New Zealand Ju-Jitsu Federation (NZJJF)

High Dan Grades Policy

BACKGROUND	Dan ranks were transferred to martial arts by Kanō Jigorō (1860–1938), the founder of judo. Kanō started the modern rank system in 1883 and he adopted the custom of having his yūdansha wear black obi (belts) in 1886. In 1907, Kanō invented the modern keikogi (white practice uniforms), and belts in white for mudansha and black for yūdansha. And although the dan system is distinctly Japanese, it has been adopted by many other martial arts styles. The dan ranking system is used by many martial art styles and organizations to indicate the level of a person's ability within any given style or system. The total number of dan ranks can be style-specific (1st through 10th is common in Ju-Jitsu). Specifically, Ju-Jitsu high dan grades are the master grades of 8th, 9th and 10th Degree Black belt.
PURPOSE	While recognising the right of all organisations to promote their members to these high dan grades, NZJJF seeks to provide promotions on behalf of all New Zealand organisations to ensure that consistent practice and the highest standards are maintained.
POLICY	Applications for high dan grades may be made in writing by an NZJJF Individual Member to NZJJF on an applicant's behalf using the NZJJF High Grade Award Application Form. http://nzjjf.org.nz/NZJJF/jujitsu/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/NZJJF-High-Grade-Award-Application-Form.pdf
COMMITTEE	A High Dan Grades committee of five Members shall be convened by the NZJJF to assess the application. The committee shall comprise the NZJJF Chairman, at least one Outstanding Service Award holder and at least one high dan grade (if possible). The NZJJF Chairman shall preside.
DOCUMENTATION	On receipt of the NZJJF High Grade Award Application Form and supporting evidence, consideration of the six factors below should be documented fully by the NZJJF High Dan Grades Committee. Any assessments of ability or essays should be put on file as supporting evidence of the committee's decision-making.
CONSIDERATIONS	The following factors shall be considered: **1. Membership:** The applicant must be a current NZJJF Individual Member of some standing. **2. Time:** The applicant must have amassed both the required years since last promotion and the required years in total since 1st Degree to be eligible for promotion in accordance with the NZJJF Black Belt Verification Policy. **3. Skill:** The applicant must have been noted as a highly skilful ju-jitsu exponent at the height of his/her career, and maintain a level of skill in older age.

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	4. **Understanding:** The applicant must have a deep understanding of the principles of ju-jitsu and the philosophy / ideals of budo. **a.** The committee may ask for a demonstration of such principles at a Master Class Seminar or at an appropriately conveend grading. **b.** And/or the committee may ask for an essay on such philosophy / ideals. 5. **Contribution:** The applicant must have made a significant contribution to ju-jitsu for the benefit of the New Zealand ju-jitsu community. This may be within the applicant's organisation but the effects must have benefitted the wider community. Such contribution should be voluntary and non-profit in nature. 6. **Character:** The applicant should be of the highest moral character and provide a sound role model for the ju-jitsu community. Ideal characteristics are: • integrity (honesty and trustworthiness) • dedication (to ju-jitsu and its practitioners, and self-improvement) • education (well-read, literate and clear-thinking) • wisdom (sound guidance based on learning and experience) • clean living (thoughtful, moral, ethical and lawful daily practices) • humility (approachable, open-minded, and giving)
NOTIFICATION	On receipt of the NZJJF fee the applicant shall be notified of the result. A successful candidate will have their new grade certified by the NZJJF (signed by the members of the High Dan Grades committee) and be entered into the Public Register of Instructors and Black Belts. Depending on their organisation's traditions, 8th dans may wear either a red-and-white belt (kohaku obi) or red belt (aka obi); 9th dans may wear a red belt; and 10th dans may wear either a double-width white belt (shiro obi) or red belt.

Appendices

The following form for High Dan Grade Award can be found on the NZJJF website at the following link.

http://nzjjf.org.nz/NZJJF/jujitsu/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/NZJJF-High-Grade-Award-Application-Form.pdf

ADOPTED JANUARY 2012

REVIEWED JANUARY 2025

JU-JITSU FEDERATION

Name	.....
Approved Grade	8th Degree / 9th Degree / 10th Degree
..... / ..... / 20.....	Signed .....

Office use only

APPLICATION FOR AWARD OF HIGH DAN GRADE

1. Persons Details

Name ..... DOB ..... / ..... / .....

Address .....

.....

Phone ..... Mobile ..... email .....

Organisation .....

Club .....

Please supply:

- ***NZJJF fee; $50 for application applications. By cheque made out to NZJJF or by bank transfer into the account 03-0179-0280064-000*** ☐

Fee Paid	☐

Office use only

2. Validity

Last Grade ..... Degree

Date ..... / ..... / .....

Examiner(s) .....

Certificate	☐
Confirmation	☐

Office use only

Please supply:

- ***Copy of current dan grade certificate*** ☐
- ***Contact details of lead examiner*** ☐

3. Reasonableness

Date began ju-jitsu ..... / ..... / .....

Date of 1st Degree ..... / ..... / .....

Examiner(s) .....

Certificate	☐
Confirmation	☐
List	☐

Office use only

Please supply:

- ***Copy of 1st Degree grading certificate*** ☐
- ***Contact details of lead examiners*** ☐
- ***List of grading history and dates*** ☐

4. Good Standing

NZJJF Coaching Qualification held: C1 / C2 / C3 / C4

Date passed ..... / ..... / .....

Please supply:

- ***Copy of coaching certificate*** ☐
- ***Copy of recent first aid certificate*** ☐
- ***A signed Priv/F2 form*** ☐

Certificate	☐
First Aid	☐
MoJ Check	☐

Office use only

5. Impact

Provide a Ju Jitsu Curriculum Vitae identifying;

- Years teaching and details of yudansha produced
- International/National sporting awards and achievements.
- International/National seminars taught at.
- Awards obtained in their Ju Jitsu practice
  i.e. NZJJF Outstanding Service Award, NZMAHOF, AMAHOF, WKUHOF

CV	☐

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Please supply:

- ***Curriculum Vitae (CV)*** ☐

Return with all CV and certification evidence to: NZ Ju-Jitsu Federation, 36 Fleet Street, Masterton, 5810.

NZJJF Comments:

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Chairman NZJJF Approval:	The applicant is approved as suitable to be examined for the grade applied for; Signature: _____

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