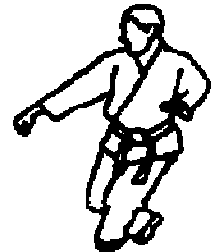


Renshi Chris Dammann Presents Team Kata/Kobudo Division



After many years of competing on the World tournament circuit, I wanted to find a way to bring Kata to the forefront at our team tournaments. I have compiled numerous ideas, strategies and competition designs to create this new division for our tournaments. I have combined the modern sport karate concept and the traditional tournament method and worked it into the framework of our current team tournament format. The creation of this new division is the result of my many years of experimenting.

Scoring Criteria for Team Kata/Kobudo Division

This division will be run much like the N.E.M.A.C. team fighting division. Teams may consist of any number of participants (preferably equal on each side). The senior belt is always the captain. The captains choose who to send up to compete, just as in the team fighting format. However, the competitors will compete head to head in kata (1 after the other). This is how competition is held in the A.A.U. and World Karate Federation (Olympic Karate). Competitors wear colored wristbands (or belts), usually red and white. We can use our usual red/white sashes tucked into their belts instead. Both participants are called up and bow to the chief referee. The first participant (the red competitor) performs their kata as his opponent watches in a kneeling position. The first participant then sits down and kneels. The second participant then performs their kata (the white competitor). After both competitors have completed their forms they are both called back up by the chief referee. The chief referee calls for a vote from the corner judges. They raise the flag of the color of the competitor they feel performed the best. The winning competitor gains 3 points for their team. The losing competitor gains 1 point for their team. Only one winner (per match) can emerge. No ties can occur (with 5 judges or 3 judges). This eliminates the nonsense that occurs when points are used. There will be one chief referee, along with (2 or 4) corner judges holding both colored flags. After each match is decided, the individual match points are added to the total team score (just like in the fighting format). In the final match, the points are doubled. The winning team is the team with the most points at the end. In the event of a total team tie, the captain chooses who to perform a (different) tie breaking kata. One winning team will emerge. This will help to promote kata practice and performance. It will also allow those competitors who choose not to fight an opportunity to compete.

Weapons Division:

The same scoring format can be used for weapons as well. Any weapon may be used (from a recognized martial arts system).

Winning Criteria for Both Divisions:

Judges will look for clean/crisp technique, balance, coordination, speed and power. The competitor must demonstrate a command of their chosen form. This includes empty handed as well as weapons forms. If the white belt displays mastery of their basic form, and the black belt (they happen to compete against) displays weakness with their advanced form, than the white belt wins. This truly opens up the competition to everyone. A white belt can indeed beat a black belt if they perform their kata well enough for their level of experience.