

Q1. The revised documents are dated 1st May 2016, how do we carry out gradings that have already been advertised?

There will be a transition period, ceasing on 30th June 2016. From 1st July 2016 all new documents should be utilised. The changes were designed to assist coaches and judoka so the earlier they start to use them the better.

Q2. The grading schemes have an element of competition. How is this best recorded?

It is recommended that participation in competition is recorded in the judoka's Record Book in the Competitions section. Any official may enter this record and that includes coaches and club officials.

Q3. What are the age groups for the grading schemes?

Mon grading scheme is age 8-17
Kyu Grading scheme is age 14 onwards.

Q4. Does a Junior judoka have to hold a Senior membership to obtain a Kyu Grade?

No. Membership are purely aged-based; a judoka holds a Junior membership until they are 16.

Q5. If a Junior holds a Kyu grade does this stop them from entering a Junior competition where it states that a judoka must hold a specific Mon grade?

Holding a Kyu grade should not prevent a Junior from entering a competition, but it is purely down to the competition organiser. Organisers have been advised that entry requirements should specify e.g. 15th Mon or 3rd Kyu and it may be best practice to just quote a colour so that non British Judo organisations have greater clarity.

Q6. Where can I see an example of how to demonstrate the syllabus techniques?

There are videos clips and stills of all techniques with instructional text on the British Judo website. Also, British Judo provide Grading workshops in each area annually.

Q7. How does the conversion between Junior and Senior grades work?

First of all, it is important to realise a Senior licence must be taken at age 16. However, a Junior can elect to stay within the Mon Scheme up to age 18 where they will then have to convert to a Senior grade. Alternatively, the Junior can elect to convert to Senior grade from age 14. All these choices should be made in consultation with the judoka's coach. This conversion is purely administrative and requires no demonstrations etc. Once converted to Kyu grade, the minimum time in grade for next promotion starts from that date of conversion.

Q8. What happens when I get my 1st Kyu?

Judoka can choose whether to enter the Technical, Competitive Dan Grade scheme or both. Please note the Competitive and Technical Dan grade minimum ages.

Q9. For a Mon to Kyu grade conversion, e.g. where I am able to transfer for example a 16th Mon to 1st Kyu, how does that work?

The coach first assesses the judoka for 17th and 18th Mon. On the 'Grade Registration Sheet' they enter: Promotion from 16th Mon to 18th Mon prior to Kyu Grade conversion. On the next line they enter: Conversion from 18th Mon to 1st Kyu. Grading fee for total event is £10. There is no requirement to obtain permission to do this as the authority lies within the syllabus documentation.

Q10. When I have been authorised by the Promotion Commission to carry out a fast track grading, how do I document that and register the grade?

Enter the new grade in the Record Book and in the space above enter "Authorised fast Track". Submit a Grade Registration sheet with the 'From and To' grades entered and also supply the written promotions Commission authority and grading fee of £10, together with additional Fast Track fee of £10, a total fee of £20 per candidate.

Q11. Why does a 6th Dan now have to possess two Level I certificates in Kata?

This is to provide a natural progression where later in a judoka's career, an applicant for 7th Dan requires 6 certificates in Kata.

Q12. Why has there been a change in the category requirements for 6th Dan and above?

This is to comply partly with IJF requirements, but as the IJF requirement is extremely high, it has been amended to suit British Judo requirements.

Q13. I understand that if a judoka takes part in a Technical Dan Grade weekend preparation and assessment course that they are guaranteed to pass?

Although the tutors are of a high standard, there is no automatic pass and each judoka is continuously assessed throughout the weekend. It may be that they pass, or only pass certain modules. This is usually dependent on how much pre-course preparation has been carried out by the judoka.

Q14. Which date is the actual date of the promotion for Mon and Kyu grades, the date entered in the Record Book or the date grade is registered at British Judo head office?

Date of promotion is the date entered in the Record Book. So a 1st Kyu would be able to collect points immediately the grade is entered in Record Book.

Q15. Why is Kata-guruma that is banned in competition, still in the syllabus?

This technique is still required for Kata and therefore has been taught in advance for grading purposes and to understand correct lifting technique.

Q16. Why are some techniques still not in the syllabus? What happens if a coach wants to teach these techniques?

The syllabus sets a baseline of required knowledge, the coach can teach whatever techniques they want to, however, the syllabus is set out in such a way that techniques progress in difficulty as the judoka progresses through the grades.

Q17. Why is it that the time limits between grades sometimes seem too short and sometime too long?

It is difficult to set an accurate time as a judoka that participates in Judo four times a week may progress quicker than a judoka that participates once a week. There are also many influencing factors

such as club that concentrates on randori or technical skills. The time limits set are based on an average judoka progression.

Q18. What is the standard for Gonosen-no-kata?

It is appreciated that this Kata may be unknown to many, so candidates may demonstrate any version and also have the option to select any of the other Kodokan Kata.

Q19. Why has there been no change to the syllabus techniques?

Feedback from the surveys, open consultation, areas via the Area Directors of Examiners and Senior Examiners Conference, was that there was unanimous support for the current syllabus techniques.

Q20. Why has there been no competition element added to syllabus?

There was some feedback recommending a return to competitive Mon and Kyu gradings, however there was equal support for the current scheme. So as there was no overwhelming response to change to competition, the syllabus remained in its present format.

Q21. Were there any other recommendations made by the membership?

Yes, for all Mon, Kyu and Dan syllabuses, some membership wanted more Kata in syllabus, equally some wanted less Kata. Some membership wanted longer times in between grade, equally membership responses wanted less time in grade. With no clear majority or agreement, it was decided to remain in the current format with some minor changes to time in grade for Technical Dan grades – see Dan Grade syllabus for complete detail.

Q22. How do we grade a disabled Judoka?

The Mon, Kyu and Dan Grade syllabuses all detail the procedures for grading a disabled player. There is no differentiation between the grade held by a disabled judoka and any other judoka. When judoka are unable to carry out a published part of the exam, this can be substituted for a technique more appropriate to that particular judokas needs. The aim is to assist coaches to make reasonable adjustments to the syllabus and to remove barriers to progress where appropriate.

Q23. Final question – Is that the grading review complete now?

Yes, however, the current changes will be reviewed after 6 months and the Grading syllabuses will continue to be reviewed annually by the Promotions Commission and technical staff.