



# WORLD KARATE FEDERATION

Recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)  
Member of the General Association  
of International Sports Federations (GAISF) and  
the International World Games Association (IWGA)

## WKF DAN GRADE REGULATION

### 1. The Dan Grade System

1.1 The Dan Grade system is based on recognition of personal development as practitioners, technicians, instructors and exponents of karate. For Grades higher than 7<sup>th</sup> Dan the rank is a recognition of the person's contribution to karate beyond personal development.

1.2 National Federations (NF) may only give, or certify, Dan Grades for members of their own National Federation.

1.3 There are three categories of Dan Grades within the WKF:

- **Grades from 1<sup>st</sup> up to and including 7<sup>th</sup> Dan given by a National Federation.** These may be homologated by the WKF upon application from the National Federation where upon the homologation certificate will be issued by the WKF President for the NF Presidents' countersignature.
- **Grades 8<sup>th</sup> Dan and above awarded by a National Federation** for karate accomplishments at a national level. These are not homologated by, or require registration with, the WKF. The applicable certificate is issued by the National Federation.
- **Grades 8<sup>th</sup> Dan and above awarded by the WKF Congress** upon proposal of the Executive Committee (EC) for karate accomplishments at an international level. The applicable certificate is issued by the WKF.

### 2. General Requirements

2.1 The following age and time interval requirements apply to Dan Grades within the WKF:

1 <sup>st</sup> Dan (shodan)	Minimum 15 years of age	Minimum 3 years of training
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan (nidan)	Minimum 17 years of age	Minimum 2 years since 1 <sup>st</sup> Dan
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan (sandan)	Minimum 20 years of age	Minimum 3 years since 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan
4 <sup>th</sup> Dan (yondan)	Minimum 24 years of age	Minimum 4 years since 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan
5 <sup>th</sup> Dan (godan)	Minimum 29 years of age	Minimum 5 years since 4 <sup>th</sup> Dan
6 <sup>th</sup> Dan (rokudan)	Minimum 35 years of age	Minimum 6 years since 5 <sup>th</sup> Dan
7 <sup>th</sup> Dan (nanadan)	Minimum 42 years of age	Minimum 7 years since 6 <sup>th</sup> Dan
8 <sup>th</sup> Dan (hachidan)	Minimum 50 years of age	Minimum 8 years since 7 <sup>th</sup> Dan
9 <sup>th</sup> Dan (kyudan)	Awarded for exceptional lifetime achievement for karate	
10 <sup>th</sup> Dan (judan)	Awarded for exceptional lifetime achievement for karate	



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## 3. Application Process

### 3.1 Homologation of Grades given by National Federations:

The WKF homologates Dan Grades from 1<sup>st</sup> Dan (shodan) through 7<sup>th</sup> Dan (nanadan) upon receipt of the application signed by the applicants' National Federation President and the remittance of the applicable fee as stipulated by the WKF.

The National Federation must submit its application in official letterhead to the office of the WKF President listing the candidates and stating the following information:

- Prefix (Mr. or Ms.)
- Name (as it should appear on the diploma)
- Nationality
- Date of birth
- Grade awarded (given with number)
- The correct address for the submission of the diploma(s)

By signing the application the National Federation certifies that the applicant has fulfilled the requirements of the National Federation and the World Karate Federation.

The WKF does not homologate honorary Dan Grades awarded by a National Federation.

The responsibility for maintaining appropriate standards for the approval or award of Dan Grades rests with the National Federations. Should a National Federation fail to conform to the homologation requirements, that Federation may be subject to the denial of their members' Dan Grade homologation.

### 3.2 Grades 8<sup>th</sup> Dan and above awarded by a National Federation:

The rules and application process of the National Federation applies. Grades higher than 7<sup>th</sup> Dan may be awarded by a National Federation for accomplishments in the development of karate within its National Federation, but they are not homologated by the WKF.

Although Grades above a 7<sup>th</sup> Dan awarded by a National Federation are not subject to WKF approval or homologation, the National Federation must follow the WKF requirements in regards to age and time intervals between the Grades as given by the WKF.



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### 3.3 Grades 8<sup>th</sup> Dan and above awarded by the WKF Congress :

From time to time the WKF will award higher Dan Grades, 8<sup>th</sup> Dan and above, to individuals for their accomplishments in international karate. Such Grades are awarded based on a majority vote by the WKF Congress based on the recommendation of the WKF EC to the Congress.

The president of a Continental or National Federation, the WKF President or any WKF EC Member may nominate a candidate for Grades 8<sup>th</sup> Dan or above. The nomination has to be formulated in writing to the WKF EC stating the information required for homologation (see 3.1 above) plus the persons' Grading history and the candidates' specific accomplishments in international karate. There is no application fee charged for this category.

The WKF EC will evaluate all applications received and include the recommended candidates in the agenda for the Congress. If there is no objection from any Congress delegate the vote may be passed by acclamation. Should there be any objection by a Congress representative, a secret ballot will be conducted.

## **4. Diplomas**

4.1 Candidates having their Dan Grade homologated by the WKF will receive the WKF applicable diploma signed by the WKF President and their National Federation President.

4.2 Diplomas for 8<sup>th</sup> Dan Grades and above awarded by a National Federation are issued by the applicable National Federation only.

4.3 Persons being awarded a Dan Grade by the WKF Congress will receive a diploma signed by the WKF President and the WKF General Secretary.

4.4 Diplomas lost or destroyed may be replaced by the WKF by the National Federation raising a duplicate application, noting on the application that it is issued for the purpose of obtaining a duplicate diploma, and paying the applicable fee as determined by the WKF.