

APPENDIX A TO AJKA-I BYLAWS
AJKA-I OFFICIAL RULES AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR KYU AND DAN
RANKS AND OTHER RANKS

The following has been officially approved by the AJKA-I International Technical Director (ITD), Chief Instructor and the International Technical Committee (ITC)

KYU Rank Qualifications.

- a. Any candidate for KYU rank must meet the A.J.K.A.-I. minimum testing requirements. These testing requirements are set by the International Technical Director, Chief Instructor and International Technical Committee.
- b. KYU Rank candidate may also be required to perform additional requirements as set by their Club or Region.
- c. All KYU Rank minimum testing requirements are attached below as **“Examination Guidelines – KYU Ranks Appendix A-1”**.

KYU Rank Testing.

- a. All examinations for KYU Ranks may occur on the local club and regional level.
- b. Member Club Instructors or Directors may test their own students at their own clubs for any KYU rank commensurate with their instructor’s and/or Examiner’s Rank.
- c. For any Member Club that does not have an instructor that has the appropriate Class level for the testing then they must schedule testing with their Regional Instructor.
- d. The Regional Instructor may provide the Member Club with the power to conduct a test when the Regional Instructor is not available.

AJKA-I BUDO Passports.

- a. All karate-ka testing for rank for the first time under the A.J.K.A.-I. system must register with the A.J.K.A.-I. by purchasing a BUDO Passport from their Regional Instructor.
- b. The Instructor must provide the BUDO Passport number and name of student to the Chairman.
- c. It is the responsibility of the student and Club Instructor to maintain the BUDO Passport by listing the dates of all all seminars, camps, competitions and rankings obtained.

Fees for KYU Ranks

- a. The testing fee for KYU rank will be determined by the Club Instructor.
- b. If a Member Club requires the Regional Instructor to attend the KYU Test, or a higher-Class Instructor (see Section 17) then there may be a fee associated with their attendance. This fee will be determined on a regional basis.

DAN Qualifications.

- a. In order to be eligible for testing, you must have gained the appropriate amount of continuous experience at your current rank. Then, depending on the level of DAN you are being graded for, you may have to take the test outside your region. See **Appendix A-2**
- b. Any candidate for DAN rank must meet the A.J.K.A.-I. requirements for Testing. These requirements are set by the ITD, Chief Instructor and the ITC.
- c. DAN Rank candidates may also be required to perform additional requirements as set by their Club or Region.
- d. For **All DAN Rank** the minimum testing requirements are attached below as “**Examination Guidelines – DAN Ranks Appendix A-3**”.
- e. DAN Rank Qualifications are attached below as “AJKA-I Qualifications for Dan Rank Examinations
- f. **Shodan** and **Nidan** testing may be handled at the club or regional level so long as the Regional Instructor is present or has given his permission for the candidate to take the exam.
 1. Any candidate for Shodan or Nidan must have participated in a national camp, or seminar, or symposium in the prior year.
 2. The Candidate’s BUDO Passport will be presented to the ITD or Regional Instructor for confirmation of the candidate’s qualifications.
 3. Any testing candidate under 16 for Shodan or 18 for Nidan will have a “ho” on their certificate upon passing the exam.
- g. **Sandan Rank:** Testing may occur at a regional event or at the Annual Camp, Symposium, or Seminar in which **one or more** of the following are in attendance at the testing: ITD, Chief Instructor, Chairman or IDIT along with the Regional Instructor.
 1. Any candidate for Sandan must have participated in a national camp, seminar, and/or symposium in the prior two years.

2. The Candidate's BUDO Passport will be presented to the examiner for confirmation of the candidate's qualifications.
 3. Completion of the AJKA-I Instructor Training Course is optional.
 - If the Candidate took the AJKA-I Instructor Training Course then the Candidate may choose to be asked questions regarding topics taught during the IT Program and teach a technique to a younger rank in front of the testing board.
 - This additional testing requirement will be used towards the candidate's Official Instructor and Examiner levels
- h. **Yondan Rank:** Testing may occur at a regional event or at the Annual Camp, Symposium or Seminar in which **two or more** of the following are in attendance at the testing: ITD, Chief Instructor, Chairman or IDIT along with the Regional Instructor.
1. Any candidate for Yondan must have participated in a national camp, seminar, and/or symposium in the prior three years.
 2. Completion of the AJKA-I Instructor Training Course is suggested but optional.
 - If the Candidate took the AJKA-I Instructor Training Course then the Candidate may choose to present a paper to the testing board and be asked questions regarding that paper.
 - This additional testing requirement will be used towards the candidate's Official Instructor and Examiner levels
 3. The Candidate's BUDO Passport will be presented to the examiner for confirmation of the candidate's qualifications.
- i. **Godan Rank: Must** occur at the Annual Camp, Symposium, or National/International Seminar in which **three or more** of the following are in attendance: ITD, Chief Instructor, Chairman and/or IDIT.
1. Any candidate for Godan must have participated in a national camp, seminar, and/or symposium in the prior four years.
 2. The candidate **MUST** have taken and completed the AJKA-I Instructor Training Course (or one of a comparable organization).
 3. The BOD are not required to be in attendance for the examination so long as they are made aware of the test before it occurs and have had an opportunity to review the writing assignment of the candidate.

- j. **Rokudan – Hachidan Ranks: Must** occur at the Annual Camp, Symposium or National/International Seminar in which the ITD, Chief Instructor, Chairman and/or IDIT as well as a majority of the Board of Directors are in attendance.
1. Any candidate for Rokudan – Hachidan candidates must have participated in a national camp, seminar, and/or symposium in the prior five years.
 2. The candidate **MUST** have taken and completed the AJKA-I Instructor Training Course (or one of a comparable organization).
- k. **Kyudan and Judan Ranks.**
1. Kyudan (9th Dan). This rank is presented only to a Hachidan who is over the age of 59 years old.
 - This rank can only be presented with the recommendation from the AJKA-I International Technical Director and unanimous vote of the AJKA-I Board of Directors.
 2. Judan (10th Dan). This rank is presented to a Kyudan who is over 70 years old or posthumous.
 - This rank can only be presented with the unanimous vote of the AJKA-I Board of Directors

Honorary Ranks

- a. The award of an honorary rank is in recognition of a non-practicing individual's direct or indirect service and support of the development of Shotokan karate and the A.J.K.A-I. To qualify, the individual must also have the respect of the community by virtue of good character.
- b. The full range of all 10 DAN grades are available for presentation:
- c. The Honorary Rank Chart is attached as **Appendix A-4**

Recommended Ranks

- a. An Instructor, Board of Directors, ITD or Chief Instructor may recommend and provide an individual who is a karate-ka in the AJKA-I a Dan or Kyu rank. This individual has trained hard and shown a willingness to be a better karate-ka; however, due to some sort of physical or mental limitation they would not be able to meet the minimum criteria set forth by the AJKA-I.
- b. Instructors may give out a Recommended Ranks of Shodan or Nidan with the approval of their Regional Instructor.
- c. Any Dan rank above Nidan must be approved by the ITD, or the Chief Instructor, or by a majority of the BOD.

Posthumous Ranks

- a. An Instructor, Board of Directors, ITD or Chief Instructor may recommend and provide an individual who is a karate-ka in the AJKA-I a Dan or Kyu rank. The individual being provided the rank has recently died, but the AJKA-I wants to honor him/her with this additional rank.
- b. Instructors may give out a Posthumous Ranks of Shodan or Nidan with the approval of their Regional Instructor.
- c. Any Dan rank above Nidan must be approved by the ITD, or the Chief Instructor, or by a majority of the BOD.