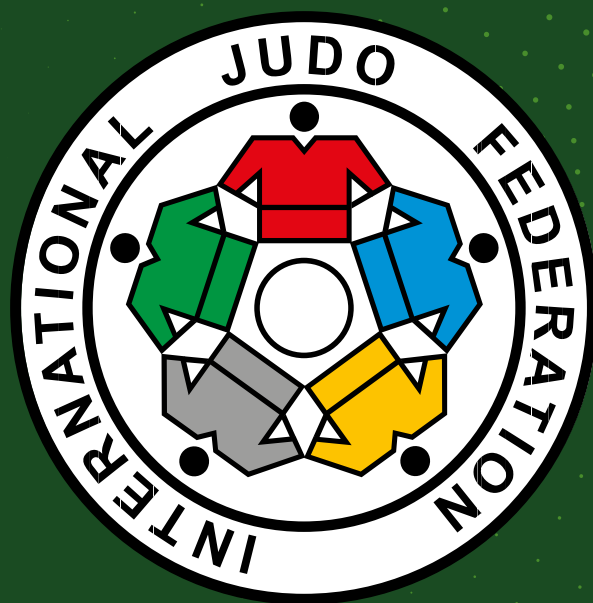


INTERNATIONAL JUDO FEDERATION



**GRADES AND DAN
REGULATIONS**

Original version in French
Version January 2026



GRADES AND DAN REGULATIONS

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GRADES AND DAN REGULATIONS

IJF GRADES AND DAN COMMISSION

I. GRADES

Grades and dans have paramount importance in the judo educational system.

Our discipline was designed by its founder, Jigoro Kano, as a system of physical, mental and social education, through its practice. Grades are the measure of the student's progress in judo. The grade is in no way a reward for past actions but a measure of the capacity to contribute to judo in the future. Evaluation through the dans takes into account the individual's personal progress as a human being in service to society.

The three components of the grade are:

- "Tai" (the body), which could be materialised in the individual's evaluation through competitive results and effectiveness in practice.
- "Gi" (study, work), which is evaluated through technical and cultural knowledge of judo.
- "Shin" (the spirit), which is materialised through the judoka's commitment to others and to judo, but also through the influence and exemplarity they generate within the dojo and beyond.

These three fundamental values that constitute the grade have varying degrees of importance as one advances through the dans. At the beginning of a judoka's life and up to the 3rd dan, the "tai" aspect is very important; then "gi" becomes predominant up to the 5th dan. Finally, "shin" becomes the reference and sole objective for grades from 6th dan onward.

These three values must always be present in the judoka's journey. It should be noted that the "tai" value (effectiveness) is mandatory to progress through the grades. Indeed, one cannot have an educational system based on practice without considering effectiveness, which in a martial art is a paramount criterion.

II. GRADES AND DAN COMMISSION

The Grades and Dan Commission is established by the IJF.

The Grades and Dan Commission ensures the proper functioning of grade issuance worldwide. This commission submits an annual report to the IJF Executive Committee.

The commission may, when necessary, take up any contentious cases and, if applicable, alert the IJF President for follow-up action.

III. CHAIR OF THE GRADES AND DAN COMMISSION

The chair of the IJF Grades and Dan Commission, proposed by the IJF President and validated by the IJF Executive Committee, ensures the proper functioning of IJF grade issuance procedures.

- They propose the grade attribution criteria to the IJF Executive Committee.
- They co-ordinate the IJF Grades and Dan Commission and the missions of the continental representatives.
- They examine, together with the members of the Grades and Dan Commission, the candidates' applications and ensure grade validations.
- They monitor, together with the continental grade representatives, the issuance of grades from 1st to 9th dan.

IJF Grades and Dan Commission. Composition:

- The chair of the IJF Grades and Dan Commission, at least 8th dan, is appointed by the IJF president.
- One member per continental union. They must be at least 6th dan (8th dan preferred). The continental representatives are proposed by the continental unions and validated by the IJF Executive Committee. They must report to the president of their continental union on matters concerning them.
- The President of the Kodokan or their representative.
- Two members, at least 6th dan, appointed by the IJF President.



GRADES AND DAN REGULATIONS

IV. OPERATION OF THE IJF GRADES AND DAN COMMISSION

- The administration of the IJF Grades and Dan Commission is handled by the IJF General Secretariat.
- All applications are processed by correspondence (electronic or exceptionally in hard copy).
- The official grade forms and texts are prepared by the IJF Grades and Dan Commission.

IJF grades are officially recognised only by the IJF. The procedures are as follows:

From January 2026, all grades awarded by IJF member federations must be submitted for official validation by the IJF.

Implementation period : until 1st September 2026.

- From 1st to 5th dan, according to IJF regulations. Dan recognition proposals will be made by national federations that are members of the IJF, under the supervision of the continental unions acting as delegates of the IJF.
- For the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th dan, according to the IJF regulations, through the presentation of a written contribution, video or other format.
- For the 10th dan, according to the IJF regulations, upon acceptance of the application by a two-third (2/3) majority of the IJF Executive Committee members.

In very particular cases, the IJF Executive Committee may award grades directly. Examination arrangements for special cases involving disabilities will be proposed by the IJF Grades and Dan Commission.

IJF and Continental Union Examinations

The IJF and continental unions may, at their initiative, organise grade examinations from 1st to 7th dan during events such as kata or veterans' activities, or organise grade examinations directly for IJF member federations that request them in the countries concerned. The cost of these services shall be borne by the requesting organisation.

Organisation

The application forms for recognition or examination of IJF grades and authorisations for foreigners will be transmitted by electronic mail or exceptionally in hard copy to the IJF General Secretariat.

National Grades

- Only grades from 1st to 5th dan issued by the IJF member national federation according to IJF criteria (*Appendix 2: Rules for the awarding of IJF official grades 1st to 10th dan*), will be recognised by the IJF. (The recognition request must be certified as compliant by the president of the federation.)
- The IJF Grades and Dan Commission will be vigilant regarding the value of grades issued by the IJF and may implement any necessary means to guarantee the quality of the "IJF grade" label (*grades issued by the Kodokan, creator of the grading system in judo, may be subject to recognition by the IJF*).
- If federations cannot certify compliance with the requirements of the regulations, the candidate must take an IJF examination either by video or in person.

IJF Grades

- Candidates from 1st to 9th dan meeting the criteria, verified by the chair of the IJF Grades and Dan Commission, will be sent, upon request, a dan recognition form (*Appendix 1*) or examination registration form and the programme for the required grade (*Appendix 2*).
- Only complete applications will be processed after receipt of payment.

Transitional Period

- A simplified examination content will be sent to candidates when the new formula is implemented. It will be valid for 2026 and 2027 and will serve as the basis during this period for drafting the certificate of compliance for applications signed by national presidents.
- Results and certificates will be sent to member federations and candidates, under the authority of the chair of the IJF Grades and Dan Commission, by the IJF General Secretariat.



GRADES AND DAN REGULATIONS

V. IJF STATUTES

Article 24 - Grades and Dan Ranks

24.1 Official Recognition of Grades and Dan

Each member NF is responsible for representing the IJF and ensuring compliance with international regulations for grades and dan in its own country and geographical territory as defined in its statutes.

The IJF only officially recognises grades and dan that have been awarded in accordance with the grading regulations outlined in the IJF Grades and Dan Regulations.

24.2 Member National Federations' Prerogatives

NFs can only award grades and dan to their members in accordance with the IJF Grades and Dan Regulations.

For foreign nationals, an NF may only award a dan if the individual has been a resident in the country for at least two (2) years and a member of the NF for at least two (2) years on the date of application.

The request for the dan must be submitted to the IJF Grades and Dan Commission.

24.3 Modifications

All modifications to the IJF Grades and Dan Regulations must be approved by the IJF EC.

VI. KATA RECOGNISED BY THE IJF

Nage-No-Kata – Katame-No-Kata – Kime-No-Kata – Ju-No-Kata – Koshiki-No-Kata – Kodokan-Goshin-Jitsu – Itsutsu-No-Kata – Kodomo-No-Kata

VII. EXAMINATION PROGRAMME FROM 1ST TO 10TH DAN

See *Appendix 2* of this document.

Simplified form for 2026 and 2027.

VIII. AMOUNT OF FEES FOR THE IJF DAN GRADES RECOGNITION

Funding

Contribution to costs

- **1st and 2nd dan grade : 150 USD.**

80 USD for the IJF, 35 USD for the continental union, 35 USD for the national federation.

- **From 3rd to 5th dan grade : 200 USD.**

100 USD for the IJF, 50 USD for the continental union, 50 USD for the national federation.

- **6th dan grade : 250 USD.**

100 USD for the IJF, 75 USD for the continental union, 75 USD for the national federation.

- **7th dan grade : 300 USD.**

140 USD for the IJF, 80 USD for the continental union, 80 USD for the national federation.

- **8th and 9th dan grade: 350 USD.**

150 USD for the IJF, 100 USD for the continental union, 100 USD for the national federation.

- **10th dan grade : no financial contribution.**

IX. PROCEDURE

From January 2026, all dan awarded by member national federations must be validated by the IJF according to the following procedure:

The IJF, via the Secretary General, will inform the persons and authorities concerned of the recognition of their grade. This will only be validated after payment of the financial fees.

Each national federation from which the recipient comes must pay the amount of the fees. The Secretary General will inform each national federation of the amount to be paid to the IJF General Treasurer, with the bank details.

The federation will transfer the corresponding total amount (IJF, continent, federation) to the IJF General Treasurer.

Once payment has been made, the IJF General Treasurer will inform the IJF Secretary General, and the Secretary General will send the official diploma.

The IJF General Treasurer will transfer the share due to the continental union and member federations in 2 annual instalments.



GRADES AND DAN REGULATIONS

X. IJF GRADE OBLIGATION

Holding an IJF dan is mandatory for:

- All dan grades awarded by national federations from 1st January 2026 within the 6 months following the national award.
- Athletes registering on **Judobase for senior competitions.**
- IJF referees and judges.
- IJF coaches and IJF Academy instructors and candidates.
- IJF technical instructors.
- IJF experts.

The list of all grades awarded by the IJF will be published on its website. This list will be the world reference for official judo grades. The IJF will promote this to the NOCs and national sports ministries of the countries concerned, annually.

XI. IMPLEMENTATION OF IJF GRADE REQUIREMENTS

A transition period of 2 years will be put in place (2026 and 2027).

SIMPLIFIED PROGRAMME 2026/2027

To hold a grade from an IJF member country where one has been registered for at least 2 years.

To know the katas from the IJF programme ("Programme from IJF 1st to 10th dan").

To have studied the techniques of the Go-Kyo as defined in the appendix ("Programme from IJF 1st to 10th dan").

XII. EXAMINATIONS

Judges

A panel of judges is set up by the IJF

- A global list of judges is established by the IJF.
- Only judges validated by the IJF will be able to examine candidates either in person or by video.

THIS REGULATION IS APPLICABLE FROM JANUARY 2026.



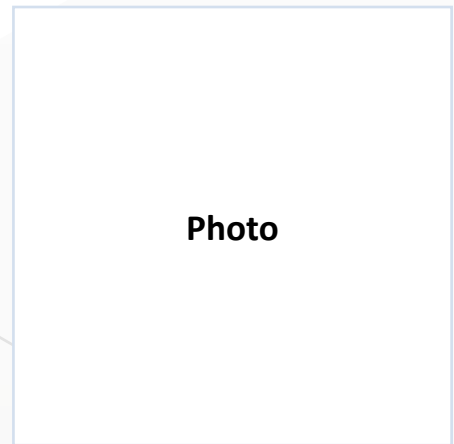
GRADE APPLICATION FORM

Family name:
 First name(s):
 Date of birth:
 Nationality:
 National federation:

Required grade:
 Category (A - B - C - D):
 Justified by

Address:

Email address:



DAN PROMOTION DATES (FULL DATES REQUIRED)

Grade	Date of recognition	
	National	IJF
1 st dan		
2 nd dan		
3 rd dan		
4 th dan		
5 th dan		
6 th dan		
7 th dan		
8 th dan		
9 th dan		

SPORT RESULTS

Championship	Year	Result

COACHING

Name of the athlete	Championships	Year	Result



GRADE APPLICATION FORM

INSTRUCTOR AND PRACTICE (CLUB ACTIVITIES)

Name of club	Function	Date	
		Start	End

REFEREEING: LEVEL

	Date

CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT OF JUDO

Function	Organisation	Date

MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC STUDIES: SUBJECT AND DESCRIPTION

	Date

KATA KNOWN AND KATA EVALUATED

	Date

OTHER JUDO ACTIVITIES AND VARIOUS

	Date



GRADE APPLICATION FORM

CERTIFICATE FROM THE CANDIDATE

I, the undersigned

Born on

In

Residing at

.....

.....

Email

Certify that the above information is accurate.

Date

Signature

CERTIFICATE FROM THE NATIONAL FEDERATION

I, the undersigned

President of the National Federation of

Certify that the above-mentioned candidate meets the requirements for the grade of Dan as defined in the document "Rules for the awarding of IJF official grades".

Date

Signature



IJF Headquarters and Presidential Office

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