

## **Points of registration,**

### **Online Preliminary of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ricoh Cup Women's "Ouza" Shogi Championship**

1. Applicant must meet all the requirements listed below.
  - A female shogi player, who:
    1. has a non-Japanese nationality (including dual nationality)
    2. resides outside Japan
    3. can, as the winner, travel to Japan to participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> Qualify Round of the Women's "Ouza" Championship held on May 30<sup>th</sup>
    4. who can play online at 81Dojo
2. Applicant shall download and fill out the application form, and send it to [info@81dojo.com](mailto:info@81dojo.com) as a scanned PDF.
3. A recommendation by a branch of Japan Shogi Association or a major shogi association of the country is required. The application form must be signed by the applicant herself and the recommender.
4. The deadline for the application (sending of PDF) is UTC 24:00 on February 15<sup>th</sup>.
5. All applicants are requested to read and understand the sections "General description of Ricoh Cup Women's Ouza" and "Policy against software-assisted play" starting from the next page before signing the application form.
6. The organizer will screen the application based on its contents before approving the participation. The applicant will be informed of the approval/disapproval after the application deadline. The approved participants will be given a special 81Dojo account for the games in the tournament.
7. Up to 3 players can participate from one country. If there are more than 3 applicants from a country, the organizer will screen the applications and reduce the number to 3 or less.
8. The participants are requested to get used to 81Dojo with own private account (not the special account) and understand the usage and functions before the online preliminary starts.

## General Description of Ricoh Cup Women's "Ouza" Shogi Championship

### 1. Its position in Ladies Professional major titles

Women's "Ouza", sponsored by Ricoh, is one of the 6 most prestigious women's major titles in Japan. That are: Women's "Ouza", "Jo-ou", Women's "Meijin", Women's "Ou-i", Women's "Oushou", and "Kurashiki-Touka". All titles are currently owned by three Ladies Professional players and one Shorei-kai member of the Japan Shogi Association. The winner's prize money of Women's "Ouza" is 5 million yen, one of the highest in all 6 major titles.

### 2. Its History

Women's "Ouza" was launched in 2011 by the sponsor Ricoh and the Japan Shogi Association. It started with its epoch-making concept of a "Fully Open" tournament, where literally all women have chance to participate, deciding the "strongest woman" in the world. Aiming for the globalization of shogi, the sponsor established a way for overseas players to join the tournament for the first time in the history of shogi.

The final title match (5-game match) players and the winners in the past 4 years

	Winner	Opponent
1 <sup>st</sup> term (2011)	Momoko Kato	Ichiyo Shimizu
2 <sup>nd</sup> term (2012)	Momoko Kato	Sayuri Honda
3 <sup>rd</sup> term (2013)	Kana Satomi	Momoko Kato
4 <sup>th</sup> term (2014)	Momoko Kato	Tomoka Nishiyama

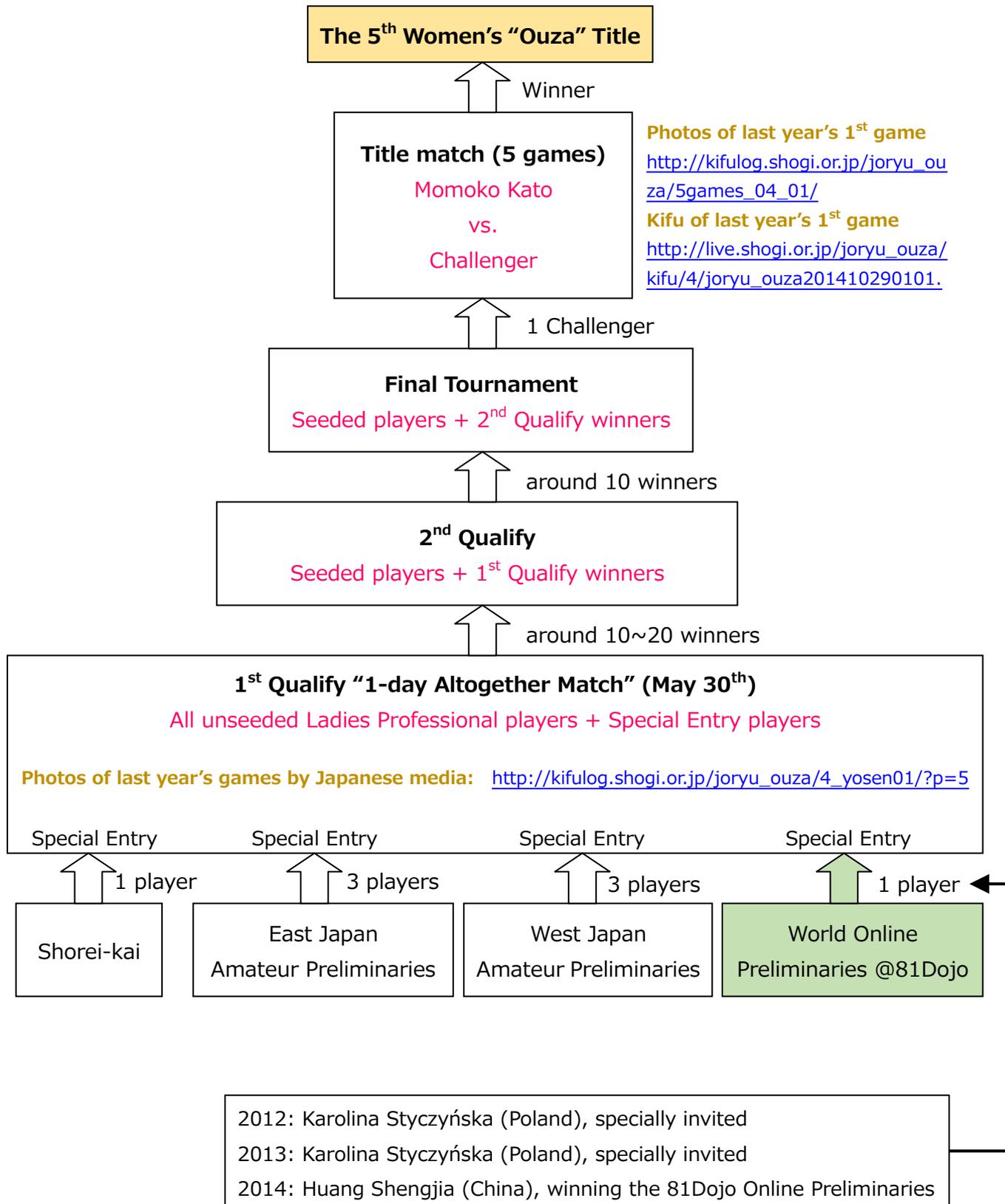
Women's "Ouza" is currently held by Momoko Kato. All players in the 5<sup>th</sup> term will be competing for the right to be the challenger to Kato.



**Momoko Kato**, Women's Double Crown, holding the Women's "Ouza" (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and current) and current "Jo-ou" titles.

1<sup>st</sup> Dan of Shorei-kai.

### 3. Tournament system



## **Policy against software-assisted play in the Online Preliminaries**

All participants are requested to fully understand the following points, and that any attempt of software-assisted or any other dishonest cheating will not be tolerated.

- The importance of the tournament and the representative's responsibility
  - The tournament is highly prestigious as described above.
  - The Online Preliminaries tournament is realized by the sponsor's kind generosity and the efforts by all related parties. Further continuation of such chances for overseas players will totally depend on the outcome of this tournament.
  - The winner's game in the 1<sup>st</sup> Qualify will be watched by media and Japanese fans, attention being also paid to her past kifu in the Online Preliminaries.
  - Each player represents her country and its national organization, being responsible for their credibility
- Any attempt of cheating is easily detectable
  - All kifu will be examined by the professional referee, capable of detecting any inconsistency in types of moves and player's strength
  - All kifu will be analyzed with various shogi engines for calculating the move-matching percentage.
- If any attempt is confirmed, the player is disqualified and loses all access to the following tournaments. The organization that recommended the player may also receive a penalty of limitation in recommending players in the following tournaments.