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RULES FOR GRADES AWARDING

<u>IJF Official</u>

« JUDO DAN »

From 1st to 10th Dan

Grades examination

PROJET 2025

IJF



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JUDO GRADE

JUDO GRADE:

The grade system is the basis of the judo education system.

Our discipline was created by Jigoro Kano as a system of physical, mental and social education through the practice of judo. The Grades are used to measure the progress made by the judoka. This progress is assessed primarily in the field of judo, but also in terms of the individual's personal orientation for the benefit of society.

The three components of the Grade are:

- The "Tai" (body) that one could materialise in the assessment of the individual through sport results.

- The "Ghi" (study, work) which is evaluated by technical knowledge.

- The "Shin" (mind) which materialises by the engagement towards the others and the judo that the judoka produces but also through is radiance and his example.

Nota:

The IJF is the only international reference for the award of judo Grades (Dan). The IJF member federations are the only national bodies recognised by the IJF for awarding the judo Dan.

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1st Dan programme SHO-DAN

DEFINITION

The 1st Dan of the black belt represents entry into the family of experienced judoka. It guarantees knowledge of the technical bases of judo and technical efficiency.

The 1st Dan rewards supportive and respectful social behavior.

OBJECTIVES

A judoka must be aware of the immensity of the knowledge he still has to acquire, in particular with regard to competition, which is a means of personal progress and not an important value. In addition to their own personal development, Sho-Dan must start to invest in the development of the judo community and the promotion of human values.

Age and deadlines for passing the IJF grades

- To be at least 15 years old

- To have at least 1 year of brown belt

1st Dan EXAMINATION

PROGRAMME

- 1) The examination begins with a brief presentation by the candidate on their judo background.
- 2) Mondo test
- 3) Kata test
- 4) Technical test with 5 Nage Waza techniques and 5 Ne Waza techniques chosen at random, one of which must be in the specific programme for the Grade of the examination (candidates must have at least 15 minutes to prepare their presentation with their Uke).
- 5) Exercises specified below.
- 6) To have scored at least 5 ippons in a federal competition on brown or black belts.

MONDO test (History and culture)

A 5-minute introduction can be presented to young judoka to stimulate reflection and discussion. **Subject**: Origin of Judo and judo an education of the individual above all.

ΚΑΤΑ

Nage No Kata first 3 series (Tori & Uke) Katame No kata 1 serie (Tori & Uke)

TECHNICAL PROGRAMME

Technical objective: to know the 100 techniques of Gokyo for the 3rd Dan and for the 1st Dan to know 89 in total with the 77 which are in the program for the colored belts). Appendix 7.



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Technical Test: 5 Nage-Waza and 5 Ne-Waza techniques chosen at random, one of which must be in the specific programme for the grade of the examination (candidates must have at least 15 minutes to prepare their presentation with their Uke).

Technical test Nage-Waza

Osoto-Guruma - Tsuri-Goshi - Uchi-mata-Sukashi - Tawara-Gaeshi - Hikikomi-Gaeshi

Technical test Ne-Waza

Sankaku-jime - Waki-Gatame - Hara-Gatame - Hiza-Gatame - Te-Gatame - Ashi-Gatame - Ashi-Garami.

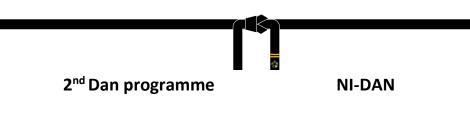
JUDO EXERCICES

Kagari Gaeko 2 min (randori with one attacking) Uchi Komi 1 min (repetition of a technique) Static Nage Komi right and left (Uchi-Komi with fall - 10 falls x 2) Nage Komi while moving (15 falls)

EFFICIENCY TEST



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DEFINITION

The 2nd Dan reinforces the sense of belonging to the judo family. It is the grade where you work on understanding and personalising your technical knowledge.

A 2nd Dan must be an example, one of the leaders within the club.

OBJECTIVES

A judoka must become aware of the immensity of the knowledge he/she still has to acquire, in particular about competition, which is a means of personal progress and not a sole goal, but an exciting activity necessary for personal progression.

In addition to their personal progression, 2nd Dan members must be committed to the development of the club as a whole and the transmission of judo, which is more than just a sport. The 2nd Dan allows you to define your choice of commitment in practice: (technical, competition, manager, referee...)

Age and deadlines for passing the IJF grades

- To be at least 17 years old

- To have at least 2 years of $1^{\mbox{\scriptsize st}}$ Dan delivered by a National Federation

2nd Dan EXAMINATION

PROGRAMME

- 1) The examination begins with a brief presentation by the candidate on their judo background.
- 2) Mondo test
- 3) Kata test
- 4) Technical test with 5 Nage Waza techniques and 5 Ne Waza techniques chosen at random, one of which must be in the specific programme for the Grade of the examination (candidates must have at least 15 minutes to prepare their presentation with their Uke).
- 5) Exercises specified below.
- 6) To have scored at least 5 ippons in a federal competition on black belts.

MONDO TEST (History and culture)

A 5-minute oral presentation that can be delivered to teachers or coaches to stimulate discussion and debate.

Subject: "Judo more than sport"



ΚΑΤΑ

Complete Nage no Kata (Tori & Uke) Complete Katame no Kata (Tori & Uke)

TECHNIQUE

(Technical objective: to know the 100 techniques of Gokyo for the 3rd Dan and for the 2nd Dan to know 94 in total with the 89 which are in the program of the 1st Dan).

Technical test with 5 Nage Waza techniques and 5 Ne Waza techniques chosen at random, one of which must be in the specific programme for the Grade of the examination (candidates must have at least 15 minutes to prepare their presentation with their Uke).

Technical test Nage-Waza

Technical test: 5 Nage Waza techniques chosen at random, including one from the specific programme for the level of examination.

Complete Go Kyo programme including the following 5 techniques from the 2nd Dan programme Sumi-Otoshi - Uchi-Maki-komi - Obi-Otoshi - Obi-Tori-Gaeshi - Kuchiki-Taoshi

Technical test Ne-Waza

Technical test: - 5 Ne Waza techniques chosen at random, including one from the specific programme for the grade of the exam.

Complete Go Kyo programme including the following 7 techniques from the 2nd dan programme: Sankaku-Jime - Waki-Gatame - Hara-Gatame - Hiza-Gatame - Te-Gatame - Ashi-Gatame - Ashi-Garami.

JUDO EXERCICES

Kagari Gaeko with at least 10 techniques performed over 2 minutes (randori or only one who attacks).

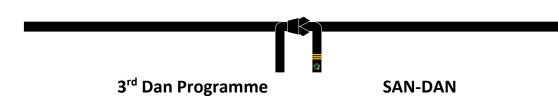
Nage Komi in movement right and left (10 x 2).

Nage Komi in movement with at least 4 different techniques to the right and to the left (10 falls x 2).

EFFICIENCY TEST



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DEFINITION

The 3rd Dan holder is an accomplished judoka in terms of practice, becoming a technical reference and an example to all. The 3rd Dan is confirmation of a long-term commitment to promoting the ideals of Judo.

OBJECTIVES

After his commitment to learning techniques and seeking efficiency, the 3rd Dan must understand the principles of the fundamental techniques and transmit the outcome of his research and knowledge.

Preparation for the 6th Dan begins.

Age and deadlines for passing the IJF grades

- To be at least 20 years old

- To have at least 3 years of 2nd Dan delivered by a National Federation

3rd Dan EXAMINATION

Programme

- 1) The examination begins with a brief presentation by the candidate on their judo background.
- 2) Mondo test
- 3) Kata test
- 4) Technical test with 5 Nage Waza techniques and 5 Ne Waza techniques chosen at random, one of which must be in the specific programme for the Grade of the examination (candidates must have at least 15 minutes to prepare their presentation with their Uke).
- 5) Exercises specified below.
- 6) To have scored five ippons in a federal competition on black belts.

Mondo (History and culture)

A 5-minute oral presentation that can be delivered to teachers or coaches to stimulate discussion and debate.

Subject: "To each his own judo, judo is a personal expression".

KATA:

Complete Katame No Kata (Tori & Uke)

Complete Kime No Kata (Tori & Uke)



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If this is the candidate's first IJF Grade (Dan), he/she must also perform a series of Nage No Kata (programme for the 2nd Dan) chosen at random as Tori.

TECHNIQUE

(Technical objective: to know the 100 techniques of Gokyo required for the 3rd Dan. Appendix 7 Technical test with 5 Nage Waza techniques and 5 Ne Waza techniques chosen at random, one of which must be in the specific programme for the Grade of the examination (candidates must have at least 15 minutes to prepare their presentation with their Uke).

Technical test Nage-Waza

Technical test: 5 Nage Waza techniques chosen at random, including one from the specific programme for the level of examination.

Complete Go Kyo programme including the following 6 techniques from the 3rd Dan programme Kibisu-Gaeshi – Yoko-Wakare– Daki-Wakare– Kani-Basami – Kawazu-Gake – Morote-GARI

Technical test Ne-Waza

Technical test: - 5 Ne Waza techniques chosen at random, including one from the specific programme for the grade of the exam. Complete Go Kyo programme

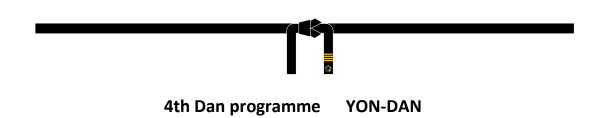
JUDO EXERCICES

Randori Ne-Waza 2 min Randori Tachi-Waza 2 min Nage Komi Tachi-Waza-Ne-Waza sequence of at least 5 different techniques. 10 sequences in total.

EFFICIENCY TEST



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DEFINITION

The 4th Dan is a high-level grade awarded to people with significant experience in judo, whether specialised (competition, refereeing, kata, teaching, coaching, etc.) or multi-skilled. Holders of the 4th Dan must have a wide influence beyond the club.

These persons are committed to developing judo and promoting it as a means of education.

OBJECTIVES

To be at the service of judo as a whole and to continue personal development in the knowledge of judo.

Preparation for the 6th Dan performance.

Age and deadlines for passing the IJF grades

- To be at least 24 years old

- To have at least 4 years of 3rd Dan delivered by a National Federation

4th DAN EXAMINATION

PROGRAMME

- 1) The examination begins with a brief presentation by the candidate on their judo background.
- 2) Mondo test
- 3) Kata test
- 4) Technical test with 5 Nage Waza techniques and 5 Ne Waza techniques chosen at random, one of which must be in the specific programme for the Grade of the examination (candidates must have at least 30 minutes to prepare their presentation with their Uke).
- 5) Exercises specified below.
- 6) To have scored five ippons in a federal competition on black belts.

MONDO TEST (History and culture)

A 10-minute oral presentation that can be delivered to teachers or coaches to stimulate discussion and debate.

Subject: optimal use of energy.

TECHNICAL TESTS

(Technical objective: to know all the techniques of Gokyo in movement and know how to teach them to young people, sports or leisure activities).



NAGE-WAZA

Demonstration of a technique in each of the following groups:

Ashi-Waza - Kochi-Waza - Te-Waza - Sutemi-Waza or Maki-Komi. These techniques will be performed while moving and completed by a demonstration of pedagogical exercises used to teach them.

NE-WAZA

Technical Test: - Demonstration of one technique in each of the following groups: - Osae-Komi-Waza - Kansetsu-Waza - Shime-Waza. These techniques will be performed while moving and completed by a demonstration of pedagogical exercises used to teach them. Complete Gokyo programme (One technique of the candidate's choice).

JUDO EXERCICES

Randori Ne-Waza 2 min Randori Tachi-Waza 2 min Nage Komi Tachi-Waza-Ne-Waza sequence of at least 5 different techniques. 10 sequences in total.

EFFICIENCY TEST

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GO-DAN

DEFINITION

This is the last grade before the 6th and the 7th Dan "high Grades". This Grade is a significant achievement and a goal for all judoka.

The 5th Dan is a technical reference. The holder of this Grade has proved his efficiency in his realisation and has appropriated judo educational values that he retransmits by his influence with the judoka and outside the Dojo in his social life.

OBJECTIVES

To put oneself at the service of judo as a whole, to continue one's personal development in the knowledge of judo and to work towards becoming an expert by passing the 6th Dan examination.

Age and deadlines for passing the IJF grades

- To be at least 24 years old

- To have at least 5 years of 4th Dan delivered by a National Federation

PROGRAMME

- 1) The examination begins with a brief presentation by the candidate on their judo background.
- 2) Mondo test
- 3) Kata test
- 4) Technical test: 5 Nage Waza techniques and 5 Ne waza techniques chosen at random, one of which must be in the specific programme for the examination grade.
- 5) Exercises specified below.
- 6) Having scored at least 5 ippons in federal competition on black belts.

MONDO TEST (History and culture)

A 10-minute introduction can be presented to teachers or coaches to stimulate discussion and debate.

Subject: The values of the Grade « Shin - Gi - Taï »

TECHNICAL PROGRAMME

ΚΑΤΑ

Complete Juno kata (Tori & Uke)

If this is the candidate's first IJF Grade (Dan), he/she must also perform a series of Kodokan Goshin Jitsu (4th Dan Programme) as Tori.



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TECHNIQUES

(Technical objective: personal expression in several techniques chosen by the candidate).

Nage-Waza Technical test

Technical test: - Demonstration of 2 techniques chosen by the candidate. Candidates must demonstrate their ability to use sequences, counter grips and the principle of optimal use of energy. Duration: 10 minutes

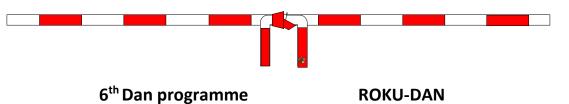
Ne-Waza Technical Event

Technical test: - Demonstration of 2 techniques chosen by the candidate. Candidates must demonstrate their technical ability in combinations, defense, counterattacks and the principle of optimal use of energy. Duration: 10 minutes

EFFICIENCY TEST

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« HIGH GRADE »

DEFINITION

The 6th Dan, together with the 7th Dan, is in the "High Grades" category and is represented by the opportunity to wear the prestigious white and red belt (with a white judogi only). This belt may not be worn in competition.

White and red belt holders are considered as "experts".

This belt holders have no rights, only duties to others and to judo.

OBJECTIVES

The "High Grades" are the guardians of the values of judo, which they must promote. They are at the service of judo and must continue to work for themselves in order to progress and thus improve judo as a whole.

	Age and deadlines for passing the IJF grades								
	Competitor	Referee	Elected official or committee member	National Coach	Club teacher				
A	Top 3 of the Olympic Games (OG) Senior World Championships (SWC)	IJF	IJF Continental	Athletes of « A » category OG/SWC level	Х				
В	Top 3 of the Paralympic Games Top 3 of the Kata or Disabled Sports World Championships Member of a Senior National team	Continent	National	Athletes of « B » category	Senior International competitors				
С	Top 3 in the Veteran World Championship Top 3 in the Senior National Championships	National	Regional	Athletes of « C » category	Senior National competitors				
D	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other				

AGE AND DEADLINES: 6th Dan

Age: 50 years old and time since 5th Dan: 12 years for candidates without bonus.

	Categories	Minimum age	Time since last validation	55 years	60 years	65 years	70 years	75 years and older	Knowledge of Kata
6th Dan	A	30 years	6 years	5	4	4	4	4	Koshiki No Kata
	В	35 years	8 years	7	7	6	6	6	Koshiki No Kata
	C	40 years	10 years	9	9	8	7	7	Koshiki No Kata
	D	50 years	12 years & 25 years of 1st Dan	11	10	9	8	7	Koshiki No Kata



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PROGRAMME

- 1) The examination begins with a brief presentation by the candidate on their judo background.
- 2) Mondo test
- 3) Kata test
- 4) Technical test: 5 Nage Waza techniques and 5 Ne waza techniques chosen at random, one of which must be in the specific programme for the examination grade.
- 5) Have scored at least 5 ippons in federal competition on black belts.

CONTRIBUTION

Mondo test (History and culture)

A 10-minute introduction that can be presented to teachers, coaches, media, decision-makers and the general public to promote judo, stimulate discussion and encourage debate. **Subject**: Judo in the civil society.

ΚΑΤΑ

Complete Koshiki No Kata (Tori)

Candidates applying for the first IJF Grade (Dan) must also perform a series of Ju No Kata as Tori (5th Dan programme).

TECHNIQUE

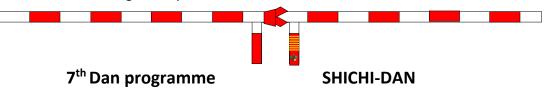
Technical objective: free physical presentation on the tatami.

Presentation of a performance of personal research on a particular subject (Kumi Kata, standing-to-ground sequence, search for ippon, etc.).

The performance will last 20 minutes.

EFFICIENCY TEST

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« HIGH GRADE »

DEFINITION

7th Dan judoka are "experts". In addition to their technical knowledge, 7th Dan judoka help to achieve the ultimate goal of judo, as defined by Jigoro Kano: "to contribute to the improvement of society through education".

OBJECTIVES

Candidates for the 7th Dan must present, in view of the experience they have acquired, a "contribution" which the IJF may use within the framework of its activities or its education system. The "High Grades" are the guardians of the values of judo which they must promote. They are at the service of judo and must continue to work for themselves in order to progress and thus improve judo as a whole.

	Age and deadlines for passing the IJF grades								
	Competitor	Referee	Elected official or committee member	National Coach	Club teacher				
A	Top 3 of the Olympic Games (OG) Senior World Championships (SWC)	IJF	IJF Continental	Athletes of « A » category OG/SWC level	Х				
В	Top 3 of the Paralympic Games Top 3 of the Kata or Disabled Sports World Championships Member of a Senior National team	Continent	National	Athletes of « B » category	Senior International competitors				
С	Top 3 in the Veteran World Championship Top 3 in the Senior National Championships	National	Regional	Athletes of « C » category	Senior National competitors				
D	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other				

CONTINENTAL UNION LEVEL : 7th Dan

	Categories	Minimum age	Time since last validation	60 years	65 years	70 years	75 years and older	Practical and theoretical knowledge of Kata
7th Dan	Α	38 years	8 years	6	5	5	5	All Kata
	В	45 years	10 years	8	7	6	6	All Kata
	C	50 years	10 years & 25 years of 1 st Dan	9	8	7	7	All Kata
	D	62 years	12 years & 30 years of 1st Dan	11	10	9	8	All Kata



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PROGRAMME

- 1) The examination begins with a brief presentation by the candidates on their judo background
- 2) Presentation of personal contribution
- 3) Kata test

CONTRIBUTION

The contribution must be the result of personal research about judo and its physical and philosophical principles.

The presentation of this contribution will be either in the form of a video lasting approximately 30 minutes, or a written presentation of at least 10 A4 pages, excluding illustrations.

КАТА

Complete Itsutsu-No-Kata (Tori)

Candidates applying for the first IJF Grade (Dan) must also perform a randomly chosen series of Koshiki-No-Kata (6th Dan programme) as Tori.

The performance must be filmed without cuts for each of the katas if the performance is in video form and not in person.

EFFICIENCY TEST

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Continental level

8th Dan CRITERIA

Grades from 8th Dan to 10th Dan can only be awarded to those who:

- have never stopped judo activity, have devoted themselves to judo without interruption whether in the field of competition, teaching, training, coaching, refereeing or administration.

- have actively practiced judo.
- have a perfect personality, recognized for their charisma, radiance, ethics.
- have had a perfect career.
- have been promoted gradually from 1st to 7th Dan.
- have had sport results at least at national level.

- are recommended by their National Federation and Continental Union or by high-ranking personalities from the judo world.

8th Dan EXAMINATION

Programme

The 8th Dan examination has no technical requirements. The candidate will have to justify his expertise in this field during his career, if the previous Grade is not an IJF Grade

1) The examination begins with a personal presentation of the candidate's background and knowledge of judo.

2) Presentation of Mondo contribution.

THE EXAMINATION WILL ONLY BE IN VIDEO FORM WITH A WRITTEN SUPPORT

Two high Grades of at least IJF 7th Dan must attest that the candidate's performance is personal and of high quality.

CATEGORIES : 8th Dan

	Competitor	Referee	Elected official or committee member	National Coach	Club teacher
А	Top 3 of the Olympic Games (OG) Senior World Championships (SWC)	IJF	IJF Continental	Athletes of « A »	Х
			Continental	category OG/SWC level	
В	Top 3 of the Paralympic Games Top 3 of the Kata or Disabled Sports World Championships Member of a Senior National team	Continent	National	Athletes of « B » category	Senior International competitors
С	Top 3 in the Veteran World Championship Top 3 in the Senior National Championships	National	Regional	Athletes of « C » category	Senior National competitors
D	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other



IJF level : 8th Dan

	Categories	Minimum Age	Time since last validation	60 years	65 year s	70 year s	75 years and older
8 th Dan	Α	50 years	10 years	8	7	6	5
	В	60 years	15 years	13	11	9	7

DEFINITION

The 8th Dan are "Very high Grade" experts.

Through their extensive knowledge of judo, both technical and philosophical, as well as their social values, they are a reference points and defenders of the great principles of judo.

OBJECTIVES

Candidates for the 8th Dan must submit a contribution (see below). The candidate will authorise the IJF to use it as part of its activities or education system.

Conscious of the importance of the transmission of knowledge, the 8th Dan will put his/her energy into the transmission of the great principles of judo built by Jigoro Kano and which make it more than a sport, but a means of education at the service of society.

CONTRIBUTION

Mondo (History and culture) 8th Dan

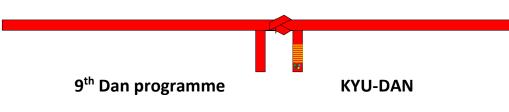
The contribution must be the result of personal research about judo and its physical and philosophical principles. It will begin with a presentation of the candidate's judo career. The video document must last approximately 30 minutes or a written presentation of at least 30 A4

The video document must last approximately 30 minutes or a written presentation of at least 30 A4 pages, excluding illustrations.

EFFICIENCY TEST

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« VERY HIGH GRADE »

International level:

DEFINITION

9th Dan are "Very high Grade" experts who must have a Continental and, if possible, international influence.

They are a reference of wisdom above conflicts.

They are accomplished judoka.

OBJECTIVES

Candidates for the 9th Dan should present a free, undefined, artistic, philosophical, moral or social work. The candidate will authorise the IJF to use it as part of its activities or education system. Conscious of the importance of the transmission of knowledge, the 9th Dan will put his/her energy into the transmission of the great principles of judo built by Jigoro Kano and which make it more than a sport but a means of education at the service of society.

9th Dan CRITERIA

IJF Grades from 8th Dan to 10th Dan can only be awarded to those who:

- have never stopped judo activity, have devoted themselves to judo without interruption whether in the field of competition, teaching, training, coaching, refereeing or administration.

- have actively practiced judo.
- have a perfect personality, recognized for their charisma, radiance, ethics.
- have had a perfect career.
- have been promoted gradually from 1st to 7th Dan.
- have had sport results at least at national level.

- are recommended by their National Federation and Continental Union or by high grade personalities from the judo world.



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CATEGORIES FOR BONUS ALLOCATION: 9th Dan

	Competitor	Referee	Elected official or committee member	National Coach	Club teacher
A	Top 3 of the Olympic Games (OG) Senior World Championships (SWC)	IJF	IJF Continental	Athletes of « A » category OG/SWC level	Х
В	Top 3 of the Paralympic Games Top 3 of the Kata or Disabled Sports World Championships Member of a Senior National team	Continent	National	Athletes of « B » category	Senior International competitors
С	Top 3 in the Veteran World Championship Top 3 in the Senior National Championships	National	Regional	Athletes of « C » category	Senior National competitors
D	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other

PROGRAMME

The 9th Dan examination does not require a physical demonstration of techniques, but the candidate is required to demonstrate his or her expertise in this field.

1) The performance begins with a personal presentation of the candidate's background and knowledge of judo. If the 8th Dan is the candidate's first IJF Dan, the candidate must give information on his or her promotion to 8th Dan.

2) Presentation of Mondo contribution.

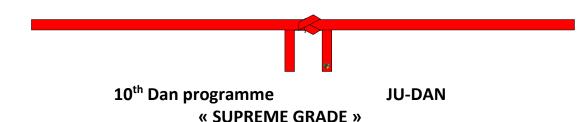
The examination will only be in video form with a written support. Two high Grades of at least IJF 7th Dan must attest that the candidate's performance is personal and of high quality.

MONDO (History and culture)

The contribution or work must be the fruit of a lifetime of experience in judo and its physical, moral, social and philosophical principles.

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10th Dan Grade recognition

REGISTRATION CONDITIONS:

Nobody can be a candidate for the 10th Dan. Only institutions: IJF Member Federations, Continental Unions and members of the IJF Executive Committee may propose a candidate for the award of the supreme grade.

The indicative deadlines of 70 years minimum and 10 years deadline is adaptable to the personalities and particular cases that are these very, very high Grades.

10th Dan – Unanimous decision of the IJF Executive Committee

This exceptional Grade, not governed by the regulations, is awarded only to exemplary people who have had international influence in the world of judo and beyond.

It can only be awarded to those who:

- have never stopped judo activity, have devoted themselves to judo without interruption whether in the field of competition, teaching, training, coaching, refereeing or administration.

- have actively practiced judo.

- have a perfect personality, recognized for their charisma, radiance, ethics.

- have had a perfect career.

- have been promoted gradually from 1st to 9th Dan, without being awarded several Dan at the same time.

- have had sport results at least at national level.

- have devoted themselves to the cause of judo without interruption.

- are of A category, except for special cases.

10th Dan CATEGORIES

	Competitor	Referee	Elected official or committee member	National Coach	Club teacher
A	Top 3 of the Olympic Games (OG) Senior World Championships (SWC)	IJF	IJF Continental	Athletes of « A » category OG/SWC level	Х
В	Top 3 of the Paralympic Games Top 3 of the Kata or Disabled Sports World Championships Member of a Senior National team	Continent	National	Athletes of « B » category	Senior International competitors
С	Top 3 in the Veteran World Championship Top 3 in the Senior National Championships	National	Regional	Athletes of « C » category	Senior National competitors