



# What is Okinawa bullfighting

One of the amusement of all time in Okinawa

How to Enjoy Bullfighting

"Hiyai" and "Hiya". A unique shout resounds, and in response, the giants collide with each other, and the dust rises. Okinawan bullfighting, called "Ushi Orase", has been popular since the Ryukyu dynasty in ancient times to the present day. The all-island tournament, the biggest event in the bullfighting world, has been held more than 100 times. Every time over 3000 spectators look forward to watching it, and some even stand to catch a glimpse of the action. Based in the Ishikawa Multi-Purpose Dome in the bullfighting town of Uruma City, local tournaments are held several times a year. If you haven't seen it yet, let's go to the bullfighting arena!

## The legendary fighting bull

In the world of bullfighting in Okinawa, where many famous bulls were born, there is a bull considered to be legendary. The name is "Yukari". In the 1960s, he recorded consecutive winnings, which had never been accomplished before, and continued undefeated for six years. This record has not been broken yet. His popularity was so great enough to become a social phenomenon. Many people named their local facilities and children after "Yukari". At the Ishikawa Multi-Purpose Dome, a stone monument has been erected in recognition of his achievements.



# MōMō Beginner's Seminar

MōMō Question Time

"For those of you who don't know, here's the basics of bullfighting!"

## 1 Are bullfighting males? Female?

They're all male. Bullfighting is a competition, which make use of the habit of bulls in breeding season trying to win over females.



## 2 How old are fighting bulls?

It varies from bull to bull, but it usually debuts around the age of four. Physical strength is most vigorous around the age of 8 or 9, and over 10 years old is called a veteran.

## 3 When is a retirement age?

After the age of 10, it becomes difficult mentally and physically to fight, so it is up to the owner to decide when the bull retires. But as long as you have a fighting spirit, you can stay active all the time, so there are 15-year-old active bulls.

## 4 What is the weight of a fighting bull?

There is no rule for small tournament, but for all-island tournaments with title matches, the weight class is 950 kg or more, the middle class is 850-950 kg, and the light class is 850 kg or less.



## 5 Bullfighting rules

There is only one rule. "You lose if you run away". Sometimes the match ends in seconds, and there are also fights that exceed 30 minutes. If the match cannot be decided easily, it will be a draw.



## 6 bullfighter

"Bullfighters"(sometimes called "Seko") are the people who call out to the bulls in a unique way called "Yagui". It plays an important role in determining the success or failure of a bullfight.



## 7 How to enjoy the game?

You can enjoy not only the powerful fighting between bulls, but also the movements and shouts of the bullfighters.

## 8 When is the tournament held?

The tournament is basically held on Sundays at the Ishikawa Multi-purpose Dome in Uruma City. Every tournament will have an announcement in the newspaper on the Wednesday for the weekend event.



## 9 What is the All-Island Tournament?

The largest bullfighting event in the prefecture, held three times a year in spring, summer, and autumn. Only selected bulls that have achieved good results in other competitions can participate in this event, which is the dream of bull owners.



## 10 How many bullfights are there?

It is said that there are 300 to 400 bulls including calves that have not made their debut in competitions. About 250 of them are active in the game.