

## **USJA Judo Rank Promotion System – 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Dan Promotion Requirements**

The ranks of Ninth Degree and Tenth Degree Black Belt (Kudan & Judan) are the highest in Judo. At these ranks one is permitted to wear a red belt or a black belt.

**Only those who have devoted their lives at the highest levels of service to the USJA at a National and International level will be considered for the rank of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Dan.** They are considered to represent the teacher of teachers and probably were an outstanding teacher, competitor, coach, referee, and/or Judo leader themselves or produced high level teachers, competitors, coaches, referees, and Judo leaders.

The USJA's Promotion Board will study at great depth the person's lifetime achievements over many, many decades. The selection process includes a comprehensive review of the individual's activities since their last promotion and their lifetime of service to Judo and the USJA in terms of their effect nationally and internationally on the Judo community.

Criteria will include multiple factors for example highest level of lifetime achievements in judo, leadership achievements in judo, leadership contributions at all levels of USJA judo, long record of the highest level of competition, coaching, teaching and/or officiating successes. Major contributions in multiple areas of judo development, promotion, support, published Judo works, etc.

USJA strives to provide a fair and equitable rank system. For higher ranks, the minimum requirements are more than age, time in grade, and points. It is expected that the Judoka will have an impact in a wider area of influence including national and international exposure.

The level of performance as a competitor, coach, referee, teacher and/or Judo leader is still at one of four levels: local, regional, national, or international. That level of an individual's active participation is a good marker for "highest achievable" rank.

For example, a judoka who does judo only at the local level should never aspire to be the same rank as a competitor, coach, referee, teacher and/or Judo leader that is active on the national or international stage. The IJF-A referee who is invited to referee at the World Championships is more deserving of rank recognition than the referee who has not risen past a state championship.

It is understood that for several reasons some may not be able to (or may choose not to) be active on the national or international level. This would mean that they would not be eligible for higher ranks unless they, at a later date, increase their level of exposure and influence.

Rank at any level is not a right, but a privilege that comes with strong responsibilities. The 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Dan ranks are extremely rare and for that reason the Promotion Board will review and if approved send them to the USJA Board of Directors for ratification.

### **Exceptional Cases:**

As the high grades are very exceptional, the Promotion Board reserves the right to propose the promotion of grades/ranks which do not completely meet usual criteria. These nominations will be validated by the Board of Directors.

**Opportunities for National, International exposure, impact, visibility:**

1. Review IJF website for activities and invitations to participate.
2. Host/Invite high dans from other countries to give clinics/camps at your dojo.
3. Volunteer on USJA National Committees.
4. Teach clinics, workshops, or teach/participate at National Clinics.

**Promotion Info Packet/Application requirements for 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Dan Candidates**

Reviewing a promotion packet for 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> Dan requires a lot of time in terms of verifying all the requirements. The Promotion Board will meet twice a year, during the January & July meetings, to review any submitted 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> Dan promotion packets. All packets for 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> Dan will need to be submitted to the National office no later than April 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year for the July review or October 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous year to be eligible for the January review, effective immediately.

Upon review by the Technical Evaluator, if it is determined that the “Promotion Info Packet” requires additional documentation or clarification, the candidate will be contacted. The candidate will have 30 days to submit additional documentation or clarification. If the candidate does not meet the 30-day deadline the RFP will be held until the next 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Dan review cycle. If the candidate does not respond, the “Promotion Info Packet” is considered withdrawn and the candidate must resubmit all the required paperwork and pay the additional processing fee.

If a candidate replies within the required 30 days but fails to return what is required and subsequently is returned to the candidate a second time, the candidate will be automatically charged an additional processing fee.

The date that the BOARD OF DIRECTORS ratifies the candidate’s “Promotion Packet” is the date that the candidate’s rank is dated.

Candidate Promotion Applications that are rejected cannot be resubmitted for at least one year. An application which has been “tabled” upon due consideration or that has been “withdrawn” by the candidate shall not be treated as a “rejected” application.

The PROMOTION BOARD is not looking to block promotions but to establish consistency throughout the evaluation for all members. All promotions must meet a uniform minimum standard.

Promotions are not automatic, and several factors are considered so when submitting, the more verifiable the data and documentation, the more consideration the candidate will receive.

**Candidate/Advocate must submit the following:** Candidate or advocate requesting review will send in complete promotion application packet.

1. A completed 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Dan RFP with required signatures, completely filled out with no missing blanks. All black belt (Dan) candidates, coaches and recommending high dan blackbelts signing the RFP form must have on file (at the USJA National Office): a current background screen (BGS), Safe Sport and Heads Up Concussion certificates.
2. Comprehensive written recommendations, from those high dan blackbelts that signed the RFP, sharing “why” they support this candidate for their promotion to 9D.
3. Other recommendations from coaches, students, parents, etc. are encouraged.
4. Extensive Judo biography to cover activities since your last promotion and your lifetime accomplishments.
5. Updated Photo (passport size/jpg format)

**Questions Promotion Board members, Recommending High Dans/Advocates and candidates should be asking and including in written recommendations and biographies:**

1. What has the candidate done for USJA Judo since their last promotion? (endeavors & accomplishments)
  - a. Has the candidate worked to build one or more clubs?
  - b. Has the candidate fostered fledgling clubs?
  - c. Has the candidate earned additional credentials to be able to offer students more?
  - d. Has the candidate taken their judo on the road spreading knowledge through clinics and camps?
  - e. Has the candidate written articles for USJA publications? Published books/magazines/websites/podcasts, videos, etc.
  - f. Has the candidate served on any USJA National Committees?
2. What has the candidate done in their lifetime to impact USJA Judo?
  - a. What competitors did the candidate develop and coach to become National/International champions?
  - b. What students did the candidate develop to become Senseis and/or coaches?
  - c. What students did the candidate develop to become a National/International Referee?
  - d. What clubs have the candidate opened and built to become USJA chartered clubs?
  - e. What blackbelts did the candidate develop to open their own USJA clubs?
  - f. Did the candidate promote/support USJA by having their members join the USJA and process their students' promotions through USJA?
  - g. What USJA National Committee(s) has the candidate worked on and what impact did they have to grow USJA?

**To determine if a candidate/advocate should be submitting a Promotion Packet/Application or to assist in developing the Promotion Packet/Application, review the following. Listed below are some accomplishments from Judokas awarded 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Dans.**

When we look at these individuals, their legacies, no one would question their rank. They are not all Olympians, but each had a major impact on Judo at a significant level in their own way. If you are nominating someone for a high dan promotion, do they belong at the table with this group of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Dans?

**Candidate #1 – 9<sup>th</sup> Dan.** Teaching and coaching judo since 1963. Their students have captured more than 1200 national and international titles. A former coach at Stanford, CA, and the U.S. Olympic judo mentor for the 1988 Olympic Games. Coached the U.S. National team 1980 – 1990. Co-founder of the U.S. Blind Judo Foundation.

**Candidate #2 – 9<sup>th</sup> Dan.** 1972 & 1976 Olympian. Bronze medalist 1975 Pan American Games. Five times National AAU Champion. Coached Men’s 1996 Summer Olympic Games. Chair for USA Judo Coaches Committee.

**Candidate #3 – 9<sup>th</sup> Dan.** Founder of Judo Black Belt Federation which became USJF. Was considered one of the top 15 judo black belts in America. Coach for men’s and women’s US National teams. Selection Committee for men’s & women’s international teams. Coach for Women’s first World Championships. Served as Chair of AAU Junior Judo Program.

**Candidate #4 – 9<sup>th</sup> Dan.** 2011 USOC Developmental Coach of the Year. Developed Nina Cutrokelly, 2020 Olympian. Contributed to the development of Lynn Roethke and Jason Morris. Coach for various Women’s International Judo Teams.

**Candidate #5 – 9<sup>th</sup> Dan.** Competed in Kata 1962 All-Japan National Championships. Gold medal 1967 Pan American Games. Five National Championships. Ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the world 1965-1967. Former World Team Member and World Team Coach. National Coach and International Referee. Book Author, “The Judo Textbook”, “Training for Competition”, “Judo-Heart and Soul” and developed 38 instructional video tapes.

**Candidate # 6 – 9<sup>th</sup> Dan.** Over 60 years of judo, coaching in 38 countries. Served as Vice President USJA for 12 years. Served on USJA Promotion Board, Chair, Board of Examiners, Legal & Ethics Committee. Leadership positions with Pan American Union & International Judo Federation (IJF). IJF Delegation and legal advisor for the World Judo Conference three times. Olympic Coach for 1996 Atlanta Games. Known for their work coaching Paralympic Teams. Participated in 15 World Games.

**Candidate #7 – 9<sup>th</sup> Dan.** Member of USJA since 2016. Taught judo since returning from Vietnam as a Marine in 1971. Trained 16 National Champions. Trained two Olympian Alternates for the 1992 and 2008 games. Took several students to Seoul, Korea to train in judo. Successful competitor, coach, and referee. USJF 2007 Hall of Fame recipient. President of USJA and served on the Promotion Board.

**Candidate #8 – 9<sup>th</sup> Dan.** One of the original founders of USJA. Competitor over 50 years. Champion of United States Air Force. Bronze medal US Nationals in 1963. 4-time US National Master Champion. National and International referee. Served on six-member Consultative Committee of Referees for the first Judo Olympics. 3 years National Chair for AAU. Chair of U.S. Olympic Committee, Secretary General of Pan American Judo Union. President of USJA. President & Head Coach for National Judo Institute in Colorado Springs.

**Candidate #9 – 9<sup>th</sup> Dan.** Taught many judoka throughout the world the techniques of judo and coached many to national and international success. Devoted their life to Judo and the USJA. Well-known international lecturer and Judo clinician who has travelled and taught Judo throughout the World. Their most significant contribution has been educating students to follow Dr. Kano's principles.

**Candidate #10 – 9<sup>th</sup> Dan.** Started Judo in 1963. Early pioneer for Women's Judo. USJA and AAU National Shiai and Kata Champion. 4 time medalist at Women's British Open, Member of 1977 Friendship Tour to Germany and appointed as team captain. 1979 Men's and Women's South Africa Tour as a Coach and Competitor. 1972 – 2000 served on several USJA Committees to include Board of Advisors, Promotion Board, Women's Committee, Coaching Committee, Junior promotion system revisions, Certified National Referee, Hospitality Chair AAU Nationals, National Sports Festival Hospitality. USJA Hall of Fame. Camp staff member for Camp Olympus, Camp Seihoku, Camp Carson, the Olympic Training Center and YMCA International Judo Camp in New York. Current USJA BOARD OF DIRECTORS Member.

**Candidate #11 – 10<sup>th</sup> Dan.** Recognized Nationally and Internationally for their efforts in promoting the sport of judo. Head Coach at San Jose State University for over 60 years. Coach of the first U.S. Olympic Team in 1964. Coach of numerous national and international competitors and champions. Organized the first U.S. High School Judo Championships and the first US Open tournament. Past President of USJF and USJI. Their team holds the record for the greatest number of National Championships in American Collegiate Sports.

**Candidate #12 – 10<sup>th</sup> Dan.** First 10<sup>th</sup> Dan recognized by the 3 major judo organizations in the United States. 5<sup>th</sup> place in 1956 World Championships, 6 Air Force Judo Championships, four National titles, two gold medals in Pan American Games, 1964 Olympian. Leader of Armed Forces Judo Association, one of the founders for USJA and served as President of USJA.

**Candidate #13 – 10<sup>th</sup> Dan.** One of the founders of USJA. 1950-1960 he studied Judo in Japan. Contributed to the development of some of our earlier U.S. Judo Olympians and many well-known judo leaders. Known for his vast technical knowledge of Judo. Produced several national and international competitors. Their work with children remains a model for successful schools everywhere.

**Candidate #14 – 10<sup>th</sup> Dan.** 1964 Olympian, Bronze Medalist. Gold Medal 1965 Pan American Games, Gold 1965 Maccabiah Games in Israel. 1965 first American to win a medal in the World Championships in Brazil. Leader and one of the founders of USJA. Three-time President for USJA. Current member of several national USJA boards and mentor for USJA leaders and members.

**Candidate #15 – 10<sup>th</sup> Dan.** Known worldwide for the 1955 book "The Sport of Judo" and subsequent books. The Prince of Japan awarded them for being instrumental in the growth of judo after WWII and spreading judo philosophy in a positive manner.

**Candidate #16 – 10<sup>th</sup> Dan.** The highest ranked female judoka in history and the last surviving student of Jigoro Kano. Taught judo for nearly 70 years. Surrendered their Japanese citizenship to become a U.S. citizen, traveled all over their adopted country spreading the philosophy and teachings of judo. Gave seminars in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Norway and the Philippines. At 76 years old, flew to France to teach the country's top-ranked judo instructors. U.S. Judo Federation presented 9<sup>th</sup> Dan in 2001, in recognition of their lifelong contributions – domestic and international – to the art of judo. Authored “Born for the Mat: A Kodokan Kata Textbook for Women” in 1973 and “Ju No Kata” in 2004. Renowned for their expertise in judo “kata”. Since women’s judo was not included into the Olympics until 1992 and did not include kata competition, they established the Fukuda Judo Kata Championships.

**Candidate #17 – 10<sup>th</sup> Dan.** Began judo at age 13 and joined the Kodokan in 1903. By 1912, a Rokudan and Kodokan instructor. Unbelievably energetic and eventually stood at the head of the Kodokan’s instructors. The second youngest to be promoted to 10<sup>th</sup> Dan, holding their rank for nearly 20 years, the longest of any 10<sup>th</sup> Dan. Permanent member of the Kodokan Dojo Consultative Group. Author of the “Canon of Judo”. 1964 the Japanese Government awarded the honor of the Order of the Rising Sun. First person ever to be honored this way during their lifetime.

### Minimum requirements for 9<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt – Kudan

#### To be awarded this degree, a senior:

1. Must be 65 years of age or older.
2. Must have five continuous years closest to the date of submission as a member of USJA as a Hachidan to be eligible for promotion to Kudan.
3. Must be an active/current member of the USJA.
4. Must have been continuously involved in activities with USJA such as teaching, training, coaching, refereeing or administration/leadership.
5. Must be a member of a Chartered USJA club.
6. Must have at least 10 years in grade as a Hachidan.
7. Must have unquestioned moral character, integrity, and maturity. Should have an exceptional and unblemished judo career.
8. Must have a current & clear Background Screen, current Concussion/Heads Up Certification and Safe Sport Certification.
9. Must have all claimed USJA Certifications up to date and current.
10. Must have documented substantial National/International presence/impact/effect on the Judo Community.
11. Must have been an outstanding competitor, coach, referee, teacher and/or Judo leader or produced high level competitor, coaches, referees, teachers and/or Judo leaders.
12. A vote of 75% of the entire Promotional Committee shall be required for approval of Kudan rank.
13. A vote of 75% of the entire Board of Directors shall be required for approval of Kudan rank.
14. Must be recommended for Promotion by (2) 7D + (2) 8D + (1) 9D that are active/current USJA members with comprehensive written recommendations as to why they support this candidate for their promotion to 9D.
15. Must submit an extensive Judo biography to cover activities since their last promotion and your lifetime accomplishments.
16. Must submit an updated Photo (passport/jpg).

### Minimum requirements for 10<sup>TH</sup> Degree Black Belt – Judan

#### To be awarded this degree, a senior:

1. Must be 75 years of age or older.
2. Must have five continuous years closest to the date of submission as a member of USJA as a Kudan prior to being eligible for promotion to Judan.
3. Must be an active/current member of the USJA.
4. Must have been continuously involved in activities with USJA such as teaching, training, coaching, refereeing or administration/leadership.
5. Must be a member of a Chartered USJA club.
6. Must have at least 11 years in grade as a Kudan.
7. Must have unquestioned moral character, integrity, and maturity. Should have an exceptional and unblemished judo career.
8. Must have a current & clear Background Screen, current Concussion/Heads Up Certification and Safe Sport Certification.
9. Have all claimed USJA Certifications up to date and current.
10. Must have documented substantial International/World presence/impact/effect on the Judo Community.
11. Must have been an outstanding competitor, coach, referee, teacher and/or Judo leader or produced high level competitors, coaches, referees, teachers and/or Judo leaders.
12. A vote of 100% of the entire Promotional Committee shall be required for approval of Judan rank.
13. A vote of 100% of the entire Board of Directors shall be required for approval of Judan rank.
14. Must be recommended for Promotion by (2) 7D + (3) 8D + (2) 9D that are active/current USJA members with written recommendations as to why they support this candidate for their promotion to 10D.
15. Must submit an extensive Judo biography to cover activities since their last promotion and your lifetime accomplishments.
16. Must submit an updated Photo (passport/jpg)