



## SHOTOKAN KARATE INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA

### GRADING REGULATIONS

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**Note:** Grading Syllabus from 9<sup>th</sup> Kyu to Sandan is located on the SKIA Website

*Approved by SKIA Technical and Development Committee on 13 December 2010.*

**[<http://www.shotokankarate.com.au>]**



### **National Technical and Development Committee**

The National Technical and Development Committee consists of:

- One representative from each State who must be at least Yondan grade (or the highest grade in the State). State committees elect their representative.
- The chairperson, being one of the most senior Dan grades (Rokudan or above) in SKIA. This person is selected by the State Representatives. Term of office is three years, incumbents may serve any number of terms.

All members of the National Technical and Development Committee must be Dojo Instructors.

### **Examiners**

1. SKIF Examiners are those people who are authorised by SKIF Headquarters (Japan), to conduct Dan gradings at the invitation of SKIA.
2. Domestic Examiners are registered SKIA Instructors who are authorised by the National Technical and Development Committee to conduct gradings in accordance with the authorities stated below. Dan gradings may only be conducted by Domestic Examiners who hold a current SKIF Licence.

Examiners (Instructors) Authorities:

- Instructors of Nidan rank may grade up to 3 Kyu.
- Instructors of Sandan rank or higher may grade up to 1 Kyu.
- Instructors of Godan rank or higher may grade up to Shodan, providing they hold a current SKIF Licence approved by the National Technical and Development Committee.
- Instructors of Rokudan rank or higher may grade up to Nidan, providing they hold a current SKIF Licence approved by the National Technical and Development Committee.
- Instructors of Shodan rank may be granted authority under special circumstances to conduct gradings up to 4<sup>th</sup> Kyu, upon written application to the Chairman of the National Technical and Development Committee.

### **Duties of Domestic Examiners**

To ensure that:

1. Kyu gradings are conducted in accordance with the prescribed Grading Syllabus and Regulations herein.
2. Applicants for grading are current financial members of SKIA
3. Membership Books, Examination Forms, and Grading Fees are collected and recorded.
4. The applicants meet the minimum standards and requirements to be awarded the grade attempted.
5. Results and comments are recorded on examination forms.
6. The grading report form is properly filled in.



7. Grading reports and grading fees are forwarded to the National Grading Register.

### **GRADING REGULATIONS – SKIA**

#### **Kyu Grading Regulations**

1. Must be a current Financial Member of SKIA.
2. Must have the recommendation of their Registered Dojo Instructor. If a student has been previously graded within S.K.I.A, the Registered Dojo Instructor must provide the examiner with all previous grading forms.
3. Membership Book, Grading Form, and Grading Fee must be presented prior to grading. Members who have lost their Membership Book must apply for a replacement licence and pay the current replacement fee prior to grading
4. Members who do not hold a recognised Shotokan Kyu grading certificate will be required to do a confirmation of their present grade.
5. Kyu grades who have not trained for some time will be required to confirm their current grade, after an appropriate period of preparation.
6. Member must perform all techniques/requirements prescribed for the grade being attempted.

#### **Dan Grading Regulations**

Members wishing to take a SKIF Dan Test must comply strictly with the requirements stated in each Dan Grading below. Failure to comply will result in the applicant not being permitted to take the grading. Penalties for breaches of these regulations in respect of Dan gradings are stated below:

1. Members who have passed a Dan grading without having completed the required time period between grades will have the time for their next grade adjusted accordingly.
2. Members who take a grading outside of Australia without the consent of the National Technical and Development Committee will be required to perform their grading again at the next Annual National Seminar before the Technical and Development Committee.
3. Members who grade a second time without the approval of the Technical and Development Committee will be referred to the National Executive for expulsion from SKIA.
4. Sandan and above gradings must take place at the Shotokan Week National Seminar, or under exceptional circumstances upon written application to the Chairman of the National Technical and Development Committee.
5. Any application to attempt a Dan grade at another time or, in other countries must be received by the Chairman, Technical and Development Committee at least 6 months prior to the proposed grading. A letter will be issued by the Chairman, Technical and Development Committee to the applicant with a decision.

All Instructors should make themselves completely familiar with these regulations, to ensure that students are properly prepared and qualified for Dan Gradings.



Grading and Registration fees have not been included in this as these fees are subject to change and will be advised to applicants at the time of the seminar at which the Dan Grading will take place.

Dan grades transferring from another recognised Shotokan style to the SKIA must register their grade with the SKIF. The "SKIF Application for Dan Registration" form must be completed and sent to the Chairman of the National Technical and Development Committee, together with the appropriate registration fee and a photocopy of the recognised Dan certificate.

Members holding Dan grade certificates which are not recognised by SKIA/SKIF must do a confirmation of their present grade.

**Recognised Dan Grade Certificates:**

- Authentic Japan Karate Association (J.K.A.) Diploma.
- Other Shotokan Dan Grading Diplomas on a 'case by case' basis, as approved by SKIF Japan.

**Shodan Grading**

1. Minimum age for Shodan is 10 years.
2. Must be a current Financial Member of SKIA.
3. Must be 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu, for a minimum of six (6) months prior to the Shodan examination and have been training consistently.
4. Must have recommendation of Registered Dojo Instructor (in absence of Instructor, the State Technical and Development Committee).
5. Must attend full seminar at which grading is to take place and train in all sessions. (Applications for exception to this rule must be forwarded to the Technical and Development Committee at least one month before the grading).
6. Membership Book, Dan Application Form, Consent Form, Dan Nominee Profile Form and Grading Fee to be presented during seminar and prior to grading.
7. **National Technical and Development Committee will conduct final eligibility tests and an appraisal of standard, during the Shotokan Week National Seminar.**

**Nidan Grading**

1. Minimum age for Nidan is 16 years.
2. Must be a current Financial Member of SKIA.
3. Must be Shodan, for a minimum of two (2) years and have been training consistently.
4. Must have recommendation of Registered Dojo Instructor (in absence of Instructor, Technical and Development Committee).



5. Must attend full seminar at which grading is to take place and train in all sessions. (Applications for exception to this rule must be forwarded to the Technical and Development Committee at least one month before the grading).
5. Membership Book, Dan Application Form, Consent Form, Dan Nominee Profile Form and Grading Fee to be presented during seminar and prior to grading.
6. **National Technical and Development Committee will conduct final eligibility tests and an appraisal of standard, during the Shotokan Week National Seminar.**

### HIGHER DAN GRADING REGULATIONS

#### Sandan Grading

1. Minimum age for Sandan is twenty (20) years.
2. Must be a current Financial Member of SKIA.
3. Must be Nidan for a minimum of three (3) years and have been training consistently.
4. Must have recommendation of State Technical and Development Committee (or, National Technical and Development Committee).
5. Must attend full seminar at which grading is to take place and train in all sessions. (Applications for exception to this rule must be forwarded to the Chairman, Technical and Development Committee at least one month before the grading).
6. Notice of Nomination to Higher Dan Test Form, must be forwarded to National Technical and Development Committee not later than six (6) months before seminar.
7. The applicant will receive an invitation from the Chairman of the Technical and Development Committee to attend the seminar and confirm their eligibility to attempt a Dan Grading Examination.
8. Membership Book, Dan Application Form, Consent Form, Dan Nominee Profile Form and Grading Fee to be presented during seminar and prior to grading.
9. **National Technical and Development Committee will conduct final eligibility tests and an appraisal of standard, during the Shotokan Week National Seminar.**

#### Yondan Grading

1. Must be a current Financial Member of S.K.I Australia.
2. Must be Sandan for a minimum of four (4) years and have been teaching and/or training consistently.
3. Must have recommendation of State Technical and Development Committee.
4. Must attend full seminar at which grading is to take place and train in all sessions. (Applications for exception to this rule must be forwarded to the Chairman, Technical and Development Committee at least one month before the grading).



5. Notice of Nomination to Higher Dan Test Form, must be forwarded to National Technical and Development Committee not later than six (6) months before seminar.
6. The applicant will receive an invitation from the Chairman of the Technical and Development Committee to attend the seminar and confirm their eligibility to attempt a Dan Grading Examination.
7. Membership Book, Dan Application Form, Consent Form, Dan Nominee Profile Form and Grading Fee to be presented during seminar and prior to grading.
8. **National Technical and Development Committee will conduct final eligibility tests and an appraisal of standard, during the Shotokan Week National Seminar.**

#### **Godan Grading**

1. Must be a current Financial Member of S.K.I Australia.
2. Must be Yondan for a minimum of five (5) years and have been teaching and/or training consistently.
3. Must have recommendation of State Technical and Development Committee.
4. Must attend full seminar at which grading is to take place and train in all sessions. (Applications for exception to this rule must be forwarded to the Chairman, Technical and Development Committee at least one month before the grading).
5. Notice of Nomination to Higher Dan Test Form, must be forwarded to National Technical and Development Committee not later than six (6) months before seminar.
6. The applicant will receive an invitation from the Chairman of the Technical and Development Committee to attend the seminar and confirm their eligibility to attempt a Dan Grading Examination.
7. Membership Book, Dan Application Form, Consent Form, Dan Nominee Profile Form and Grading Fee to be presented during seminar and prior to grading.
8. **National Technical and Development Committee will conduct an appraisal of knowledge of the SKIF syllabus during the Shotokan Week National Seminar.**

#### **Rokudan Test**

1. Must be a current Financial Member of S.K.I Australia.
2. Must be Godan for a minimum of four (4) years and have been teaching and/or training consistently.
3. Must have the recommendation of the Technical and Development Committee.
4. Notice of Nomination to Higher Dan Test and Profile Forms, must be forwarded to National Technical and Development Committee not later than six (6) months before seminar.
5. The applicant will receive an invitation from the Chairman of the Technical and Development Committee to attend the seminar and confirm their eligibility to attempt a Dan Grading Examination.



6. Must attend full seminar at which grading is to take place and train in all sessions. (Applications for exception to this rule must be forwarded to the Technical and Development Committee at least one month before the grading).
7. Membership Book, Dan Application Form, Consent Form, Dan Nominee Profile Form and Grading Fee to be presented during seminar and prior to grading.
8. **National Technical and Development Committee will conduct an appraisal of knowledge of the SKIF syllabus during the Shotokan Week National Seminar.**
9. Candidate must complete and submit a written thesis to the Technical and Development Committee. The subject content must be a **personal and original** view of say, a technique or aspect of Karate-do and can be as long as they wish but, no less than 500 words.

#### **Nanadan Test**

1. Must be a current Financial Member of S.K.I Australia.
2. Must be Rokudan for a minimum of seven (7) years and have been teaching and/or training consistently.
3. Must have the recommendation of the Technical and Development Committee.
4. Notice of Nomination to Higher Dan Test and Profile Forms, must be forwarded to National Technical and Development Committee not later than six (6) months before seminar.
5. The applicant will receive an invitation from the Chairman of the Technical and Development Committee to attend the seminar and confirm their eligibility to attempt a Dan Grading Examination.
6. Must attend full seminar at which grading is to take place and train in all sessions. (Applications for exception to this rule must be forwarded to the Technical and Development Committee at least one month before the grading).
7. Membership Book, Dan Application Form, Consent Form, Dan Nominee Profile Form and Grading Fee to be presented during seminar and prior to grading.
8. **National Technical and Development Committee will conduct an appraisal of knowledge of the SKIF syllabus during the Shotokan Week National Seminar.**
9. Candidate must complete and submit a written thesis to the Technical and Development Committee. The subject content must be a **personal and original** view of say, a technique or aspect of Karate-do and can be as long as they wish but, no less than 500 words.

#### **Gradings above Nanadan**

Gradings for this level are at the discretion of the Chief Instructor of SKIF in consultation with the National Technical and Development Committee (and, when appropriate with SKIA highest ranking seniors).

**Note:** As stated above it is a standard requirement for **all** Dan Grading Candidates to attend and train at every session during Shotokan week. During the seminar if there is any physical



and/or health reason that prevents one from training then, the Chairman, Technical and Development Committee must be informed prior to that training and, where practical that person is required to watch the respective session he/she would have participated in.

### **EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

If a registered SKIA Member defined in one of the above categories has not been able to fulfil the Grading criteria for reasons beyond their control (ie. involuntary/extenuating circumstances) then, his/her Instructor can submit a proposal to the Technical and Development Committee via their State T and D Representative requesting the member be considered eligible to attempt the grading.

### **DAN SCREENING PROCESS**

The National Technical and Development Committee will screen all Dan Grading Candidates at the commencement of the National Seminar. Kihon, Kata and Kihon Kumite syllabus will be checked to ensure candidates are of good standard. It is recommended that Instructors of Candidates be present in the event the Technical and Development Committee wants to discuss any issues with them about their student(s). **In the event of dispute, the National Technical and Development Committee has the final decision, and specifically has the right to refuse a Candidate the opportunity to grade.**

Rokudan and higher members not on the Technical and Development Committee can be present at the Dan screening process at Shotokan Week to provide input and comments. These must be presented to the Chairman, Technical and Development Committee in conjunction with other Technical and Development Members for actioning if needed. Their attendance is extremely important especially when there is screening of Candidates attempting Rokudan and higher.

### **KATA REQUIRED AT DAN GRADINGS**

Demonstration of a Kata not listed for a particular grading will be unacceptable to the National Technical and Development Committee.

#### **SHODAN**

Compulsory Kata, that must be known and understood:

- Heian Shodan to Heian Godan and Tekki Shodan.

Must select and demonstrate one of the following:

- Bassai-Dai, Kanku-Dai, Enpi, Jion, Jitte.

(Note: Should not repeat any Kata performed in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu)

#### **NIDAN**

Compulsory Kata, that must be known and understood:

- All the above.

Must select and demonstrate one of the following from (A) and (B) lists:

- (A) Bassai-Dai, Kanku-Dai, Enpi, Jion, Jitte (Note: must be different Kata than chosen for Shodan)
- (B) Hangetsu, Tekki-Nidan, Bassai-Sho, Gankaku, Kanku-Sho.

#### **SANDAN**

Compulsory Kata, that must be known and understood:

- All the above.

Will be asked to demonstrate one of the following:

- Hangetsu, Tekki-Nidan, Bassai-Sho, Gankaku, Kanku-Sho.

Must select and demonstrate one of the following:

- Sochin, Tekki Sandan, Chinte, Ji'in, Nijushiho.



**YONDAN** Must demonstrate one of the following, or one of the above that has not been previously performed in another grading:

- Meikyo, Wankan, Unsu, Gojushiho-Dai, Gojushiho-Sho.

**GODAN+** There is no compulsory Kata for this level but all core SKIF Kata must be known and understood:

- Heian Shodan to Heian Godan and Tekki Shodan.
- Bassai-Dai, Kanku-Dai, Enpi, Jion, Jitte.
- Hangetsu, Tekki-Nidan, Bassai-Sho, Gankaku, Kanku-Sho.
- Sochin, Tekki Sandan, Chinte, Ji'in, Nijushiho.
- Meikyo, Wankan, Unsu, Gojushiho-Dai, Gojushiho-Sho.

A different Kata should be selected that has not been previously performed in another grading.

National Technical and Development Committee will conduct an appraisal of knowledge of the core SKIF Kata during the Shotokan Week National Seminar.

**Note:** It is understood that at some gradings the nominee must demonstrate more than one Kata. One of these Kata may be nominated by the Examiner or, be compulsory for that grade.

### **KUMITE REQUIRED AT DAN GRADINGS**

Demonstration of a Kumite not listed for a particular grading will be unacceptable to the National Technical and Development Committee.

**SHODAN** Jiyu Ippon Kumite:

- One (1) of each technique (Hidari / Migi):
  - Jodan zuki, Chudan zuki, Mae geri
  - Yoko geri, Mawashi geri, Ushiro geri
  - Jodan kizami zuki, Chudan guaku zuki

**NIDAN** Jiyu Kumite OR  
Okuri Jiyu Ippon Kumite

**GODAN+** There is no compulsory Kumite for this level but the following must be known and understood:

- Gohon Kumite (Jodan, Chudan)
- Sanbon Kumite (1 and 2)
- Ippon Kumite
  - Four (4) of Jodan zuki, Chudan zuki, Mae geri
  - Two (2) of Yoko geri, Mawashi geri
- Jiyu Ippon Kumite
  - Four (4) of Jodan zuki, Chudan zuki, Mae geri
  - Two (2) of Yoko geri, Mawashi geri, Ushiro geri
  - Two (2) of Jodan kizami zuki, Chudan guaku zuki