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.

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

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

**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 (1st 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 (2nd and 3rd place)
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
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
1. Benefactor LM or Higher 20/ Year
   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

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
   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!