

WKO Grading Regulations

Purpose

1. In order to instruct Kyokushin/Shinkyokushin Karate, we, the World Karate Organization (hereinafter referred to as WKO), hereby regulate the Grading for complete Karatekas who have accomplished the true spirit of Martial Arts and trained their mind and body through Karate.

Grading

2. For the Grading stated in the previous article, WKO assigns 1st Dan through 10th Dan. WKO awards Honorary Dans, from 1st to 5th Dan, to those who contribute significantly to the organization. The Honorary Dans are given to non WKO Members, regardless of their Karate history or age.

Promotion

3. Dan Promotion is authorized either as a result of a Grading Examination or by recommendation. The Grading Examination shall be held by an authority specified according to each rank of Dan. The 6th Dan and above and Honorary Dans shall be approved by recommendation only.

Grading Examination and Licensing Authority

4. The Grading Examination shall be held by an authority specified for each Dan of the examinees. The examiners need to have the qualifications in order to conduct the Examination and approve the promotions.
5. The authority and examiners for each Dan shall be as follows:
 - 1st Dan Either WKO Grading Committee, Regional Organization or each Branch shall authorize the promotion. Examiners shall be WKO Branch Chiefs or Regional Grading Committee Members with the 3rd Dan or above.
 - 2nd Dan Either WKO Grading Committee, Regional Organization or each Branch shall authorize the promotion. Examiners shall be WKO Branch Chiefs or Regional Grading Committee Members with the 4th Dan or above.
 - 3rd Dan Either WKO Grading Committee, Regional Organization or each Branch will authorize the promotion. Examiners shall be WKO Branch Chiefs or Regional Grading Committee Members with the 5th Dan or above.
 - 4th Dan Either WKO Grading Committee or Regional Organization shall authorize the promotion. Examiners shall be more than one WKO Branch Chiefs with the 6th Dan or above or more than one WKO Grading Committee Members.
 - 5th Dan WKO Grading Committee shall authorize the promotion. Examiners shall be WKO Grading Committee Members.

Recommended Dan and its licensing authority

6. The Recommended promotion for 1st through 5th Dan will apply to all WKO members who cannot take part in the Grading Examination because of injuries and illnesses. Recommendation should be sent to WKO Office basically by WKO Branch Chiefs, then discussed by WKO Grading Committee and approved by WKO Board as an authority.

7. WKO regards the 6th Dan and above as a higher Dan. For their Promotion, candidates will be screened by their significant contribution to the development of our organization as well as by their skill and character as a Karateka. Recommendation should be sent to WKO Office basically by WKO Branch Chiefs or each Region, discussed by WKO Grading Committee and approved by WKO Board as an authority.

Honorary Dan and its licensing authority

8. Honorary Dan is for non WKO members who contribute to our activities either at national, regional, or global level. The contribution means continuous support towards our organization financially, socially and/or culturally, and it must result in some substantial development when it is assessed in objective terms. Recommendation should be sent to WKO Office by a WKO Branch Chief, discussed by WKO Grading Committee and then approved by WKO Board as an authority.

Qualification for Promotion

9. The qualification required for each promotion is as follows:

1 st Dan	No special qualification is needed.
2 nd Dan	A member who is 20 years old or more and who has experience of 2 or more years from the last grading of 1 st Dan can be promoted to 2 nd Dan.
3 rd Dan	A member who is 25 years old or more and who has experience of 3 or more years from the last grading of 2 nd Dan can be promoted to 3 rd Dan.
4 th Dan	A member who is 30 years old or more and who has experience of 4 or more years from the last grading of 3 rd Dan can be promoted to 4 th Dan.
5 th Dan	A member who is 35 years old or more and who has experience of 5 or more years from the last grading of 4 th Dan can be promoted to 5 th Dan.
6 th Dan	A member who is 45 years old or more and who has experience of 6 or more years from the last grading of 5 th Dan can be promoted to 6 th Dan.
7 th Dan	A member who is 55 years old or more and who has experience of 7 or more years from the last grading of 6 th Dan can be promoted to 7 th Dan.
8 th Dan	A member who is 65 years old or more and who has experience of 8 or more years from the last grading of 7 th Dan can be promoted to 8 th Dan.
9 th Dan	A member who is 75 years old or more and who has experience of 9 or more years from the last grading of 8 th Dan can be promoted to 9 th Dan.

10. Note an exception may be made for a person who has placed 3rd or better at a World Open Karate Championship, or has become a winner of a weight category at the World Karate Championship in Weight Categories. He/she has a right to take the grading examination for 5th Dan or lower Dan without the qualification stated in article 9.
11. The 10th Dan is exclusively for the founder Sosai Masutatsu Oyama, and no other person is permitted to be given that grade.

Issuing belts and certificates

12. When each promotion was approved by the authority, a black belt and certificate issued after the payment of grading fees, and completion of other procedures will prove the grading. Note that no payment is required for the honorary Dans.

Reissuing the certificates

13. The certificate shall be reissued only if its grading record is administrated by WKO Office, and the special rate shall apply for the re-issuance. If there is no record in WKO Office, the application must be provided to WKO Grading Committee with some objective references in writing, and the Committee shall make the decision whether the certificate shall be reissued or not.

Deprivation of Dan

14. A person who has been expelled from the organization after acting against the WKO Regulations, or after having dishonored the name of the Organization, will be deprived of his/her grade by WKO Board.