New Zealand Ju-Jitsu Federation (NZJJF)

Grading Panel Policy

BACKGROUND

A grade is a measure of the level of attainment of a student in Ju-Jitsu. Each kyu grade is signified by a different coloured belt, starting with the White belt, and progressing to Black belt or Dan grade.

In many styles, however, achieving a dan rank means that, while one is no longer considered a beginner, one is not yet necessarily an expert. Rather, it indicates a high degree of competence across a reasonable range of techniques. The total number of dan ranks can be style-specific (1st through 10th is common in Ju-Jitsu).

The lower dan grades (1st through 5th) are normally attained through a grading examination or sometimes through competition. The higher dan grades (6th through 10th) usually require years of experience and contribution to Ju-Jitsu.

There is no set achievement level that is universal, but it is recommended that High Dan Grades of 8th through 10th are awarded according to the NZJJF High Dan Grade Policy.

PURPOSE

The NZJJF seeks to ensure that consistent practice and standards are maintained with regards to the award of Black Belt grades within Ju Jitsu in New Zealand.

The NZJJF being able to convene a grading panel at the request of its members allows the NZJJF to directly support the development of colleagues in circumstances where greater support is required.

OVERVIEW

Clause 2f of the Schedule of Objects within the NZJJF Rules and Regulations allows the NZJJF Committee to appoint a panel of examiners on request from an Instructor or Club for the purpose of grading a Member. This normally applies **only to black belt grades** and usually applies to Members who do not have a superior to grade them, for whatever reason.

APPLICATION

An Instructor or committee of a Member Club may apply in writing to the NZJJF Committee for a grading panel to be convened.

The application should include:

- a martial arts résumé for the gradee,
- a clear statement of why a normal grading is not available to the candidate.
- a recommendation on the rank to be graded to.
- a copy of the organisations Teaching and Grading Syllabus.

CONSIDERATION

The NZJJF committee must consider the application in full and make any necessary enquiries before satisfying itself that the grading is warranted.

PANEL SELECTION

A panel of three examiners is selected with the following characteristics:

- All three hold ju-jitsu black belts
- At least one is of a grade higher than the candidate's recommended grade
- All three should be from a ju-jitsu styles similar to that of the candidate.

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AUTHORISATION	When the panel is selected and a date chosen that is suitable for all parties NZJJF may authorise the grading. The decision should be minuted and the candidate notified.
COSTS	All costs related to convening the grading panel are borne by the candidate. In addition, the prescribed NZJJF fee for considering the application, Black Belt Registration form, and providing a grading certificate are paid for by the candidate.
NOTIFICATION	A copy of the signed grading certificate, application letter and résumé are attached to the Black Belt Register Application Form, which is filed by the NZJJF registrar in the Black Belt Register. The Public Register of Instructors and Black Belts is updated.

Appendices

The form for Black Belt verification can be found on the NZJJF website at the following link.

http://www.nzjjf.org.nz/jujitsu/downloads/Black_Belt_registration_form.pdf

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