

ZNKR Iaido Points for Grading and Refereeing

copyright © 2012 Kim Taylor, all rights reserved.

The ZNKR iaido manual, otherwise known as "the book" is the final word on how the ZNKR iaido kata are performed. ZNKR iai is a set of standardized (seitei) kata to be used by all kendo federation iaido students and "the book" is the reference for that standard. Within that book is a section called the Points for Grading and Refereeing which is a guide to judges on what they should look for in each kata. As such, they represent an instruction (ok think of it as an order) to judges to look especially closely at these points which the ZNKR iaido committee consider to be important enough to look closely at.

I suspect students should consider these points to be the very barest minimum of things they ought to "get right" if they want to pass their next grade. Now when you look at the points for 1 and 2 you'll find that a lot of the points in 1 are not repeated in 2. I suggest to students that this does not mean the points in 1 can be ignored in 2, I suggest that the intent is for the points to be cumulative. A point which appears earlier in the instructions applies to a later kata if applicable. In other words, don't be a jailhouse lawyer about this, if a movement is looked at earlier, it will be looked at in the same way later.

Because I have heard for years that "seitei gata changes every year", I have included for your amusement a set of instructions on these same points from a publication called "The Guidance of Referee" created in English by the Buko Dosokai in 1994. A look at the 2009 and the 1994 instructions, perhaps by two different translators, will give you some idea of how much these most important and fundamental points have changed over the 15 years between the publications. Incidentally, 1-10 were dated as from 1988 and 11-12 from 2000 so the 1994 notes would not include the last two kata.

For the photos below I'd like to thank my student Pam Morgan for her willingness to model the points, any inaccuracies you spot are my fault not hers. And they'd better not show up in your own practice... if you see them fix them.

Reiho	Ensure performers are executing the correct manners as stated in the criteria.	Is the correct etiquette shown?	(Read the book.)
--------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------	------------------