

# Rank Requirements

## USJA Rank System



**The USJA National Rank System is designed to ensure that promotions awarded reflect the technical expertise, character development, and overall contribution of the individual. Inherent in this process is the direct evaluation of all candidates.**

**(1) All students must meet certain minimum requirements to become eligible for promotion. They must then pass an exam and be recommended for promotion by their instructor or a Certificated Rank Examiner for higher dans (black belts) and provide the proper amount of documented USJA Promotion Points.**

**(2) All recommendations for promotions must be submitted to the USJA National Office on the proper forms for approval.**

**(3) All candidates for promotion must be Active Annual or Sustaining Life Members of a USJA Chartered Club with the proper time in grade in the previous rank.**

**(4) A \$30.00 Non-refundable processing fee must accompany all dan black belt promotion recommendations (shodan and higher). The remainder of the promotion fee must be remitted on notification of successfully passing to the rank applied for.**

**(5) A completed and cleared background check is required for all Dan (black belt ranks) per the USJA's Background Screening Policy.**

**(6) All paper work must reach the National Office forty-five (45) days**

**prior to the next scheduled promotion board meeting for 4th Dan or higher.**

**Junior Ranks:**

**00 white**

**01 yellow**

**02 yellow**

**03 orange**

**04 orange**

**05 green**

**06 green**

**07 blue**

**08 blue**

**09 purple**

**10 purple**

**The USJA gives the option of converting Junior blue to Senior brown and Junior purple to Senior brown or black**

**Senior Ranks:**

**The chart below denotes belt color, minimum TIG and classes required for each Senior Kyu rank (6th to 1st Kyu).**

**(Each class must be at least one hour long and no more than 2 classes a day can be counted.)**

<b>RANK</b>	<b>BELT COLOR</b>	<b>Minimum Time in Grade Months</b>	<b>Classes</b>
<b>Novice</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> kyu</b>	<b>Yellow</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> kyu</b>	<b>Orange</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> kyu</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> kyu</b>	<b>Brown</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> kyu</b>	<b>Brown</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> kyu</b>	<b>Brown</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>

**The chart below denotes belt color, minimum TIG, points and the number of sign off required for each Senior Dan rank (1st to 10th**

<b>Dan).</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>A@60</b>	<b>B@50</b>	<b>C@40</b>	<b>D@0</b>	<b>pts/yr</b>	<b>Sign off</b>
<b>DANRank/Belt</b>	<b>pts/yrTI</b>	<b>pts/yrTI</b>	<b>pts/yrTI</b>	<b>4,5D=20</b>	<b>#Rank or</b>	<b>#Rank or</b>
	<b>G/points</b>	<b>G/points</b>	<b>G/points</b>	<b>TIG/points</b>	<b>above</b>	<b>above</b>
<b>1 Dan</b> <b>Black</b>	<b>1/60</b>	<b>2/100</b>	<b>3/120</b>	<b>5/0</b>		<b>(1) 3D</b>
<b>2 Dan</b> <b>Black</b>	<b>2/120</b>	<b>3/150</b>	<b>4/160</b>	<b>7/0</b>		<b>(1) 4D</b>
<b>3 Dan</b> <b>Black</b>	<b>4/240</b>	<b>5/250</b>	<b>6/240</b>	<b>9/0</b>		<b>(1) 5D</b>
<b>4 Dan</b> <b>Black/R</b>	<b>5/300</b>	<b>6/300</b>	<b>7/280</b>	<b>10/200</b>		<b>(2) 6D</b>
<b>5 Dan</b> <b>Black/R</b>	<b>6/360</b>	<b>7/350</b>	<b>8/320</b>	<b>11/220</b>		<b>(2) 7D</b>
<b>6<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>A@90</b>	<b>B@70</b>	<b>C@50</b>	<b>D@30</b>	<b>pts/yr</b>	<b>Sign off</b>
<b>Dan Rank/Belt</b>	<b>pts/yrTI</b>	<b>pts/yrTI</b>	<b>pts/yrTI</b>	<b>pts/yr</b>	<b>TIG/points</b>	<b>#Rank or</b>
	<b>G/points</b>	<b>G/points</b>	<b>G/points</b>	<b>TIG/points</b>	<b>above</b>	<b>above</b>
<b>6 Dan</b> <b>Red/white</b>	<b>7/630</b>	<b>8/560</b>	<b>9/450</b>	<b>12/360</b>		<b>(1)6D+(2)7D</b>
<b>7 Dan</b> <b>Red/white</b>	<b>8/720</b>	<b>9/630</b>	<b>10/500</b>	<b>13/390</b>		<b>(2)7D+(1)8D</b>
<b>8 Dan</b> <b>Red/white</b>	<b>9/810</b>	<b>10/700</b>	<b>11/550</b>	<b>14/420</b>		<b>(2)7D+(1)8D+(1)9D</b>
<b>9 Dan</b> <b>Red</b>	<b>10 yr min + PB</b>		<b>(2)7D+(2)8D+(1)9D</b>			
<b>10 Dan</b> <b>Red</b>	<b>11 yr min + PB</b>		<b>(2)7D+(3)8D+(2)9D</b>			

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Only those with documented activities at the highest levels are considered for high dan promotions. Sixty percent (60%) or more of the activities must be at the levels shown as follows or higher. Activities that include those for visually impaired VI such as Parapan Games, Para World, and Paralympics also meet this requirement equally.

- **6<sup>th</sup> Dan** local and State level
- **7<sup>th</sup> Dan** State and Regional level
- **8<sup>th</sup> Dan** National + Pan Am level
- **9<sup>th</sup> Dan** International + Continental

- **10<sup>th</sup> Dan World and Olympic**

**Below are links to specific USJA requirements, forms, manuals, and procedures**

**General Forms & Info:**

- **USJA Benefits of Membership**
- **USJA Membership Application**
- **USJA National Club Registration Form**
- **USJA Background Screening Policy**
- **USJA Background Screening Release Form**
- **USJA Promotion Board & Minutes**

**Junior Forms & Info:**

- **USJA Junior Promotion Exam**
- **USJA Junior Promotion Recommendation Form**
- **USJA Junior Rank Handbook**
- **USJA Junior Record Book**

**Senior Forms & Info:**

- **USJA Official Black Belt Rank Card**
  - **USJA Points Template Guide**
  - **USJA Point Template Spreadsheet**
  - **USJA Official Black Belt Patches**
  - **USJA Rank Examiner Certification Program**
  - **USJA Rank Examiner Application Form**
  - **USJA Senior Rank Validation Procedures**
  - **USJA Senior Rank Validation Request Form**
  - **USJA Senior Kyu Promotion Ranks Recommendation Form**
  - **USJA Senior Dan Promotion Ranks Recommendation Form**
  - **USJA Technical Manual and Study Guide with Senior Rank Promotion System**
-