
From: Information Unit
Sent: Monday, 31 October 2022 12:40 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: OIA Request
Attachments: [501433] Ikki Tousen Historic Battles (2003) - Section 12 Reasons for De....pdf

Kia ora [REDACTED],

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 about *Ikki Tousen: Historic Battles*.

Please find attached the Classification Office's decision of 25 August 2005. The decision explains why this title was classified R16.

Please let me know if you would like any more information.

Kind regards,



[REDACTED]
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From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, 27 October 2022 9:26 pm
To: Information Unit <Information.Unit@classificationoffice.govt.nz>
Subject: OIA Request

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Hey, I'm requesting to see for what reasons " Ikki Tousen: Historic Battles" was classed as R16?

Thank you!

WRITTEN REASONS FOR DECISION SECTION 12

TITLE OF PUBLICATION: Ikki Touden: Historic Battles

OFLC REF:501433

HEADNOTE

Type of Publication:	DVD
Title of Publication:	Ikki Touden: Historic Battles
Other known title:	Ikki Touden Vol. 2
OFLC Publication Reference No:	501433
Decision:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.
Display Conditions:	Nil.
Descriptive Note:	Contains violence and sex scenes.

The publication entitled *Ikki Touden: Historic Battles* is classified as objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years. This is because of the publication's treatment of matters of sex and violence.

The publication is a DVD comprising a feature, an interview with the director, and four trailers. The feature is composed of three combined episodes of a Japanese series (episodes 5, 6 and 7), and has a running time of 73 min.

The feature is anime, and concerns several groups of high school students competing in the upcoming "Big Fighters' Tournament." The storyline closely follows the adventures of Hakufu, an impetuous young fighter, and her friends aligned with the Nanyo School. Several battles are fought by competing schools, and fighters are eliminated. The first few rounds are being manipulated by the feature's "evil" character, Toutaku, who hopes to play off rival schools to his advantage. When the feature ends the final rounds of the tournament have not taken place, but Hakufu's warrior spirit is beginning to assert itself, as she surpasses her friends in martial arts ability.

The publication deals with matters of sex in terms of s3(1) of the FVPC Act. In one scene a man performs cunnilingus on his girlfriend. The scene implies cunnilingus by the positioning of the man's head and the moans heard from the young woman. The scene is, however, non-explicit, focusing on the characters' heads and bodies rather than their genitals.

The feature's female characters are drawn with exaggerated bodies, such as large breasts and bottoms, and are attired in short skirts that frequently reveal shots of the young women's underpants and buttocks, particularly during high kicks. The director notes about the feature that "there are things to get men excited, such as swinging breasts, panty shots, etc...I hope it will get you [the viewer] excited in different ways." This comment, and the exaggerated sexuality of the characters, suggests that the publication is intended for older, more mature audiences.

The publication deals with matters of violence in terms of s3(1) of the FVPC Act. This is discussed further under s3(3)(a)(i), that is, the extent and degree to which, and the manner in which, the publication depicts the infliction of serious physical harm.

In terms of s3(2)(a), the publication does not promote or support the exploitation of young persons for sexual purposes, despite its overtly sexual treatment of female characters. The obvious numerous shots of white panties and other sexualised images appear to be what is known within anime as "fan service." This is a distinctive feature of an anime sub-genre, and can be defined as elements in a story that are superfluous, and are included to amuse or excite the audience. Typically this involves the seemingly random insertion of a shower scene into a feature in order to depict a character's nudity, or gratuitous shots of a female character's breasts, buttocks or groin as she goes about an activity. Fans of Japanese anime will recognise such elements for what they are, that is, conventions of the genre, designed to titillate an audience, and in some cases satirise pornography. Certainly these can be read as references to the seemingly mainstream sexualisation of "the school girl" in Japan (witness the number of young, adult industry actresses who appear in magazines and movies dressed in school uniforms or "sailor suits"). Other audiences will perhaps see these as slightly bizarre, and perhaps amusing, aspects of a distinctly Japanese art form, which on the one hand appears to be aimed at teenagers, and on the other hand, deals with quite adult issues, such as sexual violence.

Hakufu, and the feature's other female characters, present as young women rather than teenagers. They have adult bodies, and do not credibly present as being of school age. In particular, one of the characters who fights for Nanyo School is an enormous and heavily muscled young man, who more closely resembles a super hero. The placement of the storyline within a high school appears to be incidental to depicting vigorous martial arts battles and scantily clad young women engaged in fighting. The publication does not promote or support, or tend to promote or support, the exploitation of young persons for sexual purposes.

The publication does not deal with any other matters relevant to s3(2).

The feature is based around competitive fights among high school students, each of whom possess the spirits of ancient warriors. The fighting includes punches, kicks and grappling holds. The manner in which the fight scenes are choreographed is a slow animation style typical of the anime genre. This style is intended to give the viewer the impression that the fighting is powerful and very fast, however detracts from the impact of those scenes given its lack of realism. In one scene a woman fighter's arm is broken following a hold she can not get out of. A snapping sounds is heard, and in the next frame the woman's arm is shown bruised and held at an odd angle. In another scene a man is head-butted during a match against a tougher competitor. A

small amount of blood splatters out from the wound on the man's head, though not in a conventional, over-the-top anime style.

In terms of s3(3)(a)(ii), the feature depicts one scene of sexual violence. In this scene two women fight each other; during the fight their clothing begins to be torn off. When one of the women paralyses the other following a special move, she molests the other by feeling her breasts and genitals. The camera cuts away, and when it returns, the woman who was raped is shown lying on the ground, her clothing torn, sweat on her body, and her underpants around her ankles. The camera pans down the woman's body displaying her bare buttocks to the viewer. The manner in which this scene is presented is mildly titillatory.

The dominant effect of the publication as a whole is of a Japanese martial arts anime, which relies heavily on sexualised female characters.

The unrestricted availability of this publication would be injurious to the public good given the manner in which it deals with matters of sex and violence. Weighting has been given to the sexualised presentation of violence, including one salaciously depicted scene involving rape. Older teenagers and adults are more able to put this kind of material in the context of an entertaining Japanese anime that nevertheless titillates through juxtaposing images of women's breasts, buttocks and groins with violence. The likelihood of injury to the public good is avoided by restricting this publication to those audiences that have attained the age of 16 years.

Written reasons are not legally required for section 12 submissions, but it is the policy of the Classification Office to provide them.

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