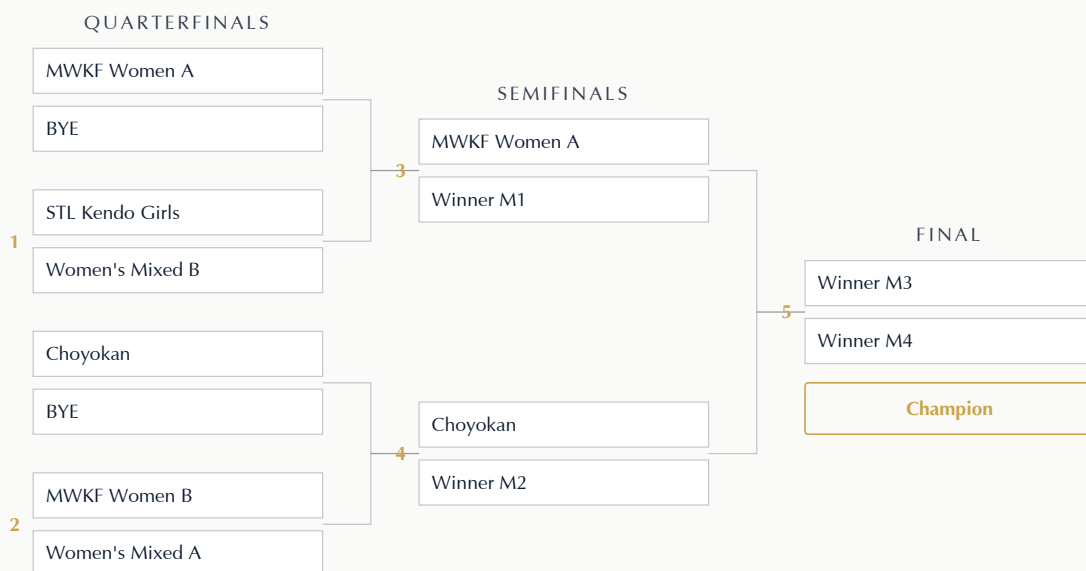
The bracket below is an example shown for reference. Overall placement is determined by the seeding earned in the pools, and further balance may be done by the tournament officials based on pool performance.

20-Team Single Elimination (Example)



WOMEN'S & YOUTH DIVISIONS

Women's Division — Single Elimination



Junior Youth — Round Robin (Under 13)

	Goseikan Jr Youth A	Goseikan Jr Youth B	MWKF Jr Youth
Goseikan Jr Youth A	—		
Goseikan Jr Youth B		—	
MWKF Jr Youth			—

Match Order: 1. Goseikan Jr Youth A vs Goseikan Jr Youth B | 2. Goseikan Jr Youth A vs MWKF Jr Youth | 3. Goseikan Jr Youth B vs MWKF Jr Youth

Senior Youth — Round Robin (Ages 13–17)

	CKD Sr Youth	Goseikan Sr Youth	MWKF Sr Youth A	MWKF Sr Youth B
CKD Sr Youth	—			
Goseikan Sr Youth		—		
MWKF Sr Youth A			—	
MWKF Sr Youth B				—

Match Order: 1. CKD Sr Youth vs Goseikan Sr Youth | 2. CKD Sr Youth vs MWKF Sr Youth A | 3. CKD Sr Youth vs MWKF Sr Youth B | 4. Goseikan Sr Youth vs MWKF Sr Youth A | 5. Goseikan Sr Youth vs MWKF Sr Youth B | 6. MWKF Sr Youth A vs MWKF Sr Youth B

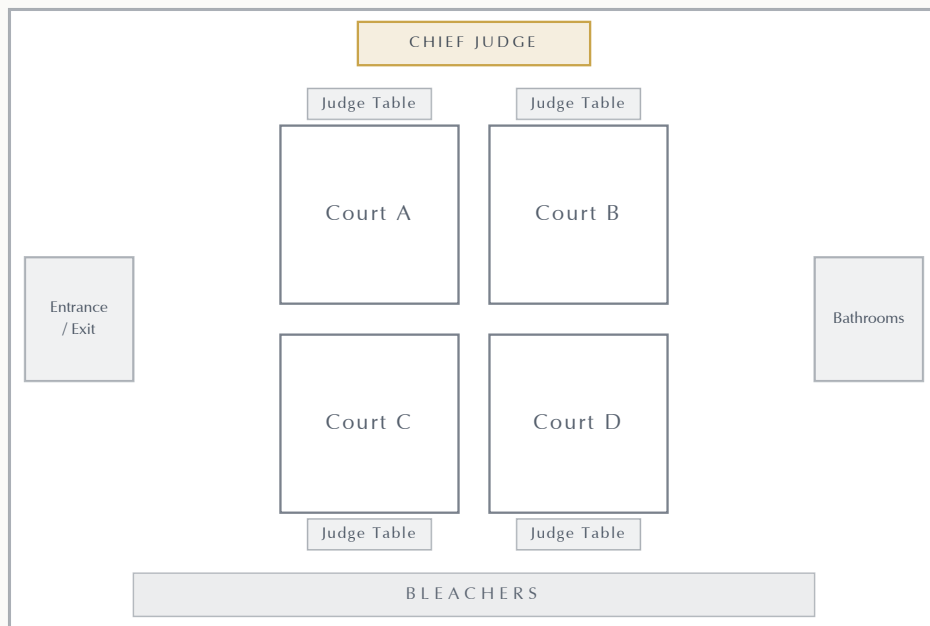
VENUE

Goodman Center

501 S. Wabash Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605

Courts

4 courts will be set up. All courts are shared across divisions and rotate based on the schedule. The diagram below shows an approximate layout of the venue floor.



Parking & Transit

The Goodman Center is located in Chicago's South Loop, easily accessible by public transit. The nearest CTA stations are on the Red and Green lines.

THANK YOU

SUPPORTERS

SPONSORS



VENDORS



CALLIGRAPHY

The Go Ryu Ki calligraphy was created by Masami Yoshida in a vigorous and dynamic style that gives full expression to the characters Go 剛 (“strong and unyielding”) and Ryu 龍 (“dragon”). We are grateful for her generous contribution to Go Ryu Ki.

Contact: 517-240-1444 · masamiyoshida@hotmail.com

CHICAGO & KENDO

The city of Chicago and kendo have shaped one another in significant ways. After WWII internment, many Japanese-Americans left the west coast and settled in Chicago. The city welcomed those who came here, and in 1944 the Buddhist Temple of Chicago (BTC) was formed. In 1963, five church members discussed their interest in forming a kendo dojo. A year later in 1964 the Chicago Kendo Club was formed during a meeting in the heart of the Gold Coast neighborhood on Division and Clark. These members — Joe Aoyagi, Junzo Ideno, George Izui, Koichi Matsumoto, and Frank Matsumoto, along with their elected instructor Yoshimitsu Nakamura Sensei — comprised the first board of directors and chief instructor of the first kendo group in the Midwest.

Chicago continued to play a vital role in kendo both regionally and nationally. In 1972 when Nakamura Sensei returned to Japan, Frank Matsumoto Sensei became the next head instructor of Chicago Kendo Club, and two years later he helped found the Midwest Kendo Federation. This brought together many growing clubs as well as a growing interest in kendo. As the federation grew and more members and dojos joined, kendo continued to establish itself in Chicago. More dojos formed, and in 1981 Chicago welcomed the national kendo community for the second AUSKF National Championships.

Today, kendo continues to flourish and grow in Chicago as well as the Midwest. Chicago dojos practice hard and work together to continue to spread the love and appreciation of kendo to those currently practicing as well as people who are new to the martial art. The spirit of Go Ryu Ki is rooted in this history, with the goal to honor more than six decades of tradition while celebrating the future of this martial art in the city that helped build and flourish this community.

“I believe that everyone has their own reasons for studying Kendo. Traditionally, Kendo was mostly to develop your mind and not just sword technique. Of the things that are important to me are determination, sincerity, and perseverance.”

— Frank Matsumoto

FURTHER READING

kendostories.wordpress.com/2021/09/19/dojo-profile-chicago-kendo-dojo/
kendostories.wordpress.com/2021/09/10/interview-with-matsumoto-sensei/

THE MEANING OF THE GO RYU KI FLAG

All flags carry significant meaning and symbolism, and the Go Ryu Ki flag is no exception. Careful consideration was taken when designing the symbolism and meaning of the Go Ryu Ki flag, and we are humbled and privileged to share that meaning.

- ◆ **The navy background — the depth and breadth of Lake Michigan.** Unlike the Chicago flag, which uses a light blue, the navy is meant to symbolize the depth of Lake Michigan, as well as the long history of kendo in the Midwest. The lake acts as a connector to all dojos in the Midwest, whether through the lake itself or via the rivers and waterways. Many of these waterways were man-made, which further heightens the meaning of outreach and connectivity to the Midwest kendo community, as relationships and community form both naturally as well as through effort.
- ◆ **The gold coloring — the sun rising and setting on Chicago.** The city of Chicago faces east on Lake Michigan, thus the sunrise appears to come over the lake and illuminates the city each morning. The flatter plains of Illinois create a long-casting sunset on the city when the sun sinks west. In both instances, a natural aura of light is cast on the city, seemingly turning it gold.
- ◆ **The rising dragon — wisdom.** The ascending dragon on the flag is meant to represent the wisdom shared over more than six decades in the kendo community. As knowledge continues to be shared among one another through practice and community, we all become stronger, and we aim to rise higher in our kendo journeys. The dragon is a symbol of this effort.
- ◆ **The dragon's movements — the curves and turns of the north and south branches of the Chicago River.** The dragon's turns are meant to express the way the Chicago river's north and south branches contort and move throughout the Midwest to reach new communities and people, connecting them back to Lake Michigan as well as providing resources and supporting commerce.
- ◆ **The dragon's scales — the neighborhoods of Chicago.** There are exactly 77 scales on the flag's dragon, each one representing one of Chicago's 77 different neighborhoods or community areas. These scales are meant to reflect the stories, lives, and experiences held in each of these neighborhoods, with the hope that as one scale rises up on the ascending dragon, so too do the rest, helping the city become better and more prosperous as we continue to grow and rise together.

THE MEANING OF THE CHICAGO FLAG

Chicago has an official flag with rich historical meaning. This is not that explanation. What follows is offered in the spirit of the city itself — with affection, and not entirely seriously.

- ◆ **The four stars.** The four stars symbolize Italian beef, Chicago hot dogs, deep dish pizza, and polish sausages. It is argued that the fourth star actually symbolizes bratwursts, a debate that has raged for centuries.
- ◆ **The two blue bars.** These represent the north and south branches of the Chicago River. These rivers have two very different types of creatures and pollutants, and both are used to make Malort.
- ◆ **The three white bars.** These represent the three major land masses of Chicago: north, south, and west. All three of these comprised together make the city, as well as make Malort.

(With a wink to our friends at Jeppson's Malort.)



剛龍旗

剛

Go
Strength

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Ryu
Dragon

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Ki
Flag

Go Ryu Ki is an annual kendo taikai hosted by Goseikan Kendo in Chicago, Illinois. The tournament is open to kenshi of all ranks and is organized exclusively as a team competition.

Goseikan Kendo is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the practice and promotion of kendo in the Chicago area.



GO RYU KI

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