

DAN GRADING PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS



COMPETITIVE 1ST DAN TO 5TH 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 st Dan	15 years	1 st Kyu	1 year	100	Nage-no-kata
2 nd Dan	17 years	1 st Dan	2 years	100	Katame-no-kata
3 rd Dan	20 years	2 nd Dan	3 years	120	Ju-no-kata
4 th Dan	24 years	3 rd Dan	4 years	120	Kime-no-kata
5 th Dan	29 years	4 th 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 1ST DAN TO 5TH DAN

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

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

6 th 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 th Dan; see Note 4)
A	30 years	Yes	6 years	Yes	Koshiki-no-kata
B	35 years	Yes	8 years	Yes	Koshiki-no-kata
C	40 years	Yes	10 years	Yes	Koshiki-no-kata
D	50 years	Yes	12 years*	Yes	Koshiki-no-kata

*with minimum 25 years of 1st Dan (since promotion to 1st 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 3rd 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 1st January 2026.

HIGH GRADE PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS – 7TH DAN

7 th 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)
A	38 years	Yes	8 years	Yes	All 6 Kata
B	45 years	Yes	10 years	Yes	All 6 Kata
C	50 years	Yes	10 years*	Yes	All 6 Kata
D	62 years	Yes	12 years**	Yes	All 6 Kata

*with minimum 25 years of 1st Dan (since promotion to 1st Dan)

**with minimum 30 years of 1st Dan (since promotion to 1st Dan)

Note 5: With effect from 1st 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 31st December 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 – 8TH DAN TO 10TH DAN

8 th to 10 th 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 th Dan - A	50 years	Yes	10 years	Yes	All 6 Kata
8 th Dan - B	60 years	Yes	15 years	Yes	All 6 Kata
9 th Dan - A	60 years	Yes	10 years	Yes	All 6 Kata
10 th 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 6th 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 5th Dan.

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