



USA Judo Promotion Recommendation Procedures

For all Dan Ranks:

All promotion recommendations and applications for USA Judo Dan rank certificates should be processed through the applicant's State member organization's (Group B in good standing) Promotion Committee. Time-in-Grade requirements are intended as a minimum benchmark for review of a candidate. Moreover, promotion is not automatic even with time-in-grade.

All promotion recommendations must include the following:

- Recommendation for USA Judo Dan Promotion form with appropriate signatures
- Complete history/judo resume (can submit supplements)/full competition record (with opponent ranks) if applying as active athlete "on points".
- Evidence of kata and technical demonstrations (documentation may include promotion exam, kata competition, kata and/or gokyo certification, and/or appropriate clinic/course certificates)
- Copies of previous rank certificates from USA Judo, USJA or USJF
- Copies of special awards, recognition, etc.
- Passport size photo with name on back (yodan and above)
- Appropriate fees should be remitted payable to USA Judo.
- Current USA Judo membership (**note:** for rokudan and above, applicant must have consistent membership for at least the previous four years)
- Current SafeSport certification, clean background screen and concussion certification.

For ranks sandan and lower, complete application packets submitted above will be immediately reviewed and processed by USA Judo.

For ranks yodan and higher, all fully completed application packets will be submitted to the USA Judo Promotion Committee for review and approval. Consideration for rokudan and above will only be reviewed during the in-person meetings that take place in conjunction with the USA Judo Senior National Championships and the USA Judo National President's Cup Championships.

For clubs without a State Organization, they may either make arrangements with the closest state organization or apply directly to USA Judo for consideration by the USA Judo National Promotion Board.

Rank promotion is generally only granted in step-by-step fashion. In exceptional circumstances, the USA Judo Rank and Certification committee may consider a skip. A skip promotion is almost never done and requires complete documentation in all aspects of the candidate's contributions to the development of USA Judo and records of Judo achievement. All skip fees must be paid.

For those promotions that are awarded from IJF-affiliated organizations outside of the United States, the criteria set by USA Judo will prevail.

Current Fees:

Rank	Fee	Rank	Fee	Rank	Fee
Shodan	\$150.00	Godan	\$350.00	Kudan	\$550.00
Nidan	\$200.00	Rokudan	\$400.00	Judan	\$600.00
Sandan	\$250.00	Shichidan	\$450.00		
Yodan	\$300.00	Hachidan	\$500.00		

Note: Any candidate whose promotion is denied will receive notification and refunded promotion fees, less applicable processing fee. Applications for yodan and above will incur a \$50 non-refundable fee. This fee will be included in the total application fee.

If the promotion is denied and applicant resubmits at a later date, an application and all supporting documents must be resubmitted in full at the time of new application.

Please upload the application and payment through the athlete's profile at usajudo.sport80.com. Applicants may also send paperwork to: USA Judo 1 Olympic Plaza Colorado Springs, CO 80909 or email to connor.jenkins@usajudo.us

To Obtain an IJF or PJC Rank Certificate:

- Complete IJF/PJC Dan rank request form
- Appropriate fees as outlined on the request form
- Copy of USA Judo rank certificate. No other organization's certificate is accepted.
- Member in good standing with USA Judo

Guideline for Promotion Requirements

Rank	Min. Age	Grade Time				
		Non-Competitor	Competitor 5 points	10 points	15 points	20 points
Shodan	15	3 yrs.	2 yrs.	1 yr.	9 mo.	6 mo.
Nidan	16	4 yrs.	3 yrs.	2 yrs.	1 yr.	6 mo.
Sandan	18	6 yrs.	4 yrs.	3 yrs.	1.5 yrs.	1 yr.
Yodan	21	8 yrs.	5 yrs.	3 yrs.	2 yrs.	1 yr.
Godan	26	10 yrs.	6 yrs.	4 yrs.	2 yrs.	1.5 yrs.
Rokudan	32	12 yrs.	11 yrs.	10 yrs.	8 yrs.	7 yrs.
Shichidan	42	15 yrs.				
Hachidan	55	18 yrs.				

See Below for Additional T.I.G. Calculation Tables for Rokudan and

Above Contest winning points are credited as follows:

Randori-Contest:

2.0 points	Win against opponent more than two ranks higher
1.5 points	Win against opponent more than one rank higher
1.0 points	Win against opponent of same rank
0.5 points	Win against opponent one rank lower
0.1 points	Win against opponent two ranks lower
0.0 points	Win against opponent three or more ranks lower

Kata-Contest:

First Place	2.0 points	National	1.0 points	Regional/Local
Second Place	1.5 points	National	0.75 point	Regional/Local
Third Place	1.0 point	National	0.5 point	Regional/Local

- A maximum of 2.0 points may be counted per Kata tournament, regardless of the number of divisions.
- No promotion points are earned for “walk-overs”, (e.g. 3rd place out of 3 teams).

Recommended Minimum Requirements:

Shodan: Candidates must demonstrate:

- unquestioned moral character and maturity,
- continued practice and interest,
- minimum knowledge and skills in both randori and nagekomi practice,
- increased proficiency in all lower-rank requirements and in contest record,
- proficient in the first 9 techniques of nage-no-kata for both men and women or Jushiki (10 of 15 Ju-no-kata) for women.

Nidan: Candidates must demonstrate:

- unquestioned moral character and maturity,
- continued practice and interest,
- minimum knowledge and skills in both randori and nagekomi practice,
- increased proficiency in all lower-rank requirements and in contest record,
- proficient in all nage-no-kata for both men and women or all Ju-no-kata for women.

Sandan: Candidates must demonstrate:

- unquestioned moral character and maturity,
- continued practice and involvement in Judo,
- minimum knowledge and skills in both randori and nagekomi practice,
- increased proficiency in all lower-rank requirements and in contest record,
- proficient in Nage-no-kata or Ju-no-kata, and Katame-no-kata.

Yodan: Candidates must demonstrate:

- unquestioned moral character and maturity,
- continued practice and involvement in Judo,
- minimum knowledge and skills in both randori and nagekomi practice,
- increased proficiency in all lower rank requirements and in contest record,
- non competitors must have a minimum current USA Judo regional referee license, or USA Judo coach certification
- proficient in Nage-no-kata or Ju-no-kata, plus Katame-no-kata, and either Kime-no-kata or Kodokan Goshin-jitsu.

Godan: Candidates must demonstrate:

- unquestioned moral character and maturity,
- continued practice and involvement in Judo,
- minimum knowledge and skills in both randori and nagekomi practice,
- increased proficiency in all lower-rank requirements and in contest record
- good understanding of and skills in teaching Judo,
- must have minimum current USA Judo regional referee license or USA Judo coach certification
- good proficiency in Nage-no-kata, Ju-no-kata, and Katame-no-kata, plus either Kime-no-kata or Kodokan Goshin-jitsu.

Rokudan: Candidates must demonstrate:

- unquestioned moral character and maturity,
- continued practice and involvement in Judo,
- minimum knowledge and skills in teaching randori, nagekomi and kata,
- increased proficiency in all lower-rank requirements,
- good understanding of and skills in coaching randori and shiai techniques,
- substantial contributions to Judo,
- must have minimum current USA Judo regional referee license or USA Judo national coach certification
- superior proficiency in Nage-no-kata, Ju-no-kata, Katame-no-kata, Kime-no-kata, and Kodokan Goshin jitsu.

Shichidan: Candidates must demonstrate:

- unquestioned moral character and maturity,
- continued practice and involvement in Judo,
- superior knowledge and skills in teaching randori, nagekomi and kata,
- increased proficiency in all lower-rank requirements,
- superior understanding of and skills in coaching randori and shiai strategies,
- substantial contributions to Judo and to society,
- must have minimum current USA Judo national referee license or USA Judo national coach certification
- excellent proficiency in Nage-no-kata, Ju-no-kata, Katame-no-kata, Kime-no-kata, Kodokan Goshin-jitsu, and either Itsutsu-no-kata, or Koshiki-no-kata.

Hachidan: Candidates must demonstrate:

- unquestioned moral character and maturity,
- continued practice and involvement in Judo,
- excellent knowledge and skills in teaching randori, nagekomi and kata,
- increased proficiency in all lower-rank requirements,
- must have minimum current USA Judo national referee license or USA Judo national coach certification.
- mastery of the principles and philosophy of Judo,
- major levels of contribution to Judo organizations,
- substantial contribution to Judo and to society,
- excellent knowledge and skills in Nage-no-kata, Ju-no-kata, Katame-no-kata, Kimenokata, Kodokan Goshin-jitsu, Itsutsu-no-kata, and Koshiki-no-kata.

YODAN AND ABOVE

The Following Criteria Apply to Yodan Through Hachidan

Rank	Category A+	Category A	Category B	Category C	Category D
Yodan	4 Years	5 Years	6 Years	7 Years	8 Years
Godan	5 Years	6 Years	7 Years	8.5 Years	10 Years
Rokudan	6 Years	7 Years	8 Years	10 Years	12 Years ^a
Shichidan	8 Years	9 Years	10 Years	12 Years ^b	15 Years ^b
Hachidan	10 Years ^c	12 Years ^c	15 Years ^c	18 Years ^c	

^a The minimum time from Shodan to Rokudan is 25 years for Category D candidates.

^b The minimum time from Shodan to Shichidan is 25 years for Category C candidates, and 30 years for Category D candidates.

^c Only Category A+, A, B and C candidates will be considered for Hachidan. Per IJF requirements, only A+, A and B candidates are eligible for recommendation to IJF/PJC Hachidan.

DEFINITIONS:

The following exceptions to baseline time-in-grade requirements for promotion will be made for certain candidates based upon their accomplishments in judo:

CATEGORY A+: An approximate reduction of 50% of the time-in-grade requirement is authorized for the following individuals:

- Competitors who placed in the top three in the Olympic Games or Senior World Championship
- Appointed Head Coach of an Olympic Games or Senior World Team which produced an Olympic or Senior World Championships medalist.
- IJF-A Referees who worked the Olympic Games or the Final Block of the Senior World Championships

CATEGORY A: An approximate reduction of 40% of the time-in-grade requirement is authorized for the following Individuals:

- Competitors who were members of an Olympic or Senior World Team, or who placed in the top three of the Paralympic Games or Disabled Sports World Championships
- Referees who achieved IJF-A status and worked extensively in international competition (outside the USA)
- Appointed Head Coach of the Olympic Games or Senior World Championships Team
- Officials who served on the board or working committee of the IJF or PJC

CATEGORY B: An approximate reduction of 30% of the time-in-grade requirement is authorized for the following Individuals:

- Competitors who represented their country as members of the Paralympic Games or Disabled Sports World Championships Team
- Referees who achieved IJF-B status and worked internationally with that license level
- Competitors who placed in the top three of the Kata World Championships
- Competitors who placed in the top three of the Veterans World Championships
- Appointed national coaches who oversaw a competitor who placed in the top three of the Paralympic Games or Disabled Sports World Championship
- Club coaches who produced competitors who were members of a selected USA National Team
- Officials who served on the board of directors, or chaired a committee, of USA Judo

CATEGORY C: An approximate reduction of 15% of the time-in-grade requirement is authorized for the following Individuals:

- Competitors who placed in the top three of the U.S. Senior National Championship
- Kata competitors who placed in the top three of the Pan American Championships
- Referees and Kata Judges who achieved national level status and worked nationally at that license level
- Appointed national coaches who oversaw competitors who placed in the top three of the Kata World Championships
- Appointed national coaches, and managers, of US National Teams
- Coaches who produced a competitor who placed in the top three of the U.S. Senior National Championship
- Officials who were officers of their USA Judo State Organization
- Officials who served actively and consistently as appointed members of USA Judo Committees (generally for a minimum of 2 years)

CATEGORY D: All other candidates will be considered upon review of their individual judo accomplishments, service, and merits.

These Further Criteria Apply to Kudan and Judan:

As a minimum, the applicant must be qualified as a **Category A or A+** promotion candidate by:

- having been a competitor on the Olympic or Paralympic Games or Senior or IBSA World Championships Team
- having worked extensively as an IJF-A referee
- having served on the board or as a committee head of the PJC or IJF
- as a selected USA Judo head coach, led the team for the Olympic or Paralympic Games or Senior or IBSA World Championships
- must have minimum IJF Continental referee license or USA Judo international coach certification which includes current SafeSport certification, concussion certification and clean background screen.

The **9th and 10th Dan** can be awarded only to those who:

- have been continuously involved in activities of judo such as competition, teaching, training, coaching, refereeing or administration.
- have actively practiced judo.
- have an exceptional personality, recognized for his/her charisma, radiance, ethics.
- have an exceptional and unblemished career.
- have been promoted gradually from 1st to 8th dan, without passing several “dan” at the same time.
- have received their previous rank from USA Judo.
- have become a top three medalist in any national-level tournament
- are recommended by USA Judo Rank and Certification Committee
- respect time limit between the grades and the minimum age meeting the criteria of the tables previously exposed.
- be devoted to judo without interruption.
- **9th and 10th Dan may only be granted upon the vote and approval of the USA Judo Board of Directors after receiving approval from USA Judo Rank & Certification Committee**

For 9th Dan:

- **Minimum age of 60 years**
- **10 years since last promotion**
- Practical and demonstrated theoretical knowledge of all kata: Nage No Kata – Katame No Kata – Kime No Kata – Ju No Kata – Koshiki No Kata- Kodokan Goshin Jitsu

For 10th Dan:

- **Minimum age of 70 years**
- **10 years since last promotion**
- Practical and demonstrated theoretical knowledge of all kata: Nage No Kata – Katame No Kata – Kime No Kata – Ju No Kata – Koshiki No Kata- Kodokan Goshin Jitsu