



Karate Wales Guidelines for Gradings

This paper sets out guidance for Karate Wales members to consider when they are grading their own students, and the criteria for any senior grading awards made by Karate Wales itself.

The responsibility of Karate Wales

- Provide a set of guidelines for member clubs/associations to consider when setting their own grading criteria
- Provide support and advice for clubs/associations as required
- Recognise grades awarded by its member clubs/associations where acceptable criteria are followed
- Maintain a discretionary list of all Karate Wales members black belts and display on the Karate Wales website
- Take action where it is suspected a member club/association is not following grading criteria deemed suitable by Karate Wales

The responsibility of the member clubs/associations

- Set and adhere to grading criteria appropriate for the Karate style
- Ensure the grading criteria is clear and accessible to members
- Engage with Karate Wales should any assistance be required
- Report any concerns to Karate Wales

Karate Wales Example Grading Criteria and Recommendations

- Gradings from novice to 3rd Dan should have defined criteria set in the club/association syllabus
- Gradings of 4th Dan or higher are honorary and awarded for continued dedication to a club/association and for services to Karate as a whole. Karate Wales should be given the opportunity to attest to these for integrity.
- The highest possible rank in any club/association is 10th Dan
- Junior black belts can achieve up to the rank of Nidan. The suggested minimum age for junior black belts is 10 years and a further grading or assessment is required at the current grade, at the age of 16 or 18, for a junior black belt to attain a senior black belt.
- Club/Association instructors can award ranks of two grades lower than their own grade. E.g., a 3rd Dan can award up to 1st Dan, 5th Dan can award up to 3rd Dan etc.
- Gradings of 1st Dan and higher should be carried out by a panel of at least three senior grades. One of which must be a minimum of two grades higher than the attempted grade
- Grading panels can be made up of exclusively club/association senior grades or involve senior grades from other Karate Wales clubs/associations from the same or similar style. Karate Wales can also provide senior

- grade(s) to sit of a panel on request
- Karateka who move across styles, cannot secure a promotion within a new style without first securing their current grade in that new style. The Dan grading intervals below should apply
 - A karateka, ranked shodan or above, moving between Karate Wales clubs/associations, should not be permitted to grade for at least 12 months.
 - A karateka returning to training after an extended absence should reach the appropriate standard for their present grade and minimum time periods should apply prior to advancement. This however does not apply to Karateka that hold honorary grades.
 - It is not possible to accelerate the intervals between Dan grade examinations. This means that where periods longer than those in the above grid have previously passed between Dan gradings, it is not possible to 'catch up'. Therefore, for example, being a 3rd Dan for 5 years does not entitle the member to take 5th Dan after 3 years as a 4th Dan

Readiness Criteria:

- Student is able to demonstrate technique, knowledge and ability required for promotion (as defined in the club/association syllabus)
- Minimum time period met/exceeded
- Minimum attendance requirement exceeded – number of sessions or percentage of available sessions (*)
- Recommendation from club instructor
- For black belt grades the criteria may include additional certifications such as coaching, first aid and safeguarding

(*) those who are unable to meet attendance requirements over minimum time should have opportunity to achieve promotion over a longer period

Grade	Minimum time between grades	Minimum % of sessions attended
Novice to 4 th Kyu	3 Months	70%
3 rd Kyu to 1 st Kyu	6 Months	80%
1 st Kyu – 1 st Dan	1 year	80%
2nd Dan	2 years	80%
3rd Dan (Minimum Age 21)	3 years	80%

Honorary Grade	Minimum number of years since previous grade with continual service to club/association and to Karate as a whole
4 th Dan	4 years
5 th Dan	5 years
6 th Dan	6 years
7 th Dan	7 years
8 th Dan	8 years
9 th Dan	9 years
10 th Dan	10 years

Karate Wales Honorary Dan Grade Applications

Karate Wales member clubs and associations, who wish to award an honorary promotion to a senior Dan grade, can apply to the Karate Wales Board to consider the promotion.

The following individuals are eligible to make a promotion request:

- The chief instructor of a member club or association
- A senior instructor of a member club or association
- A director of Karate Wales (*)

(*) If a director of Karate Wales makes a request, then he/she will take no part in the approval process

This application should include the following:

- The details of the individual, club/organisation making the application • Date of the individuals last promotion (*)
- The grading examiner(s) involved (*)
- A copy or photograph of the grading certificate (*)
- A written summary of the justification for promotion (**)

(*) If the previous promotion was awarded by Karate Wales, supporting evidence is not required

(**) This should include details of the nominee's contribution to his/her

club/association, and contribution to the development and promotion of karate as a whole

Applications can be sent via email to: karate.wales.governing.body@gmail.com

Or via post to: Karate Wales, 34 Heol Pearetree, Rhoose, Barry, The Vale Of Glamorgan, Wales, CF62 3LB

Karate Wales Promotion Procedure

On receipt of an application, the Karate Wales board will appoint a board member to lead a review panel. The panel will typically consist of:

- The appointed board member
- Two chief or senior instructors, of high rank, from Karate Wales member clubs or associations. One of which should be from the same, or similar, style as the nominee

The panel will review the application, validate any supporting evidence and make a recommendation to the Karate Wales board.

During the process, the panel may wish to ask the requestor further questions or request additional evidence to support the application before making its recommendation to the board.

The panel will propose its recommendation to the board and the board's decision to accept or reject will be made. The Board's decision will be final. Where a request is unsuccessful, a new request may be made after a time-lapse of 12 months.

- The review process will take approximately 4 weeks from receipt of an application
- The board's decision is final and there is no appeals process
- The board will confirm its decision in writing
- Where an application is successful, the board will issue a Karate Wales Dan grade certificate, which will be signed by members of the awarding panel
- Where an application is rejected, the board will confirm its justification for the decision
- Where an application is rejected, a new application cannot be made for twelve calendar months
- Karate Wales reserves the right to promote any individual member that it deems to have made a significant contribution to Karate in Wales, or to the advancement of Karate Wales Ltd as a governing body

Version Control

Change	Date	Made by