

British Judo Association

Technical Grading Schemes for Mon and Kyu Grades

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1. When do the new Technical Grading Schemes actually start?

A1. The new schemes were launched on 1 April 2008 and judoka can start immediately if they choose. Competitive gradings may continue until the 30 June 2008 but, if there are extenuating circumstances, grading organisers may apply to the Promotions Commission for an extension to this period.

Q2. How does the Kyu Grade transfer work?

A2. Using the chart on page 4 of the syllabus, the lower grade colour and upper grade colour both become one grade. For example, a lower 4th Kyu blue belt and a 3rd Kyu blue belt become a 2nd Kyu blue belt in the new scheme.

Q3. How is the Kyu grade transfers recorded?

A3. An authorised official will enter the grade in the record book where the competitive result was previously recorded annotating "TGS conversion" — there is no registration with BJA and no fee.

Q4. Under the new scheme what happens when I get my 1st Kyu?

A4. Judoka can choose whether to enter the Technical or Competitive Dan Grade scheme, under the same current rules. Please note the technical Dan grade minimum age has been reduced and is posted on the Promotions page of the BJA website under BJA/EJU/IJF requirements.

Q5. I am a 2nd Kyu (lower brown belt) and want to fight for my 1st Kyu.

A5. Then do not convert to 1st Kyu in the new scheme and stay within competitive structure. You have until 30 June 2008 to enter competitive gradings if the area provides them.

Q6. How is the randori element assessed?

A6. Randori progressively increases in intensity and complexity. Starting at 5-6th Mon where a demonstration of Nage-komi (throw for throw) is carried out. As the candidate progresses through the grades they will be avoiding attacks, controlling space using hip blocks and then Kaeshi-waza. Renzoku-waza and Renraku-waza will also increase in complexity.

Q7. How does the transfer between junior and senior grades work?

A7. First of all it is important to realise a senior licence must be taken at age 16. However, a junior can elect to stay within the Mon Scheme up to age 18 where they will then automatically convert to a senior grade. Alternatively the junior can elect to transfer to senior grade after age 14. All these choices should be made in consultation with the judoka's coach.

Q8. Can different genders grade together and are there any grade restrictions?

A8. Because it is a technical grading and there is no competitive element judoka of different gender and different ages and weights may grade together.

Q9. Do I pay a fee if I fail to grade?

A9. The BJA do not require any fee if you fail to grade, however, the organiser of the grading may charge a fee for the assessment.

- Q10. I see there is a fast tracking process however it appears to be limited.**
A10. This is because a judoka must firstly obtain a technical understanding of the techniques. There must be then a period of time where the understanding becomes an application of skill, therefore minimum times in grade have been set.
- Q11. How is the Examination processed?**
A11. Examiners use the current 0-6 Mon Grade Registration Sheet for all Mon and Kyu technical exams, pending the issue of a revised document. Please use separate form for Mon and Kyu grades.
- Q12. The current record books were not designed for the new schemes, how will the grades be recorded?**
A12. There will be new record books in the future, however many judoka may also wish to keep their original record books. Currently for 0-9 Mon and 0-4 Kyu the examiner records the promotion in the area where the competitive grade was recorded. For 10th Mon and 3rd Kyu and above, the coach records delivery of instruction in theory area and examiner records successful assessment in competitive area.
- Q13. Will juniors continue to receive belts from the BJA as under the previous 0-6 Mon scheme?**
A13. Yes. However it is not planned to issue belts after 6th Mon.
- Q14. At the lower 0-6 Mon conversion to senior Kyu grade, there is some disparity amongst the colours.**
A14. This was unavoidable without introducing a red belt for senior Kyu grades, all coaches are should encourage their juniors to reach the grade of 6th Mon before conversion.
- Q15. Again there is some apparent disparity in conversion at the higher grades.**
A15. This is because the senior syllabus duplicates the junior syllabus. For a junior judoka to have the equivalent knowledge they must attain the grade with all 3 tabs to transfer directly across.
- Q16. Under the previous system a judoka aged 15 had to take out a senior Licence to enter a Dan Grading. Now if they transfer to 1st Kyu from 18 Mon at aged 15 still holding a junior licence, can they enter a Dan Grading?**
A16. Yes. Judoka do not have to purchase a senior licence until they are 16 year of age and therefore they may enter a Dan Gradings at 15.
- Q17. Is this the final syllabi now?**
A17. The syllabi and guidance notes will be used for a year and during that time there will be a formal feedback process followed by a review. There will then be a re-issue of syllabi complete with all final resources. **Note:** *All grading processes are reviewed by the Promotions Commission annually and the Technical schemes will be subject to regular review.*
- Q18. What if I do not want to participate in the new Technical Syllabus?**
A18. You will not be able to obtain any advancement in the Mon or Kyu grades.
- Q19. What happens if a coach does not want to participate in the scheme?**
A19. All coaches are BJA officials and are encouraged to support the scheme. There will be a great amount of support from the BJA, staff and volunteers and this is a fantastic opportunity to gain extra skills and pass these on to other judoka.

**National Director of Examiners
7 April 2008**