



Junior Judo Rank System

Junior Judo Rank System is for members 16 years of age and younger, provides for twelve junior degrees or ranks. These degrees give a junior player ample opportunity to progress steadily through the system without any excessive waiting between ranks – thus keeping their incentive high. The twelve junior 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 junior points awards and exam requirement are contained in the Tomodachi Junior Rank Handbook.

Rank	Identification	Time-in-Grade & Class Sessions	Promotion Points
Junior 1 st Degree	01 – Yellow Belt	2 Months & 16 Classes	4 Points
Junior 2 nd Degree	02 – Yellow Belt	2 Months & 16 Classes	5 Points
Junior 3 rd Degree	03 – Orange Belt	2 Months & 24 Classes	6 Points
Junior 4 th Degree	04 – Orange Belt	2 Months & 24 Classes	7 Points
Junior 5 th Degree	05 – Green Belt	3 Months & 32 Classes	8 Points
Junior 6 th Degree	06 – Green Belt	3 Months & 32 Classes	9 Points
Junior 7 th Degree	07 – Blue Belt	3 Months & 40 Classes	10 Points
Junior 8 th Degree	08 – Blue Belt	3 Months & 40 Classes	11 Points
Junior 9 th Degree	09 – Purple Belt	4 Months & 48 Classes	12 Points
Junior 10 th Degree	10 – Purple Belt	4 Months & 48 Classes	13 Points
Junior 11 th Degree	11 – Brown Belt	4 Months & 52 Classes	14 Points
Junior 12 th Degree	12 – Brown Belt	4 Months & 52 Classes	15 Points

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 juniors 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 juniors who attend all their classes and participate in all available tournaments will earn more points and should receive their promotions quicker than juniors who only attend classes.

Class Attendance	1 point per 10 classes
Camp/Clinic Attendance	1 point per session of minimum 1 hour (no more than 3 per day)
Intra-club Tournament Entry	1 point (consisting of members from the same club)
Local Tournament Entry	2 points (competition to include two or more clubs)
State/ Regional Championship Entry	3 points
National Championship	4 points
International Competition	5 points (represents the U.S. Team)
Tournament Wins	1 point per division win
Tournament Assistance	1 point for score keeping, timing, refereeing, or other assistance
Other Assistance	Up to 1 point for a club activity determined by the Club Coach.
USJA Life Membership	1 point per promotion

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!