



Black Belt Judo Rank System

Black Belt 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 black belt rank system provides for 10 dan ranks (“dan” 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 twelve Senior ranks are listed below with their corresponding rank identification and minimum time-in-grade and promotion point requirements. They must also pass a knowledge and practical demonstration exam for their promotion. Specific Senior points awards and exam requirement are contained in the Tomodachi Senior Rank Handbook.

Rank	Identification	Time-in-Grade	Promotion Points
Shodan	1D – Black Belt	1 Year	30 Points
Nidan	2D – Black Belt	3 Years	65 Points
Sandan	3D – Black Belt	4 Years	130 Points
Yodan	4D – Black & Red Belt	5 Years	210 Points
Godan	5D – Black & Red Belt	7 Years	300 Points
Rokudan	6D – Red & White Belt	8 Years	410 Points
Shichidan	7D – Red & White Belt	9 Years	550 Points
Hachidan	8D – Red & White Belt	11 Years	700 Points
Kudan	9D – Red Belt	To be determined	To be determined
Judan	10D –Red Belt	To be determined	To be determined

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

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

Competition

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|---|-----------|
| 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 st 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 nd and 3 rd place) | |



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|------|--|-----------|
| 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

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|----|---|-----------|
| 1. | Officiating (referee/judging) shiai or kata tournaments | |
| a. | Local | 2 points |
| b. | State/ Regional | 3 points |
| c. | National/ International C | 5 points |
| d. | International B | 8 points |
| e. | World/ Olympic A | 12 points |
| 2. | For head referee/kata judge | |
| a. | Local | 3 points |
| b. | State/ Regional | 4 points |
| c. | National/ International C | 6 points |
| d. | International B | 10 points |
| e. | World/ Olympic A | 16 points |
| 3. | Hosting/Directing tournament | |
| a. | Local | 4 points |
| b. | State/ Regional | 6 points |
| c. | National/ International C | 8 points |
| d. | International B | 10 points |
| 4. | Assistant hosting/directing tournament | |
| a. | Local | 2 points |
| b. | State/ Regional | 3 points |
| c. | National/ International C | 4 points |
| d. | International B | 5 points |



5. 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
 - e. World/ Olympic A 5 points
6. Coaching Camp/ Clinic (Minimum of sandan or certified USJA coach. Minimum of 1 hour & no more than 3 sessions per day, or 10 per week can be counted)
- a. Local 2/ points
 - b. State/ Regional 3/ points
 - c. National/ International 4/ points
7. Hosting/ Coaching Camp/ Clinic
- a. Local 2/ points
 - b. State/ Regional 3/ points
 - c. National/ International 4/ points
8. Head Club Coach for USJA Chartered Club
- a. Class C Club (10+ Members) 8/ Year
 - b. Class B Club (25+ Members) 10/ Year
 - c. Class A Club (50+ Members) 12/ Year
 - d. Bronze Star Club (100+ Members) 16/ Year
 - e. Silver Star Club (200+ Members) 24/ Year
 - f. Gold Star Club (300+ Members) 32/ Year
9. Head Club Coach for USJA Chartered Club
- a. Class B Club (25+ Members) 4/ One Asst.
 - b. Class A Club (50+ Members) 6/ Two Asst.
 - c. Bronze Star Club (100+ Members) 8/ Four Asst.
 - d. Silver Star Club (200+ Members) 12/ Five Asst.
 - e. Gold Star Club (300+ Members) 16/ Six Asst.
10. Coaching Competitors
- a. Tournament Team Entry (6 competitors minimum) 1/ Event
 - b. Producing State/ Regional Champion 2/ Champion
 - c. Producing International C Champion 3/ Champion
 - d. Producing International C Place Winner 2/ Winner
 - e. Producing Junior National Champion 4/ Champion
 - f. Producing Junior National Place Winner 3/ Winner
 - g. Producing Senior National Champion 6/ Champion
 - h. Producing Senior National Place Winner 4/ Winner
 - i. Producing International B Champion 8/ Champion
 - j. Producing International B Place Winner 6/ Winner
 - k. Producing World/ Olympic Champion 12/ Champion
 - l. Producing World/ Olympic Place Winner 8/ Winner
11. U.S. Team Coach/ Manager
- a. U.S. Olympic Sport Festival Team Coach/ Manager 5 points
 - b. International B Championship Team Coach 10 points
 - c. International B Assistant Coach or Team Manager 5 points
 - d. World/ Olympic Team Coach 20 points
 - e. World/ Olympic Assistant Coach or Team Manager 10 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
Head Club Coach for new higher life member recruitment	
a. Each Bronze LM	1/2 Point
b. Each Silver LM	1 Point
c. Each Gold LM	1 1/2 Points
d. Each Patron LM	2 Points
e. Each Bronze Patron LM	4 Points
f. Each Silver Patron LM	6 Points
g. Each Gold Patron LM	8 Points
h. Each Trustee LM	10 Points
3. Misc. Service	
a. Chairman of USJA national committee	2/ Year
b. Member of a USJA national committee	1/ Year
c. Service as a State Development Director (SDD)	1/ Year
<u>USJA Certifications</u> (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
e. National 1	5/ Year
f. National 2	6/ Year
g. National 3	7/ Year
h. Pan American C	8/ Year
i. International B	10/ Year
j. International A	12/ Year
2. Coach Certification/ Recertification	
a. Level I	1/ Year
b. Level II	2/ Year
c. Level III	4/ Year
d. Level IV	6/ Year
e. Level V	8/ Year
f. Level VI (USJA Master Coach)	10/ Year
3. Kata Judge Certification (per Kata)	
a. Kata Judge C	2/ Year
b. Kata Judge B	4/ Year
c. National Kata Judge A	6/ Year
4. Kata Proficiency Certification/ Recertification	
a. Level C	2/ Year
b. Level B	4/ Year
c. Level A	6/ Year
5. Rank Examiner Certification	
a. USJA Rank Examiner	1/ Year
b. USJA National Rank Examiner	3/ Year
c. USJA Senior Rank Examiner	5/ Year
d. USJA Master Rank Examiner	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!