



SHOTOKAN KARATE INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA
GRADING REGULATIONS
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Note: The Training and Grading Syllabus, from 9th Kyu to Sandan, is located on the SKIA Website.

*Approved by the SKIA Technical & Development Committee, on 1/05/2023.
Approved by the SKIA National Executive Committee, for implementation, from 1/05/2023.*

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

National Technical and Development Committee

The National Technical and Development Committee shall consist 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 President, being one of the most senior Dan Grades (Rokudan or above), in SKIA, is selected by the State Representatives and approved by the National Executive. Term of office is three years with a maximum of 2 terms continuously i.e. a total of 6 years. Further terms may be served after a break of at least 1 term of 3 years.

All members of the National Technical and Development Committee must be Resident Dojo Instructors, Assistant Resident Instructors, or have held one of these positions in the past.

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 or SKIA National Instructor Authority.

Examiners (Instructors) Authorities:

- Resident Instructors of Nidan rank may grade up to 3 Kyu.
- Resident Instructors of Sandan rank or higher may grade up to 1 Kyu.
- Resident 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.
- Resident 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.
- Resident Instructors of Shodan rank may be granted authority, under special circumstances, to conduct gradings up to 4th Kyu, upon written application to the President of the National Technical and Development Committee.
- Resident Instructors, who retire from teaching at a Dojo, may be granted the authority to conduct gradings and be nominated as National Instructors. The T & D Committee may bestow this status of its own accord. An Instructor may also make written application to be become a National Instructor. A State Branch may also make application on behalf of one of its instructors.
- SKIA Dan grades are not permitted to sit on a dan grading panel, within SKIA or with any other Martial Arts organisation, without the prior approval of the National T & D Committee. This is to ensure that representation within, and without, our organisation is appropriately monitored to uphold the integrity of SKIA and SKIF.

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 history.
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 book/licence and pay the current replacement fee prior to grading.
4. Members who do not hold a recognised Shotokan Kyu grading certificate will be assessed by the Dojo Instructor, as soon as possible after joining, and given a Kyu Rank considered appropriate for their current level of skill and knowledge, which is not higher than any grade awarded them in their previous style and may be required to do a confirmation of their present grade. Such Members are also required to demonstrate Kata, Kihon and Kumite knowledge of the SKIA syllabus, from any lower Kyu Rank, before being awarded a higher Kyu Rank.
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. The Member must perform all Kihon, Kata and Kumite as prescribed, for the grade being attempted, by the Grading Syllabus.
7. Members may be double graded, from 10 Kyu to 8 Kyu, at the discretion of the examiner. After receiving prior approval, from the State Branch T & D Committee Representative, other double gradings are permitted up to and including 6th Kyu. Fees must be paid for both grades attempted, and the applicant must complete the grading syllabus for both Kyu Grades, on a given grading day.

Additionally, where a 6th Kyu member is displaying exceptional knowledge and performance of the Training Syllabus, for both 5th Kyu and 4th Kyu, and has also completed the minimum training times to be eligible to grade to 5th Kyu, a fast track grading to 4th Kyu may be requested, by an Instructor, by approaching the State Branch T & D Committee Representative, who may or not give approval for the Member to attempt a 4th Kyu Grading, no less than one (1) month after passing the 5th Kyu Grading.

8. Provisional Grades may be applied, from 8 Kyu (Yellow Belt) to 4 Kyu (Purple Belt), when a applicant has not demonstrated a full understanding of, or demonstration of, the Grading Syllabus. For example, the applicant may demonstrate understanding and competency in Kihon and Kumite but be falling short of the acceptable Pass Level in Kata. In such cases, a Provisional Grade may be applied, to enable the student to make corrections, before applying to be regraded at a subsequent grading session. If the applicant has deficiencies in at least two of the disciplines, being examined (e.g., Kihon and Kumite), they should not be permitted to move to the next higher grade. Subsequent attempts, to pass the grading (after having failed or received a provisional level) are to be free of a grading fee. The fee having already been paid upon the first attempt. Fail, Provisional and Pass status **must** be recorded on Grading Reports and will be recorded on the Grading Register. The grading report entry **must** indicate the previous grading status of the applicant (Fail, Provisional, etc), when a fee has not been charged. A certificate will not be issued for Provisional Grade Levels.
9. Registered Dojo Resident Instructors, who are Godan and above and have been resident instructors for ten (10) years or over, may apply the provisions laid down, in Clauses 7 & 8, at their own discretion, after having received authority to do so from the SKIA T & D Committee. The SKIA T & D Committee may review or reconsider this authority as it sees fit.

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. All members are subject to the following conditions:

1. Members who have passed a Dan grading, without having completed the required time period between the 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. Only applies to members who reside in Australia. Those members, who are living, working, and training overseas, would not be subject to this regulation.
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 be conducted during the Shotokan Week National Seminar. Can be conducted at other times, under exceptional circumstances, and with the approval of the National T & D Committee. Applications must be in writing, to the President of the National T & D Committee, outlining the exceptional circumstances.
5. Any application to attempt a Dan grade, at another time or in another country, must be received by the President of the Technical and Development Committee at least 6 months prior to the proposed grading. The T & D Committee will come to a decision and then direct the National Secretary to issue a letter to the applicant approving or disapproving the application. An official letter, issued by the National Secretary, must be presented to an examiner, in another country, as proof that the application has been approved by SKIA.

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 document, 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.

Members, who hold a Dan Grade from another Shotokan Organisation, those being acceptable to SKIF for registration, are not eligible to register the grade until they have completed one year of membership and one annual renewal of membership. The "SKIF Application for Dan Registration" form must be completed and sent to the President of the National Technical and Development Committee, together with the appropriate registration fee and a photocopy of the recognised Dan Certificate, upon completion of the membership requirement.

Members, who hold a Dan Grade from another organisation, those **not** being acceptable to SKIF for registration, are not eligible to register the grade. They must undergo a confirmation grading and can only do so after having completed one year of membership and one annual renewal of membership. The National Technical and Development Committee must give approval, for the member to undertake a confirmation grading, upon completion of the membership requirement.

All other members, transferring from non-recognised/non-Shotokan styles, should not be offered a confirmation Dan Grading, without prior recommendation of the State or National Technical and Development Committee, and may be assessed by the Dojo Instructor, in accordance with Regulation 4 of the Kyu Grading Regulations, and given a Kyu Rank appropriate for their current level of skill and knowledge of the SKIF System.

Recognition of non-SKIF and non-SKIA Dan Grade Certificates:

- SKIF recognises Dan Diplomas from JKA, ISKF USA (Okazaki Sensei) and ITKF USA (the late Nishiyama Sensei) groups.
- Other Shotokan Dan Grading Diplomas may be recognised on a 'case by case' basis, upon approval from SKIF Japan.

Shodan Grading

1. Minimum age for Shodan is 10 years.
2. Must be a current Financial Member of SKIA and have had continuous financial status for the preceding twelve (12) month period. The only exception would be if, the member joined, from another recognised organisation, and brought their current recognised 1st Kyu Certificate with them. Members joining would have to provide evidence of continuous training and membership for the required number of years. Newly joined members must be financial members for a minimum of six (6) months, prior to attempting a Shodan Grading.
3. Must be 1st Kyu, for a minimum of six (6) months, and have been training consistently during the preceding two (2) year period. Juniors, 15 years of age and under, must be 1st Kyu for a minimum of six (6) months and have been training consistently for the preceding three (3) year period. These conditions are set by S.K.I.F.
4. Must have recommendation of Registered Dojo Instructor, the State Technical and Development Committee and the State Member of the National T & D Committee. Must attend minimum of two T & D training sessions and have undergone a grading readiness assessment with the State Branch T & D Committee Representative.
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. The Membership Book and the Grading Fee **must** be presented during the seminar and prior to the grading. The relevant controlling body may require all the relevant forms to be completed and mailed prior to the seminar/grading.
7. The National Technical and Development Committee may 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. Limits apply if the member holds a Junior Shodan Certificate.
2. Junior Nidan is available for 10 to 15 years of age. Specific waiting times apply for Junior Gradings. Refer to Condition 4, Condition 5, and the Grading Regulations for clarification.
3. Must be a current Financial Member of SKIA and have had continuous financial status for the preceding two (2) year period. The only exception would be if the member joined, from another organisation, and brought a Dan Certificate with them. Said certificate must be registered with SKIF, if it was issued by a recognised organisation, or have been confirmed by grading, if it was not issued by a recognised organisation. Members joining will have to provide evidence of consistent training for the required number of years. A new member cannot apply for an upgrade, until they have completed one year of membership and one annual renewal of membership with S.K.I.A.
4. Must be Junior Shodan, for a minimum of two years (2) and have been training consistently, for the preceding two (2) year period, before being permitted to attempt Junior Nidan. Refer to condition "5.", if the member has turned sixteen (16) years of age since becoming Junior Shodan. These conditions are set by S.K.I.A.
5. Must be Shodan, for a minimum of two (2) years and have been training consistently for the preceding two (2) year period. Junior Shodan holders must be Junior Shodan, for a minimum of three (3) years, and have been training consistently for the preceding three (3) year period before attempting Senior Nidan. These conditions are set by S.K.I.A.
5. Must have recommendation of Registered Dojo Instructor, the State Technical and Development Committee and the State Member of the National T & D Committee. Must attend minimum of two T & D training sessions and have undergone a grading readiness assessment with the State Branch T & D Committee Representative.

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. The Membership Book and the Grading Fee **must** be presented during the seminar and prior to the grading. The relevant controlling body may require all the relevant forms to be completed and mailed prior to the seminar/grading.
8. **The National Technical and Development Committee may 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 eighteen (18) years. Limits apply if the member holds a Junior Nidan Certificate. Refer to Condition 3 and the Grading Regulations for clarification.
2. Must be a current Financial Member of SKIA and have had continuous financial status for the preceding three (3) year period. The only exception would be if the member joined, from another organisation, and brought a Dan Certificate with them. Said certificate must be registered with SKIF, if it was issued by a recognised organisation, or have been confirmed by grading, if it was not issued by a recognised organisation. Members joining will have to provide evidence of consistent training for the required number of years. A new member cannot apply for an upgrade, until they have completed one year of membership and one annual renewal of membership with S.K.I.A.
3. Must be Nidan for a minimum of three (3) years and have been training consistently for the preceding three (3) year period. Junior Nidan holders must be Junior Nidan, for a minimum of four (4) years, and have been training consistently for the preceding four (4) year period before attempting Senior Sandan. This condition applies when the member has turned eighteen (18) years of age since becoming Junior Nidan. These conditions are set by S.K.I.F.
4. Must have recommendation of Registered Dojo Instructor, the State Technical and Development Committee and the State Member of the National T & D Committee. Must attend minimum of two T & D training sessions and have undergone a grading readiness assessment with the State Branch T & D Committee Representative.
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 President, 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 President of the Technical and Development Committee to attend the seminar and confirm their eligibility to attempt a Dan Grading Examination.
8. The Membership Book and the Grading Fee **must** be presented during the seminar and prior to the grading. The relevant controlling body may require all the relevant forms to be completed and mailed prior to the seminar/grading.
9. The National Technical and Development Committee may conduct final eligibility tests and an appraisal of standard, during the Shotokan Week National Seminar.

Yondan Grading

1. Minimum age for Yondan is twenty-five (25) years.
2. Must be a current Financial Member of S.K.I Australia and have had continuous financial status for the preceding four (4) year period. The only exception would be if the member joined, from another organisation, and brought a Dan Certificate with them. Said certificate must be registered with SKIF, if it was issued by a recognised organisation, or have been confirmed by grading, if it was not issued

by a recognised organisation. Members joining will have to provide evidence of consistent training for the required number of years. A new member cannot apply for an upgrade, until they have completed one year of membership and one annual renewal of membership with S.K.I.A.

3. Must be Sandan for a minimum of four (4) years and have been teaching and/or training consistently for the preceding four (4) year period.
4. Must have recommendation of Registered Dojo Instructor, the State Technical and Development Committee and the State Member of the National T & D Committee. Must attend minimum of two T & D training sessions and have undergone a grading readiness assessment with the State Branch T & D Committee Representative.
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 President, 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 President of the Technical and Development Committee to attend the seminar and confirm their eligibility to attempt a Dan Grading Examination.
8. The Membership Book and the Grading Fee **must** be presented during the seminar and prior to the grading. The relevant controlling body may require all of the relevant forms to be completed and mailed prior to the seminar/grading.
9. Must be an accredited National Judge, certified by S.K.I. Australia. A disability waiver may be requested, in writing, if the applicant has a disability that may compromise their ability to become accredited and operate effectively as a Judge or Referee at a championship event.
10. The National Technical and Development Committee may conduct final eligibility tests and an appraisal of standard, during the Shotokan Week National Seminar.

Godan Grading

1. Minimum age for Godan is thirty-two (32) years.
2. Must be a current Financial Member of S.K.I Australia and have had continuous financial status for the preceding five (5) year period. The only exception would be if the member joined, from another organisation, and brought a Dan Certificate with them. Said certificate must be registered with SKIF, if it was issued by a recognised organisation, or have been confirmed by grading, if it was not issued by a recognised organisation. Members joining will have to provide evidence of consistent training for the required number of years. A new member cannot apply for an upgrade, until they have completed one year of membership and one annual renewal of membership with S.K.I.A.
3. Must be Yondan for a minimum of five (5) years and have been teaching and/or training consistently for the preceding five (5) year period. These conditions are set by S.K.I.F.
4. Must have recommendation of Registered Dojo Instructor, the State Technical and Development Committee and the State Member of the National T & D Committee. Must attend minimum of two T & D training sessions and have undergone a grading readiness assessment with the State Branch T & D Committee Representative.
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 President, 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 President of the Technical and Development Committee to attend the seminar and confirm their eligibility to attempt a Dan Grading Examination.

8. The Membership Book and the Grading Fee **must** be presented during the seminar and prior to the grading. The relevant controlling body may require all the relevant forms to be completed and mailed prior to the seminar/grading.
9. Must be an accredited National Judge, certified by S.K.I. Australia. A disability waiver may be requested, in writing, if the applicant has a disability that may compromise their ability to become accredited and operate effectively as a Judge or Referee at a championship event.
10. The National Technical and Development Committee may conduct an appraisal of knowledge of the SKIF syllabus during the Shotokan Week National Seminar.

Rokudan Grading

1. Minimum age for Rokudan is thirty-eight (38) years.
2. Must be a current Financial Member of S.K.I Australia and have had continuous financial status for the preceding six (6) year period. The only exception would be if the member joined, from another organisation, and brought a Dan Certificate with them. Said certificate must be registered with SKIF, if it was issued by a recognised organisation, or have been confirmed by grading, if it was not issued by a recognised organisation. Members joining will have to provide evidence of consistent training for the required number of years. A new member cannot apply for an upgrade, until they have completed one year of membership and one annual renewal of membership with S.K.I.A.
3. Must be Godan for a minimum of six (6) years and have been teaching and/or training consistently for the preceding six (6) year period. These conditions are set by S.K.I.F.
4. Must have recommendation of the State Technical and Development Committee and the State Member of the National T & D Committee.
5. 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.
6. The applicant will receive an invitation from the President of the Technical and Development Committee to attend the seminar and confirm their eligibility to attempt a Dan Grading Examination.
7. 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).
8. The Membership Book and the Grading Fee **must** be presented during the seminar and prior to the grading. The relevant controlling body may require all the relevant forms to be completed and mailed prior to the seminar/grading.
9. Must be an accredited National Judge, certified by S.K.I. Australia. A disability waiver may be requested, in writing, if the applicant has a disability that may compromise their ability to become accredited and operate effectively as a Judge or Referee at a championship event.
10. This is an organisational grade that is only extended to those members who have demonstrated a commitment to, not only their own Karate-do, but the long-term development of Shotokan Karate International Australia, via teaching, administration, technical support, refereeing, and logistical support.
11. 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 detailed as they wish, but no less than 500 words.

Nanadan Grading

1. Minimum age for Nanadan is forty-six (46) years.
2. Must be a current Financial Member of S.K.I Australia and have had continuous financial status for the preceding seven (7) year period. The only exception would be if the member joined, from another organisation, and brought a Dan Certificate with them. Said certificate must be registered with SKIF, if it was issued by a recognised organisation, or have been confirmed by grading, if it was not issued by a recognised organisation. Members joining will have to provide evidence of consistent training for the required number of years. A new member cannot apply for an upgrade, until they have completed one year of membership and one annual renewal of membership with S.K.I.A.
3. Must be Rokudan for a minimum of seven (7) years and have been teaching and/or training consistently for the preceding seven (7) year period. These conditions are set by S.K.I.F.
4. Must have recommendation of the State Technical and Development Committee and the State Member of the National T & D Committee.
5. 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.
6. The applicant will receive an invitation from the President of the Technical and Development Committee to attend the seminar and confirm their eligibility to attempt a Dan Grading Examination.
7. 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).
8. The Membership Book and the Grading Fee **must** be presented during the seminar and prior to the grading. The relevant controlling body may require all the relevant forms to be completed and mailed prior to the seminar/grading.
9. Must be an accredited National Judge, certified by S.K.I. Australia. A disability waiver may be requested, in writing, if the applicant has a disability that may compromise their ability to become accredited and operate effectively as a Judge or Referee at a championship event.
10. This is an organisational grade that is only extended to those members who have demonstrated a commitment to, not only their own Karate-do, but the long-term development of Shotokan Karate International Australia, via teaching, administration, technical support, refereeing, and logistical support.

Gradings above Nanadan

Minimum age for Hachidan is fifty-five (55) years of age. No age limitation has been defined for the grades above Hachidan. Must, be Nanadan for a period of eight (8) years, prior to attempting Hachidan. These conditions are set by S.K.I.F.

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 President of the 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.

Note: The regulations, set forth in this document, are to be used and applied in conjunction with the official Training Syllabus and Grading Syllabus of Shotokan Karate International - Australia. All Instructors and Examiners must refer to the official training and grading syllabus, when determining which members are eligible to participate in the grading process, and, under what conditions they may participate in the grading process. The training syllabus and grading syllabus are an extension of the grading regulations.

Gradings above Nanadan – additional requirements.

1. The applicant must have the recommendation of the National T&D Chair and the Life Member Council.
2. The T&D Chair receives the Dan Grade eligibility list, from the Memberships Officer.
3. The T&D Chair submits a proposed list to the Life Member Council for consideration.
4. Consultation between the T&D Chair and Life Members Council, as to the eligibility and suitability of each candidate, is undertaken.
6. A decision is then made as to whether the applicant be given the opportunity to attempt their next grade. The decision is based on 75 percent in favour for the applicant to be given approval to attempt the grading. The applicant's names are submitted to Chief Instructor of SKIF for consideration.
7. This is an organisational grade that is only extended to those members who have demonstrated a commitment to, not only their own Karate-do, but the long-term development of Shotokan Karate International Australia, via teaching, administration, technical support, refereeing, and logistical support.
8. If a nominee is from the Life Member Council and/or is the T&D Chair they must abstain from voting.

Successful Applicants

Applicant's names are then submitted to the T&D for their information.

The applicant must attempt the grading at the International Seminar or World Championships.

A conformation letter is sent to those applicants approved to attempt a grading, by a nominated representative from the Life Member Council.

Must attend the full seminar at which the grading is being held.

The Membership Book and the Grading Fee must be presented during the seminar and prior to the grading. The relevant controlling body may require all the relevant forms to be completed and mailed prior to the seminar/grading.

An official letter, issued by the National Secretary, must be presented to an examiner, in another country, as proof that the application has been approved by SKIA.

At the discretion of, and only under extenuating circumstances, the Life Member Council, and the National T&D Chair, with SKIF approval, may allow Hachidan and above gradings to be undertaken during Shotokan Week. This requires 75 percent support.

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 (i.e., involuntary/extenuating circumstances) then, his/her Instructor can submit a proposal to the Technical and Development Committee, via their State Technical and Development Representative, requesting that the member be considered eligible to attempt the grading.

Exceptional Circumstances may include an application, by a Resident Instructor, on behalf of one of their students, for exemption based upon any disabilities that the student may have. The disabilities may be physical, mental, or learning impairment and the submission **must** be accompanied by supporting documents. Doctor's Reports, Psychological Reports and reports from Educators may be submitted. For confidentiality reasons, the application and all supporting documents **are not** to be distributed beyond the relevant Technical and Development Committees, that are assigned with considering and rendering a ruling on the application. The application **must** be made with the student's knowledge and approval. The Grading Syllabus may be modified, by a given examiner, to allow for any disabilities for which an applicant may have received an exemption.

DAN GRADING READINESS ASSESSMENT PROCESS

It is a requirement that each State Technical & Development Committee Member conducts a series of Dan Grading Readiness Assessments and T&D training sessions, within their state branch, as preparation for any Dan Gradings that may occur during the coming year. Members, who are assessed as not being ready, or properly prepared, should be advised accordingly. The T & D State Committee may reject a candidate if, in their opinion, the candidate is clearly not ready for a Dan Grading attempt in the near future. Any such rejection will be final, and the candidate may apply for reassessment at a later date.

Members who are registered via the National Club must comply with any regulations, or readiness assessment and T&D training requirements of the State Branch, in which they live. Such members **must** make application to grade, or application for readiness assessment, via the State Branch T & D Committee Member for their state of residence.

CLARIFICATION OF CONTINUOUS FINANCIAL MEMBERSHIP

Those members who allow their financial status with SKIA to lapse, for more than one (1) year, will be required to wait an additional number of years, equal to the number of years for which they were non-financial, before they become eligible to be nominated for a Dan Grading. For example, a Sandan who would normally be eligible to grade, to Yondan, after having completed four (4) years of consistent training, will have to wait six years, if they were non-financial for two (2) of the four (4) years. Effectively, one (1) additional year will be added to the minimum waiting time for every year that the member is non-financial.

Special Circumstances: If a member were to be non-financial, for an extended period and for personal reasons, the T & D Committee may waive this condition, on a case-by-case basis, after application from the Resident Instructor of the Dojo at which the member trains.

This condition would not apply to members who are living and training in another country. Such members would be covered by the regulations of the country in which they live. If such members wish to rejoin, upon returning to Australia to live, they may be required to provide their SKIF Training History, from their previous countries of residence, before becoming eligible to be nominated to attempt a Dan upgrade within Australia.

VARIATION TO THESE RULES & REGULATIONS

The Technical and Development Committee shall have absolute discretion to vary these rules, on a case-by-case basis, as it deems fit and in the best interests of the Shotokan Karate International Australia. However, such discretion cannot be exercised without at least a 75% majority of the members of the Technical and Development Committee. This authority shall only apply when a situation arises that is not fully covered by these rules.

The National Executive reserves the right to vary these rules in accordance with the Constitution and for avoidance of doubt, where there is an inconsistency between the rules set by the Technical and Development Committee and the rules set by the National Executive, the National Executive rules shall prevail to the extent of such inconsistency.

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

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.
(Note: Should not repeat any Kata performed for 2nd or 1st 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:

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

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.

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

Additional information, on the Kata requirements, can be obtained by referring to the Grading Regulations, Domestic Dan Examinations Annex. It appears as an attachment at the end of this document.

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 (free sparring) OR
Jiyu Ippon Kumite - Hidari / Migi (one-step semi-free sparring) OR
Okuri Jiyu Ippon Kumite (follow-through attack, one-step sparring) OR
Self Defence.

Jiyu Ippon Kumite, Okuri Jiyu Ippon Kumite and Self Defence are available alternatives for females, and males over 36 years of age.

SANDAN Jiyu Kumite (free sparring) OR
Jiyu Ippon Kumite - Hidari / Migi (one-step semi-free sparring) OR
Kaeshi Ippon Kumite (attack and counter one-step sparring) OR
Self Defence.

Jiyu Ippon Kumite, Kaeshi Ippon Kumite and Self Defence are available alternatives for females, and males over 36 years of age.

YONDAN/GODAN+ The compulsory Kumite for these levels, and above, is Jiyu Ippon Kumite and Kihon Ippon Kumite. The examiner will stipulate during the grading.

- Gohon Kumite (Jodan, Chudan, Mae-Geri).
- Sanbon Kumite (1 to 5).
- Kihon Ippon Kumite
 - Six (6) of Jodan zuki, Chudan zuki, Mae geri
 - Three (3) of Yoko geri, Mawashi geri
- Jiyu Ippon Kumite
 - Six (6) of Jodan zuki, Chudan zuki, Mae geri
 - Three (3) of Yoko geri, Mawashi geri, Ushiro geri
 - Three (3) of Jodan kizami zuki, Chudan guaku zuki

The examiner may set the Kumite requirement. It could be any of the set defences (Gohon Kumite, Sanbon Kumite, Kihon Ippon-Kumite, Jiyu Ippon-Kumite, etc) and may include some Jiyu Kumite. Yondan candidates may be required to participate in Jiyu Kumite.

Although they are not a compulsory part of the Grading Syllabus, it would not be unreasonable to expect a higher Dan Grade to know or have some knowledge of Okuri Jiyu Ippon Kumite, Kaeshi Ippon Kumite, Bunkai and Self Defence.

Additional information, on the Kumite requirements, can be obtained by referring to the Grading Regulations, Domestic Dan Examinations Annex. It appears as an attachment at the end of this document.

Additional Examination Criteria for Australian Dan Examinations

- **Shodan, Nidan and Sandan:**

- Shodan, Nidan and Sandan Examinations are to have the following additional Kumite Components demonstrated by the candidates.
- 1 X Jiyu Ippon Kumite both right-hand and left-hand sides with one technique performed that is the examiners choice from, 1 to 4 Jodan, chudan, mae geri, 1 to 2 yoko geri, mawashi geri, ushiro geri, kizami tsuki, gyaku tsuki.
- 1 X Kihon Ippon Kumite both right-hand and left-hand sides with one technique performed that is the examiners choice from, 1 to 4 Jodan, chudan, mae geri 1 to 2 yoko geri, mawashi geri.
- For Nidan and Sandan Examinations where Jiyu-Kumite, Self Defence or Kaeshi Ippon are selected, the following should also be demonstrated:
- 1 X Jiyu Ippon Kumite both right-hand and left-hand side one technique for each attack and candidate's choice of defence.

- **Yondan and Above:**

- Kihon - Remains the same.
- Kata
 - Increase the number of kata to two.
 - One picked by the applicant.
 - The other picked by the panel out of the Shite Kata list for Sandan.
 - Examiner to request explanation and demonstration of two techniques from each of the kata with or without a partner depending on restrictions.

<u>Candidate selects one Kata from:</u>	<u>Examiner selects one Kata from:</u>
Meikyo	Bassai Dai
Gojushiho Dai	Kanku Dai
Gojushiho Sho	Jion
Unsu	Empi
Wankan, or	Jitte
Any Kata that has not been performed in a previous grading	

- Kumite:
 - Jiyu-Ippon x 1 set. – First performed on Right Side and followed by Left:
 - Performed with a SKIF number system defence of the examiners choice from #1s through #6s.
 - i.e., Examiner calls SKIF number system defence 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 prior to each attack. (where applicable).
 - Kihon-Ippon x 1 set. – First performed on Right Side and followed by Left:
 - Performed with a SKIF number system defence of the examiners choice from #1s through #6s.
 - i.e., Examiner calls SKIF number system defence 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 prior to each attack. (where applicable).

Grading Regulations, Domestic Dan Examinations Annex

Technical and Development Committee

Shotokan Karate International Australia

SKIA Technical & Development Committee

February 2021

The purpose of this document is to standardise the approach and process to trigger and run a Domestic Dan Examination. As different Australian States and Territories had slightly different processes it will be beneficial to the betterment of Karateka within the SKIA to have a unified and standardised baseline for the running of Dan Examinations with Certified, Currently Registered, and Active Domestic (SKIA) Examiners.

This document does not to remove the onus of the instructor to ensure the candidate is ready to undertake the Dan grade assessment, and the Instructor must ensure that the SKIA Grading Regulations have been adhered to and understands the technical skills required.

It is important to emphasise that candidates who receive support for their application to undertake a Dan Examination by the T&D Committee does not have a guarantee that the candidate will pass the Dan Examination.

Process to Trigger a Domestic Dan Examination:

There are various Certified Domestic Dan Examiners across the different states and territories within Australia. Some Dan Examiners are sponsored by SKIA, some are self-sponsored and to ensure that there is a consistent approach to triggering a Domestic Dan Examination, rather than relying on the SKIF GHQ Visiting Instructors, the following process should be followed.

1. A Dojo Instructor identifies that they have a student(s) eligible for 1st, 2nd or 3rd Dan Examinations.
2. The Dojo Instructor raises a request with their Local T&D Representative to hold Examination.
3. The Local T&D Representative proposes potential Domestic Examination Dates and
 - a. Seeks support of Domestic Examination with National T&D Committee
 - b. Engages with National T&D Committee regarding the potential for a multi-state Examination if wanted / needed (e.g., NSW & ACT is a possibility)
 - c. Engages with National T&D Representative for interest in participation – NB if the Domestic Examiner is not Certified to advance passed a specific rank, the National T&D Representative will advise that one or more additional Domestic Examiner(s) will need to participate.
 - d. Confirms availability and preferred dates with Local Domestic Examiner
 - e. Confirms Candidate Eligibility with SKIA Memberships Office.
4. Local T&D Representative will on confirmation of the above:
 - a. Organise examination panel members.
 - b. Confirm venue bookings.
 - c. Send communication to Local Instructors:
 - i. Seeking additional candidates
 - ii. Advising Dates, Times, Locations etc.
 - iii. Documentation required.

Local T&D Screening Sessions

Prior to undertaking a Dan Examination (Domestic, or SKIF GHQ Visiting Instructor, or International Examination at SKIF Japan International Seminar, or SKIF World Cup) candidates who are seeking to grade up to 5th Dan must have attended at minimum 2 T&D Sessions prior to their Grading.

Candidates attempting 6th Dan or above do not have to train during these sessions, though it may be in their interests to do so. In some cases, this may not be practical, as they may be asked to assist with running the T&D Session.

The T&D Sessions are to provide additional guidance on the performance and execution of the Karate required to be demonstrated at the Dan Examination, providing an additional, complimentary perspective to the Dojo Instructors guidance

At the T&D Sessions, there must be a minimum panel of 2 individuals, it is preferable at least 3 are present, though this may not always be practicable.

1. The Local T&D Representative
2. One other Active Instructor, preferably who is ranked 4th Dan or above.
3. The Domestic Examiner is an Optional attendee at the T&D Sessions
4. Additional Panel Members may be invited to participate, and this is encouraged.

Additionally, the following attendance is required.

What	Local T&D	Local Examiner	National T&D	Other T&D	Domestic Examiner
T & D Session	Required	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional
Assessment / Mock Examination	Required	Required	Optional	Optional	Optional
Examination	Required *	Required *	Required #	Optional	Optional

* Required for Domestic Examinations, else Optional.

Required for SKIF GHQ Guest Instructor Examinations, else Optional.

Candidate Support for Examination

Before Candidates can have the support of the Local and National T&D Representative, the Candidate must be nominated by their Dojo Instructor, or in the event that the Candidate is a Dojo Instructor, then the nomination should be provided by another Active Instructor who is at least 1 rank above the grade being sought.

For grades up to 5th Dan T&D approval will be provided after completing an Assessment or Mock Examination at a T&D Session prior to the Dan Examination. For 6th Dan and above, the Nomination must be presented and supported by an Active SKIA Member who is at least 1 rank above the rank being sought. E.g., a Candidate wishing to attempt 6th Dan must be nominated and have the support of an Active SKIA Member who is ranked 7th Dan or above.

Additional Points

The Candidate must comply with the Examination Eligibility Criteria associated with the rank being sought (e.g., Current Financial Member, Continuous training / teaching since last examination or break, age, etc).

Process for the Support of Domestic Examinations above the rank of Sandan

SKIF awards Examiner Licenses on a ranking system, whereby C level Examiners may grade up to Shodan, B level Examiners may grade up to Nidan.

A level Examiners may grade up to Sandan where there are two (*or more*) A level Examiners conducting the examination.

If the A-Level examiners are not present at the examination, then the grading must be videoed and sent to the A Level Examiners for their joint consideration.

In addition, there is an option for Candidates that are seeking the rank of Yondan or above to be assessed using the following process:

1. Applicant to complete an application form detailing trainings schedule undertaken. Other relevant information including time training as a member, readiness assessments undertaken etc. The application is signed off by their instructor, or if they are an instructor then state T&D rep.
2. Applications are sent to National T&D with any other relevant information for approval to attempt the grading. If the National T&D does not approve the application, then reasons are to be given to the applicant via the instructor or state T&D rep.
3. If approved, the applicant's details are then sent to Murakami Shihan for approval to attempt the grading. If Murakami Shihan does not approve of an applicant, then reasons are given to the applicant via the instructor or state T&D rep.
4. Successful applicants are then graded by the panel in their state which will comprise of a minimum of 3 members comprising of Local examiner, Local T&D representative and one (or more) Senior Instructors. The grading is videoed sent to Sensei Brian Cox (A Level Examiner) and Sensei Peter Harth (A Level Examiner) if they are not present on the panel.
5. The Examination panel, Sensei Brian Cox (A Level Examiner) and Sensei Peter Harth (A Level Examiner) must approve the application prior to it being sent to Murakami Shihan with recommendations.
6. Murakami Shihan has the final say as to whether the applicant has been successful or unsuccessful and to advise reasons for the decision if unsuccessful.
7. Panel advised of decision and to advise applicant and reasons for the decision if unsuccessful.

The application form will outline the process and advise the applicant that the final decision is with Murakami Shihan and although they are put forward to attempt the grading this does not guarantee a pass.

Additional Examination Criteria for Australian Dan Examinations

- **Shodan, Nidan and Sandan:**

- Shodan, Nidan and Sandan Examinations are to have the following additional Kumite Components demonstrated by the candidates.
- 1 X Jiyu Ippon Kumite both right-hand and left-hand sides with one technique performed that is the examiners choice from, 1 to 4 Jodan, chudan, mae geri, 1 to 2 yoko geri, mawashi geri, ushiro geri, kizami tsuki, gyaku tsuki.
- 1 X Kihon Ippon Kumite both right-hand and left-hand sides with one technique performed that is the examiners choice from, 1 to 4 Jodan, chudan, mae geri 1 to 2 yoko geri, mawashi geri.
- For Nidan and Sandan Examinations where Jiyu-Kumite, Self Defence or Kaeshi Ippon are selected, the following should also be demonstrated:
- 1 X Jiyu Ippon Kumite both right-hand and left-hand side one technique for each attack and candidate's choice of defence.

- **Yondan and Above:**

- Kihon - Remains the same.
- Kata
 - Increase the number of kata to two.
 - One picked by the applicant.
 - The other picked by the panel out of the Shite Kata list for Sandan.
 - Examiner to request explanation and demonstration of two techniques from each of the kata with or without a partner depending on restrictions.

<u>Candidate selects one Kata from:</u>	<u>Examiner selects one Kata from:</u>
Meikyo	Bassai Dai
Gojushiho Dai	Kanku Dai
Gojushiho Sho	Jion
Unsu	Empi
Wankan, or	Jitte
Any Kata that has not been performed in a previous grading	

- Kumite:
 - Jiyu-Ippon x 1 set. – First performed on Right Side and followed by Left:
 - Performed with a SKIF number system defence of the examiners choice from #1s through #6s.
 - i.e., Examiner calls SKIF number system defence 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 prior to each attack. (where applicable).
 - Kihon-Ippon x 1 set. – First performed on Right Side and followed by Left:
 - Performed with a SKIF number system defence of the examiners choice from #1s through #6s.
 - i.e., Examiner calls SKIF number system defence 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 prior to each attack. (where applicable).