

WA Kendo Coach's Report

October 2024

Friday, 4 October 2024

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1. 2024/2025 WA Kendo Campaign

- a. 14 July 2024: Squad Training #1.
 - i. 21 people attended, which is already a higher number than the most number of attendees in last year's campaign (18).
 - ii. Focused on basics and attitude towards building up and finishing strikes.
 - iii. First time doing a 3-hour training, but was generally well-received.
 - iv. Unfortunately one player sustained a major injury (broken toe).
- b. 4 August 2024: Mock Grading.
 - i. Coinciding with *Ado Ogawa-sensei* and *Naotoshi Akiyama-sensei*'s visit, we hosted a mock grading for 4th Dan and above, to receive feedback from the 7th Dans.
 - ii. This was well received with 11 people participating.
 - iii. I would like to extend my thanks to *Ogawa-sensei*, *Akiyama-sensei* and his family; WAKR members for supporting their visit; and in particular *Fukumoto-sensei* for planning their calendar.
- c. Unfortunately due to a number of circumstances, we have had to cancel the 22 September 2024 squad training.
- d. Currently we have the following sessions booked:
 - i. Saturday, 19 October 2024, 1:00pm – 4:00pm, at UWA.
 - ii. Sunday, 17 November 2024, 1:00pm – 4:00pm, at UWA.
 - iii. Sunday, 1 December 2024, 1:00pm – 4:00pm, at UWA.
 - iv. Sunday, 15 December 2024, 1:00pm – 4:00pm, at UWA.
- e. Booking venues have been a major issue, and at the moment, only UWA seems available.
 - i. Most venues are not open to 2025 bookings yet until November.
 - ii. I would like to thank *Mitch Fenn*, WA Team Manager, for their great work in securing these bookings.
- f. The next *Australian Kendo Championships* is on 19-20 April 2025, in Canberra.

2. UniSport Nationals Kendo Competition

- a. On 7 & 8 September, the *UniSport Nationals Kendo Competition* was held in Canberra.
- b. This competition was attended by 103 students from 12 universities.
- c. We had 2 from WA originally scheduled to attend, but unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances, they had to pull out just the week before.
- d. The “*COVID tsubazeriai rules*” are staying, being adopted as standard rules.
- e. There was an issue with a number of competitors whose AKR registration arrived past the deadline. After investigation, it was found that there was a 2-month backlog because of the monthly upload from the state affiliation, followed by a monthly processing by the AKR Registration manager (who was also on leave at the time). The team discussed this and made a decision to allow the affected students to compete, however we should ensure that this does not happen again in the future.

- Bernard Yehuda
