



## Grading Guidelines

In March 1997 in Kyoto Japan there was a meeting of the IKF Board of Directors. At this meeting changes were made to certain elements of the grading regulations. This article has been revised to incorporate the changes that were agreed at that meeting.

The article is a guide to the IKF regulations for Dan/Kyu examinations. Gradings taken in all member countries should fairly closely follow the pattern set out below.

### **1. Recognised Grades**

The recognised grades for which examinations shall be taken are 1st Kyu (Ikkyu) up to and including 10th Dan (Judan). These shall be granted by the representative organisation according to their overall ability and shall be mutually recognised as being equivalent among member organisations.

N.B. The BKA does not recognise the grades for Kendo Iaido or Jodo given by other bodies for these arts in the U.K.

### **2. Applicants Eligibility**

The applicant shall be a registered member of an IKF member country/organisation. note:- If taking a grading overseas then the permission of the BKA chairman must be obtained in writing prior to going to the country you wish to take your grading in. Also overseas students wishing to take a grade in the UK must obtain similar permission from the head of their own national organisation.

The Applicant shall have the following periods of practice

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Minimum Delay</b>	<b>Minimum Age</b>
1st Kyu	about 50 hours	12 years
1st Dan	3 Months after 1st Kyu	14 years
2nd Dan	1 year after 1st Dan	
3rd Dan	2 years after 2nd Dan	18 years
4th Dan	3 years after 3rd Dan	
5th Dan	4 years after 4th Dan	
6th Dan	5 years after 5th Dan	
7th Dan	6 years after 6th Dan	
8th Dan	8years after 7th Dan	45 years

All BKA members must maintain full membership for the entire period between grades, failure to do so will result in the grading clock being reset to zero for the grade you wish to take.

Once you have satisfied the required time delay in years, your next grade can be taken in the same calendar month.

e.g. After 1st Dan on the 20th August in one year then you may take 2nd Dan any time after the 1st of August the following year, but if 1st Dan was taken on the 1st of September, then the applicant will not be eligible on August the 31st of the following year, but must wait until the next grading after 1st September.

note:- If for some reason you feel that you have a case for permission to be granted to take a grading despite not keeping up regular membership then you must write to the Secretary and



Chairman so that your case can be put before the EC. Please remember that the EC only meets four times a year and this may mean that the meeting will come too late for your grading.

### 3. Examination Method

The host organisation shall provide the examiners. In cases where member countries lack the required number other member organisations may provide qualified examiners. In the case of European or World Championships then the examiners will be selected by the EKF/IKF respectively in conjunction with the host nation.

### 4. Examination Subjects

Grade being taken	Graded on
1st Kyu	Jigeiko and Kata
1st Dan	Jigeiko Kata and Paper
2nd Dan	Jigeiko Kata and Paper
3rd Dan	Jigeiko Kata and Paper
4th Dan	Matches Kata and Paper
5th Dan	Matches Kata and Paper
6th Dan	Matches Kata Paper and Refereeing
7th Dan	Matches Kata Paper and Refereeing
8th Dan	Matches Kata and Thesis

Kata shall be as follows

1st Kyu	Tachi 1 to 3
1st Dan	Tachi 1 to 5
2nd Dan	Tachi 1 to 7
3rd to 8th Dan	Tachi 1 to 7 and Kodachi 1 to 3

There have been several 'grumbles' over the past year or more, about the changing emphasis on different aspects in the examination process of Kata when grading.

The following statement is to clarify the grading process in the examination of Kata and as from the Stoke seminar July 03 will be will be the standard format in all Kendo examinations when assessing the Kata section.

*If during the examination of Kata a recognized technical error is made by any candidate, the panel may at their discretion request for a further demonstration to be given, thus allowing the candidate one further attempt to correct the error. If any candidates realizes that they or their respective partner have made an error, then they should indicate this to the panel by raising their hand, they will then be permitted one further attempt to correct the error. Compounding a technical error will result in the candidate failing the Kendo examination*

We trust that this will assist candidates in their preparation for examination, instigate the pursuit of higher standards in performance and understanding, through the increased study of Kata. Kata seminars are also being planned to advance this pursuit.



## 5. Pass and Fail Criteria

Grade	Examiners Grade	Votes Needed to Pass
1st Kyu	4th Dan and over	2/3 or 3/5
1st Dan	5th Dan and over	3/5
2nd Dan	5th Dan and over	3/5
3rd Dan	5th Dan and over	3/5
4th Dan	6th Dan and over	5/7
5th Dan	7th dan and over	5/7
6th Dan	7th Dan and over	5/7
7th Dan	8th Dan and over	5/7 or 7/9
8th Dan	8th Dan and over	5/7 first exam 10/14 second exam
The requirements for 8th dan and above shall be determined by each organisation and may vary between the disciplines.		

## 6. Grading Fees

Fees for BKA gradings are as follows (all prices are in £ sterling (GBP)).

Grade	Application	Registration
1st Kyu	10	20
1st Dan	15	20
2nd Dan	20	35
3rd Dan	25	45
4th Dan	30	55
5th Dan	35	65
6th Dan	40	75
7th Dan	45	85

- All application fees are payable in advance.
- Registration fees must be paid by successful applicants on the day of the grading, before collecting their menjo.
- Applications for gradings will not be taken on the day.
- Grading dates will be published in the news letter and the calendar each January. Please consult for the dates and send in your application two calendar months before the date of the grading at the latest.
- Your letter of application must include the following:
  1. Your name BKA number and date of birth.
  2. A photocopy of the menjo of your current grade (not applicable to 1st Kyu applicants).



3. A cheque made payable to the BKA for the correct application fee only.

*Please do not:*

- Make cheques payable to the grading officer.
  - Include the registration fee.
4. A stamped self addressed envelope. (This for your question paper and will be returned to you. It must be handed in on the day of the grading. Failure to do so will result in the grade not being awarded.
- Only when you are successful the following applies:  
You will need:
    1. Your BKA membership book
    2. Cash/Cheque to pay the registration fee which includes the cost of your menjo. You must pay the full amount on the day, if not the grade will not be awarded.
    3. Your yellow EKF card. You also need to collect a green EKF Registration form from us. This in turn should be sent to the address on the form. (Not 1st kyu applicants).

It is hoped these rough guidelines prove helpful to the membership and will help make everybody's day a little easier and that you have a reasonable idea of what to do. As stated at the beginning these are only a brief guide and not all the detailed EKF/IKF regulations are reproduced