

International Karate Alliance

Dan Grading Guidelines

Nidan to Shichidan

International Karate Alliance Dan Grading guidelines for Nidan to Shichidan are designed to help Senior Instructors give their students appropriate direction and to provide a consistent base from which they develop. The requirements for each Dan Level are attainable if you are actively involved in your training, your club and the International Karate Alliance. For those who may find it difficult to satisfy these guidelines, there is an alternative Honorary Dan Degree. The guidelines for this are simpler, yet still requires significant, consistent commitment and dedication to the Alliance.

Physical components of Dan Gradings must include Kihon, Kata, and Kumite which are selected and agreed upon by the Technical Committee along with the Chief Technical Advisor. A copy of each Province or State's physical criteria for each Dan Grading, must be forwarded in writing to the Technical Committee and Sensei Ron Fagan for their approval.

The following Dan Grading guidelines are for Shodans or higher.

As in the past, a physical test, as well as a 16-year age minimum and 5 years of uninterrupted training are requirements for Shodan testing.

Shodan to Nidan

1. Minimum of 2 years uninterrupted training from time Shodan earned
2. 19+ years of age and 7 years of uninterrupted training
3. Certified in the Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP) level 1 and 2
4. Attends clinics and training camps within Province or State
5. Officiates, competes or coaches within Province or State
6. Contributes to growth and longevity within the dojo and International Karate Alliance (ie. supports/develops Junior Program by teaching junior ranks, acts as mentor in community)

Nidan to Sandan

1. Minimum of 3 years uninterrupted training from time Nidan was earned
2. 22+ years of age and 10 years of uninterrupted training
3. Certified in the Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP) level 1 and 2
4. Performs teaching duties regularly at their own dojo
5. Attends clinics and training camps Regionally
6. Knows and is well versed in at least one kata from another style
7. Officiates, competes or coaches Regionally
8. Contributes significantly to the continued development of the Junior and Senior Programs within their dojo
9. All the requirements from Shodan to Nidan are cumulative to Sandan

Sandan to Yodan

1. Minimum of 5 years uninterrupted training from time Sandan was earned
2. 27⁺ years of age and 15 years of uninterrupted training
3. Certified in the Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP) Level 1 and 2
4. Has own dojo or full time teaching responsibilities in a dojo
5. Attends clinics and training camps Nationally
6. Knows and is well versed in at least two kata from another style
7. Officiates, competes or coaches Nationally
8. Develops training methods to be taught and implemented at Provincial or State level
9. All the requirements from Shodan to Sandan are cumulative to Yodan

Yodan to Godan

1. Minimum of 6 years uninterrupted training from time Yodan was earned
2. 33⁺ years of age and 21 years of uninterrupted training
3. Officiates, competes or coaches Internationally
4. Certified in the Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP) Level 1 and 2
5. Attends clinics and training camps Internationally
6. Develops teaching and training methods that are implemented and taught Regionally
7. All the requirements from Shodan to Yodan are cumulative to Godan

Godan to Rokudan

1. Minimum of 8 years uninterrupted training from time Godan was earned
2. 40⁺ years of age and 28 years of uninterrupted training
3. Certified in the Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP) Level 1 and 2
4. Develops technical methods to be taught and implemented Nationally
5. Officiates, competes or coaches Internationally
6. Further develops the Tsuruoka Concepts
7. Has made recognizable contributions to the International Karate Alliance
8. All the requirements from Shodan to Godan are cumulative
9. Organizes and implements National events

Rokudan to Shichidan

1. Minimum of 8 years of uninterrupted training from time Rokudan was earned
2. 45⁺ years of age and 30⁺ years of uninterrupted training
3. Certified in the Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP) Level 1 and 2
4. Organizes and implements International events
5. Has made recognizable contributions to the International Karate Alliance
6. Represents the International Karate Alliance at International events
7. Further develops Tsuruoka concepts Internationally

Honorary Dan Degree

Administrative and Organizational

1. Recognized contributions to the International Karate Alliance
2. Minimum 2 nights a week at a dojo / working on behalf of a dojo
3. Attends Provincial and Regional clinics
4. Community involvement while representing the International Karate Alliance
5. Organizes events that help develop and promote the International Karate Alliance

Shodan – Nidan	4+ years *	Certificate Colour TBA
Nidan – Sandan	6+ years *	Certificate Colour TBA
Sandan – Yodan	10+ years *	Certificate Colour TBA
Yodan – Godan	12+ years *	Certificate Colour TBA
Godan – Rokudan	16+ years *	Certificate Colour TBA

- * Uninterrupted time...if a person stops training for a period of time, they will start clock again at last belt level achieved