

RYUKYU KOBUDO SHIMBUKAN ASSOCIATION

RULES FOR TESTING

INCLUDING REGULATIONS REGARDING
KYU AND DAN GRADES AS WELL AS
ASSOCIATION TITLES

RULES FOR TESTING

INCLUDING REGULATIONS FOR KYU AND DAN GRADES AS WELL AS ASSOCIATION TITLES (SHOGU) AND LICENSES (MENKYO)

ARTICLE I PURPOSE

This document describes all matters regarding rank, titles, and testing in the Ryukyu Kobudo Shimbukan Association. This includes all regulations for Kyu (below black belt ranks), Dan (black belt ranks), Menkyo (licenses), and Shogo (official titles); herein after called ranks or rank.

ARTICLE II TYPES OF RANK

OVERVIEW OF RANKS IN THE OKINAWAN SHORINRYU MUKENKAI ASSOCIATION.

1. Grades below black belt or Kyu grades shall be comprised of ten ranks. They shall start at the 5th grade and proceed to the 1st grade in a manner that descends in Kyu as the rank ascends toward the black belt grades.
2. Black belt grades or Dan grades shall consist of ten ranks from Shodan (1st Degree Black Belt) up to 10th Dan in an ascending manner.
3. There shall be two types of licenses (Menkyo). These are Shidoin (Licensed Instructor) and Shihan (Master Instructor).
4. There shall be three official titles (Shogu). These shall be Renshi, Kyoshi, and Hanshi – the traditional titles of Okinawan Karate. These titles roughly correlate to the ranks as follows.

Renshi	6 th Dan
Kyoshi	7 th and 8 th Dan
Hanshi	9 th and 10 th Dan

ARTICLE III USE OF BELTS (OBI)

The use of belts to designate grade or rank shall be subject to qualifications, skills, experience, and accomplishments as designated in Appendix 1.

ARTICLE IV AUTHORITY TO PROMOTE

All promotions will adhere to the standards of qualification as outlined in Appendix 1 regardless of where the promotion occurs. In the event of Kyu grades, licensed dojo heads are authorized to judge and promote their own students up to the First Kyu. All Dan grades, licenses, and titles shall only be issued by the President of the Association. Form 1 in Appendix 1 is for Kyu ranks, Form 2 is for Dan ranks, and form 3 is for special titles. Form 1 will require the name of the branch school as well as the name of the head of that dojo to be affixed to the left hand of the rank certificate in the indicated blanks.

ARTICLE V AUTHORITY TO JUDGE RANK PROMOTIONS

The ranks issued by this association shall be judged in accordance with the standards for examinations as described in Appendix 2. Authority to officiate the judging is as follows:

- (1) Kyu grade examinations shall be administered at the Shibu or branch school level by the heads of the various Shibu.
- (2) Black Belt grade examinations up to 5th Dan shall be administered by those who hold a Shihan (Master) license. Examinations for grades above the 5th Dan can only be administered by the President.
- (3) In addition to degrees above the 5th Dan, all official titles will only be issued per the judgment of the President.
- (4) The licensure of Shidojin and Shihan is at the discretion of the President.

ARTICLE VI REGULAR EXAMINATIONS

Regular examinations will be held twice a year on the second Sundays of May and November at the Hombu Dojo (Headquarters).

ARTICLE VII SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS

- (1) Those who cannot attend the regular examinations stipulated in the previous article may take special examinations at the request of the dojo head concerned when specially approved by the President.
- (2) The date and time of such special examinations will be decided by the President in each case.

ARTICLE VIII SPECIAL APPLICANTS

Those who hold ranks issued by other organizations can apply for examination to the appropriate rank as determined by the President.

ARTICLE IX APPLICATION FOR EXAMINATION

Those who intend to apply for ranks shall do so as follows:

- (1) In the case of Dan grades, Licenses, and Titles, applications shall use Form 4. The applicant will need to secure the recommendation of their instructor.
- (2) In the case of Kyu grades, applications shall use form 5. Those forms will be submitted to the dojo head concerned.
- (3) All dojos shall keep a record of all Kyu grades issued, including the date that the grade was issued.

ARTICLE X METHOD OF JUDGEMENT

Judgment shall be per the standards stipulated in Appendix 2.

1. Kyu grades through the 5th Dan shall be judged based on points as follows:
 - (1) Points for the performance of test kata will be awarded on a range of 6.5 to 8.0. The total points awarded will be averaged across the judging panel.
 - (2) Applicants with a score of 7.0 and above will pass the test. Those with a score below 7.0 will fail the test. The second decimal point will not be taken into consideration.
 - (3) Applicants may repeat each kata once during each test.
2. The following shall result in disqualification.
 - (1) Dropping a weapon
 - (2) Stopping or forgetting the same test form twice.
 - (3) Performing the wrong kata or committing a major error in that kata.
3. Licenses, Ranks above the 6th Dan, and Titles shall be at the discretion of the President in accordance with the standards laid out in Appendix 2 – The Standards of Examinations.

ARTICLE XI EXAMINATIONS FOR THOSE RESIDING OUTSIDE OF OKINAWA

1. Examinations for those residing outside of Okinawa Prefecture shall be conducted as follows:
 - (1) Students at a Shibu (Branch or Chapter) dojo shall be tested by the head of that dojo.
 - (2) Students in a region or country where there is no chartered branch dojo shall take their examinations at the Hombu Dojo.
 - (3) Heads of Shibu dojos shall take their examinations at the Hombu Dojo.
2. Licensed Dojo Heads may administer exams and recommend ranks for ratification by the President up to one grade below their own. For the examination for 5th Dan however, it shall be administered only at the Hombu Dojo with the following exception.
3. The President may dispatch a special judge that he designates for special promotions.

ARTICLE XII TEST AND REGISTRATION FORMS

1. Test and registration fees will be paid according to Appendix 3
2. Applicants must pay their test fees after the results are announced.
3. When tests are administered outside the Hombu Dojo, fees shall be submitted along with the testing application form (Form 4).

ARTICLE XIII FEES OUTSIDE OF JAPAN

1. Special test fees and registration fees outside of Japan will be determined by the President if necessary.

ARTICLE XIV PROTOCOLS FOR TESTS OUTSIDE OF THE HOMBU DOJO

1. Where tests are administered outside of the Hombu Dojo, as stipulated in Article 10, the person administering the test shall arrange for video of the test to be sent to the Hombu for review with the testing application and recommendation. This is to aid the President in his review of the testing application.

ARTICLE XV OTHER MATTERS

1. The President will have final judgment in any matters not covered by these Articles.

ARTICLE XVI EXCEPTIONS

1. The President may set up exceptions to these articles regardless of other stipulations.
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ARTICLE XVII SUPPLEMENTARY RULES

1. These Articles are effective as of July 1, 2011

Appendix 1

Minimum Requirements for Grading

Kyu / Dan Ranks	Adults	Children (15 yrs and under)
	Minimum Period of Training (Minimum Age)	Minimum Period of Training (Minimum Age)
5 Kyu/White	4 Months (None)	6 Months (7 years old)
4 Kyu/White	8 Months (None)	1 Year (8 years old)
3 Kyu/Brown	1 Year (None)	1 Yr 6 Mnths (9 years)
2 Kyu/Brown	1 Year 4 Months (None)	2 Years (9 years old)
1 Kyu/Brown	1 Year 8 Months (None)	3 Years (10 years old)
1st Dan (Black)	2 Years (16 years old)	4 Years (12 years old)
2nd Dan (Black)	3 Yrs (18) 1 yr after 1st Dan	
3rd Dan (Black)	5 Yrs (20) 2 yrs after 2nd Dan	
4th Dan (Black)	7 Yrs (22) 2 yrs after 3rd Dan	
5th Dan (Black)	10 Yrs (25) 3 yrs after 4th Dan	
Renshi 6th Dan (1 Gold Stripe on Black Belt)	15 Yrs (30) 5 yrs after achieving 5th Dan	
Kyoshi 7th Dan (2 Gold Stripes on Black Belt)	21 Yrs (40) 5 yrs after achieving 6th Dan	
Kyoshi 8th Dan (2 Gold Stripes on Black Belt)	28 Yrs (50) 5 yrs after achieving 7th Dan	
Hanshi 9th Dan (3 Gold Stripes on Black Belt)	36 Yrs (60) 5 yrs after achieving 8th Dan	
Hanshi 10th Dan (3 Gold Stripes on Black Belt)	45 Yrs (70) 5 yrs after achieving 9th Dan	
ShidoIn (Instructor's Licence)	At least 3rd Dan and on recommendation of the applicants Instructor	
Shihan	At least 5th Dan and on recommendation of the applicants Instructor	

Appendix 2

Standards for Examinations

Kyu / Dan Rank	Grading Requirements
5 Kyu/White	Bo Kihon 1 ~10, Sai Kihon, Maezato no Tekko, Maezato no Nunchaku, Shushi no Kon (Sho), Chikin Shita Haku no Sai (The order of teaching and testing the aforementioned requirements is up to the individual instructors.)
4 Kyu/White	
3 Kyu/Brown	
2 Kyu/Brown	
1 Kyu/Brown	
1st Dan	Sakugawa no Kon (Sho), Chikin Shita Haku no Sai, Akamine no Nunchaku
2nd Dan	Shushi no Kon (Dai), Chatan Yara no Sai, Hama Higa no Tunfa
3rd Dan	Sakugawa no Kon (Dai), Hama Higa no Sai, Kanegawa no Tinbe
4th Dan	Yonegawa (Yuniga) not Kon, Kojo (Kugusuku) no Sai, Kanegawa no Nicho Gama
5th Dan	Shirataru no Kon, Tawada no Sai, Tsuken Sunakake no Eku
Renshi 6th Dan	Regular practice, quality of instruction, assistance given to the association , an essay on a topic designated by the association president.
Kyoshi 7th Dan	Regular practice, quality of instruction, assistance given to the association , an essay on a topic designated by the association president.
Kyoshi 8th Dan	Regular practice, quality of instruction, assistance given to the association , an essay on a topic designated by the association president.
Hanshi 9th Dan	Regular practice, quality of instruction, assistance given to the association , an essay on a topic designated by the association president.
Hanshi 10th Dan	Regular practice, quality of instruction, assistance given to the association , an essay on a topic designated by the association president.
Shidojin (Instructors)	Demonstration of technique chosen by the association president (Bo tai Bo, Bo tai Sai Kumite) Or write an essay exam.
Shihan	Write an essay on a topic designated by the association president.

Appendix 3

Test and Registration Fees

Kyu/Dan Rank	Test Fee	Registration Fee	Total
5 Kyu	Fees are for each individual instructor to decide.		
4 Kyu			
3 Kyu			
2 Kyu			
1 Kyu			
1st Dan	5,000	5,000	10,000
2nd Dan	5,000	10,000	15,000
3rd Dan	5,000	15,000	20,000
4th Dan	5,000	20,000	25,000
5th Dan	5,000	25,000	30,000
Renshi 6th Dan	10,000	30,000	40,000
Kyoshi 7th Dan	10,000	40,000	50,000
Kyoshi 8th Dan	10,000	50,000	60,000
Hanshi 9th Dan	10,000	60,000	70,000
Hanshi 10th Dan	10,000	70,000	80,000
Shidoin (Instructors)	/	10,000	10,000
Shihan		20,000	20,000

Ryukyu Kobudo Shimbukan

第 号

證

○級 氏名 ○○○○

右の者琉球古武道に精進し
たるに付き頭書のとおり允許す
る

年 月 日

琉球古武道信武館

○○○○道場

道場主 ○○○○

第 号

證

○段 氏名 ○○○○

右の者琉球古武道に精進し
たるに付き、頭書のとおり允許す
る

年 月 日

琉球古武道信武館

会長 赤嶺 浩

[テキストを入力]

[テキストを入力]

第 号

免許状

〇〇 氏名 〇〇〇〇

右の者琉球古武道に精進し
たるに付き、頭書のとおり免許す
る

年 月 日

琉球古武道信武館

会長 赤嶺 浩

古武道

審査料 Test Fees	登録料 Registration Fees

昇段・称号・免許審査申込書

Application for Karate Rank and Promotion Test

琉球古武道信武館 Ryukyu Kobudo Shimbukan
 会長 赤嶺浩 殿 TO: President Hiroshi Akamine

受験者名 / Applicant's Name: _____ (印)

生年月日 / Date of Birth (Y/M/D): _____

申請段位・称号・免許 Rank Test Being Requested	
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履歴書 Applicant's Information

本籍 Permanent Domicile			
現住所 Present Address	Tel: _____		
道場名 Dojo Name			
現段位 Present Ranking		取得年月日 Date Ranking Acquired	
職業 Profession		勤務先 Workplace	
武暦 Martial Arts Experience			

上記通り相違ございませんので、認定審査をよろしくお願ひします。

I find the above application to be true and request a test for promotion in rank for the above mentioned person.

Year Month Day
 年 月 日

道場主 / Signature of Dojo Head: _____ (印)

