



ENGLAND KARATE

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DAN GRADING AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS

It is recognised that many associations and clubs have existing policies and practices regarding dan grading and technical standards which may have worked for them over many years.

England Karate accepts that associations and clubs should continue with their current practice and procedures but recommends that whatever method is used there are clearly defined procedures setting out progression routes at all dan grade levels.

There are four areas in which the member associations must take account of :

1. The dan grading examination
2. The candidate's length of time in grade
3. The candidate's age
4. The composition of the dan grade panel

1. The Dan Grading Examination

There is a wide range of karate associations and clubs within the member organisations. Whilst it is agreed that what should or should not be the specific content of a dan grading examination can be prescribed by England Karate.

However, where candidates are required to attend an examination at which they must demonstrate attitude, skills and knowledge to a grading panel, the three k's – kihon, kumite and kata should form part of that examination

Many associations and clubs test dan grades attempting fourth dan (yondan) and above in different ways. Some test by technical examination, others by considering the candidate's contribution to the development of karate in general.

Where consideration is given the award of a dan grade which does not require the candidate's attendance at an examination, this will include: -

- Details of the individual's karate history
- Their contribution to karate
- Their age and seniority
- Any other contributory factor

Any confirmation or consideration should not be unreasonably withheld.



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2. Length Of Time In Grade

The following table sets out the minimum requirements for progression within the dan grade structure. This structure should apply to all karate training and that this timescale should be adopted by all associations and clubs that teach freestyle karate.

Beginner to 1st dan	-	A minimum of 3 years training with a minimum training attendance *
1st dan to 2nd dan	-	2 years with a minimum attendance at training*
2nd dan to 3rd dan	-	3 years with a minimum attendance at training*
3rd dan to 4th dan	-	4 years
4th dan to 5th dan	-	5 years
5th dan to 6th dan	-	6 years
6th dan to 7th dan	-	7 years
7th dan to 8th dan	-	8 years
8th dan to 9th dan	-	9 years
9th dan to 10th dan	-	10 years

(*normally at least twice a week)

It is not possible to apply any catch up or aggregate time when considering eligibility for grade examinations. For the avoidance of doubt, a yondan practitioner who had been a sandan for eight years could not be considered for godan a year after achieving yondan. The time restrictions apply to each grade from the date of the award.

3. The Candidate's Age

England Karate accepts that associations and clubs may wish to promote young people under the age of 16 years to dan grade status. Within reason, we do not see this as a barrier. It is agreed that associations and clubs may therefore maintain their own structures for dan grade promotion up to and include second dan (nidan) provided that they can provide robust evidence for justifying such promotions.

The minimum age for promotion to third dan (sandan) should be twenty one years.

4. The Dan Grading Panel

It is accepted that there will be differences in the composition of such panels. Some associations and clubs may wish to establish a panel composed of more than one person while others rely on the Chief Instructor as the single examiner.

England Karate recommends that where candidates are required to attend a dan grading examination then the panel should be led by an examiner who holds a grade at least two, if not



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three, grades higher than the candidate being examined. This person should hold that grade in the style being examined.

Where consideration is for a karateka to be awarded a dan grade which is not tested by a physical grading examination it should be awarded after consideration by a panel of senior karateka or a high grade Chief Instructor (normally sixth dan (rokudan) and above) within individual associations and clubs.

England Karate
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