

**BRITISH  
JUDO**



**BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION**

# **DAN GRADE PROMOTION SYLLABUS**

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# DAN GRADE PROMOTION SYLLABUS

## INTRODUCTION

This syllabus comes into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 and supersedes all previously published syllabi.

The belt system is a distinctive feature of judo. Judoka can test their ability by entering for examination within a system of grades, and by demonstrating superiority over a cross-section of judoka at the same level, by winning promotion to the next grade. In this way successive grades become populated by increasingly skilful judoka until eventually all who participate consistently are distributed through the grades according to their proven ability.

The time-honoured distinction is between Kyu (student) and Dan (advanced) grades. Put simply, the distinction marks the point at which the emphasis shifts away from the acquisition of technique on to its effective application.

Promotion within the Dan grades does not carry a change of designated colour belt until 6<sup>th</sup> Dan is reached. Even then it is customary for the holder to continue wearing a black belt in everyday practice, reserving the official colour for instructing, coaching, presentations and ceremonial occasions. The Dan grades are as follows:

Grade	Belt Colour	Japanese Name	Awarded by
1 <sup>st</sup> Dan	Black	Shodan	British Judo Association
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan	Black	Nidan	British Judo Association
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan	Black	Sandan	British Judo Association
4 <sup>th</sup> Dan	Black	Yondan	British Judo Association
5 <sup>th</sup> Dan	Black	Codan	British Judo Association
6 <sup>th</sup> Dan	Alternating red and white blocks	Rokudan	British Judo Association
7 <sup>th</sup> Dan	Alternating red and white blocks	Shichidan	International Judo Federation
8 <sup>th</sup> Dan	Alternating red and white blocks	Hachidan	International Judo Federation
9 <sup>th</sup> Dan	Red	Kudan	International Judo Federation
10 <sup>th</sup> Dan	Red	Judan	International Judo Federation

Judoka may be promoted to and within the British Judo Association (BJA) Dan grades as follows:

### 1. Competitive:

The traditional method of gaining promotion based on skill in contest, theoretical knowledge and ability to demonstrate specific techniques.

### 2. Technical:

An examination of technical knowledge and an understanding of specific techniques.

### 3. High Grades above 5<sup>th</sup> Dan:

Promotion is a Board of Directors/Chairman decision based on International Judo Federation (IJF) or European Judo Union (EJU) procedures and on the recommendation of the National Promotions and Grading Commission (NPGC) and High Grades Panel (HGP).

### 4. Outstanding Performance:

A Board of Directors (BOD) decision based on the Outstanding Performance Policy and NPGC recommendation for international and ex-international judoka.

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## 5. Qualified by Experience:

A procedure for acknowledging the vast experience gained by judoka aged over 70 for promotion up to 5<sup>th</sup> Dan and judoka aged over 72 for promotion to 6<sup>th</sup> Dan.

## COMPETITIVE

Promotion to and within the Dan grades up to the level of 5<sup>th</sup> Dan is based on skill in contest and technical ability, demonstrated through the performance of specific techniques. Generally, the theory requirements for each grade will be in five parts, including the demonstration of certain mandatory techniques and other techniques chosen by the judoka. All of the required techniques are listed on the Dan Grade Competitive Skills and Candidate Supplementary Examination forms. Candidates will also be required to demonstrate kata knowledge as laid out in the 'Summary of Dan Grading Requirements' at the end of this document.

## TECHNICAL

Promotion under the technical scheme is based on technical knowledge and understanding. The examiner will test that the candidate understands the key principles involved in the application of the techniques, demonstrating where appropriate best grip, attacking opportunity and movement. The exam is split into five sections that can be completed all on the same day or over a period of time. All of the required techniques are listed on the Dan Grade Technical Skills and Candidate Supplementary Examination forms. Candidates will also be required to demonstrate kata knowledge as laid out in the 'Summary of Dan Grading Requirements' at the end of this document.

The examiner must be a Senior Examiner (SE) or a person appointed by the NPGC. A guide to the examining process is referenced later in this document. The assessor/SE may charge whatever assessment fee is appropriate. When candidates have satisfied all criteria including the age and time-in-grade requirements as specified, they may then submit the application for promotion to the National Dan Grade Administrator (NDGA). They must hold current full membership and enclose a completed Technical Dan Grade Application Form and completed Technical Dan Grade Record Card, together with their Record Book and the fee of £50.

## PROMOTION TO HIGH GRADES ABOVE 5<sup>TH</sup> DAN

Promotion to 6<sup>th</sup> Dan and above is not automatic.

Each application will be considered on its merits and account will be taken of the judoka's judo experience, qualifications and **activities since their last promotion**. This is then balanced against the grade applied for. The judo career of judoka at this level will vary and a rigid 'one-size-fits-all' approach by the NPGC would be neither realistic nor fair. To enable the NPGC to carry out its work, it is the judoka's responsibility to provide accurate, factual information on the forms provided. Applications should be submitted as Word documents by email and should be typed, NOT handwritten

For promotion to 6<sup>th</sup> Dan: Judoka holding the grade of 5<sup>th</sup> Dan must apply to the NPGC via the National Dan Grading Manager (NDGM) using the published 6<sup>th</sup> Dan Application Form. There is no fee. The amount of time to be served in their current grade before promotion will depend on the criteria achieved, as detailed in this syllabus. The BJA Judo Commission (JC) will, on the recommendation of the NPGC, decide whether the judoka may be promoted. It is a requirement that the judoka must hold a minimum of a Level 1 certificate in each of Nage-no-kata, Katame-no-kata, Ju-no-kata, Kime-no-kata, Kodokan Goshin-jutsu and Koshiki-no-kata. Copies of these certificates must be supplied with the application for promotion.

For promotion to 7<sup>th</sup> Dan and above: Judoka must apply, using the published EJU/IJF application form, submitted as a Word document by email, to the NPGC via the NDGM. There is no fee charged as the BJA will pay the EJU fee. The category A, B, C or D

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requirements must have been **satisfied since their last promotion**. The BJA BOD/Chairman will, on the recommendation of the NPGC and the HGP, recommend judoka to the EJU/IJF.

Knowledge of the following six Kodokan kata are required for promotion to 7<sup>th</sup> Dan and above: Nage-no-kata, Katame-no-kata, Kime-no-kata, Ju-no-kata, Kodokan Goshin-jutsu and Koshiki-no-kata. Evidence of kata knowledge is detailed in the 'Summary of Dan Grading Requirements' at the end of this document, and all certificates must be supplied on application for promotion.

## OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

The BJA BOD will, on the recommendation of the NPGC, consider promotion in accordance with the Outstanding Performance Policy. This applies to international judoka including competitors, referees, coaches and officials who have not been able to undertake promotion exams due to international commitments.

## QUALIFIED BY EXPERIENCE

For promotion up to 5<sup>th</sup> Dan, the NPGC are authorised to award a 'once-only' promotion to judoka aged 70 and above. They must have had no promotion in the previous 10 years and the promotion will be based on a complete review of their judo career, in order to award an appropriate level of promotion in line with their peers. This will be by the submission of the official application form. Although this is a 'once-only' promotion, in the most exceptional cases, it may be appropriate for a judoka to be awarded more than one grade. Following this award there will be no further promotions under this rule.

For promotion to 6<sup>th</sup> Dan, the BJA JC will, on the recommendation of the NPGC, award a promotion to 5<sup>th</sup> Dan judoka that fulfil the majority of the syllabus criteria. However, they must have satisfied the minimum time-in-grade rule. The minimum age is 72 and application to the NDGM is by submission of a Curriculum Vitae and the published 6<sup>th</sup> Dan Application Form, together with the six required kata certificates.

### Provisions for Judoka Aged 80 or Over

For promotion to 6<sup>th</sup> Dan, the BJA JC may, on the recommendation of the NPGC, award a promotion to 5<sup>th</sup> Dan judoka aged 80 or over that fulfil the majority of the syllabus criteria as per the above paragraph. However, due to their long-term commitment to judo and age, ONE of the following additional dispensations will be considered:

- Hold a Competitive 1<sup>st</sup> Dan instead of Competitive 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan, or
- Reduction of the time-in-grade requirements by ONE category *i.e.* 2 years, or
- No kata requirements

### Provisions for Judoka Aged 90 or Over

For promotion to 6<sup>th</sup> Dan, the BJA JC may, on the recommendation of the NPGC, award a promotion to 5<sup>th</sup> Dan judoka aged 90 or over that fulfil the majority of the syllabus criteria as described above. However, due to their long-term commitment to judo and age, in addition to ONE of the dispensations described above under 'Provisions for Judoka Aged 80 or Over', ONE of the following further dispensations will be considered:

- Hold a Non-competitive 1<sup>st</sup> Dan instead of a Competitive Dan grade, or
- Reduction of the time-in-grade requirements by TWO categories *i.e.* 4 years, or
- No kata requirements

## COMPASSIONATE PROMOTIONS

For compassionate promotions up to and including promotion to 5<sup>th</sup> Dan, in the event of a diagnosis of a terminal illness, the NPGC have the authority to recommend to the BJA BOD a promotion to the next grade. This is applicable only in those cases where the judoka would qualify for further promotion in the future were it not for the illness. A close family member or person acting on behalf of the judoka should submit a letter by email to the NPGC via

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the NDGM, detailing the request and supplying appropriate evidence or reasons for such a request. Each application will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

For a compassionate promotion from 5<sup>th</sup> Dan to 6<sup>th</sup> Dan, the NPGC may make a recommendation to the BJA BOD when a judoka does not fulfil the criteria, but, as a minimum, the judoka must have been active for six years as a 5<sup>th</sup> Dan. A close family member or person acting on behalf of the judoka should submit the 6<sup>th</sup> Dan application form and a covering letter including appropriate evidence or reasons by email to the NPGC via the NDGM. Again, each application will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Promotion to 7<sup>th</sup> Dan and above is based on the EJU/IJF criteria, which does not include allowances for compassionate promotions.

## POSTHUMOUS PROMOTIONS

The BJA are unable to action posthumous applications for any grade, except in highly unusual circumstances.

## COMPETITIVE PROMOTIONS

### COMPETITIVE SKILLS EXAMINATION – GUIDELINES FOR EXAMINERS AND CANDIDATES

All the required information is in the [Competitive Dan Grade Scheme Assessment Guide](#) document.

Candidates will complete their choices of techniques on the [Candidate Supplementary Exam Sheet](#) prior to the examination and present to the examiner on the day of the skills examination.

## CONTEST, TIME AND AGE REQUIREMENTS

Dan Grade	Section A Points Required	Section B Time Requirements	Section C Minimum Age
1 <sup>st</sup> Kyu to 1 <sup>st</sup> Dan	100	1 year as 1 <sup>st</sup> Kyu	15
1 <sup>st</sup> Dan to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan	100	2 years as 1 <sup>st</sup> Dan	17
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan	120	3 years as 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan	20
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan to 4 <sup>th</sup> Dan	120	4 years as 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan	24
4 <sup>th</sup> Dan to 5 <sup>th</sup> Dan	120	5 years as 4 <sup>th</sup> Dan	29

### SECTION A – CONTEST REQUIREMENT: POINTS RECORD

**Points can be gained in promotion examinations, competition or a combination of both.**

However, if a judoka is successful in a promotion examination *i.e.* completion of a line-up, this will take priority over the accumulation of points, but the judoka must still satisfy Sections B and C: time-in-grade and age requirements.

In order to be eligible to go to the line-up section in a promotion examination, judoka must have a win in each of their first two individual contests by ippon.

At a promotion examination, numbers permitting, each judoka will be guaranteed a minimum of two contests regardless of results.

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## SECTION B – TIME REQUIREMENTS

Judoka must have completed the minimum period of time within their grade before being promoted, having also satisfied Sections A and C. This time in grade must be supported by full BJA membership. Any lapse in membership will not count towards time in grade; however accumulated time in membership will be accepted.

## SECTION C – AGE LIMITATIONS

Judoka must have attained the age requirements specified for the grade to which they aspire, having also satisfied Sections A and B.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCORING POINTS TOWARDS PROMOTION AT COMPETITIONS

### GROUP ONE TOURNAMENTS

Olympic Games

Senior and Junior World Individual Championships

Senior and Junior European Individual Championships

IJF Senior World Ranking Events (including self-funded judoka authorised by the Performance Team)

A judoka selected by the BJA Performance Team to represent Great Britain at the above official IJF/EJU competitions will be awarded 10 points towards their next grade for every contest won, regardless of the score, except for kiken-gachi and fusen-gachi. As these competitions often change in name and status, the final decision on which competitions count for point scoring will be decided by the Performance Manager in consultation with the NPGC. The Performance Manager will maintain a register of all wins and forward this to the NDGM twice in each calendar year.

Judoka must complete the relevant time-in-grade, theory, age and kata requirements for each grade, up to and including 5<sup>th</sup> Dan. They must then apply to the NDGA for promotion stating they are claiming international points. If they have not accumulated 100 or 120 international points, they must supply their points card to provide evidence of points from gradings and BJA point-scoring events.

### GROUP TWO TOURNAMENTS

#### Approved British Judo Association Level 3 and above Point-Scoring Tournaments

In Group Two Tournaments, 10 points scored by ippon against equal or higher BJA grades will accumulate towards promotion. Points scored against lower grades or non-BJA graded judoka do not count and must not be recorded on the judoka's points record.

#### Note: Approved Level 3 and above Point-Scoring Tournaments

For tournaments to be point scoring, they must have a minimum Level 3 rating under the BJA National Tournament Licensing Scheme.

The Tournament Director must apply for the event to be point scoring when applying for the Tournament Licence. If approved, this will be indicated on the Tournament Licence displayed at the event.

Points scoring at such events will be entered on the judoka's points scoring card by a responsible official, but only a Competition Controller or authorised Provisional Competition Controller can sign the points card. The results from the preliminary rounds to the finals will be sent within seven days of the event to the BJA, who will then pass on a copy to the NDGA. Any points cards left behind at tournaments should be returned to BJA Head Office.

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## Point Scoring at Northern Ireland Judo Federation (NIJF) and Irish Judo Association (IJA) Competitions

Judoka can score points against members of the IJA at NIJF point-scoring competitions. For IJA point-scoring competitions, judoka can score points at the All Ireland and Irish Open championships only.

## Veterans Tournaments for Judoka aged 30 and above

A judoka selected to represent Great Britain at the Veterans World or European Championships will be awarded 10 points towards their next grade for every contest won, regardless of the score, except for kiken-gachi and fusen-gachi. An appointed Veterans Commission official will maintain a register of all wins to be forwarded to the NDGM twice in each calendar year.

**Note:** The previous method, detailed as follows, of awarding Veterans points will terminate immediately but all points achieved up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 will be accepted. Ten points scored by ippon in Veterans Tournaments against equal- or higher-graded judoka from IJF member federations will count towards promotion. The judoka must provide proof of points gained to the NDGM, by copies of pool sheets that indicate the opponents' grades, or other such official paperwork.

## Adaptive Judoka Tournaments

A judoka selected by the BJA to represent Great Britain in international tournaments that have been agreed by both the Adaptive Judo Working Group (AJWG) and NPGC will have 10 points scored by ippon against equal or higher IJF grades count towards promotion. A register of all wins will be maintained by an AJWG-appointed official, who will pass this on to the NDGM twice in each calendar year. Adaptive judoka that compete in the same tournaments but have not been selected by BJA may apply to the AJWG to have their wins registered and accepted.

## CONDITIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

For recording points in **Section A**, these are derived in the following way:

Ippon	10 points
Waza-ari-awasete-ippon	10 points
Waza-ari	5 points

## PROMOTION EXAMINATION CONDITIONS

Results gained in promotion examinations will be converted into the points system and recorded and certified in the judoka's points card by the SEs officiating.

In addition, the SEs will complete the examination sheet with all details, this being the official record for the NDGA. The recommended contest duration at promotion examinations is four minutes. A Supplementary Report Form must be used to record any unusual occurrences.

If a contest is terminated by hansoku-make (disqualification) or by kiken-gachi (win by withdrawal), the winner will not be awarded any points towards promotion. This rule also applies in competitions.

Where a contest is terminated by hansoku-make or kiken-gachi at a promotion examination, the SE responsible for the promotion examination should give the candidate who was not at fault another contest; this decision is at the examiner's discretion. When a contest is terminated by fusen-gachi (win by default), no points are awarded.

In a contest at a grading or point-scoring event, minor scores do not count towards promotion.



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Points accumulated towards promotion in Group Two Tournaments will be recorded in the judoka's points scoring card by the Competition Controller or appointed deputy working from the official results of the competition. The Tournament Director will be responsible for submitting a composite record of all points gained to the NDGA. The NDGA will be supplied with the official results of all Group Two Tournaments within seven days.

## **SAME DAY POINTS IN POINT-SCORING COMPETITIONS (NOT GRADINGS)**

The maximum number of points that may be scored in any point-scoring event against the same judoka is twenty (via two ippon wins) or fifteen (via one ippon and one waza-ari win).

**Note 1:** Junior judoka holding the grade of 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu, and under the age of 15 may collect promotion points towards Dan grades in competitions, but will be unable to register their promotion until the age of 15. The minimum age for a judoka to enter a Dan grading is 15 and they MUST have a record of contest activity as detailed in Note 2.

**Note 2:** It is mandatory that a 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu, before entering their first competitive Dan grading, should have a record of contest activity on at least two occasions within the previous 24 months recorded in their BJA Record Book under 'Record of Judo Events Attended' (signed by a BJA official or coach). SEs will carry out random checks of record books during the grading booking-in process. SEs are authorised to remove any judoka from a Dan grading if they feel they are unsafe to participate due to lack of skill or physicality.

## **CONTEST REQUIREMENTS**

### **Traditional Line-up System**

The minimum number of candidates is six. (Three, four or five candidates may, if they wish, have a recommended maximum of three individual contests for the purpose of scoring promotion points.)

Each candidate is entitled to a minimum of two individual contests. All contests are of four minutes' duration, unless all judoka are veterans or aged under 16, when the time is reduced in accordance with contest times in the Tournament Handbook (currently three minutes at time of publication).

A candidate who wins their first two contests by ippon will automatically go forward to the line-up section and should not be given a third individual contest unless a contest is required for the benefit of other candidates. Winners should be matched with each other in the second round.

A candidate should not normally have more than three individual contests. If, for any reason, a judoka that has not qualified for a line-up has a third individual contest, they will retain any points gained but these will not count towards qualification for a line-up.

To be successful in their line-up, a candidate must win all three contests by ippon if under 30 years of age, or if all candidates are over 30 years of age. If the candidate is over 30 years of age and there are under-30s included in the line-up, they must win all three contests and accrue a minimum of twenty-five points. If a judoka has to fight someone in their line-up that they have already fought in an individual contest, then this should not be allowed for more than one previous opponent.

A candidate who fails to complete their line-up may be used in another judoka's line-up, e.g. injuries to candidates or numerous line-ups and low number of candidates available for lines.

The tables below are for guidance.



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## Individual Contests Men and Women

**Table 1: Individual Contest Results (where all candidates are under 30 years of age or all candidates are over 30 years of age)**

Contest 1	Contest 2	Contest 3	
Ippon	+	Ippon	+
		—	=
			Line-up

### Line-up Contest Results

Ippon	+	Ippon	+	Ippon	=	Line-up Successfully Completed
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**Table 2: Individual Contest Results (where the candidate is over 30 years of age but there are players under 30 years of age included in the line-up)**

Contest 1	Contest 2	Contest 3	
Ippon	+	Ippon	+
		—	=
			Line-up

### Line-up Contest Results

Ippon	+	Ippon	+	Ippon	=	Line-up Successfully Completed
Ippon	+	Ippon	+	Waza-ari	=	Line-up Successfully Completed
Ippon	+	Waza-ari	+	Ippon	=	Line-up Successfully Completed
Waza-ari	+	Ippon	+	Ippon	=	Line-up Successfully Completed

If, due to unforeseen circumstances, an examiner cannot offer the candidate a line-up without fighting a judoka they have already fought, they should consider other options under the Senior Examiner Assessment Scheme.

## SENIOR EXAMINER ASSESSMENT SCHEME

When it is not possible to follow the traditional line-up scheme or round-robin collection of points, SEs may consider any alternative method of providing a credible grading opportunity. When departing from the stipulated procedures, the SE organising the grading must contact a member of the NPGC or Area Director of Examiners (ADofE) on the day and discuss the viable options to gain approval to conduct an SE assessment. Following the discussion and agreed format, the SE may then be authorised to proceed with an alternative solution, recording on the Supplementary Report Form the format used and the name of the NPGC member or ADofE consulted. The following are two possible examples that may be considered, but there are also many other options.

### Contest Requirements – Example: Five Wins out of Six

The recommended minimum number of candidates of the same grade for this format is seven. This format is useful when during a traditional line-up grading, there are no candidates due to injury, mismatch of weights etc. available to form a line-up of three opponents.

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All candidates will have a guaranteed minimum number of three contests. For the first three rounds, candidates will be matched with judoka of the same age and weight where possible, regardless of results.

Candidates with a minimum of two wins by ippon will be given further contests until they have either lost and/or drawn two contests on the day or win five contests out of six.

Candidates who have lost and/or drawn two contests may be given further contests for point-scoring purposes, but will not qualify for promotion on the day.

At no stage should candidates fight each other twice.

For candidates under 30 years of age or where all candidates are over 30 years of age, the following will apply:

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	
Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	N/A	Line-up Successfully Completed
Ippon	Ippon	No Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Line-up Successfully Completed
Ippon	No Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Line-up Successfully Completed
No Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Line-up Successfully Completed

If there are candidates over 30 years of age as well as under 30 years of age, a candidate over 30 years of age is permitted one win by waza-ari in order to continue:

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	
Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	N/A	Line-up Successfully Completed
Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Waza-ari	N/A	Line-up Successfully Completed
Ippon	Waza-ari	No Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Line-up Successfully Completed
Waza-ari	No Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Line-up Successfully Completed
No Ippon	Waza-ari	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Line-up Successfully Completed

## Contest Requirements – Example: Multi-grade 50 points on the day

This system could be used when there is a collection of various grades with fewer than six of the same grade.

For the first three rounds, candidates will be matched with judoka in priority of the same grade, age and weight where possible, regardless of results.

Candidates will be matched with judoka of the same grade for as many rounds as possible and then with judoka of the next higher or lower grade.

Candidates will continue fighting until they have either gained fifty points or have lost or drawn two contests.

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Candidates who have lost or drawn two contests are not eligible to gain promotion on the day. However, they may be required to provide contests for judoka candidates who are eligible for promotion on the day, and will accumulate points for promotion for any ippon win.

The following table shows the recommended points for male judoka gained against the various grades:

Winner	Score	1 <sup>st</sup> Dan	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan	4 <sup>th</sup> Dan
1 <sup>st</sup> Dan	Ippon	10	10	10	10
	Waza-ari	5	5	5	5
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan	Ippon	5	10	10	10
	Waza-ari	0	5	5	5
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan	Ippon	5	5	10	10
	Waza-ari	0	0	5	5
4 <sup>th</sup> Dan	Ippon	5	5	5	10
	Waza-ari	0	0	0	5

Due to the shortage of opponents and options available, only female judoka are allowed to integrate 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu judoka into the SE assessment scheme. The following table shows the recommended points:

Winner	Score	1 <sup>st</sup> Kyu	1 <sup>st</sup> Dan	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan	4 <sup>th</sup> Dan
1 <sup>st</sup> Kyu	Ippon	10	10	10	10	10
	Waza-ari	5	5	5	5	5
1 <sup>st</sup> Dan	Ippon	5	10	10	10	10
	Waza-ari	0	5	5	5	5
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan	Ippon	5	5	10	10	10
	Waza-ari	0	0	5	5	5
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan	Ippon	5	5	5	10	10
	Waza-ari	0	0	0	5	5
4 <sup>th</sup> Dan	Ippon	5	5	5	5	10
	Waza-ari	0	0	0	0	5

Candidates will have any successes converted into the points system and recorded in their points card in the manner laid down.

Points will accumulate with others to carry candidates forward to eventual promotion, providing the other conditions are met.

If the examiner feels that there are no suitable judoka left for the candidate to fight, they may restrict the number of contests accordingly.

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All candidates must satisfy the age limitation and time-in-grade requirements.

In exceptional cases, due to the low number of female judoka, female 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu judoka may be permitted to compete with female 1<sup>st</sup> Dan and above judoka as outlined above. Under no circumstances will male 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu judoka be allowed to compete against male 1<sup>st</sup> Dan and above judoka.

## Competitive Dan Grading Guidelines for Visually Impaired Judoka

1. Dan gradings in which all judoka are classified as visually impaired (VI) can be run in line with the normal competition rules for VI judoka. These are:

- All judoka start with a standard sleeve-lapel grip. On the command Rei they will bow and take hold. They must not move or start fighting until Hajime is called.
- Whenever Matte is called, the judoka assume the restart position. The judoka may be accompanied to the position by the referee if needed.
- All scores will also be indicated by announcing Blue or White.
- The final decision should also be indicated by announcing Blue or White.
- When there is a discrepancy of standard hold *i.e.* left-handed vs. right-handed then the judoka in white should obtain their grip first followed by the judoka in blue, and this order will be reversed before the next Hajime.

2. Where there is a mix of VI and mainstream judoka in a Dan grading, the above rules still apply, however:

- All judoka must be briefed at the beginning of the grading that there will be a mix of sighted and VI judoka.
- Where the modifications above are necessary to support the participation of a VI judoka, these are mandatory, and there is no right for a VI judoka's opponent to refuse these modified rules.
- For matters of safety, judoka classified as J1, with the most severe visual impairment, cannot start a contest as per mainstream competition rules.
- Where an electronic scoreboard is in use that allows a mainstream judoka to see the contest time remaining, on VI judoka request, the referee can inform the judoka of time remaining in the contest.

3. At all times, the referee is responsible for the safety of the VI judoka and is to ensure all communications are clear and appropriate, and that the judoka is accompanied on and off the mat if required.

## PROMOTIONS EXAMINATIONS – FREQUENCY

As candidates have to satisfy a minimum time in grade holding full BJA membership before promotion, there are no restrictions on the number of promotion examinations judoka can enter in any month or time period.

## TIME-IN-GRADE RULE

Candidates must have accumulated full BJA membership for the minimum number of years in grade or provide proof of non-BJA judo activity.

## COMPLETION OF POINTS

When sufficient points are accumulated and all other criteria met, the candidate should send their Record Book and points card to the NDGA. If the candidate is successful at a promotion examination and has completed all the requirements including age and time in grade, the SE concerned may retain their Record Book and points card, if the candidate agrees, to send with the examination form to the NDGA within 7 days.

**Note 1:** When a candidate enters the contest part of a promotion examination they will be expected to continue with contests as required by the examiners, regardless of whether they have reached the total number of points required to complete Section A. An examiner is unable to promote and/or record any points gained by a candidate if they believe the

# DAN GRADE PROMOTION SYLLABUS

candidate has conducted themselves in a manner contrary to the 'spirit of judo'. These actions include withdrawing from the promotion examination once the candidate has accumulated enough points, feigning injury so as not to continue etc. This action should be recorded on the Supplementary Report Form.

**Note 2:** When a candidate is successful 'on the day' by line-up, the SE should annotate the points card 'Line-up completed' signed by the SE, and then both SEs' names should be printed on the card.

## PROOF OF AGE

Examiners may ask for proof of age and/or date of birth, and these must be entered in the points card and Record Book by the candidate to satisfy Section C. The minimum age for a judoka to accumulate points in competition is 14 and they may enter a Dan grading at age 15.

## INCLUSIVE GRADING PATHWAYS

The BJA understand that all judoka should have accessibility to various pathways for promotion to and within the Dan grades. It can be difficult for heavyweight and very lightweight judoka to have the same opportunities for grading as judoka in other weight categories, and there are also other situations in which it may be difficult to grade, so the following five options are available:

- Option 1** Judoka may continue to collect points under the current system at point-scoring competitions, as described in the syllabus, and they may also enter competitive gradings. However, they must understand that it may not always be possible for them to be allocated the same number of fights as others when there is a gross mismatch of weight and/or grade. SEs will make every effort to accommodate all judoka. However, the safe matching of all judoka must take precedence over all other considerations. The SE is responsible for the safe conduct of the assessment and therefore their decision is final. In such cases where it is not possible to provide a safe match, the following options will be explained to the candidate.
- Option 2** Additional gradings will be arranged for judoka in the following weight groups: male over 100 kg, female over 90 kg, male under 55 kg and female under 48 kg. These gradings will follow all standard current grading procedures and judoka of lower weights in the heavyweight gradings may also choose to enter these gradings if they wish, but again the number of fights allocated may be limited according to the discretion of the SE in charge.
- Option 3** In a similar way to the method by which candidates from non-BJA organisations can be assessed at a suitable BJA point-scoring competition, judoka that are unable to gain sufficient grading opportunities may be assessed by an SE appointed by the NPGC. Prior approval for the event and assessment must be authorised by the NDGM. It may be appropriate to charge a fee. The candidate must have first passed the Competitive Dan Grade theory skills assessment. They will then be assessed for promotion during their contests at a point-scoring event and the action will be reported on a Supplementary Report Form, to include details of the candidate's age, grade, membership number and weight. The names and grades of the opponents, together with the results of the contests, must also be recorded. A final recommendation of promotion must be made by the assessor before sending all documentation to the NDGA at the BJA office. The appropriate kata certificate for the grade sought will be required before the grade can be confirmed.

# DAN GRADE PROMOTION SYLLABUS

**Option 4** A record of competition results, detailing final placings and opponents' names and grades, may be presented to the NPGC for consideration. There will be an administration fee of £50 for successful applications.

**Option 5** **Assessment for judoka who have undergone or are undertaking gender transition, wishing to obtain a competitive Dan grade.**

A judoka who has obtained the minimum grade of 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu and has held such a grade for a minimum of six months can apply to the NPGC for authority to enable an ADofE, or an SE appointed by the ADofE, to carry out a competitive randori assessment within a club environment.

Such an assessment would be against male/female judoka of a similar size/weight (the current policy allows freedom of randori partners). During the assessment, the ADofE (or appointed SE) would maintain a written record of ippon-scoring waza achieved during each period of randori.

It is recommended that three or four randori practices at a time should be observed, assessing the judoka over a minimum period of one year. This period could be extended until the candidate is able to display a consistent level of competitive randori waza recognised as of 1<sup>st</sup> Dan standard.

On completion of such an assessment, the ADofE would submit a comprehensive report to the NPGC detailing all performances, including dates and information about the judoka and venue(s) comprising the candidate's assessment, together with a successful Competitive Dan Grade theory skills examination. The appropriate kata certificate for the grade sought will be required before the grade can be confirmed.

The above format can also be used for any unique individual circumstances that may warrant such a process in order to enable an inclusive grading pathway.

There will be a fee of £50 to register the promotion when approved, and it will be registered as Competitive 1<sup>st</sup> Dan by accumulation of points

## TECHNICAL PROMOTIONS

### TECHNICAL EXAMINATION – GUIDELINES FOR EXAMINERS AND CANDIDATES

The technical Dan grade is a qualification based on knowledge and understanding. There are many ways the exam may be carried out depending on any physical restrictions the candidate may have. The guidelines are a means of preparing both the candidate and the assessor for the performance of the exam. The list of requirements is not exhaustive or exclusive. The candidate is expected to have a greater depth of knowledge as they progress through the grades and will be examined on a progressively greater number of elements in each section to a progressively higher standard. Completion of each section is recorded on the exam sheet that is sent to the NDGA and also in the Technical Dan Grade record card that the candidate keeps in their Record Book. When all required sections on the card are complete, this is submitted to the NDGA, who will be able to cross-reference with previously submitted exam sheets before registering the promotion.

All the required information is in the [Technical Dan Grade Scheme Assessment Guide](#) document.

# DAN GRADE PROMOTION SYLLABUS

Candidates will complete their choices of techniques on the [Candidate Supplementary Exam Sheet](#) prior to the examination and present to the examiner on the day of the skills examination.

## TECHNICAL EXAMINATION FOR ADAPTIVE JUDOKA

The purpose of the grading syllabus is to help coaches provide a safe, fun and stimulating learning environment where all people with adaptive needs feel confident and motivated to reach their individual potential as judoka.

The coach, examiner and judoka should work together during the assessment. In the practical part of the assessment, if demonstration of a waza by the judoka is not possible due to any type of restriction or limitation, the waza should be substituted by a waza more appropriate but within the grading criteria. For any verbal part of the assessment, the judoka can, by any appropriate means, communicate the information required to the examiner. There is no pass or fail and the examination process has no time limit. When the examiner is satisfied that the candidate has completed the requirements for a section, this is recorded on the candidate's exam form. When all required sections have been completed, the candidate should register the application for promotion with the NDGA, submitting the completed exam form together with their Record Book, Technical Dan Grade record card (as appropriate), proof of current membership and fee of £50. Where techniques are substituted to demonstrate understanding and knowledge, the intention is that the same standard is reached, by alternative equivalent means. The purpose is not to lower the standard to be demonstrated, but to allow some flexibility in reaching the standard indicated for the grade the judoka is aiming to achieve.

A great amount of discretion is given to the examiner, with the grading scheme being very flexible in dealing with all needs. All standard documentation should be utilised.

**Important Note:** Each candidate taking part in an examination should be relaxed with no tension or stress. It is acknowledged that the candidate's own coach is best placed to determine the ability and best time to carry out the examination, and therefore can assist the examiner during the process. If the candidate is unable to complete any section of the examination, the examiner will either adapt or replace the waza with one that the candidate is able to complete. The aim is to challenge judoka according to their individual abilities so that each judoka is fully able to reach their potential. The candidate should be given the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills and understanding of judo, and therefore qualify and progress through the higher grades by virtue of their personal efforts. This grading process is a working partnership between coaches, examiners, judoka and parents/carers. Naturally it has to be accepted that, in the same way as mainstream judoka, there will eventually be a point in the adaptive judoka's chosen pathway where it is not possible to progress any further, in exactly the same way that all judoka, at some stage, reach their limit of progression.

Level 1 and Level 2 adaptive judoka may be able to follow the standard Competitive or Technical Dan Grade process, and coaches should make the examiner aware of any adjustments that may need to be made. Level 3, 4 and 5 adaptive judoka will mostly be graded using the Technical Dan Grade pathway and will require the examiner to work with the judoka and their coach, as outlined above, to make appropriate adjustments. Please refer to additional details in the [Guide for the Dan Grade Assessment of Adaptive Judoka](#) document.



# DAN GRADE PROMOTION SYLLABUS

## PROMOTION EXAMINATION – ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR EXAMINERS

### **1. Examiners**

Two Senior Examiners are the minimum required to conduct the competitive Dan Grade Promotion Examination and recommend promotion up to and including the same grade as the highest-graded examiner. When sufficient SEs of senior grade are not available, three SEs of any grade may recommend promotion up to and including 5<sup>th</sup> Dan. SEs are required to wear smart attire in line with that of the referee requirements: grey trousers, white shirt, navy or black blazer, neckwear as appropriate.

### **2. General Requirements**

All promotion examinations must be conducted in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and Bye-Laws of the BJA. A copy of the Dan Grade Syllabus must be available at each examining table.

Only current SEs holding current full individual membership are permitted to conduct examinations for promotion into and within the Dan grades.

The SE in charge of the competitive grading is responsible for ensuring the mat area is suitable for a promotion examination and that a venue risk assessment is carried out and recorded on the Risk Assessment form, to be submitted digitally to the BJA along with all completed documentation.

The recommended minimum number of qualified referees required to officiate at a promotion examination is one per mat area. However, the SE has the final decision on any scores and decisions. Where the referee is more highly qualified than either of the SEs on the mat, the SEs should respect that qualification and should not overrule the referee unless they have very strong grounds for doing so. In the case of a potential hansoku-make decision, however, the examiners may ask the referee to show leniency if the hansoku-make would adversely affect the candidate not being penalised. This may be a consideration for hansoku-make resulting from an accumulation of three shido, but not for direct 'spirit of judo' hansoku-make. Wherever possible, the officials should come to a consensus, but the final decision lies with the SE. At all times, the officials should work together in the best interests of the candidates and the maintenance of proper judo standards.

The SE in charge is responsible for ensuring suitable medical cover is available and that an Event Welfare Officer is appointed.

Promotion examination fees are not due to the BJA, except for the National Dan Grade levy, which is £12 per judoka. The SE must ensure that the examination sheet, in digital format, and National Dan Grade levy, payable to the BJA, are forwarded to the NDGA within seven days.

Candidates must produce current full individual membership of the BJA on the day. Failure to do so will mean the judoka cannot be included in the examination. The SE may use any other official means, such as the online database, to verify membership.

Candidates must be weighed in. The weight must be recorded on the examination sheet and, where possible, candidates should be matched by weight and age in the first round. Where possible, candidates from the same club will not be put together, especially in the first round. In gradings that are not veteran-specific, every effort should be made to pair veterans in the first round.

All points recorded in the points card must be written in words and numbers. Any points cards issued should contain all the required information.

# DAN GRADE PROMOTION SYLLABUS

At promotion examinations, contests will be with opponents of the same gender.

At promotion examinations, contests will normally be with opponents of the same grade. However, in exceptional circumstances and with NPGC authority, candidates may compete against judoka of a higher or lower grade than their own (see 'Senior Examiner Assessment Scheme' above).

Candidates are referred to the official BJA Contest Rules, as they are required to be conversant with them. Contests will follow the modified IJF rules as prescribed for Level 3 events, and medical attention will not automatically result in kiken-gachi. At promotion examinations, these contest rules may, in exceptional circumstances, be amended by the SE to suit the particular situation, such as safety area size. Candidates will be informed prior to the start of the examination of any such amendments. As this is an examination not a competition, coaches are not allowed to coach at any time during the contests.

All demonstrations of techniques in the skills examination should be done with the candidate and uke on the move or in the appropriate practical positions described by the syllabus. Demonstrations should be properly prepared over a period of time and should reflect the coaching standards set out by the BJA. The syllabus requires that candidates demonstrate greater knowledge and higher levels of skill as they progress through the grades.

For promotion to 1<sup>st</sup> Dan and for promotion within the Dan grades, the Competitive Dan Grade theory skills assessment and the kata assessment sections of the syllabus can be completed before or after the contest requirements: these could be completed at the same event as the contest requirements, or they could be completed at completely separate events. For the Competitive Dan Grade theory skills assessment, the completed exam form will be sent to the NDGA (signed by the SE responsible for the assessment). If the candidate is successful, the examiner will make an entry in the points card by completing the competitive theory skills section. A candidate can be examined for their next grade only.

No minimum number of candidates is required for a skills examination; it can be held for one person if required and a full contest area is not necessary. However, it is an official BJA examination and an appropriate mat area in a suitable venue must be used. For Competitive Dan Grade theory skills examinations, one SE may examine up to and including their own grade (*i.e.* the SE must be a minimum of one grade above the candidate's current grade). Two SEs of any grade may examine up to 5<sup>th</sup> Dan when a sufficiently senior grade SE is not available. It is good practice that two SEs, working together, should conduct all Competitive Dan Grade skills examinations.

**Note:** The Competitive Dan Grade theory skills assessment must be completed in full during the examination. It cannot be completed modularly unless the same examiner is examining all the sections over an agreed time frame, and there are exceptional extenuating circumstances as to why the examination cannot be completed at one event.

### 3. Candidates

Candidates from non-BJA judo groups being assessed should not be paired together if at all possible in any section of the promotion examination.

Candidates who win a contest should be advised to inform the SE immediately after each contest to reduce the risk of results being recorded incorrectly.

Candidates are not normally allowed to fight the same person twice in an examination.

# DAN GRADE PROMOTION SYLLABUS

When a candidate has completed the Competitive Dan Grade theory skills requirements for their grade, it is valid indefinitely. Points gained are also valid indefinitely. Evidence of both must be provided.

Multiple Competitive Dan Grade skills or multiple Technical Dan Grade examinations are not permitted; candidates may only be examined one grade above their registered grade.

Candidates requiring technical recognition of grades from non-IJF organisations must take the Technical Dan Grade Assessment. Grades from IJF organisations are automatically accepted. Applicants should provide proof to the NDGA in order to have their grade registered with the BJA. Further instructions on grade transfers can be found below under item 4.

Candidates must wear clean judogi and maintain a high standard of personal hygiene (clean feet, fingernails and toenails cut short, etc.) for the examination. Hair must be tied back if it is long enough to cause any inconvenience to the opponent. No metallic or hard object may be worn (rings must be removed; it is not sufficient to cover them with adhesive tape). The wearing of gum shields and leotards is permitted. The recommended dress is white judogi but blue judogi is acceptable. Areas/Home Countries may, if they wish, set their own policy requiring candidates to wear the correct judogi/belt. A mix of blue jacket and white trousers or vice versa is not permitted.

**Late Arrivals:** Candidates who present themselves after the grading contests have started will be integrated into the process as far as possible. However, if this unfairly affects the assessments of others, the latecomer may not be entitled to a full or even partial assessment. Should this situation arise, the SE will explain the circumstances to the candidate.

Candidates for the Competitive Dan Grade skills examination will be assessed in accordance with the marking criteria described in the BJA [Guide for Dan Grade Evaluation of Competitive Skills and Technical Examination](#) document, with scores ranging from 0 through to 10.

Candidates for the Technical Dan Grade skills examination will be assessed in accordance with the marking criteria described in the BJA [Guide for Dan Grade Evaluation of Competitive Skills and Technical Examination](#) document, with scores ranging from 0 through to 10.

Candidates may request a points search by the NDGA. They must supply details of all points claimed including the venue, date, contest category and any other details of each event. Points searches will be carried out up to five years back from the date of application; any further years will be discretionary and dependent on any information available.

## 4. Candidates from IJF/EJU Member Organisations

If a candidate holding a BJA licence holds a Dan grade in an association that is a member of the IJF, that grade is accepted by the BJA. The candidate should send proof of grade and their BJA Record Book to the NDGA, who will register the grade as a BJA grade. There is a fee of £14.

This action must be completed before they can enter any BJA grading or collect promotion points in competitions for further advancement in grade.

This process is for grades up to and including 5<sup>th</sup> Dan. For 6<sup>th</sup> Dan, the transfer must be ratified by the Judo Commission and requires evidence that the grade was awarded by the National Federation in question. For those holding IJF 6<sup>th</sup> Dan, the Judo Commission should be informed. For the transfer for 7<sup>th</sup> Dan and above, evidence of the IJF certificate is sufficient and in this case the Judo Commission and High Grades Panel should be informed.

# DAN GRADE PROMOTION SYLLABUS

## 5. Transfers of Grades from Non-IJF/EJU/BJA Organisations

Candidates from non-IJF/EJU/BJA organisations may convert to the equivalent BJA Dan grade.

If they hold a competitive grade and wish to have a competitive BJA grade, they must first pass the relevant Competitive Dan Grade skills examination and then they must be assessed at a competitive Dan grading, initially with BJA judoka of their own grade. They pay the set grading fee that includes the Dan Grade levy. It is possible that the candidate may not only have their grade confirmed but may be able to satisfy the requirements for promotion to a higher grade. In circumstances where the candidate is unsuccessful in the assessment, the candidate is withdrawn from the grading and advised to re-present themselves for examination at a later date. They may be offered the option of a lower grade than that held. The appropriate kata certificate for the grade sought will be required before the grade can be confirmed.

Candidates may also be assessed for a competitive transfer at a BJA point-scoring competition. The assessor must be an SE appointed by the NPGC, and prior approval must be authorised by the NDGM. The action is reported on a Supplementary Report Form, to include full details of the candidate, completion of the Competitive Dan Grade skills examination, and the names and grades of the opponents, together with the results of the contests. The appropriate kata certificate for the grade sought will be required before the grade can be confirmed.

Alternatively, instead of being assessed at a competitive grading, a candidate may elect to undertake a Technical conversion and take the appropriate Technical Dan Grade examination. If successful, they will transfer to a BJA Technical Dan Grade. The appropriate kata certificate for the grade sought will be required before the grade can be confirmed. The fee will be set by the examiner and, on completion, the candidate must pay a fee of £50 to the BJA in order to register the promotion.

If the candidate holds a non-competitive grade they will transfer to the same BJA Technical Dan Grade, subject to successfully completing the Technical Dan Grade examination. If they wish to undertake a BJA competitive grade, they would transfer over at the non-BJA organisation competitive grade that they hold, by being assessed at a competitive Dan grading as described above.

All Technical transfer applications of 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan and above must be accompanied by a Curriculum Vitae outlining the candidate's judo grading history, and submitted to the NDGM for approval by the NPGC, before this is then passed on to the NDGA for registration. The approval will be based on a comparison of the candidate's grading pathway timeline with that of the BJA requirements, in terms of age and time in grade.

All transfers forwarded to the NDGA must include the candidate's BJA Record Book with proof of current full BJA membership, and original non-BJA organisation Record Book with proof of grade and earlier promotion pathway.

It is expected that once a BJA grade has been awarded or converted from another non-IJF/EJU/BJA association, the judoka will then follow the BJA grading pathway.

## 6. Promotion Recommendations

Only on completion of a line-up, SE assessment (authorised by ADofE), or accumulation of 100 or 120 points as appropriate, will the SE enter a grade recommendation on the practical examination sheet. All promotions are recommendations only and are not confirmed until the NDGA is satisfied that all criteria have been met and he/she has entered the promotion in the National Dan Grade Register and the candidate's Record Book. Until that time, candidates are not allowed to wear the appropriate belt colour or declare any such

# DAN GRADE PROMOTION SYLLABUS

promotion. Examiners must not record any recommendation or promotion in the Record Book; only the NDGA or NDGM may make entries in the Record Book.

## 7. Key Appointments and Job Roles

The National Promotions and Gradings Commission (NPGC) consists of the Chairman, National Dan Gradings Manager (NDGM) and appointed members. A separate working group of all Area Directors of Examiners (ADofEs), various advisors and the National Dan Grade Administrator (NDGA) also provides assistance. The NPGC's role is to provide the Judo Commission and BJA BOD with strategic advice and feedback within the complete grading structure. The major remit of the group of ADofEs is the operational day-to-day activities of the Dan grading schemes.

The ADofE is responsible for the day-to-day running of the competitive Dan grading scheme within their area, ensuring fair, consistent and accurate application of the promotion criteria.

The NDGA is responsible for the administration and registering of all promotions to and within the Dan grades.

The NDGM reports via the Development Director to the BJA Board of Directors (BOD), and, in addition to his/her Service Provider Agreement, is responsible on their behalf for developing, managing and maintaining all aspects of the BJA's Promotions and Gradings framework, including the final decision on the award of any grade in consultation with the NPGC Chair. Activities include working with all ADofEs on the delivery of key objectives as set out in the NPGC's policy documents, and assisting the NPGC Chair in the administration of the Commission's work, including monitoring, managing, quality control and reporting.

The High Grades Panel (HGP) is a panel of high-grade judoka selected by the BJA Chairman and BOD, together with a lead staff officer. They are responsible for reviewing all applications for promotion to 7<sup>th</sup> Dan and above that are passed to them by the NPGC Chair. They will consider each applicant's complete judo career, pathway and activity since their last promotion before making a recommendation on a promotion to the BJA BOD/Chairman.

**Note:** There is sometimes a need to make minor deviations from the grading processes, such as a unique interaction between other organisations, and rather than making changes to the syllabus, these will be formalised by a Memorandum of Understanding.

## 8. Time-in-grade Rule for Transfer to the Technical Promotion Pathway

When a Competitive Dan grade decides to follow a Technical pathway then the first Technical promotion will follow the Competitive time-in-grade rule:

- A Competitive 1<sup>st</sup> Dan will be eligible for promotion to Technical 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan after 2 years in grade. All subsequent Technical promotions will be up to 8 years in each grade.
- A Competitive 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan will be eligible for promotion to Technical 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan after 3 years in grade. All subsequent Technical promotions will be up to 8 years in each grade.
- A Competitive 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan will be eligible for promotion to Technical 4<sup>th</sup> Dan after 4 years in grade. All subsequent Technical promotions will be up to 8 years in each grade.
- A Competitive 4<sup>th</sup> Dan will be eligible for promotion to Technical 5<sup>th</sup> Dan after 5 years in grade.

## 9. Kata for Promotion Purposes

The accepted kata for promotion purposes are Nage-no-kata, Katame-no-kata, Ju-no-kata, Kime-no-kata, Kodokan Goshin-jutsu and Koshiki-no-kata.

# DAN GRADE PROMOTION SYLLABUS

## SUMMARY OF DAN GRADING REQUIREMENTS

The following tables and accompanying notes summarise the requirements for promotion to and within the Dan grades.

### COMPETITIVE 1<sup>ST</sup> DAN TO 5<sup>TH</sup> DAN

Competitive Grade Awarded by BJA	Minimum Age	Current Grade	Minimum Time in Grade (see Note 1)	Competition Points	Kata Requirements BJA Level 1
1 <sup>st</sup> Dan	15 years	1 <sup>st</sup> Kyu	1 year	100	Nage-no-kata
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan	17 years	1 <sup>st</sup> Dan	2 years	100	Katame-no-kata
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan	20 years	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan	3 years	120	Ju-no-kata
4 <sup>th</sup> Dan	24 years	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan	4 years	120	Kime-no-kata
5 <sup>th</sup> Dan	29 years	4 <sup>th</sup> Dan	5 years	120	Kodokan Goshin-jutsu

**Note 1:** The minimum time in grade applies even if a candidate is successful in a line-up before they have completed the allocated time. The time limit will be evidenced by full BJA membership and is to enable a suitable level of activity commensurate with the grade required. The time in grade is as published by the IJF.

### TECHNICAL 1<sup>ST</sup> DAN TO 5<sup>TH</sup> DAN

Technical Grade Awarded by BJA	Minimum Age*	Current Grade	Minimum Time in Grade (see Note 2)	Kata Requirements BJA Level 2
1 <sup>st</sup> Dan	20, 21, 22 or 23 years	1 <sup>st</sup> Kyu	5, 6, 7 or 8 Years	Nage-no-kata
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan	25, 27, 29 or 31 years	1 <sup>st</sup> Dan	5, 6, 7 or 8 Years	Katame-no-kata
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan	30, 33, 36, or 39 years	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan	5, 6, 7 or 8 Years	Ju-no-kata
4 <sup>th</sup> Dan	35, 39, 43 or 47 years	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan	5, 6, 7 or 8 Years	Kime-no-kata
5 <sup>th</sup> Dan	40, 45, 50 or 55 years	4 <sup>th</sup> Dan	5, 6, 7 or 8 Years	Kodokan Goshin-jutsu

\*applies to a candidate who follows the technical pathway for all of their Dan grade promotions

**Note 2:** The minimum time in grade must be evidenced by full BJA membership or proof of non-BJA judo activity by way of membership record with another judo association. Depending on the category of activity (see below) this will be either 5, 6, 7 or 8 years.

When a competitive Dan grade decides to follow a Technical pathway, then the first Technical promotion will follow the Competitive time-in-grade rule and future Technical promotions will follow the Technical time-in-grade rule.

The table below lists the BJA categories of activity (see Note 3) to reduce the time-in-grade requirements for Technical promotions; this will also decrease the minimum age required.



# DAN GRADE PROMOTION SYLLABUS

Category	Competitor	Time in Grade Required	Referees	Officials	Coaches	Examiners
<b>A</b>	Medal OG/WC	5 years	IJF/EJU	IJF/EJU	Level 4*	IJF Kata Judge
<b>B</b>	Senior National Team	6 years	National A and B	Competition Controller	Level 3*	BJA Kata Judge Senior Kata Examiner Senior Examiner
<b>C</b>	Medal at Snr BC/HN/Area	7 years	National C Area/Club	Contest Recorder	Level 2	Kata Examiner
<b>D</b>	Other	8 years	Other	Other	Other	Other

\*or equivalent

**Note 3:** The qualifications must be current for each promotion claimed and are listed as a minimum level just for guidance, as appointments often change in title.

## HIGH GRADE PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS – 6<sup>TH</sup> DAN

6 <sup>th</sup> Dan Awarded by BJA	Minimum Age	BJA Board Consideration & Approval	Minimum Time in Grade (see Note 6)	BJA Career History	Kata Requirements (in addition to the 5 kata required for 5 <sup>th</sup> Dan; see Note 4)
<b>A</b>	30 years	Yes	6 years	Yes	Koshiki-no-kata
<b>B</b>	35 years	Yes	8 years	Yes	Koshiki-no-kata
<b>C</b>	40 years	Yes	10 years	Yes	Koshiki-no-kata
<b>D</b>	50 years	Yes	12 years*	Yes	Koshiki-no-kata

\*with minimum 25 years of 1<sup>st</sup> Dan (since promotion to 1<sup>st</sup> Dan)

**Note 4:** Application for promotion will be by submission of an application form, together with minimum BJA Level 1 certificates in all 6 Kodokan kata. Normally a minimum competitive grade of 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan is required, except under exceptional circumstances from the age of 72. Minimum time in grade must be evidenced by accumulated full BJA membership. See Note 5 below regarding attendance certificates obtained before 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

## HIGH GRADE PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS – 7<sup>TH</sup> DAN

7 <sup>th</sup> Dan Awarded by EJU	Minimum Age	BJA Board Consideration & EJU Approval	Minimum Time in Grade (see Note 6)	BJA Career History	Kata Requirements (see Note 5)
<b>A</b>	38 years	Yes	8 years	Yes	All 6 Kata
<b>B</b>	45 years	Yes	10 years	Yes	All 6 Kata
<b>C</b>	50 years	Yes	10 years*	Yes	All 6 Kata
<b>D</b>	62 years	Yes	12 years**	Yes	All 6 Kata

\*with minimum 25 years of 1<sup>st</sup> Dan (since promotion to 1<sup>st</sup> Dan)

\*\*with minimum 30 years of 1<sup>st</sup> Dan (since promotion to 1<sup>st</sup> Dan)

**Note 5:** With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 – knowledge of all 6 Kodokan kata must be evidenced by BJA Level 1 (or higher) kata certificates; any BJA-authorized Attendance Certificates already obtained prior to this syllabus revision and dated up to 31<sup>st</sup> December



# DAN GRADE PROMOTION SYLLABUS

2025 will be accepted instead of a BJA Level 1 examination certificates for Ju-no-kata, Kime-no-kata, Kodokan Goshin-jutsu and Koshiki-no-kata.

## HIGH GRADE PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS – 8<sup>TH</sup> DAN TO 10<sup>TH</sup> DAN

8 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> Dan Awarded by IJF	Minimum Age	BJA Board & EJU Consideration with IJF Approval	Minimum Time in Grade (see Note 5)	BJA Career History	Kata Requirements (see Note 4)
8 <sup>th</sup> Dan - A	50 years	Yes	10 years	Yes	All 6 Kata
8 <sup>th</sup> Dan - B	60 years	Yes	15 years	Yes	All 6 Kata
9 <sup>th</sup> Dan - A	60 years	Yes	10 years	Yes	All 6 Kata
10 <sup>th</sup> Dan - A	70 years	Yes	10 years	Yes	All 6 Kata

**Note 6:** The High Grade categories of activity used to determine the minimum time-in-grade requirements for promotion to 6<sup>th</sup> Dan and above are defined in the table below, as set by the EJU/IJF. Please note that these are different to the BJA categorisation used to determine the time-in-grade requirements for Technical grades up to 5<sup>th</sup> Dan.

Categories	Competitors	Referees	Officials	Coaches
<b>A</b>	Medallist at Olympic Games or World Championships	IJF Events	International / IJF	Judoka Category A
<b>B</b>	Senior GB National Team, European/Grand Slam medallist	EJU Events	International / EJU	Judoka Category B
<b>C</b>	Senior GB National Squad	National	National	Judoka Category C
<b>D</b>	Significant Area activity or exceptional club activity			