

JUDO SOUTH AFRICA



GRADING POLICY DOCUMENT

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INDEX

Page		
	1. GRADING COMMISSION	
	1.1 Structure	3
	
	1.2 Grading Commission Members (Annexure A)	
	2. JOB DESCRIPTIONS	
	2.1 Grading Commission & Grading Panel	3
	
	2.2 Provincial Grading Coordinators (Annexure B)	
	3. DAN GRADING MASTERS	
	3.1 Categories of Grading Masters	4
	
	3.2 Appointments	4
	
	3.3 Minimum Requirements	4
	
	3.4 Other Criteria	4
	
	3.5 National Register of Dan Grading Masters (Annexure C)	
	4. GRADING SYSTEM	
	4.5 Kyu & Dan Grading Syllabus (Addendum 1)	12-
	25
	5. GRADING PROCEDURES	
	5.1 Kyu Gradings	5
	
	5.2 Junior Black Belt Gradings	6
	
	5.3 Dan Gradings	6
	
	5.4 Dan Grading Courses	6
	
	5.5 Application for Dan Grading Certificates	7
	
	5.6 Fees for Grading, Courses & Certificates (Annexure D)	
	5.7 Dan Grading Application Form (Addendum 2)	26
	
	6. GRADING REQUIREMENTS	
	6.1 Criteria for upgrading	7

6.1.1	Kyu Grades	7
6.1.2	Junior Black Belt	7
6.1.3	Dan Grades	7
6.1.4	Senior Dan Grades	8
6.1.5	Upgrading for International Competitions	8
6.1.6	Grading in other countries	8
6.1.7	Upgrading without Examination	8
6.1.8	Honorary Grades	8
6.2	Evaluation of Candidates	9
6.2.1	Age	9
6.2.2	Time	9
6.2.3	Points	9
6.2.4	Schedule of requirements	9
6.3	Credit for Competitors	9
6.3.1	Time Reduction	9
6.3.2	Credit for Practical Examination	9
6.4	Pass Requirements	10
6.5	Points Table (Competition, Kata & Kurash) (Addendum 3)	27
7.	KATA COMPETITIONS	
7.1	Divisions & Age Groups (Addendum 4)	11
7.2	Entries	11

7.3	Requirements	11
	
7.3.1	Kata	11
	
7.3.2	Creative Kata	11
	
7.4	Creative Kata Entry Form (Addendum 5)	29
	
7.5	Kata Judges	11
	
7.5.1	Selection of Kata Judges	11
	
7.5.2	Criteria for Judging	11
	
7.6	Dan Grading & Kata Mark Sheets (Addendum 6)	30-
	36

ADDENDUMS

1	JSA Kyu & Dan Grading Syllabus	12-
	25
2	Application Form for Dan Grading	26
	
3	Points Table (Competition, Kata & Kurash)	27
	
4	Kata Divisions & Age Groups	28
	
5	Creative Kata Entry Form	29
	
6	Dan Grading & Kata Mark Sheets	30-
	36

ANNEXURES (updated annually on Judo South Africa's webpage)

- A** Grading Commission Members
- B** Provincial Grading Coordinators

- C** Register of JSA Dan Grading Masters
- D** Fees for Grading, Courses & Certificates

1. JSA GRADING COMMISSION

1.1 STRUCTURE

- 1.1.1 The Grading Commission consists of four or five members excluding the Coordinator who is the Chairman.
- 1.1.2 The Coordinator is elected at the JSA Annual General Meeting (bi-annually).
- 1.1.3 The Coordinator can select his own committee members provided they are not all from the same region – subject to approval by the Technical Director and President.
- 1.1.4 The Coordinator of Grading is the spokesperson of the Grading Commission at JSA Council Meetings and the Technical Board meetings.

1.2 GRADING COMMISSION MEMBERS (ANNEXURE A)

2. JOB DESCRIPTIONS

2.1 GRADING COMMISSION & GRADING PANEL

- 2.1.1 The Grading Commission controls the whole grading network of JSA.
- 2.1.2 It is the responsibility of the Grading Commission to update the Grading Policy Document. JSA Council must approve policy changes before they are accepted as policy.
- 2.1.3 The Grading Commission's main task is to facilitate Gradings and Kata competitions in JSA by:
 - 2.1.3.1 Running requested grading/syllabus courses on a National and Provincial level.
 - 2.1.3.2 Nominating suitable coaches for these courses.
 - 2.1.3.3 Providing and training Grading Masters to conduct Dan Gradings.
 - 2.1.3.4 Organizing and training Kata Judges for Kata events.
 - 2.1.3.5 Annually submitting a budget to the Technical Director for submission to the National Treasurer.
 - 2.1.3.6 Considering and evaluating recommendations on grading related items by Provincial Coordinators.
- 2.1.4 The Grading Commission also handles the following functions.
 - 2.1.4.1 Continuously evaluating and updating grading syllabi.
 - 2.1.4.2 Coordinating testing and upgrading of grading masters.
 - 2.1.4.3 Recommending upgrading of JSA members with senior grades.
 - 2.1.4.4 Considering and recommending the awarding of honorary grades according to laid down criteria.
 - 2.1.4.5 Organizing National grading courses and Dan gradings.
 - 2.1.4.6 Approving and formalizing the promotion of grading masters.

2.2 PROVINCIAL GRADING COORDINATORS (ANNEXURE B)

- 2.2.1 Provincial contact takes place through the Provincial Coordinator of Grading, who takes responsibility for grading in his/her Province.
- 2.2.2 It is the duty of each Province to make sure that grading information is kept up to date.
- 2.2.3 The National Coordinator of Grading must be informed as soon as possible of any changes.
- 2.2.4 It is the duty of the Provincial Grading Coordinator to forward an updated list of grading masters to the National Grading Coordinator.

3. DAN GRADING MASTERS

3.1 CATEGORIES

- 3.1.1 The following six (6) categories of Grading Masters are acknowledged by Judo South Africa:

	Grading Master	Recommended by	Approved by
3.1.1	Junior Kyu Grading Master	Provincial Club	Province
3.1.2	Kyu Grading Master	Provincial Club	Province
3.1.3	Junior Dan Grading Master	Province	JSA Grading Commission
3.1.4	Dan Grading Master	Grading Commission	JSA Council
3.1.5	Senior Dan Grading Master	Grading Commission	JSA Council
3.1.6	Master Dan Grading Master	Grading Commission	JSA Council

3.2 APPOINTMENTS

- 3.2.1 The Grading Commission controls the appointment of Dan Grading Masters.
- 3.2.2 Practical monitoring will be done by the Grading Commission.
- 3.2.3 Grading examiner qualifications are renewable every three years by attending a National Course. Failing this, the grading qualification will expire.

3.3 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

QUALIFICATION	JUNIOR KYU	KYU (2)	JUNIOR DAN	DAN (4)	SENIOR DAN	MASTER DAN

	(1)		(3)		(5)	(6)
Grade requirement	Sho-Dan	Sho-Dan	Ni-Dan	San-Dan	Yon-Dan	Go-Dan
Coaching Level	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 3	Level 4	Level 4
Referee Status	Local	Local	Provincial	Provincial	National	National
Age	18	21	25	30	35	35
Time in previous	0 years	1 year	2 years	2 years	5 years	5 years
Course Attendance	Provincially 2 yearly	Provincially 2 yearly	Nationally 2 yearly	Nationally 23 yearly	Nationally 3 yearly	Nationally 3 yearly
Recommended by	Province	Province	Grading Commission	Grading Commission	JSA Council	JSA Council
Can grade up to	4 th Kyu	2 nd Kyu	1 st Kyu & Junior Black belt	Ni-Dan	San-Dan	All grades
Conditions	Alone	Alone	Not alone. Also assists with Sho-dan Gradings	Not alone.	Not alone.	Not alone.

3.4 OTHER CRITERIA

In all cases more than one Grading Master must be present when grading.

- 3.4.1 For Junior Black belt Minimum 1 Junior Dan Grading Master & 1 Dan Grading Master.
- 3.4.2 For Sho-Dan Minimum any 2 Dan Grading Masters.
- 3.4.3 For Ni-Dan Minimum 1 Senior Dan Grading Master & 1 other Dan Grading Master.
- 3.4.4 For San-Dan Minimum 2 Senior Dan Grading Masters are required.
- 3.4.5 For Yon-Dan & higher Minimum 3 Master Dan Grading Masters or 2 Master Dan Grading Masters and 2 Senior Dan Grading Masters.

3.5 NATIONAL REGISTER OF DAN GRADING MASTERS (ANNEXURE C)

- 3.5.1 This is a register where records are kept of all JSA Dan grades.
- 3.5.2 This register will be kept up to date by the National Grading Coordinator and form part of this document as Annexure C.

4. GRADING SYSTEM

- 4.1 The purpose of the grading system is to visibly indicate the knowledge of the judo player by the colour of the belt he/she wears.
- 4.2 A complete syllabus has been compiled for each grade and is intended to progressively and systematically develop the player's knowledge and understanding of judo.
- 4.3 In order to qualify for upgrade, it is required that every candidate will give a practical demonstration of all the required techniques in the JSA approved syllabus relevant to the rank to which he/she is seeking promotion.
- 4.4 The following grading system/rank structure, using different coloured belts to indicate progress, is applied in South Africa:

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>COLOUR OF BELT</u>
6 th Kyu	White Belt
5 th Kyu	Yellow Belt
4 th Kyu	Orange Belt
3 rd Kyu	Green Belt
2 nd Kyu	Blue Belt
2 nd Kyu+	Purple Belt (self-defence)
1 st Kyu	Brown Belt
1 st Kyu+	Junior Black Belt (Black belt with 200mm White ends)
1 st Dan	Black Belt
2 nd Dan	Black Belt
3 rd Dan	Black Belt
4 th Dan	Black Belt
5 th Dan	Black Belt
6 th Dan	Red and White Blocked Belt
7 th Dan	Red and White Blocked Belt
8 th Dan	Red and White Blocked Belt
9 th Dan	Red Belt
10 th Dan	Red Belt

NOTE:

- • All red and white blocked belts and red belts (6th to 10th Dan) are non-competition grades and belts to be worn for ceremonial and coaching purposes only.
- • eg. A 6th Dan doing Randori will wear his/her black belt.

4.5 JSA KYU & DAN GRADING SYLLABUS (ADDENDUM 1)

5. GRADING PROCEDURES

5.1 KYU GRADINGS

- 5.1.2 All gradings up to 2nd Kyu (Yellow to Purple) are conducted at club level by qualified and approved JSA Grading Masters who must forward the results to the Province.
- 5.1.3 1st Kyu gradings are controlled on a Provincial basis and conducted by a minimum of 2 Junior Dan Grading Masters.
- 5.1.4 Provinces must ensure that the approved JSA Kyu Grading syllabus is followed.

5.2 JUNIOR BLACK BELT GRADINGS

- 5.2.1 Junior Black Belt gradings are controlled on a Provincial (or National level) and conducted by a minimum of 1 Junior Dan Grading Master & 1 Dan Grading Master.
- 5.2.2 Junior Black Belt results, together with the fee specified in Annexure D, must be handed to the JSA Coordinator of Gradings.

- 5.2.3 The grading fee must be fair for the specific area in which the grading takes place.
- 5.2.4 The grading fee may not exceed the costs of a Dan Grading.
- 5.2.4 The National Grading Coordinator will issue JSA certificates to the Province for all Junior Black Belts.

5.3 DAN GRADINGS

- 5.3.1 All Dan gradings are controlled by Judo South Africa.
- 5.3.2 One National Senior Dan grading may be held in the South every alternate year.
- 5.3.3 All Dan gradings are a National event and open to any member of JSA who applies for and receives the approval of his/her Province.
- 5.3.4 The host Province is responsible for all expenses regarding visiting grading masters.
- 5.3.6 Grading fees are set annually by the Grading Commission and ratified by the Technical Board. (Annexure D).
- 5.3.7 4th Dan and higher grades are defined as "Senior Dan Grades".
- 5.3.8 In the event of a Province asking for a Dan grading only, there should be at least 10 candidates for the grading which must be conducted by Grading Masters from at least three separate Provinces.
- 5.3.9 Application forms from participants must reach the Provincial Coordinators at least four weeks before the grading on the prescribed forms or they will be subject to a late entry fee of R100.
- 5.3.10 A list of names sanctioned by the Province, stating date of current grading and age of candidates, must be submitted to the JSA Grading Coordinator four (4) weeks prior to the grading.
- 5.3.11 The JSA Grading Coordinator will check these names against national records for eligibility (i.e. licence, age, grade, etc.)
- 5.3.12 A list of names will be sent back to the Province approving the participation of the applicants qualified to grade.
- 5.3.13 All results of gradings will be handed to the JSA Council for ratification.
- 5.3.14 The rank of a grading candidate is only valid after ratification by Council.
- 5.3.15 A copy of the results will be sent to the Registrar for his records.
- 5.3.16 The official date of award will be the actual date of grading.

5.4 DAN GRADING COURSES

- 5.4.1 A Senior Dan Grading course and grading will be held annually in December in the North.
This may be allocated bi-annually to the South on demand, based on the number of eligible applicants (4th Dan upwards).
- 5.4.2 A minimum of 20 participants are required for national courses.
- 5.4.3 Fees must be paid on the first day of the grading course.
- 5.4.4 Provinces must apply to host National Dan grading courses at least

- three (3) months before the proposed course/grading.
- 5.4.5 Should a Province require the services of a coach from JSA, the Province is responsible for all costs incurred. The course fee accrues to the Province and is set by the Province.
- 5.4.6 Participants who enter for such courses should be reasonably familiar with the relevant Kata(s). The course is aimed at improving the standard of participants as far as possible.

5.5 APPLICATION FOR DAN GRADING CERTIFICATES

5.5.1 IJF Certificates

The President of JSA will apply to the AJU for **IJF** Grading Certificates provided that applications are:

- • submitted, and supported, by the Province to the National Grading Coordinator.
- • submitted by the prescribed closing date.
- • accompanied by the prescribed fee.

5.5.2 JSA Certificates

5.5.2.1 The Grading Fee will include one original JSA Dan Grading Certificate and will be issued to candidates on successful completion of the grading.

5.5.2.2 Replacement JSA Dan Grading Certificates will be furnished on production of satisfactory documentary proof of the Grade. An administrative fee of R100 is applicable.

5.6 FEES FOR GRADINGS, COURSES & CERTIFICATES ANNEXURE D.

5.7 DAN GRADING APPLICATION FORM ADDENDUM 2.

6. GRADING REQUIREMENTS

6.1 CRITERIA FOR UPGRADING

Every grade has specific minimum requirements with which candidates must comply before upgrading can take place.

6.1.1 KYU GRADES

- 6.1.1.1 Minimum of 3 months waiting period between grades.

6.1.1.2 Must be a licensed member of Judo South Africa.

6.1.2 JUNIOR BLACK BELT

- 6.1.2.1 Must be a licensed member of JSA for the previous six (6) months.
- 6.1.2.2 There is no maximum age restriction for Junior Black Belt.
- 6.1.2.3 Perform 5 sets of Nage-No-Kata as Tori and Uke, scoring a minimum of 50%.
- 6.1.2.4 Successful candidate must wear a black belt with two 200 mm white ends.

6.1.3 DAN GRADES

- 6.1.3.1 Must have been a licensed member of JSA for the previous twelve (12) months.
- 6.1.3.2 Must train regularly and/or be actively involved in administrative, officiating and/or coaching capacity during waiting times.
- 6.1.3.3 For Sho-Dan only, candidates must have the required Referee/Technical Officials' hours logged on his/her scorecard.
- 6.1.3.4 It is not a requirement to attend a Dan grading course before a Dan grading.

6.1.4 SENIOR DAN GRADES

- 6.1.4.1 All applicants nominated must have been continuously active and involved in JSA activities between gradings and a licensed member of JSA for the previous twelve (12) months.
- 6.1.4.2 For 4th and 5th Dan, candidates must pass the relevant syllabus.
- 6.1.4.3 For 6th and 7th Dan, the candidate must be able to teach and judge the following Katas: Nage-No-Kata, Katame-No-Kata, Kime-No-Kata, Goshin Jutsu & Juno-Kata.

6.1.5 UPGRADING FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

- 6.1.5.1 If the rules of an international competition specify that a competitor needs to be of a higher grade than the SA entrant holds, he/she will be allowed to wear the higher grade for that specific competition only.
- 6.1.5.2 In these cases, however, they will have to participate in a

JSA grading examination on their return to confirm the grade. Failing this, the player's status will revert to his/her JSA registered rank.

6.1.6 GRADING IN OTHER COUNTRIES

- 6.1.6.1 An application must be made to the Grading Commission who will then approve or reject the application.
- 6.1.6.2 The application must state the reason for grading in another country, the syllabus on which the candidate will be evaluated and confirmation by the Judo Federation of the country concerned that it will accept the candidate for evaluation by official grading master(s) of that Federation.
- 6.1.6.3 Only gradings conducted by Associations affiliated to the IJF will be recognized.
- 6.1.6.4 Under no circumstances will JSA diplomas be issued to any person for a grading obtained in another country **unless the player produces** an IJF certificate as proof of the rank awarded.
- 6.1.6.5 IJF recognition and certificates must also be applied for through the countries where the grading took place. JSA will not apply for diplomas/certificates or recognition from the IJF on behalf of these persons.

6.1.7 UPGRADING WITHOUT EXAMINATION

- 6.1.7.1 Olympic Games Participation: Upgrading without examination, but candidate must attend a national grading course.
- 6.1.7.2 The Head National Coaches may recommend to the Grading Commission the upgrading of competitive players to 1st and 2nd Dan only with a full motivation. (In cases where a player has won an International "A" or "B" tournament with at least 8 countries participating in the relevant weight category).

6.1.8 HONORARY GRADES

- 6.1.8.1 An honorary grade is a symbolic award and is not worn by the recipient.
- 6.1.8.2 An honorary black belt can be awarded for extra ordinary service to the sport.
- 6.1.8.3 Applications received from Council will be considered by the Grading Commission.

6.2 EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES

6.2.1 AGE

6.2.1.1 A minimum age on the day of the grading is applicable (Refer to schedule below).

6.2.2 TIME

6.2.1.1 A minimum waiting time (in years) between Dan grades is applicable if the candidate has obtained the required points since his/her last grading.

6.2.1.2 Waiting times between grades **must** be **active** years.

6.2.3 POINTS

6.2.3.1 Points can be obtained by any combination from the Tables in Addendum 3.

6.2.3.2 If the candidate does not have the required points, the waiting time between grades doubles.

6.2.4 SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENTS

Promotion to	Minimum Age	Minimum Time & Points required since previous grading	Minimum Time required without points
Junior Black Belt	14	6 months & 0 points	6 months
Sho-Dan	16	1 year & 100 points	2 years
Ni-Dan	18	2 years & 150 points	4 years
San-Dan	21	3 years & 150 points	6 years
Yon-Dan	25	4 years & 200 points	8 years
Go-Dan	30	5 years & 250 points	10 years
Roku-Dan	40	6 years & 300 points	12 years
Sichi-Dan	50	7 years & 300 points	14 years

6.3 CREDIT FOR COMPETITORS:

Credit shall be awarded to competitors according to the following table:

6.3.1 REDUCTION IN TIME

Achievement	Competition Grade	Remarks
Gold / Silver / Bronze	IJF "A"	75% Reduction on time.

Gold / Silver	IJF "B"	50% Reduction on time.
Gold	IJF "C"	25% Reduction on time.

6.3.2 CREDIT FOR PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

Achievement	Credit Points	Remarks
Twice Senior National Champion. Member of National Team. Medal winner at International events like Zone 6, Mauritius, etc.	5% reduction in each of the following sections of the examination: 1 st Kata, 2 nd Kata & Syllabus.	Waiting time between grades and point requirements still apply.
Medal winner at African Championships or other "A" tournaments.	10% in each of the following sections of examination: 1 st Kata, 2 nd Kata & Syllabus.	Waiting time between grades and point requirements still apply.
Olympic Games Participation	Upgrading without examination but candidate must attend a National grading course.	Waiting time between grades and point requirements still apply.

6.4 PASS REQUIREMENTS

6.4.1 Practical demonstration of the syllabus for any specific qualification is an important requirement.

6.4.2 The following average is required in order to pass the grading:

Grade	1 st Kata	2 nd Kata	Syllabus	Pass Average
Junior Black belt	50%	N/A	N/A	50%
1 st Dan	60%	N/A	60%	60%
2 nd Dan	65%	60%	60%	60%
3 rd to 5 th Dan	70%	60%	65%	65%

6.4.3 In the Kata section, a sub-minimum of 40% for every group is required

6.4.4 For all grades, a score of (no more than) 5% below the pass mark in the Kata section **may, in certain circumstances**, result in the Grading Masters exercising their discretion to allow the candidate to

continue with the demonstration of the remainder of the syllabus.

- 6.4.5 Uke should preferably be only one grade higher than Tori.
- 6.4.6 Candidates must also be able to act as Uke if grading for Sho-Dan.
- 6.4.7 Candidates older than 40 years:
 6.4.7.1 For Shodan only – candidates may request to do only the Tori part subject to the unanimous approval of the Grading panel and subject to a demonstrated familiarity with the role of Uke (without falling).
- 6.4.8 Candidates older than 45 years:
 6.4.8.1 Are only required to do the relevant (2nd) Kata applicable to their grading, but a pass mark of **70%** is required, OR
 6.4.8.2 May choose to do both Katas, and in this case the pass mark remains as per table below.
- 6.4.9 The following table indicates requirements in terms of KATA:

GRADE	(1) Nage-No-Kata	(2) Katame-No-Kata	(3) Kime-No-Kata	(4) Goshin-Jutsu	(5) Juno-Kata
Jnr Black	50%				
Sho-Dan	60%				
Ni-Dan	65%	60%			
San-Dan	70% Any first Kata (1 or 2)		60%		
Yon-Dan	70% Any first Kata (1, 2 or 3)			60%	
Go-Dan	70% Any first Kata (1, 2, 3 or 4)				60%
>45 Years	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%

6.5 POINTS TABLE FOR COMPETITION, KATA & KURASH (ADDENDUM 3)

7. KATA COMPETITIONS

7.1 KATA DIVISIONS & AGE GROUPS (ADDENDUM 4)

7.2 ENTRIES

7.2.1 All Kata entries for the South African Championships must be submitted

- through the Provinces to allow for Judoka to receive Provincial Colours.
- 7.2.2 Entries must reach the National Registrar before the closing date of entries of the tournament.

7.3 REQUIREMENTS

7.3.1 KATA

- 7.3.1.1 No minimum age restrictions apply.
- 7.3.1.2 The age of the oldest contestant determines the age group of contestants.
- 7.3.1.3 Tori's gender determines whether the pair enters in the male or female category.
- 7.3.1.4 Tori and Uke may not switch roles and enter twice in the same category.
- 7.3.1.5 It is allowed to enter in more than one category.
- 7.3.1.6 If there are less than 3 entries per category, the organizers reserve the right to combine male and female categories.

7.3.2 CREATIVE KATA

- 7.3.2.1 If there are less than 10 judo techniques in a Creative Kata, the participants will be disqualified.
- 7.3.2.2 The Kata must have a title and the 10 Judo techniques must be identified by name.
- 7.3.2.3 Prior to commencement of the competition, candidates must submit their written entry on the prescribed form, to the National Grading Coordinator. (Addendum 5)

7.4 CREATIVE KATA ENTRY FORM (ADDENDUM 5)

7.5 KATA JUDGES

7.5.1 SELECTION OF KATA JUDGES

- 7.5.1.1 The National Grading coordinator will select judges of the appropriate grade/level for the Kata being judged.
- 7.5.1.2. The Grading Commission will sanction the selection of Kata Judges at national events.

7.5.2 CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

- 7.5.2.1 There may be no family connection between judges and competitors
- 7.5.2.2 Judges to mark independently.
- 7.5.2.3 Judges to endorse mark sheets with their full names to enable analysis/identification
- 7.5.2.4 Addition/calculation of scores to be centrally carried out by a separate/extra official.
- 7.5.2.5 Highest and lowest scores to be dropped/excluded – average of the remainder.
- 7.5.2.6 Placing according to the calculated totals to be done by this separate official

7.6 DAN GRADING & KATA MARKING SHEETS: (ADDENDUM 6)

