

BRITISH JUDO



BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION

DAN GRADE PROMOTION SYLLABUS

1st November 2024



DAN GRADE PROMOTION SYLLABUS

INTRODUCTION

This syllabus comes into effect on 1st November 2024 and supersedes all previously published syllabi.

The belt system is a distinctive feature of judo. Judoka can test their ability, by entering for examination, within a system of grades, and by demonstrating superiority over a cross-section of judoka at the same level, by winning promotion to the next grade. In this way successive grades become populated by increasingly skilful judoka until eventually all who participate consistently, are distributed through the grades according to their proven ability.

The time-honoured distinction is between Kyu (student) and Dan (advanced) grades. Put simply, the distinction marks the point at which the emphasis shifts away from the acquisition of technique on to its effective application.

Promotion with the Dan grades does not carry a change of designated colour until 6th Dan is reached. Even then it is customary for the holder to continue wearing a black belt in everyday practice, reserving the official colour for instructing, coaching, presentations and ceremonial occasions. The Dan grades are as follows:

Grade	Belt Colour	Japanese Name	Awarded by
1 st Dan	Black	Shodan	British Judo Association
2 nd Dan	Black	Nidan	British Judo Association
3 rd Dan	Black	Sandan	British Judo Association
4 th Dan	Black	Shidan (Yondan)	British Judo Association
5 th Dan	Black	Godan	British Judo Association
6 th Dan	Alternating red and white blocks	Rokudan	British Judo Association
7 th Dan	Alternating red and white blocks	Shichidan	International Judo Federation
8 th Dan	Alternating red and white blocks	Hachidan	International Judo Federation
9 th Dan	Red	Kudan	International Judo Federation
10 th Dan	Red	Judan	International Judo Federation

Judoka may be promoted to and within the British Judo Association (BJA) Dan grades as follows:-

1. Competitive:

The traditional method of gaining promotion based on skill in contest, theoretical knowledge and ability to demonstrate specific techniques.

2. Technical:

An examination of technical knowledge and an understanding of specific techniques.

3. High Grades above 5th Dan:

Promotion is a Board of Directors/Chairman decision based on International Judo Federation (IJF) or European Judo Union (EJU) procedures and on the recommendation of the National Promotions and Grading Commission (NPGC) and High Grade Panel.

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- 4. Outstanding Performance:** A Board of Directors (BOD) decision based on the Outstanding Performance Policy and NPGC recommendation for international and ex-international judoka.
- 5. Qualified by Experience:** A procedure for acknowledging the vast experience gained by judoka aged over 70 for promotion up to 5th Dan and judoka aged over 72 for promotion to 6th Dan.

COMPETITIVE

Promotion to and within the Dan grades up to the level of 5th Dan, is based on skill in contest and technical ability, demonstrated through the performance of specific techniques. Generally the theory requirements for each grade will be in two parts: the demonstration of certain mandatory techniques and other techniques chosen by the judoka. All of the required techniques are listed on the Dan Grade Competitive Skills Examination Form.

TECHNICAL

Promotion under the technical scheme is based on technical knowledge and understanding. The examiner will test that the candidate understands the key principles involved in the application of the techniques, demonstrating where appropriate best grip, attacking opportunity and movement. The exam is split into 10 sections that can be completed all on the same day or over a period of time. The examiner must be a Senior Examiner (SE) or a person appointed by the NPGC and can examine up to and including the grade that they hold. A guide to the examining process is on page 13. The Assessor/SE may charge whatever assessment fee is appropriate. When candidates have satisfied all criteria including the age and time in grade requirements as specified on page 19, they may then submit the application for promotion, to the National Dan Grade Administrator (NDGA). They must hold current full membership and enclose a completed Technical Dan Grade Record Card together with their Record Book and the fee of £50.

PROMOTION TO HIGH GRADES ABOVE 5TH DAN

Promotion to 6th Dan and above is not automatic.

Each application will be considered on its merits and account will be taken of the judokas judo experience, qualifications and **activities since their last promotion**. This is then balanced against the grade applied for. The judo career of judoka at this level will vary and a rigid 'one-size-fits-all' approach by the NPGC would be neither realistic nor fair. To enable the NPGC to carry out its work, it is the judokas responsibility to provide accurate, factual information on the forms provided.

For promotion to 6th Dan - Judoka holding the grade of 5th Dan must apply to the NPGC via the National Dan Grading Manager (NDGM) using the published application for 6th Dan form. There is no fee. The amount of time to be served in their current grade before promotion will depend on the criteria achieved, as detailed on page 20 of this syllabus. The BJA Judo Commission (JC) will, on the recommendation of the NPGC decide whether the judoka may be promoted. It is a requirement that the judoka must hold a minimum of level 1 certificate, in Nage-No-Kata and Katame-No-Kata. Copies of these certificates must be supplied with the application for promotion.

For promotion to 7th Dan and above - Judoka must apply, using the published BJA application form, to the NPGC via the NDGM. There is no fee charged as the BJA will pay the EJU fee. The category A, B C or D requirements must have been **satisfied since their last promotion**. The BJA BOD/Chairman will, on the recommendation of the Promotion Commission and the High Grade Panel, recommend judoka to the EJU/IJF.

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Knowledge of the following 6 Kodokan kata are required for promotion to 7th Dan and above – required kata are – Nage-No-Kata, Katame-No-Kata, Kime-No-Kata, Ju-no-Kata, Kodokan Goshin Jutsu and Koshiki-No-Kata. Evidence of knowledge must be by way of

certificate of BJA course attendance or examination. Nage-No-kata and Katame-No-Kata must be evidenced by BJA examination certificate, all of which must be supplied on application for promotion.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

The BJA Board of Directors will, on the recommendation of the NPGC, consider promotion in accordance with Outstanding Performance Policy. This applies to International Judoka including competitors, referees, coaches and officials who have not been able to undertake promotion exams due to International commitments.

QUALIFIED BY EXPERIENCE

For promotion up to 5th Dan, the NPGC are authorised to award a "once only" promotion to judoka aged 70 and above. They must have had no promotion in the previous 10 years and the promotion will be based on a complete review of their judo career, in order to award an appropriate level of promotion in line with their peers. This will be by the submission of the official application form. Although this is a "once-only" promotion, in the most exceptional cases, it may be appropriate for a judoka to be awarded more than 1 grade. Following this award there will be no further promotions.

For promotion to 6th Dan, the BJA Judo Commission (JC) will, on the recommendation of the NPGC, award a promotion to judoka that fulfil the majority of the syllabus criteria. However, they must have satisfied the minimum time in grade rule. The minimum age is 72 and application to the NDGM is by submission of a Curriculum Vitae, the published application for 6th Dan form, together with the 2 Kata required certificates.

Additionally for promotion to 6th Dan, the BJA JC may, on the recommendation of the NPGC, award a promotion to judoka aged 80 or over that fulfil the majority of the syllabus criteria as per the above paragraph. However, due to their age one of the following additional dispensations will be considered: -

- Hold a Competitive 1st Dan instead of Competitive 3rd Dan or
- Reduction in years in grade by 1 category i.e. 2 years or
- No kata requirements

COMPASSIONATE PROMOTIONS

For compassionate promotions up to and including promotion to 5th Dan the NPGC, in the event of a diagnosis of a terminal illness or similar, have the authority to recommend to the BJA Board of Directors (BOD) a promotion to the next grade. This is applicable only in those cases where the judoka would qualify for further promotion in the future were it not for the illness. A close family member of the judoka should submit a letter by email to the NPGC via the NDGM, detailing the request and supplying appropriate evidence or reason for such a request. Each application will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

For a compassionate promotion from 5th Dan to 6th Dan, the NPGC may make a recommendation to the BJA BOD when a judoka does not fit the criteria, but as a minimum, must have been 6 years as an active 5th Dan. A close family member of the judoka should submit the 6th Dan application form and a covering letter including appropriate evidence or reasons by email to the NPGC via the NPGM. Again, each application will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Promotion to 7th Dan and above is based on the EJU/IJF criteria, which does not include allowances for compassionate promotions.



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POSTHUMOUS PROMOTIONS

The BJA are unable to action posthumous applications for any grade, except in highly unusual circumstances.

CONTEST, TIME AND AGE REQUIREMENTS

Dan Grade	Section A Points Required	Section B Time Requirements	Section C Minimum Age
1 st Kyu to 1 st Dan	100	6 months as 1 st Kyu	15
1 st Dan to 2 nd Dan	100	1 year as 1 st Dan	17
2 nd Dan to 3 rd Dan	100	2 years as 2 nd Dan	20
3 rd Dan to 4 th Dan	100	3 years as 3 rd Dan	24
4 th Dan to 5 th Dan	100	4 years as 4 th Dan	29

SECTION A – CONTEST REQUIREMENT: POINTS RECORD

Points can be gained in promotion examinations, competition or a combination of both.

However, if a judoka is successful in a promotion examination i.e. completion of a line up, this will take priority over the accumulation of points, but the judoka must still satisfy Section B and C, time in grade and age requirements.

In order to be eligible to go to the line-up section in a promotion examination, judoka must have a minimum of 2, maximum of 3, individual contests, with a minimum of 2 wins by Ippon.

At a promotion examination, numbers permitting, each judoka will be guaranteed a minimum of two contests regardless of results.

SECTION B – TIME REQUIREMENTS

Judoka must have completed the minimum period of time within their grade before being promoted, having also satisfied Section A and C. This time in grade must be supported by full BJA membership. Any lapse in membership will not count towards time in grade; however accumulated time in membership will be accepted.

SECTION C – AGE LIMITATIONS

Judoka must have attained the age requirements specified for the grade to which they aspire, having also satisfied Sections A and B.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCORING POINTS TOWARDS PROMOTION AT COMPETITIONS

GROUP ONE TOURNAMENTS

Olympic Games

Senior and Junior World Individual Championships

Senior and Junior European Individual Championships

IJF Senior World Ranking Events (including self-funded judoka authorised by the Performance Team)

Senior European Cups (NOT including self-funded judoka)

A judoka selected by the BJA Performance Team to represent Great Britain at the above official IJF/EJU competitions, will be awarded 10 points towards their next grade for every contest won, regardless of the score except for Kiken-gachi and Fusen-gachi. As these competitions often change in name and status, the final decision on which competitions count for point scoring will be decided by the High-Performance Manager in consultation

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with the NPGC. The High-Performance Manager will maintain a register of all wins and forward this to the NDGM at the end of each calendar year.

Judoka must complete the relevant time in grade, theory and age requirements for each grade, up to and including 5th Dan. They must then apply to the NDGA for promotion stating they are claiming International points, if they have not accumulated 100 international points, they must supply their points card, to provide evidence of points from gradings and BJA point scoring events.

Group Two Tournaments

Approved British Judo Association Level 3 and above Points Scoring Tournaments

In Group Two Tournaments, 10 points scored by Ippon against equal or higher BJA grades will accumulate towards promotion. Points scored against lower grades or non BJA graded judoka, do not count and must not be recorded in the judoka's points record.

Note: Approved Level 3 and above Point Scoring Tournaments

For tournaments to be point scoring, they must have a minimum Level 3 rating under the BJA National Tournament Licensing Scheme.

The Tournament Director must apply for the event to be point scoring when applying for the Tournament Licence. If approved, this will be indicated on the Tournament Licence displayed at the event.

Points scoring at such events will be entered in the judokas points scoring card by a responsible official, but only a Competition Controller or authorised Provisional Competition Controller can sign the points card. The results from the preliminary rounds to the finals will be sent to the BJA within 7 days of the event, who will then pass on a copy to the NDGA. Any points cards left behind at tournaments should be returned to BJA Head office.

Point scoring in Northern Ireland Judo Federation (NIJF) and Irish Judo Association (IJA) competitions

NIJF point scoring competitions – Judoka can score points against members of IJA at IJA point scoring competitions – Judoka can score points in All Ireland and Irish Open championships only.

Veterans Tournaments for Judoka aged 30 and above

Ten points scored by Ippon in Veterans Tournaments against equal or higher graded judoka from an IJF member federation, will count towards promotion. The judoka must provide proof of points gained to the NDGM, by copies of pool sheets that indicate the opponents' grade or other such official paperwork.

Adaptive Judoka Tournaments

A judoka selected by the BJA to represent Great Britain in International Tournaments that have been agreed by both the Adaptive Judo Working Group (AJWG) and NPGC, will have 10 points scored by Ippon against equal or higher IJF grades count towards promotion. A register of all wins will be maintained by an AJWG appointed official, who will pass on to the NDGM at the end of each calendar year. Adaptive judoka that compete in the same tournaments but have not been selected by BJA may apply to the AJWG to have their wins registered and accepted.

CONDITIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

Section A In recording points, these are derived in the following way:

Ippon	10 points
Waza-ari-awasete	10 points



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PROMOTION EXAMINATION CONDITIONS

Results gained in Promotion Examinations will be converted into the points system and recorded and certified in the judokas points card by a Senior Examiner officiating.

In addition, the Senior Examiners (SE) will complete the examination sheet with all details, this being the official record for the NDGA. The recommended contest duration at promotion examinations is four minutes. A Supplementary Report Form must be used to record any unusual occurrences.

If a contest is terminated by Hansoku-make (disqualification) or by Kiken-gachi (win by withdrawal), the winner will not be awarded any points towards promotion. This rule also applies in competitions.

Where a contest is terminated by Hansoku-make or Kiken-gachi at a promotion examination, the Senior Examiner responsible for the promotion examination, should give the candidate who was not at fault, another contest, this decision is at the examiners discretion. Where a contest is terminated by Fusen-gachi (win by default) no points are awarded.

In a contest at a grading or point scoring event minor scores do not count towards promotion.

Points accumulated towards promotion in Group Two Tournaments will be recorded in the judokas points scoring card by the Competition Controller or appointed deputy working from the official results of the competition. The Tournament Director will be responsible for submitting a composite record of all points gained to the NDGA. The NDGA will be supplied with the official results of all Group Two Tournaments within 7 days.

SAME DAY POINTS IN POINT SCORING COMPETITIONS (NOT GRADINGS)

The maximum number of points that may be scored in any points scoring event against the same judoka is twenty, via two Ippon wins.

Note 1:- Junior judoka holding the grade of 1st Kyu, under the age of 15 may collect promotion points in competitions towards Dan grades, but will be unable to register their promotion until the age of 15. The minimum age to enter a Dan grading is 15 and they MUST have a record of contest activity as detailed In Note 2.

Note 2:- It is strongly recommended that a 1st Kyu before entering their first competitive Dan grading, should have a record of contest activity on at least 2 occasions within the previous 24 months recorded in their BJA Record Book under "Record of Judo Events Attended", (signed by a BJA official or coach). SEs will carry out random checks of Record Books during the grading booking in process. SEs are authorised to remove any judoka from a Dan Grading if they feel they are unsafe to participate due to lack of skill or physicality.

CONTEST REQUIREMENTS

Traditional Line-up System

The minimum number of candidates is six. (Three, four or five candidates may, if they wish, have a recommended maximum of three individual contests for the purpose of scoring promotion points.)

Each candidate is entitled to a minimum of two individual contests. All contests are of 4 minutes, unless all judoka are veterans or aged under 16, the time is reduced in accordance with contest times in the Tournament Handbook (currently at time of publication 3 minutes).

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A candidate is entitled to a third individual contest if they have won a minimum of one contest by Ippon in their first two contests. A candidate who wins their first two contests by Ippon will automatically go forward to the line-up section and should not be given a third individual contest. Winners should be matched with each other in the second and third rounds.

A candidate should not normally have more than 3 individual contests. If for any reason the judoka that has not qualified for a line-up has a fourth individual contest, they will retain any points gained but these will not count towards qualification for a line up.

A candidate who is entitled to a third individual contest should not be given their third contest in another candidate's line up.

To be successful in their line up a candidate must win all three contests by Ippon. If a judoka has to fight in their line-up, someone they have already fought in the individual contest, then this should not be allowed for more than one previous opponent.

A candidate who fails to complete their line-up, may be used in another judokas line up, e.g. injuries to candidates or numerous line ups and low number of candidates available for lines.

The tables below are for guidance:

Individual Contests Men and Women.

Table 1: Individual Contest Results

Contest 1		Contest 2		Contest 3	=	
Ippon	+	Ippon	+	—	=	Line Up
Ippon	+	No Ippon	+	Ippon	=	Line Up
No Ippon	+	Ippon	+	Ippon	=	Line Up
Line-up Contest Results						
Ippon	+	Ippon	+	Ippon	=	Line-up Successfully Completed

If, due to unforeseen circumstances, an Examiner cannot offer the candidate a line up without fighting a judoka they have already fought, they should consider other options under the Senior Examiner Assessment Scheme.

SENIOR EXAMINER ASSESSMENT SCHEME

When it is not possible to follow the traditional line up scheme or round robin collection of points, Senior Examiners may consider any alternative method of providing a credible grading opportunity. When departing from the stipulated procedures, the Senior Examiner organising the grading must contact a member of the NPGC or Area Director of Examiners (ADofE), on the day and discuss the viable options to gain approval to conduct a SE assessment. Following the discussion and agreed format, the Senior Examiner may then be authorised to proceed with alternative solution, recording on the Supplementary Report Form the format used and the name of the NPGC member or ADofE consulted. The following are two possible examples that may be considered, there are also many other options:-

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Contest Requirements – Example: 5 Wins out of 6

The recommended minimum number of candidates of the same grade for this format is seven. This format is useful when during a traditional line-up grading, there are no candidates due to injury, mismatch of weights etc. available to form a line-up of three opponents.

All candidates will have a guaranteed minimum number of three contests. For the first three rounds, candidates will be matched with the judoka of the same age and weight, where possible, regardless of results.

Candidates with a minimum of two wins by Ippon will be given further contests until they have either lost and/or drawn two contests on the day or win five contests out of six.

Candidates who have lost and/or drawn two contests may be given further contests for points scoring purposes, but will not qualify for promotion on the day.

At no stage should candidates fight each other twice.

Round One	Round Two	Round Three	Round Four	Round Five	Round Six	
Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	N/A	Line-up Successfully Completed
Ippon	Ippon	No Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Line-up Successfully Completed
Ippon	No Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Line-up Successfully Completed
No Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Ippon	Line-up Successfully Completed

Contest Requirements – Example: Multi-grade 50 points on the day

This system could be used when there is a collection of various grades with less than six of the same grade.

For the first three rounds candidates will be matched with judoka in priority of the same grade, age and weight where possible regardless of results.

Candidates will be matched with judoka of the same grade for as many rounds as possible and then with judoka of the next higher or lower grade.

Candidates will continue fighting until they have either gained fifty points or have lost or drawn two contests.

Candidates who have lost or drawn two contests are not eligible to gain promotion on the day. However, they may be required to provide contests for judoka candidates who are eligible for promotion on the day and will accumulate points for promotion for any Ippon win.

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The following table shows the recommended points for male judoka gained against the various grades:-

Winner	Score	1 st Dan	2 nd Dan	3 rd Dan	4 th Dan
1 st Dan	Ippon	10	10	10	10
2 nd Dan	Ippon	5	10	10	10
3 rd Dan	Ippon	5	5	10	10
4 th Dan	Ippon	5	5	5	10

Due to the shortage of opponents and options available, only female judoka are allowed to integrate 1st Kyus into the SE assessment scheme. The following table shows the recommended points:-

Winner	Score	1 st Kyu	1 st Dan	2 nd Dan	3 rd Dan	4 th Dan
1 st Kyu	Ippon	10	10	10	10	10
1 st Dan	Ippon	5	10	10	10	10
2 nd Dan	Ippon	5	5	10	10	10
3 rd Dan	Ippon	5	5	5	10	10
4 th Dan	Ippon	5	5	5	5	10

Candidates will have any successes converted into the points system and recorded in their points card in the manner laid down.

Points will accumulate, with others, to carry candidates forward to eventual promotion, providing the other conditions are met.

If the examiner feels that there are no suitable judoka left for the candidate to fight, they may restrict the number of contests accordingly.

All candidates must satisfy the age limitation and time between grade requirements.

In exceptional cases, due to the very low number of female judoka, female 1st Kyus may be permitted to compete with female 1st Dan's and above. Under no circumstances will male 1st Kyus be allowed to compete against male 1st Dan's and above.

Competitive Dan Grading Guidelines for Visually Impaired Judoka

1. Dan gradings where all judoka are classified as visually impaired can be run in line with the normal rules of visually impaired competition. These are:-

- All judoka start in a standard sleeve lapel grip. On the command Rei they will bow and take hold. They must not move or start fighting until Hajime is called.
- Whenever Matte is called the judoka assume the restart position. The judoka may be accompanied to the position by the referee if needed.
- All scores will also be indicated by announcing Blue or White.
- The final decision should also be indicated by announcing Blue or White.
- When there is a discrepancy of standard hold i.e. Left handed Vs Right then judoka in Blue gets preference.



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2. Where there is a mix of VI and mainstream judoka in a Dan grading, the above rules still apply however:-

- The mainstream judoka can choose whether he wishes to compete under this rule.
- The mainstream judoka cannot be forced to compete against a VI judoka. All judoka must be briefed at the beginning of the grading that there will be a mix of sighted and VI judoka.
- For matters of safety B1 Totally blind judoka cannot start a contest as per mainstream competition rules.
- Where an electronic scoreboard is in use that allows a mainstream judoka to see the contest time remaining, on VI judoka request, the referee can inform the judoka of time in contest remaining.

3. At all times the referee is responsible for the safety of the VI judoka and is to ensure all communications are clear and appropriate and that the Judoka is accompanied on and off the mat if required to do so.

PROMOTIONS EXAMINATIONS – FREQUENCY

As candidates have to satisfy a minimum time in grade holding full BJA membership before promotion, there are no restrictions of the number of promotion examinations judoka can enter in any month or time period.

TIME IN GRADE RULE

Candidates must have accumulated full BJA membership of the minimum years in grade or proof of non BJA judo activity.

COMPLETION OF POINTS

When sufficient points are accumulated and all other criteria met, the candidate should send their Record Book and points card to the NDGA. If the candidate is successful at a promotion examination and has completed all the requirements including age and time in grade, the Senior Examiner (SE) concerned may retain their Record Book and points card, if the candidate agrees, to send with the examination form to the NDGA within 7 days.

Note 1: When a candidate enters the contest part of a Promotion Examination they will be expected to continue with contests as required by the Examiners, regardless of whether they have reached the total number of points required to complete Section A. An Examiner is unable to promote and/or record any points gained by a candidate, if they believe the candidate has conducted themselves in a manner contrary to the 'spirit of judo'. These actions include withdrawing from the promotion examination once the candidate has accumulated enough points, feigning injury so as not to continue etc. This action should be recorded on the Supplementary Report Form.

Note 2: When a candidate is successful "on the day" by line up the Senior Examiner (SE) should annotate the points card "Line up completed" signed by the SE and then both SEs names should be printed on the card.

PROOF OF AGE

Examiners may ask for proof of age and date of birth and these must be entered in the points card and Record Book by the candidate to satisfy section C. The minimum age to accumulate points in competition is 14 and they may enter a Dan grading at age 15.

HEAVYWEIGHT/LIGHTWEIGHT GRADING PATHWAYS

The BJA understand that all judoka should have accessibility to various pathways for promotion to and within the Dan grades. It can be difficult for heavyweight and very lightweight judoka to have the same opportunities for grading as judoka in other weight categories, so the following 4 options are available:-



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- Option 1** Judoka may continue to collect points under the current system at point scoring competitions, as described in the syllabus and they may also enter competitive gradings. However, they must understand that it may not always be possible for them to be allocated the same amount of fights as others, when there is a gross mismatch of weight and grade, Senior Examiners will make every effort to accommodate all judoka. However, the safe matching of all judoka must take precedence over all other considerations. The SE is responsible for the safe conduct of the assessment and therefore their decision is final. In such cases where it is not possible to provide a safe match the following 3 options will be explained to the candidate.
- Option 2** Additional gradings will be arranged for judoka in the following weight groups - male over 100 kg, female over 90 kg, male under 55 kg and female under 48 kg. These gradings will follow all standard current grading procedures and judoka of lower weights in the heavyweight gradings may also choose to enter these gradings if they wish, but again the amount of fights allocated may be limited depending on the discretion of the Senior Examiner in charge.
- Option 3** In a similar way to the method in which candidates from non BJA organisations can be assessed at a suitable BJA points scoring competition, judoka that are unable to gain sufficient grading opportunities may be assessed by a Senior Examiner appointed by the NDGC. Prior approval for the event and assessment must be authorised by the NPGM. It may be appropriate to charge a fee. The candidate must have first passed the Competitive Dan Grade Skills exam, they will then be assessed for promotion during their contests at a point scoring event and the action will be reported on a Supplementary Report Form to include details of the candidate's age, grade, membership number and weight, also names and grades of the opponents and results must be recorded. A final recommendation of promotion must be made by the assessor before sending all documentation to the NDGA at the BJA office.
- Option 4** A record of competition results detailing final placing and opponents name and grade may be presented to the NPGC for consideration. There will be an administration fee of £50 for successful applications.

TECHNICAL EXAMINATION FOR ADAPTIVE JUDOKA

The purpose of the grading syllabus is to help coaches provide a safe, fun and stimulating learning environment where all people with adaptive needs feel confident and motivated to reach their individual potential as a judoka.

The coach, examiner and judoka should work together and in the practical section where a Waza is not possible due to any type of restriction or limitation by the judoka, the Waza should be substituted for a Waza more appropriate but within the grading criteria. For any verbal part of the exam, the judoka can by any appropriate means, pass on the information required to the examiner. There is no pass or fail and the examination process has no time limit. When the examiner is satisfied that the candidate has completed the requirements for the module, this is recorded in the candidate's exam sheet and when all required modules are complete the candidate registers the application for promotion with the NDGA, submitting exam sheet together with Record Book, Technical Dan Grade record card, current licence and fee of £50. Where techniques are substituted to demonstrate their understanding and knowledge, the intention is that the same standard is reached, by alternative equivalent means. The purpose is not to lower the standard to be demonstrated, but to allow some flexibility in reaching the standard indicated by the grade the judoka is aiming to achieve.



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A great amount of discretion is given to the examiner, with the grading scheme being very flexible in dealing with all needs and all mainstream documentation should be utilised.

Important Note:

Each candidate taking part in an examination should be relaxed with no tension or stress. It is acknowledged that the candidates own coach is best placed to determine the ability and best time to carry out the exam and therefore can assist the examiner during the process. If the candidate is unable to complete any section of the examination, the examiner will either adapt or replace the Waza with one that the candidate is able to complete. The aim is to challenge judoka according to their individual abilities so that each judoka is fully able to reach their potential. The candidate should be given the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills and understanding of judo and therefore qualify and progress through the higher grades by virtue of their personal efforts. This grading process is a working partnership between coaches, examiners, judoka and parents/carers. Naturally it has to be accepted, that in the same way as mainstream judoka, there will eventually be a point in the disabled judokas chosen pathway where it is not possible to progress any further, in exactly the same way that all judoka, at some stage reach their limit of progression.

TECHNICAL EXAMINATION – GUIDELINES FOR EXAMINERS AND CANDIDATES

The Technical Dan grade is a qualification based on knowledge and understanding. There are many ways the exam may be carried out depending on any physical restrictions the candidate may have. The guidelines are a means of preparing both the candidate and the assessor for the performance of the exam. The list of requirements is not exhaustive or exclusive. The candidate is expected to have a greater depth of knowledge as they progress through the grades and will be examined on a progressively greater number of elements in each section to a progressively higher standard. Completion of each section is recorded on the exam sheet that is sent to the NDGA and also in the Technical Dan Grade record card that the candidate keeps in their Record Book. When all required sections in the card are complete, this is submitted to the NDGA who will be able to cross reference with previously submitted exam sheets before registering the promotion.

SECTION 1

Candidate is expected to have knowledge of many of the key points of the Waza including:-

- Waza in its traditional form
- Kuzushi and an alternative Kuzushi
- Tsukuri and an alternative Tsukuri
- Renzoku with the selected Waza as 1st attack
- Renzoku with the selected Waza as final throw
- Renraku with the selected Waza as 1st attack
- Renraku with the selected Waza as final throw
- Kaeshi using the selected Waza as a counter and also as to how the Waza may be countered
- Most suitable grip and an alternative grip
- Any other information such as Uchi-komi drills

SECTION 2

Candidate is expected to have knowledge of many of the key points of the Waza including:-

- Standard performance of the selected Waza
- Performance version
- Method of escape
- Uchi-komi drill
- Combinations either with Waza as 1st or 2nd Waza.

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- Methods of transition from Tachi-waza

SECTIONS 3, 4, 5 & 6

Candidate should understand the reasoning for linking the Waza together such as-

- Body contact, maintaining contact as Uke resists and reacts
- Feint to make an action to set up Uke or to provoke a reaction
- Time phase using multiple attacks causing Uke to change posture or grip
- Te waza where a hand movement cause Uke to react and move into a weaker posture

SECTIONS 7, 8 & 9

Candidates are to be able to demonstrate knowledge by performing 1 complete Kata for 1st Dan, 2 Kata for 2nd Dan and 3 Kata for 3rd Dan. Alternatively candidate can use 2 judoka that they have coached, to demonstrate techniques so that he/she may discuss with the assessor the major points and principles of the Kata demonstrated.

SECTION 10 Candidate should have a thorough knowledge of the Waza, its development and influencing factors such as grip, movement and stance.

PROMOTION EXAMINATION – ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR EXAMINERS

1. EXAMINERS

Two Senior Examiners are the minimum required to conduct the competitive Dan Grade Promotion Examination and recommend promotion up to and including the same grade as the highest graded Examiner. When sufficient Senior Examiners of senior grade are not available, three Senior Examiners of any grade may recommend promotion up to and including 5th Dan. SEs are required to wear smart attire in line with that of the referee requirements, grey trousers, white shirt, navy or black blazer.

2. General requirements

All promotion examinations must be conducted in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and Bye-Laws of the BJA. A copy of the Dan Grade Syllabus must be available at each examining table.

Only current Senior Examiners holding current full individual membership, are permitted to conduct examinations for promotion into and within the Dan grades.

The Examiner in charge of the mat is responsible for ensuring the mat area is suitable for a Promotion Examination.

The recommended minimum number of qualified referees required to officiate at a promotion examination is one per mat area. However, the Examiner has the final decision on any scores and decisions. Where the referee is more highly qualified than either of the examiners on the mat, the examiners should respect that qualification and should not over-rule the referee unless they have very strong grounds for doing so. In the case of a potential Hansoku Make decision, however, the examiners might ask the referee to show leniency if the Hansoku Make would adversely affect the candidate not being penalised. Wherever possible, the officials should come to a consensus, but the final decision lies with the examiner. At all times, the officials should work together in the best interests of the candidates and the maintenance of proper judo standards.

The Examiner in charge is responsible for ensuring suitable medical cover is available.

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Promotion Examination fees are not due to the BJA, except for the Dan Grade levy which is £12 per judoka.

The Examiner must ensure that the examination sheet and National Dan Grade levy, payable to the BJA, is forwarded to the NDGA within seven days.

Candidates must produce current full individual membership of the BJA on the day, failure to do so will mean the judoka cannot be included in the examination. The SE may use any other official means such as online database to verify membership.

Candidates must be weighed in, the weight must be recorded on the exam sheet and where possible, they should be matched by weight and age in the first round.

Where possible, candidates from the same club will not be put together, especially in the first round. In non-veteran specific gradings every effort should be made to pair veterans in the first round.

All points recorded in the points card must be written in words and numbers.

Any points cards issued should contain all the information required.

At Promotion Examinations, contests will be with opponents of the same gender.

At Promotion Examinations contests will normally be with opponents of the same grade. However, in exceptional circumstances with NPGC authority, candidates may compete against judoka of a higher or lower grade than their own (see SE assessment scheme).

Candidates are referred to the official BJA Contest Rules, as they are required to be conversant with them. Contests will follow the modified IJF rules as prescribed for level 3 events and medical attention will not automatically result in Kiken-gachi. At promotion examinations, these Contest Rules may in exceptional circumstances be amended by the Senior Examiner to suit the particular situation, such as safety area size. Candidates will be informed prior to the start of the examination of any such amendments. As this is an examination not a competition, coaches are not allowed to coach at any time during the contest.

All demonstrations of techniques in the skills requirements examination should be done with the candidate and Uke on the move or in the appropriate practical positions described by the syllabus.

Demonstrations should be properly prepared over a period of time and should reflect the coaching standards set out by the BJA.

The syllabus requires that candidates demonstrate greater knowledge and higher levels of skill as they progress through the grades.

For promotion to 1st Dan and for promotion within the Dan grades, the Skills sections of the syllabus can be taken before or after the contest requirements; it can be at the same event as the contests, or it can be a completely separate event. For the theory sections a Dan Grade Competitive Skills exam form will be sent to the National Dan Grade Administrator (signed by the Senior Examiner responsible for the assessment). If the candidate is successful, the examiner will make an entry in the points card as detailed in the theory section. A candidate can be examined for their next grade only.

No minimum number of candidates is required for a Skills examination; it can be held for one person if required and a full contest area is not necessary. However, it is an official BJA examination and an appropriate mat area in a suitable venue must be used. For Dan Grade

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Competitive Skills examinations, one Senior Examiner may examine up to and including their own grade. Two senior examiners of any grade may examine up to 5th Dan when a sufficient senior grade Senior Examiner is not available. It is good practice that two Senior

Examiners, working together, should conduct all Competitive Dan Grade Skills examinations.

Note – The Competitive skills exam must be completed in total during the examination. It cannot be completed modularly unless the same examiner is examining all the sections over an agreed time frame, and there are exceptional extenuating circumstances as to why the examination cannot be completed at one event

3. Candidates

Candidates from non BJA judo groups being assessed should not be paired together if at all possible in any section of the promotion examination.

Candidates who win a contest should be advised to inform the Examiner immediately after each contest to eliminate errors being made.

Candidates are not normally allowed to fight the same person twice in an examination.

When a candidate has completed the Competitive Dan Grade Skills requirements for their grade, it is valid indefinitely. Points gained are also valid indefinitely.

Multiple Competitive Dan Grade Skills or multiple Technical Dan Grade examinations are not permitted; candidates may only be examined one grade above their registered grade.

Candidates requiring technical recognition of grades from non IJF organizations must take the Technical Examination. Grades from IJF organizations are automatically accepted. Applicants should provide proof to the National Dan Grade Administrator to have their grade registered with the BJA (see transfer instructions below at item 4).

Candidates must wear clean judogi and maintain a high standard of personal hygiene (clean feet, fingernails and toenails cut short, etc.) for the examination. Hair must be secured back, if it is long enough to impede the opponent. No metallic or hard object may be worn. (Rings must be removed; it is not sufficient to cover them with adhesive tape). The wearing of gum shields and leotards are permitted. The recommended dress is white judogi but blue judogi is acceptable. Areas/countries may if they wish, set their own policy requiring candidates to wear the correct judogi/belt. A mix of blue jacket and white trousers or vice-versa is not permitted.

Late arrivals –Candidates who present themselves after the grading contests have started will be integrated into the process as far as possible. However if this unfairly affects the assessments of others, the latecomer may not be entitled to a full or even partial assessment. Should this situation arise the SE will explain the circumstances to the candidate. Candidates for Competitive Dan Grade Skills examination will be assessed in accordance with the BJA Marking Protocols e.g. 0 through to 10.

Candidates for the Technical Dan Grade exam will be assessed in accordance with the BJA marking guide illustrated on the exam form and scores can range from 0 through to 10.

Candidates who request a points search by the NDGA will be charged a fee of £14. They must supply details of all points claimed including, venue, date, contest category and any other details of event. Points searches will be carried out up to 5 years back from date of application, any further years will be discretionary dependant on any information available.

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4. Candidates from IJF/EJU member Organisations

If a candidate holding a BJA licence holds a Dan Grade in an association that is a member of the IJF, that grade is accepted by the BJA. The candidate should send proof of grade and BJA licence to the NDGA, who will register the grade as a BJA grade. There is a fee of £14.

This action must be completed before they can enter any BJA grading or collect promotion points in competitions for further advancement in grade.

This process is for grades up to and including 5th dan. For 6th dan, the transfer must be ratified by the Judo Commission and requires evidence that the grade was awarded by the National Federation in question. For IJF 6th Dans the Judo Commission should be informed. For the transfer for 7th dan and above, evidence of the IJF certificate is sufficient and in this case the Judo Commission and High Grade Panel should be informed.

5. Transfers of grades from non BJA organizations

Candidates from non BJA organizations may convert to the equivalent BJA Dan grade.

If they are a competitive grade and wish to have a competitive BJA grade, they must first pass the relevant Skills exam and then they must be assessed at a competitive Dan grading, initially with BJA judoka of their own grade. They pay the set grading fee that includes the Dan Grade levy. It is possible that the candidate may not only have their grade confirmed but may be able to satisfy the requirements for promotion to a higher grade. In circumstances where the candidate is unsuccessful in the assessment, the candidate is withdrawn from the grading and advised to re-present themselves for examination at a later date. They may be offered the option of a lower grade than that held.

Candidates may also be assessed for a competitive transfer at a BJA points scoring competition. The assessor must be a Senior Examiner appointed by the NPGC, and prior approval must be authorised by the National Dan Grading Manager. The action is reported on a Supplementary Report Form to include full details of the candidate, completed Competitive Dan Grade Skills examination form and, names and grades of opponents and results.

Alternatively, instead of being assessed at a competitive grading, they may elect to undertake a Technical conversion and take the appropriate Technical Dan Grade exam. If successful they will transfer to a BJA Technical Dan grade. The fee will be set by the examiner and on completion; they must pay the BJA £50 to register the promotion.

If the candidate is a non-competitive grade they will transfer to the same BJA Technical Grade subject to successfully completing the Technical Dan Grade exam. If they wish to undertake a BJA competitive grade they would transfer over at the non BJA organization competitive grade that they held, by being assessed at a competitive Dan grading.

All technical transfer applications of 3rd Dan and above must be accompanied with Curriculum Vitae of their judo grading history, and submitted to the NPGM for approval by the NPGC before they then pass on to the NDGA for registration. The approval will be based on a comparison of the candidates grading pathway timeline, with that of the BJA requirements, in terms of age and time in grade.

All transfers forwarded to the NDGA must include the candidates BJA Record Book with proof of full BJA membership and original non BJA organisation Record Book with proof of grade and earlier promotion pathway.

6. Promotion Recommendations

Only on completion of line up, SE assessment (authorised by ADofE) or accumulation of 100 points, will the SE enter a grade recommendation on the practical examination sheet. All promotions are recommendations only and are not confirmed until the NDGA is satisfied

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that all criteria have been met and he/she has entered the promotion in the National Dan Grade Register and the candidates Record Book. Until that time, candidates are not allowed to wear the appropriate belt colour or declare any such promotion. Examiners must not record any recommendation or promotion in the Record Book, only the NDGA or NDGM may make entries in the Record Book.

7. Key Appointments and Job roles

The NPGC consists of the Chairman, National Dan Gradings Manager (NDGM) and appointed members. A separate working group of all Area Director of Examiners (ADofE's); various advisors and the National Dan Grade Administrator (NDGA) also provide assistance. The commission role is to provide the Judo Commission and BJA BOD with strategic advice and feedback within the complete grading structure. The group of ADofE's major remit is the operational day to day activities of the Dan Grading Schemes.

The ADofE is responsible for the day to day running of the competitive Dan grading scheme within their area, ensuring fair, consistent and accurate application of the promotion criteria.

The NDGA is responsible for the administration and registering of all promotions to and within the Dan grades.

The NDGM reports via the Development Director to the BJA Board of Directors (BOD), and in addition to his/her Service Provider Agreement, is responsible on their behalf for developing, managing and maintaining all aspects of the BJA's Promotions and Gradings framework, including the final decision on the award of any grade in consultation with the National Promotions and Gradings Commission Chair (NPGC). Activities include working with all ADofEs in the delivery of key objectives as set out in the National Promotions and Gradings Commission's policy documents and assisting the National Promotions and Gradings Commission Chair in the administration of the Commission's work including monitoring, managing, quality control and reporting.

The High Grade Panel (HGR) is a panel of high grade judoka selected by the BJA Chairman and BOD together with a lead staff officer. They are responsible for reviewing all applications for promotion of 7th Dan and above that are passed to them by the NPGC Chair. They will consider the applicants complete judo career, pathway and activity since their last promotion, before making a recommendation on a promotion to the BJA BOD/Chairman.

Note: There is sometimes a need to make minor deviations to the grading processes such as a unique interaction between other organisations and rather than making changes to the syllabus, these will be formalised by a Memorandum of Understanding.

8. Important change to time in grade rule for Technical promotions

When a competitive Dan grade decides to follow a Technical pathway then the first Technical promotion will follow the Competitive time in grade rule:-

- A competitive 1st Dan will be eligible for Technical 2nd Dan after 1 year in grade. All subsequent Technical promotions will be 5 years in each grade.
- A competitive 2nd Dan will be eligible for Technical 3rd Dan after 2 years in grade. All subsequent Technical promotions will be 5 years in each grade.
- A competitive 3rd Dan will be eligible for Technical 4th Dan after 3 years in grade. All subsequent Technical promotions will be 5 years in each grade.
- A competitive 4th Dan will be eligible for Technical 5th Dan after 4 years in grade.



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Competitive Awarded By BJA	Minimum Age	Current Grade	Min Time In Grade Note 1	Competition Points	Skills Examination
1st Dan	15 Years	1st Kyu	6 Months	100	Yes
2nd Dan	17 Years	1st Dan	1 Year	100	Yes
3rd Dan	20 Years	2nd Dan	2 Years	100	Yes
4th Dan	24 Years	3rd Dan	3 Years	100	Yes
5th Dan	29 Years	4th Dan	4 Years	100	Yes

Note 1: The minimum time in grade is even if a candidate is successful in a line up before they have completed the allocated time. The time limit will be evidenced by BJA membership and is to enable suitable a level of activity commensurate with the grade required.

Technical Awarded by BJA	Minimum Age	Current Grade	Min Time In Grade Note 2	Competition Points	Technical Examination
1st Dan	20 Years	1st Kyu	5 Years	N/A	Yes
2nd Dan	22 Years	1st Dan	5 Years	N/A	Yes
3rd Dan	25 Years	2nd Dan	5 Years	N/A	Yes
4th Dan	29 Years	3rd Dan	5 Years	N/A	Yes
5th Dan	34 Years	4th Dan	5 Years	N/A	Yes

Note 2: The minimum time in grade must be evidence by 5 years BJA membership or proof of non BJA judo activity.

HIGH GRADE PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

6 th Dan Awarded By BJA	Minimum Age	BJA Board Consideration	Min Time In Grade Note 3	BJA Career History	Kata Requirements Note 3
A	30 Years	YES	6 Years	YES	2 Kata
B	35 Years	YES	8 Years	YES	2 Kata
C	40 Years	YES	10 Years	YES	2 Kata
D	50 Years	YES	12 Years	YES	2 Kata

Note 3: Application for promotion will be by submission of an application form, together with minimum level 1 certificates in Nage-No-Kata and Katame-No-Kata, normally a minimum competitive grade of 3rd Dan is required, except under exceptional circumstances from the age of 72. Minimum time in grade must be evidenced by accumulated BJA membership.

7 th Dan Awarded By EJU	Minimum Age	BJA Board Consideration	Min Time In Grade	BJA Career History	Kata Requirements Note 4
A	38 Years	YES	8 Years	YES	6 Kata
B	45 Years	YES	10 Years	YES	6 Kata
C	50 Years	YES	10 Years	YES	6 Kata
D	62 Years	YES	12 Years	YES	6 Kata



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8 th – 10 th Dan Awarded By IJF	Minimum Age	BJA Board Consideration	Min Time In Grade Note 3	BJA Career History	Kata Requirements Note 4
8 th Dan - A	50 Years	YES	10 Years	YES	6 Kata
8 th Dan - B	60 Years	YES	15 Years	YES	6 Kata
9 th Dan	60 Years	YES	10 Years	YES	6 Kata
10 th Dan	70 Years	YES	10 Years	YES	6 Kata

Note 4: Knowledge of the additional 4 Kodokan kata can be demonstrated by examination certificate or course attendance certificate. Nage-no-Kata and Katame-No-Kata must be evidenced by Examination certificate

Categories	Competitors	Referees	Officials	Coaches
A	Medallist at Olympic Games or World Championships	IJF Events	International / IJF	Judoka Category A
B	Senior GB National Team, European/Grand Slam medallist	EJU Events	International / EJU	Judoka Category B
C	Senior GB National Squad	National	National	Judoka Category C
D	Significant area activity or exceptional club activity			