RANK REQUIREMENTS

RANKING SYSTEM

Belt Colors Authorized by the U.S. Judo Federation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Traditional Junior (16 and Under)</th>
<th>Approved Updated Junior (16 and Under)</th>
<th>Senior (17 and Over)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Juichikyu</td>
<td>White</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jukyu</td>
<td>White/Yellow</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyukyu</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hachikyu</td>
<td>Yellow/Orange</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanakyu</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rokkyu</td>
<td>White/Orange/Green</td>
<td>White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gokyu</td>
<td>Yellow/Blue/Green</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yonkyu</td>
<td>Green/Brown</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sankyu</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikyu</td>
<td>Blue/Black/Purple</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ikkyu</td>
<td>Purple/Black/Purple</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shodan</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nidan</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandan</td>
<td>Red/White</td>
<td>Red/White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yodan</td>
<td>Red/White</td>
<td>Red/White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Godan</td>
<td>Red/White</td>
<td>Red/White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rokudan</td>
<td>Red/White</td>
<td>Red/White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shichidan</td>
<td>Red/White</td>
<td>Red/White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hachidan</td>
<td>Red/White</td>
<td>Red/White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kudan</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Red/White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judan</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Red/White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROMOTION PROCEDURES

Yudanshakai Promotions

Each member Yudanshakai is given promotional authority to a particular rank, depending upon the length of time as a Yudanshakai, and the number and rank of Yudansha. Each Yudanshakai shall establish its own procedures for examination of candidates and awarding of promotions within its USJF authorized promotion authority. The USJF has established the following guidelines for Yudanshakai in the evaluation and review of promotion applications.

Each Yudanshakai shall hold at least two promotional evaluation examinations each year. To accomplish this, each member Yudanshakai shall create a Yudanshakai Board of Examiners whose members shall be the higher-ranking members in the Yudanshakai. When a Yudanshakai’s Board of Examiners consists entirely of examiners below the rank of Yodan (4th Degree Black Belt), each examiner shall vote on candidates by casting votes equal to his or her rank: e.g., a Shodan would cast one vote, a Sandan would cast three votes, etc. Otherwise, all examiners shall have an equal vote.

The Yudanshakai Board of Examiners shall review the promotion application of each member according to specific criteria for the rank being considered. Yudanshakai may adopt or modify the following USJF guidelines for promotion within each Yudanshakai’s promotion authority, but such standards must be followed for promotion to rank beyond such authority. Any Yudanshakai that has Promotion Authority of Godan must maintain 100 member minimum to retain its Godan Rank Promotion Authority (11-1103).

Promotion applications that are beyond the promotion authority of the Yudanshakai shall be submitted for review by the National Promotion Committee.

Yudanshakai Rank Promotion Authority Criteria for Godan (12-0419)
A Yudanshakai requesting Godan rank authority from the USJF Board of Examiners or maintaining their current godan rank authority must meet the following requirements in order to obtain or retain their Godan rank authority.

Requesting Godan Rank Authority
Written request from Yudanshakai President for Godan rank Authority. The request must be made to the USJF Board of Examiners for review and approval. The written request must include the following information:
• Yudanshakai must be established, registered, and active continuously for at least 5 years with USJF.
• Yudanshakai must currently have Yodan rank authority granted by the USJF Board of Examiners.
• A minimum of three or more Kodansha of Rokudan or higher rank as awarded by USJF are on the Yudanshakai's promotion committee and are registered as active members with the USJF.
• Provide a list of the Yudanshakai's Promotion Committee Member' names and their USJF rank.
• Must have had a minimum USJF membership of 300 active members or higher continuously for at least four years in the year they are applying for Godan rank authority.
Maintaining Godan Rank Authority

At all times the Yudanshakai must maintain the 300 minimum active USJF registered members AND a minimum of three or more Kodansha of Rokudan or higher as awarded by USJF on the Yudanshakai's promotion committee who are registered active USJF members.

USJF Board of Examiners will institute a Godan rank authority probation for two years when the Yudanshakai fails to meet any of the following requirements:
  - Fails to maintain the 300 minimum active USJF registered members and/or
  - Fails to have the minimum of three or more Kodansha of Rokudan or higher as awarded by USJF on their promotion committee who are registered active members with the USJF.

The Yudanshakai must bring the deficiency(ies) up to the minimum standard level required for the Godan rank authority. If unable to do so, the Godan rank authority granted by the USJF Board of Examiners will be rescinded by the USJF Board of Examiners. Further review and action will be taken by the USJF Board of Examiners to determine what rank authority will be granted to the Yudanshakai when their Godan rank authority is rescinded.
  - The Yudanshakai must provide written proof on the following to the USJF Board of Examiners at the end of their probationary period:
    - The number of active USJF registered members for the first year of probation, second year of probation, and the current year.
    - The list of Kodansha names with rank awarded by USJF on their Promotional Committee
    - During the two-year probationary period, the Yudanshakai will continue to have Godan rank promotion authority until the end of the probationary period.
  - If the deficiency(ies) ARE corrected at the end of the probationary period, the Yudanshakai will retain their Godan rank promotion authority.
  - If the deficiency(ies) are NOT corrected, based on the information provided by the Yudanshakai and the USJF National Office, the USJF Board of Examiners will rescind the Yudanshakai's Godan rank promotion authority and further decide whether to grant the Yondan rank authority or lower rank authority to the Yudanshakai.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

There are general requirements for promotion that must be satisfied as a precondition for promotion, regardless of rank in question. Promotion of individuals who are not members of the USJF is not allowed. Testing and evaluation may be conducted by a combination of oral, demonstrative, and/or written examinations.

Eligibility for promotion shall be based upon the following general requirements, not necessarily in this order:

a) Moral character, attitude, and maturity
b) Competitive ability
c) Technical proficiency
d) General experience, contributions, and time in grade
e) Recommendation by candidate’s instructor

**Time in Grade**

Time in grade is that time spent at the applicant’s present rank and is not cumulative from date of any previous promotion. Time in grade is computed from the time the candidate’s present rank was registered with the National Office and is determined solely from the number of years of USJF annual registration since last promotion.

**Promotion Points**

Promotion Points may be counted for only one specific promotion and may not be carried over for consideration in other rank advancements. Points may be credited only for wins against opponents of equal or higher rank and must be obtained in either USJF “sanctioned” events or other event as specified by the Yudanshakai Board of Examiners or the USJF Board of Examiners. An opponent may count only once in the tabulation of tournament points for any particular rank. Promotion evaluation contests may be held for the purpose of substantiating the candidates’ competitive ability.

Shiai Promotion Points are typically earned by wins over opponents of equal rank, in qualified tournaments. An Ippon win over an opponent of equal rank is one (1) point, while a Wazaari win over an opponent of equal rank is one-half (1/2) point. Yudanshakai may also elect to award promotion points to candidates defeating opponents of higher or lower rank. A recommended guideline is as follows:

*Shiai Promotion Points Awarded According to Opponent Rank and Type of Win*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>2 Ranks Lower</th>
<th>1 Rank Lower</th>
<th>Same Rank</th>
<th>1 Rank Higher</th>
<th>2 Ranks Higher</th>
<th>3 Ranks Higher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IPPON</td>
<td>1/3</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-1/2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAZAARI</td>
<td>1/6</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-1/2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kata Promotion Points are typically earned through placement in kata competitions. The amount of points earned is a function of the level of competition and placing earned. Please use the matrix below to determine the points earned at a particular event.
Kata Promotion Points Awarded According to Level of Competition and Placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place/Points</th>
<th>International</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>Regional</th>
<th>Local</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If there are fewer than five (5) teams competing in an international, national, regional, or local kata competition, the points awarded using the matrix above will be decreased by 2/3.

**Batsugun Promotions**

Yudanshakai may develop their own requirements for Batsugun promotions in a single promotional tournament. Recommended Batsugun promotion within single promotional tournament results from four (4) consecutive Ippon wins over opponents of same rank for promotions up to Ikkyu, and five (5) consecutive Ippon wins over opponents of same rank for Dan promotions. If a contestant beats an opponent of higher rank, the win must be by Ippon to qualify for Batsugun promotion; else, it is simply counted as a normal promotion point.

**Candidate Classification**

In order to evaluate properly candidates for promotion, two classifications of players are established.

a) Competitor:
A competitor shall be required to spend less time in grade and will be given greater weight for his or her competitive accomplishments towards promotion consideration.

The Competitor candidate is allowed only the applicable discount on time-in-grade requirements if they are a USJF Life Member or USJF President’s Club Life Member (5% to 10%). Service and certification discounts to reduce time-in-grade requirements are not permitted for Competitor candidates (12-0419).

b) Non-competitors:
A non-competitor is an active member who participates and contributes at all levels of the sport except for competition. Non-competitors may be examined and promoted in the same basic manner as competitors except that requirements shall be stricter, including longer time in grade. A non-competitor may change his classification to that of a “competitor” provided he or she passes all other requirements outlined for “competitor.”

A major promotion criterion for non-competitors is service to the USJF. Contributions by non-competitors can be made at several different levels, including dojo, yudanshakai, national, or international levels. Major contributions in these areas for the USJF can be considered to offset required Time in Grade.
USJF Junior, Youth and Kata National Championships shiai competition of brown belt rank or higher winners may be promoted by Batsugun to the rank of Shodan with no kata requirement needing to be met (08-0409).

USJF National Competition Shodan Batsugun Rank Criteria: (11-0427)
To be eligible for USJF National Competition Shodan Batsugun Rank, the candidate must satisfy the following criteria:

1) Enter the USJF Junior, Youth, and Kata National Championship shiai competition as a registered member of any national judo organization; and
2) Hold any current brown belt rank (proof of rank will be required for this purpose); and
3) Be at least age 14 years as of the competition date; and
4) In any one individual competitive division, achieve one of the following records:
   a) Defeat no less than three opponents each holding a current brown belt rank or higher with at least one win by ippon; or
   b) Defeat no less than five opponents of any rank by ippon; or
   c) In any two or more individual divisions at the same event, defeat five or more opponents by ippon, at least three of whom hold brown belt rank or higher; and
5) Have the consent and approval of the youth's Dojo's Head Instructor and the youth's Yudanshakai's Board of Examiners/Promotion Committee Chairperson. Should the youth not be affiliated with a USJF Yudanshakai, then the consent and approval of the youth's dojo's head instructor and either the USJF Board Of Examiners Chairperson or the USJF Promotion Committee Chairperson must be obtained

It is recommended that all Shodan candidates, except those promoted by Batsugun, take the National Teachers Institute "Black Belt Knowledge” Test.

MINIMUM TIME IN GRADE AND AGE

No reductions of time-in-grade for contributions or service to the USJF, its Yudanshakais, and dojos are allowed for those candidates choosing and eligible for the competitor option for promotion (10/2012), EXCEPT for the those USJF Life Member competitor candidates, who may claim the applicable USJF 5% to 10% Life Member TIG reduction.
I. FOR COMPETITORS

Classifications

Class
A Team member of the Olympic, World Championship and/or Pan American Games. Placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd at class A international tournament.
B Placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd at the US Senior Open (a B-level tournament) and/or any other point receiving senior international tournament (10/2012).
C Placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd at regional black belt divisions. Placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd at the Fall Classic Tournament, President's Cup, National Collegiate, Youth and Scholastic Nationals, US Senior Nationals, or any non-point qualifying international competition (12-0419). Kata competitors that place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in an IJF or PJC sanctioned international events as an officially selected representative of the United States (11-1104).
D Competes in shiai and/or kata in any sanctioned tournament and earns points based on performance, according to the number of wins and rank of opponents, which includes Master's competition at local, regional, state, national, and international competition, to a limit of 30% reduction of the time in grade listed for a non-competitor at that rank for Godan and above (12-0419).

Minimum Time Grade and Age (12-1102) (Reformatted)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>A – Olympic, Worlds, or Pan American</th>
<th>B – Placing 1, 2, or 3 at US Senior Open or any point receiving international tournament</th>
<th>C – Regional Placing in any Black Belt division: i. e., - Ladder, High School Nationals, Collegiate, 1-3. or Kata Selected by US to go to IJF event</th>
<th>D – Senior, Masters, and Kata</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shodan</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Pts earned</td>
<td>14 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nidan</td>
<td>½ yr</td>
<td>1 yr</td>
<td>1 ½ yrs</td>
<td>Pts earned</td>
<td>16 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandan</td>
<td>1 yr</td>
<td>2 yrs</td>
<td>2 ½ yrs</td>
<td>Pts earned</td>
<td>18 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yodan</td>
<td>1 ½ yrs</td>
<td>3 ½ yrs</td>
<td>4 yrs</td>
<td>Pts earned</td>
<td>21 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Godan</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>5 yrs</td>
<td>6 yrs</td>
<td>Pts earned</td>
<td>22 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rokudan</td>
<td>5 yrs</td>
<td>7 yrs</td>
<td>9 yrs</td>
<td>Pts earned</td>
<td>27 yrs</td>
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</table>

MINIMUM TIME IN GRADE, POINTS for Class D (reformatted)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>For Promotion to</th>
<th>The Rank Of</th>
<th>5 Points</th>
<th>10 Points</th>
<th>15 Points</th>
<th>20 Points Batsugun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gokyu</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yonkyu</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sankyu</td>
<td>3 mo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikyu</td>
<td>6 mo</td>
<td>3 mo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ikkyu</td>
<td>9 mo</td>
<td>6 mo</td>
<td>3 mo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shodan</td>
<td>1 yr</td>
<td>9 mo</td>
<td>6 mo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nidan</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>2 yrs</td>
<td>1.5 yrs</td>
<td>1 yr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandan</td>
<td>4 yrs</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>2.5 yrs</td>
<td>1.5 yrs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yodan</td>
<td>5.5 yrs</td>
<td>4 yrs</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>2 yrs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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File: 6RankReqs1s160608.docx
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Competitor</th>
<th>Non-Competitor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shodan</td>
<td>First three sets of Nage no Kata as Tori</td>
<td>Nage no Kata as Tori</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nidan</td>
<td>Nage no Kata as Tori</td>
<td>Nage no Kata as Tori and Uke, and Katame no Kata as Tori</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandan</td>
<td>Nage as Tori, and Uke. Katame as Tori</td>
<td>Nage no Kata as Tori and Uke, and Katame no Kata as Tori</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kime no Kata as Tori, or Goshinjutsu as Tori</td>
<td>Kime no Kata as Tori and Uke, or Goshinjutsu, Tori &amp; Uke, and Ju no Kata Tori and Uke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Godan</td>
<td>Kime no Kata as Tori &amp; Uke, and Goshinjutsu as Tori &amp; Uke</td>
<td>Kime no Kata as Tori and Uke, and Goshinjutsu as Tori &amp; Uke, and Ju no Kata Tori and Uke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rokudan</td>
<td>Ju no Kata as Tori &amp; Uke, and Itsutsu no Kata as Tori</td>
<td>Ju no Kata as Tori and Uke, and Itsutsu no Kata as Tori &amp; Uke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shichidan</td>
<td>Itsutsu no Kata as Tori and Uke, and Koshiki no Kata as Tori</td>
<td>Itsutsu no Kata as Tori and Uke, and Koshiki no Kata as Tori &amp; Uke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hachidan</td>
<td>Koshiki no Kata Tori &amp; Uke</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kata Cumulative Requirements (12-1102)
II. FOR NON-COMPETITORS

Minimum Time in Grade and Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For Promotion to the Rank of</th>
<th>Time in Grade</th>
<th>Minimum Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gokyu</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yonkyu</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sankyu</td>
<td>5 mos</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikyu</td>
<td>9 mos</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ikkyu</td>
<td>1 yrs.</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shodan</td>
<td>2 yrs</td>
<td>14 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nidan</td>
<td>4 yrs</td>
<td>16 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandan</td>
<td>6 yrs</td>
<td>18 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yodan</td>
<td>8 yrs</td>
<td>21 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Godan</td>
<td>10 yrs</td>
<td>22 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rokudan</td>
<td>12 yrs</td>
<td>27 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shichidan</td>
<td>15 yrs</td>
<td>33 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hachidan</td>
<td>19 yrs</td>
<td>42 yrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

III. REDUCTIONS OF TIME IN GRADE BY CONTRIBUTION
(For Competitors and Non-Competitors)

Maximum Reduction of Time in Grade – 30%

1. USJF Charter Club Head Instructors - Must Be Teaching Entire Time in Grade Period
   - 50 and more members: 10% reduction for 10 to 19 members: 3%
   - 30 to 49 members: 7% reduction for 1-9 members: 1%
   - 20 to 29 members: 5% reduction

2. Assistant Instructors - Must Be Teaching Entire Time in Grade Period
   - 50 and more members: 5% reduction for 20 to 29 members: 2%
   - 30 to 49 members: 4% reduction for 10 to 19 members: 1%

3. Referee & Technical Staff
   Work an Average of 6 or More Events Per Year During Entire Time in Grade Period
   - Referee Class - A/B/C/N: 6% reduction
   - Technical Staff – National Events: 6%
   - Referee Class - Regional/Local: 4% reduction
   - Technical Staff – Regional/Local Events: 4%

   Work an Average of 3 or More Events Per Year During Entire Time in Grade Period
   - Referee Class - A/B/C/N: 3% reduction
   - Technical Staff – National Events: 3%
   - Referee Class - Regional/Local: 2% reduction
   - Technical Staff – Regional/Local Events: 2%

4. Kata Judge & Kata Technical Staff
   Work an Average of 2 or More Events Per Year During Entire Time in Grade Period

Section VI • Page 9 of 23
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank Requirements</th>
<th>Handbook Section VI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Page 10 of 23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kata Judge Class A</th>
<th>6%</th>
<th>Kata Technical Staff – National Events</th>
<th>6%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kata Judge Regional/Local</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>Kata Technical Staff – Regional/Local Events</td>
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5. Kata Instructor Certification

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6. Teacher Certification and Coaching Certification

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7. USJF Life Member

8. Service as Yudanshakai Officer

9. Service as USJF Officer

10%
**Time in Grade Reduction Chart 09-0912**

Note - the following chart is intended to help Yudanshakai promotion committees, the national promotion committee and the National office accurately calculate each candidate’s time in grade.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time in grade</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Shodan</th>
<th>Nidan</th>
<th>Sandan</th>
<th>Yondan</th>
<th>Godan</th>
<th>Rokudan</th>
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IV. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS GUIDELINES FOR EACH RANK

The specific rank requirements specified below serve as guidelines for the requirements for promotion. Rank conversions from junior to senior may occur as outlined above in Ranking System. Yudanshakais may modify specific rank requirements for each rank, depending on circumstances, for ranks within each Yudanshakai’s promotion authority, but these requirements are mandatory for all other promotions.

ROKKYU

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:
This rank is assigned to individuals of good moral character who have been accepted as students of Judo in a Judo club or class.

GOKYU

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:
1. Good moral character and maturity
2. Regular practice and attendance

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:
1. Basic Judo etiquette
2. Basic Judo hygiene
3. Purpose of breakfalls (ukemi)
4. Correct forms of sitting, standing and kneeling.
5. Correct fundamentals of:
   a) gripping (kumi kata)
   b) posture (shisei)
   c) Natural posture (shizenhontai)
   d) Defensive posture (jigohontai)
   e) right defensive posture (migi jigotai)
   f) left defensive posture (hidari jigotai)
6. Basic fundamentals of throwing (kuzushi, tsukuri and kake)
7. Eight forms of unbalance

ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE:
1. Throwing Techniques
   O-soto-gari ........................................ major outer reaping throw
   O-goshi ............................................. major hip throw
   De-ashi-harai ...................................... advanced foot sweep
   Hiza-guruma ....................................... knee wheel throw
2. Holding Techniques
   Kesa-gatame ..................................... cross-chest hold
   Kata-gatame ........................................ shoulder hold

TOURNAMENT EXPERIENCE:
Limited contest experience. Familiarity with training exercises with emphasis on etiquette, rules and prohibited matters. No contest points required.
**YONKYU**

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**
1. Good moral character and maturity
2. Regular practice and attendance

**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:**
1. Difference between judo and ju-jitsu
2. Knowledge of the fundamental principles of judo (maximum efficiency)
3. Improved degree of skill with lower rank requirements.

**ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE:**
1. Throwing Techniques
   - Seoi-nage ........................................ shoulder throw
   - Tai-otoshi ................................ body drop
   - Kouchi-gari ................................... minor inner reaping throw
   - Uki-goshi .................................. floating hip throw
2. Holding Techniques
   - Kami-shiho-gatame ................................. upper four-corner hold
   - Yoko-shiho-gatame ............................... side four-corner hold

**TOURNAMENT EXPERIENCE:**
Continued contest experience with expanded interpretation of the sport phase. No contest wins required for promotion to this rank.

**SANKYU**

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**
1. Good moral character and maturity
2. Regular practice and attendance
3. Time-in-grade as Yonkyu:
   - Non-competitor ................................ 5 months
   - Competitor, 5 points .......................... 3 months
   - Competitor, 10 points ....................... 0 time
4. Achieve a minimum score of 50 on “Kyu Evaluation Report”

**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:**
1. Names, colors and order of “kyu” belt ranking system
2. Purpose and methods of “kata” and “randori”

**ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE:**
1. Throwing Techniques
   - O-uchi-gari .................................. major inner reaping throw
   - Harai-goshi ................................ sweeping hip throw
   - Okuri-ashi-barai ............................. sweeping ankle throw
   - Ko-soto-gari ................................. minor outer reaping throw
2. Holding Techniques
   - Kuzure-kami-shiho-gatame .................... modified upper four-corner hold
   - Tate-shiho-gatame .......................... vertical four-corner hold
3. Choking Techniques
   - Kata-juji-jime ................................ half cross choke
Gyaku-juji-jime ................................................ reverse cross choke

NIKYU

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:
1. Good moral character and maturity
2. Regular practice and attendance
3. Time-in-grade as Sankyu:
   Non-competitor ................................. 9 months
   Competitor, 5 points ......................... 6 months
   Competitor, 10 points ....................... 0 time
4. Achieve a minimum score of 60 on “Kyu Evaluation Report”
5. Increased proficiency in all lower rank requirements

ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE:
1. Throwing Techniques
   Tomoe-nage ........................................ stomach throw
   Hane-goshi ........................................ spring hip throw
   Tsuri-komi-goshi ................................ lifting-pulling hip throw
   Uchimata .......................................... inner thigh throw
2. Choking Techniques
   Nami-juji-jime .................................. normal cross choke
   Okuri-eri-jime .................................. sliding lapel choke
3. Joint locks
   Ude-garami ..................................... coil arm lock
   Ude-gatame ..................................... arm lock
4. General Techniques
   Demonstrate one throw both left and right
   Demonstrate one combination technique
   Demonstrate one counter technique
IKKYU

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:
1. Sound moral character and maturity
2. Regular practice and good judo spirit
3. Achieve a minimum score of 70 on “Kyu Evaluation Report”
4. Increased proficiency in all lower rank requirements
5. Time-in-grade as Nikyu:
   - Non-competitor .................................. 1 year
   - Competitor, 5 points ............................. 9 months
   - Competitor, 10 points ............................ 6 months
   - Batsugun or 15 points ............................. 3 months

ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE:
1. Throwing Techniques
   - Sode-tsuri-komi-goshi ................................. sleeve lift pull hip throw
   - Sasae-tsuri-komi-ashi ................................ propping drawing ankle throw
   - Kata-guruma .............................................. shoulder wheel
2. Choking Techniques
   - Hadaka-jime .............................................. naked choke
   - Kata-ha-jime .............................................. single wing choke
3. Joint locks
   - Hiza-gatame .............................................. arm-knee lock
   - Juji-gatame .............................................. cross arm lock
   - Ashi-garami .............................................. entangle leg lock
4. General Techniques
   - Demonstrate two throws to the left and right side
   - Demonstrate two combination techniques
   - Demonstrate two counter techniques
SHODAN

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:
1. Unquestioned moral character and maturity
2. Continued practice and interest
3. Achieve a minimum score of 75 on “Shodan Evaluation Report”
4. Increased proficiency in all lower rank requirements
5. Terminology required for lower ranks
6. Names, colors and order of junior and senior belt ranking system
7. Minimum age of 14 years
8. Time-in-grade as Ikkyu:
   Non-competitor ……………………….. 2 years
   Competitor, 5 points ...................... 1 year
   Competitor, 10 points .................... 9 months
   Batsugun or 15 points .................... 6 months
9. Assistant Teacher, Teacher, or Coaches Certification

ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE:
1. Throwing Techniques
   Uki-otoshi ........................................ floating drop
   Uki-waza ........................................ floating throw
   Koshi-guruma .................................. waist wheel throw
   Harai-tsuri-komi-ashi ...................... lifting-pulling foot sweep
   Yoko-guruma .................................. side wheel throw
2. General Techniques
   Demonstrate three throws to the left and right side
   Demonstrate three combination techniques
   Demonstrate three counter techniques
2. Nage-no-Kata
   Competitor: First three sets of Kata
   Non-competitor: Complete Kata
**NIDAN**

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**
1. Unquestioned moral character and maturity
2. Continued practice and interest
3. Achieve a minimum score of 75 on “Nidan Evaluation Report”
4. Increased proficiency in all lower rank requirements
5. Terminology required for lower ranks
6. Minimum age of 16 years
7. Time-in-grade as Shodan:
   - Non-competitor .................................. 4 years
   - Competitor, 5 points ............................ 3 years
   - Competitor, 10 points ........................... 2 years
   - Competitor, 15 points ........................... 1 1/2 years
   - Batsugun or 20 points ........................... 1 year

**ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE:**
1. Throwing Techniques
   - Yoko-gake ........................................ side body drop
   - Sumi-gaeshi ..................................... corner throw
   - Ura-nage........................................... rear throw
   - Yoko-otoshi ..................................... side drop
   - Kō-soto-gake..................................... minor outer hooking ankle throw

2. Kata
   - Competitor: Complete Nage no Kata (**tori**)  
   - Non-competitor: Complete Nage no Kata (**tori & uke**) and Katame no Kata (**tori**)
SANDAN

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:
1. Unquestioned moral character and maturity
2. Continued practice and involvement in judo
3. Achieve a minimum score of 75 on “Sandan Evaluation Report”
4. Increased proficiency in all lower rank requirements
5. Terminology required for lower ranks
6. Minimum age of 18 years.
7. Time-in-grade as Nidan:
   Non-competitor ........................................ 6 years
   Competitor, 5 points ............................... 4 years
   Competitor, 10 points ............................. 3 years
   Competitor, 15 points ............................. 2 1/2 years
   Batsugun or 20 points ............................ 1 1/2 years

ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE:
1. Throwing Techniques
   Ashi-guruma ........................................... side wheel
   Hane-maki-komi .................................... outer winding spring hip throw
   Tani-otoshi .......................................... valleydrop
   Sukui-nage ......................................... scooping throw

2. Kata
   Competitor: Complete Nage no Kata (tori & uke) and Katame no Kata (tori)
   Non-competitor: Complete Nage no Kata (tori & uke), Katame no Kata (tori & uke),
                    Kime no Kata or Ju no Kata
YODAN

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:
1. Unquestioned moral character and maturity
2. Continued practice and involvement in judo
3. Achieve a minimum score of 75 on “Yodan Evaluation Report”
4. Increased proficiency in all lower rank requirements
5. Terminology required for lower ranks
6. Minimum age of 21 years.
7. Time-in-grade as Sandan:
   - Non-competitor ……………………….. 8 years
   - Competitor, 5 points ……………….. 5 1/2 years
   - Competitor, 10 points ……………… 4 years
   - Competitor, 15 points ……………… 3 years
   - Batsugun or 20 points ……………… 2 years

ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE:
1. Throwing Techniques
   - O-guruma ........................................................ major wheel throw
   - Soto-maki-komi ............................................... outer winding throw
   - Yoko-wakare................................................ side separation
   - Ushiro-goshi ................................................ rear hip throw
   - Sumi-otoshi .................................................. corner drop
2. Kata
   - Competitor: Complete Kime no Kata (tori) or Goshinjutsu (tori)
   - Non-competitor: Complete Kime no Kata (tori & uke) or Goshinjutsu (tori & uke),
     and Ju no Kata (tori & uke)
**GODAN**

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**
1. Unquestioned moral character and maturity
2. Continued practice and involvement in judo
3. Achieve a minimum score of 75 on “Godan Evaluation Report”
4. Increased proficiency in all lower rank requirements
5. Terminology required for lower ranks
6. Minimum age of 22 years.
7. Complete understanding of the structure of U.S. Judo
8. Good understanding of and skill in teaching judo, must have coach certification or teachers certification or
9. Major levels of refereeing and judging
10. Time-in-grade as Yodan:
   - Non-competitor .................................. 10 years
   - Competitor, 5 points .......................... 6 1/2 years
   - Competitor, 10 points ......................... 5 years
   - Competitor, 15 points ......................... 4 years
   - Batsugun or 20 points ...................... 3 years

**ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE:**
1. Kata
   - Competitor: Complete Kime no Kata (tori & uke) and Goshinjutsu (tori & uke)
   - Non-competitor: Complete Kime no Kata (tori & uke), Goshinjutsu (tori & uke), and Ju no Kata (tori & uke)

**ROKUDAN**

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**
1. Unquestioned moral character and maturity
2. Continued practice and involvement in judo
3. Achieve a minimum score of 75 on “Rokudan Evaluation Report”
4. Increased proficiency in all lower rank requirements
5. Terminology required for lower ranks
6. Minimum age of 27 years.
7. Good understanding of and skill in teaching judo, must have national coach certification or national teachers certification or
8. Major levels of refereeing and judging
9. Time-in-grade as Godan:
   - Non-competitor .................................. 12 years
   - Competitor, 5 points .......................... 8 years
   - Competitor, 10 points ......................... 6 years
   - Competitor, 15 points ......................... 5 years
   - Batsugun or 20 points ...................... 4 years

**ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE:**
1. Kata
   - Competitor: Complete: Ju no Kata (tori & uke) and Itsutsu no Kata (tori)
   - Non-competitor: Complete: Ju no Kata (tori & uke) and Itsutsu no Kata (tori & uke)
SHICHIDAN

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:
1. Unquestioned moral character and maturity
2. Continued practice and involvement in judo
3. Achieve a minimum score of 75 on “Shichidan Evaluation Report”
4. Increased proficiency in all lower rank requirements
5. Terminology required for lower ranks
6. Minimum age of 33 years.
7. Good understanding of and skill in teaching judo, must have national coach certification or national teachers certification or
8. Major levels of refereeing and judging
9. Time-in-grade as Rokudan:
   - Non-competitor .......................... 15 years
   - Competitor, 5 points .................... 10 years
   - Competitor, 10 points ................. 8 years
   - Competitor, 15 points ................. 6 years
   - Batsugun or 20 points ................. 5 years

ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE:
1. Kata
   - Competitor: Complete: Itsutsu no Kata (tori & uke) and Koshiki no Kata (tori)
   - Non-competitor: Complete: Itsutsu no Kata (tori & uke) and Koshiki no Kata (tori & uke)

HACHIDAN

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:
1. Unquestioned moral character and maturity
2. Continued practice and involvement in judo
3. Achieve a minimum score of 75 on “Hachidan Evaluation Report”
4. Increased proficiency in all lower rank requirements
5. Terminology required for lower ranks
6. Minimum age of 42 years.
7. Mastery of the principles and philosophy of judo
8. Substantial contribution to judo and to society

ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE:
1. Kata
   - Complete: Koshiki no Kata (tori & uke)

KUDAN

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:
1. Unquestioned moral character and maturity
2. Continued practice and involvement in judo
3. Mastery of the principles and philosophy of judo
4. Substantial contribution to judo and to society
5. Major levels of contributions to judo organizations
6. The USJF Promotion Committee makes the recommendation to the Board of Examiners
PROMOTION PROCESS REQUIREMENTS

1. USJF Membership
   In order for the USJF to process a promotion the candidate must be a current paid up primary or secondary member of the USJF at the time of the application.
   - A Shodan applicant must show current membership plus one year prior membership.
   - For Nidan and above they must have current membership plus three years prior membership.
   - If the applicant does not have the required membership history, the history may be purchased for $30.00 per year.
   - For applicants who are life members of the USJF then there is a flat fee of $20.00 whether they need one or three years.”

2. Background Check
   All applicants for Shodan and above must undergo the USJF background/screening program per USJF documented procedure. Failure to complete this process will terminate the applicant’s promotion process.
   - Please use latest USJF Form 590 available from the USJF website.
   - Proof of Background Screening provided through other judo national bodies is acceptable, as long as it is current and with at least one year before expiration. Proof must be included with the application.”

3. Dan rank awarded by other Judo organizations
   Dan rank is recognized if issued by legitimate national federations of Judo. Assuming that it can be verified, that rank can be used to earn their next rank through the normal rank promotion process for the yudanshakai.

4. Application Process
   For all Dan promotions, all applications need to meet the following criteria:
   - All Form 20s need to be submitted TYPED with sections 1 through 9 completed in full. Be specific and informative. If this is not done the candidate risks a delay in processing the application.
     - Unanswered categories on Form 20 may result in rejection or tabling of the application.
     - The applicant and other responsible persons involved in completing Form 20 should not assume that the Board of Examiners or Promotion Committee will supply missing information.
   - All Dan promotion applications above the rank authority of the Yudanshakai must be mailed to the National Office at least 45 days prior to the announced USJF Promotion Committee meeting together with the correct USJF Dan fee and a copy of the candidate’s current Dan certificate, to be considered at the meeting.
     - Applications for Godan and higher rank that are rejected cannot be resubmitted for at least two years. Applications for Yodan and lower rank that are rejected cannot be resubmitted for at least one year. CLARIFICATION: An application which has been “tabled” upon due consideration or that has been “withdrawn” by the yudanshakai shall not be treated as a “rejected application”.

Section VI • Page 22 of 23
Individually currently holding USJF Teachers’ Certification in a specific kata shall be exempt from any future kata examination of the specific kata required for promotion while maintaining such certification.

- The applications together with the correct USJF Dan fee and the required supporting documents should be sent to the USJF National Office.
- A Yudanshakai shall be entitled to be represented before the USJF promotion committee when its member is being considered for promotion by the USJF promotion Committee. The representative shall act only for the purpose of introducing the candidate and providing background information relevant to the applicable rank standards.
- As a matter of standard procedure, unless otherwise specifically defined, when deficiency(ies) are identified by the National Office a promotion package is to be returned to the Yudanshakai. If the Yudanshakai does not respond to the deficiencies within six months after notification the package is to be returned to the submitting Yudanshakai with no action taken if the deficiencies not corrected (13-1031).

5. Promotion Fee Schedule

The following is the current USJF Promotion Fees Effective 5/15/13

- Shodan $125
- Nidan $150
- Sandan $175
- Yodan $200
- Godan $225
- Rokudan $250
- Shichidan $300
- Hachidan $350

6. Changes to promotion requirements and rules will become effective 90 days after approval by the Board of Examiners as a matter of standard procedure unless otherwise specified (13-1031).