



## Senior Kyu Judo Rank System

Senior Kyu Judo Rank System is for members 17 years of age and older, however some seniors (under 17) may be awarded senior ranks as explained later. The senior rank system provides for six kyu ranks (“kyu” is Japanese work for “class” and refers to the “student” grades or degrees of judo). These degrees give a senior player ample opportunity to progress steadily through the system without any excessive waiting between ranks – thus keeping their incentive high. The six senior ranks are listed below with their corresponding rank identification, minimum time-in-grade and promotion point requirements. Seniors must also pass a knowledge and practical demonstration exam for their promotion. Specific senior points and exam requirement are contained in the Tomodachi Senior Rank Handbook.

Rank	Identification	Time-in-Grade & Class Sessions	Promotion Points
Senior 6th kyu (rokyu)	6k – Yellow Belt	4 Months & 32 Classes	8 Points
Senior 5th kyu (gokyu)	5k – Orange Belt	4 Months & 48 Classes	12 Points
Senior 4th kyu (yonkyu)	4k – Green Belt	6 Months & 64 Classes	16 Points
Senior 3rd kyu (sankyu)	3k – Brown Belt	6 Months & 80 Classes	20 Points
Senior 2nd kyu (nikyu)	2k – Brown Belt	8 Months & 96 Classes	26 Points
Senior 1st kyu (ikkyu)	1k – Brown Belt	8 Months & 104 Classes	28 Points

Please note that in this Tomodachi Handbook the rank requirements are broken into two sheets for each color for Juniors’ convenience. Seniors test from two sheets at a time in order from 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, ask a sensei if you have a question.

Note that these are **minimum** time-in-grade, class sessions, and promotion point requirements are established as a base for national standards. **Most players** are promoted with higher time-in-grade and after they have earned more points than are required above.

**Promotion points can be earned** by class attendance, competition, and service to Judo. Not all seniors will attain their promotion points in the same manner. Some will earn all of their points through class attendance and service to Judo, while others will earn a portion of their points by entering tournaments and winning matches. Judo is a competitive sport and participation in tournaments further develops skill, attitude, and spirit. Therefore, those seniors who attend all their classes and participate in all available tournaments will earn more points and should receive their promotions quicker than seniors who only attend classes.

### Attendance

1. Class Attendance (10 classes = 1 point) .1 point
2. Camp/Clinic Attendance (session of minimum 1 hour, no more than 3 per day) 1 point

### Competition

1. Tournament entry (shiai)
  - a. Local Tournament Entry (competition to include two or more clubs) 1 point
  - b. State/ Regional Championship (regional = 3+ states & 10+ clubs) 2 points
  - c. International C (Am-Can, Pacific NW, etc) 3 points
  - d. National Championship (Senior, Collegiate, High School) 4 points
  - e. International B (Pan-Am, Pacific Rim, etc) 6 points
  - f. International A (Olympics & Worlds) 10 points
2. Defeating individual opponents
  - a. More than two ranks below your own 0 points
  - b. Two ranks below your own 1/2 point
  - c. One rank below your own 1 point
  - d. Equal rank 2 points
  - e. One rank above your own 3 points
  - f. Two or more ranks above your own 4 points



3. Winning in tournaments (1<sup>st</sup> place)
  - a. State/ Regional (six or more in division) 4 points
  - b. International C 6 points
  - c. National level 8 points
  - d. International B 12 points
  - e. International A 20 points
  
4. Placing in tournaments (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place)
  - a. State/ Regional (six or more in division) 2 points
  - b. International C 3 points
  - c. National level 4 points
  - d. International B 6 points
  - e. International A 10 points
  
5. Entering kata competition (points per person)
  - a. Local (two or more teams competing)
    - i. One kata category 1 point
    - ii. Two or more kata categories 2 points
  - b. State / Regional (regional = 6 or more teams per division)
    - i. One kata category 3 points
    - ii. Two or more kata categories 4 points
  - c. National / International
    - i. One kata category 6 points
    - ii. Two kata categories 8 points
    - iii. Three or more kata categories 10 points
  
6. Winning in kata competition for each category entered
  - a. Two teams competing
    - i. First place 1 point
    - ii. Second place 0 points
  - b. Three teams competing
    - i. First place 2 points
    - ii. Second place 1 point
    - iii. Third place 0 points
  - c. Four teams competing
    - i. First place 3 points
    - ii. Second place 2 points
    - iii. Third place 1 point
  - d. Five to nine teams competing
    - i. First place 4 points
    - ii. Second place 3 points
    - iii. Third place 2 points
    - iv. Grand Champion (not local and state level) 3 points
  - e. Ten or more teams competing
    - i. First place 6 points
    - ii. Second place 4 points
    - iii. Third place 3 points
    - iv. Grand Champion (not local and state level) 4 points



### **Service to Judo**

1. Officiating (referee/judging) shiai or kata tournaments
  - a. Local 2 points
  - b. State/ Regional 3 points
  
2. For other tournament assistance (timers, scores, set-up, etc.) (minimum of two hours)
  - a. Local 1 point
  - b. State/ Regional 2 points
  - c. National/ International C 3 points
  - d. International B 4 points

### **Service to the USJA**

1. Personal life membership level
  - a. Regular LM 1/ Year
  - b. Bronze LM 2/ Year
  - c. Silver LM 3/ Year
  - d. Gold LM 4/ Year
  - e. Patron LM 5/ Year
  - f. Bronze Patron LM 6/ Year
  - g. Silver Patron LM 7/ Year
  - h. Gold Patron LM 8/ Year
  - i. Trustee LM 10/ Year
  - j. Bronze Trustee LM 12/ Year
  - k. Silver Trustee LM 14/ Year
  - l. Gold Trustee LM 16/ Year
  - m. Benefactor LM or Higher 20/ Year

### **USJA Certifications** (points are for the first five years after certification only)

1. Referee Certification
  - a. Local level 1/ Year
  - b. Regional 1 2/ Year
  - c. Regional 2 3/ Year
  - d. Regional 3 4/ Year
  
2. Kata Proficiency Certification/ Recertification
  - a. Level C 2/ Year
  - b. Level B 4/ Year
  - c. Level A 6/ Year

Once you have accumulated the required number of points, have sufficient time-in-grade, and have met all other requirements established by your coach, you become eligible for your promotion examination. You should not expect to be promoted merely because you have fulfilled the minimum requirements for any rank. These promotion requirements are only a minimum. Individual coaches must determine that students are fully qualified and, only then, approve their promotions. In approving your promotion, your coach will consider your skill and knowledge against that of your peers, demonstration, free practice (randori), and tournaments (shiai). Your coach will also consider your attitude, behavior, cooperation, hygiene, sportsmanship, courtesy, and respect for all others. Keep in mind that the ultimate goal in Judo is the development and perfection of human character. Your coach will consider your development in this respect.

**Students are responsible for recording their own promotion points!**