



FEDERATION OF ENGLISH KARATE ORGANISATIONS (FEKO) INTERNATIONAL

DAN GRADING AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS

FEKO (International) recognises that many associations have existing policies and practices regarding dan grading and technical standards which have worked for them over many years. It is not the intention of FEKO (International) to interfere with such arrangements.

FEKO's role in dan grade certification is quite specific in that it will recognise and record dan grades awarded by associations, subject to the individual(s) meeting all eligibility criteria. There is a facility for FEKO to issue a certificate recognising the award should that be requested.

It is however not FEKO's role to make dan grade promotions. Associations must therefore make their own arrangements where the head of the association is the highest grade within the association.

However, for FEKO (International) registration, recognition and certification of association dan grades, associations must adhere to this policy.

Although most of this policy refers to Karate, where the association delivers other martial arts, for example Kickboxing or Kobudo, then the criteria under the time scale, the candidate's age and the composition of grading panel headings should apply.

There are five areas in which the Federation addresses. These are:

1. Styles of Karate
2. The Dan grading examination
3. Minimum length of time between grades
4. The candidate's age
5. Composition of Dan grading panels

1. Styles of Karate

1.1 Goju Ryu, Shito Ryu, Shotokan and Wado Ryu are widely accepted as the original styles of Karate all of which originated from Japan or Okinawa. Variations have since evolved which have been universally accepted as sufficiently different to be accepted as a new style. There are however others that could not be considered as new styles as they were a continuance of existing styles but allocated a different name.

1.2 FEKO (International) believes that these styles comprehensively cover the wide range of approach to the development of Karate. No new style will be recognised unless it can demonstrate that it offers some completely new approach. New associations may use any name but cannot claim to be practising a new style in any supporting literature.

2. The Dan Grading Examination

- 2.1 FEKO (International) does not specify the specific content of a dan grading examination. However, where candidates are required to attend an examination, they must demonstrate appropriate etiquette, skills and knowledge to the examiner(s). The three k's – kihon, kata and kumite must form part of that examination.
- 2.2 Associations test dan grades attempting 4th 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 to the award of a dan grade (4th dan and above) which does not require the candidate's attendance at an examination, this will include: -

- Details of the individuals Karate history
- Their contribution to Karate
- Their age and seniority
- Any other contributory factor

3. Minimum Length of Time between Grades

- 3.1 The following table sets out the minimum requirements for progression within the Dan grade structure. This structure should apply to all Karate styles (*All the following would normally be on average at least twice a week).

	<u>Minimum Times</u>	<u>Minimum Age</u>
Beginner to 1st Dan	- 3 years	- 16 years
1st Dan to 2nd Dan	- 2 years	- 18 years
2nd Dan to 3rd Dan	- 3 years	- 21 years
3rd Dan to 4th Dan	- 4 years	- 25 years
4th Dan to 5th Dan	- 5 years	- 30 years
5th Dan to 6th Dan	- 6 years	- 36 years
6th Dan to 7th Dan	- 7 years	- 43 years
7th Dan to 8th Dan	- 8 years	- 51 years
8th Dan to 9th Dan	- 9 years	- 60 years
9th Dan to 10th Dan	- 10 years	- 70 years

- 3.2 It is not possible to apply any catch up or aggregate time when considering eligibility for grade examinations or promotions. 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.

4. The Candidate's Age

- 4.1 FEKO (International) accepts that Associations may wish to promote young people under the age of 16 years to dan grade status. Within reason, FEKO (International) does not see this as a barrier. FEKO (International) & the FMA will register the grade of junior shodan from the age of 10 to 15 years. Nidan registration is from the age of 18 years.

5. Composition of Dan Grading Panels

- 5.1 FEKO (International) accepts that there will be differences in the composition of such panels. Some associations may wish to establish a panel composed of more than one person while others rely on the Chief Instructor or delegated examiner as the single examiner. The former is recommended to prevent accusations of bias on behalf of a single examiner.

The lead or single examiner should be of sufficient experience and time in their current grade that their next grade is pending.

The recommended composition should be:

Grade being tested	If Panel		If Single Examiner
	Lead Examiner	Other Panel Member(s)	
Shodan	Sandan	Nidan	Sandan
Nidan	Sandan	Nidan	Sandan
Sandan	Yondan	Sandan	Yondan
Yondan	Godan	Yondan	Godan
Godan	Rokudan	Godan	Rokudan
Rokudan	Nanadan	Rokudan	Nanadan

- 5.2 Where consideration is for a karateka to be awarded a dan grade which is not tested by a physical grading examination, this must be done by a panel and should consist of the most senior association karateka in the style being examined or the association Chief Instructor, subject to the conditions in paragraph 5.1 above. Where the award is for the Chief Instructor then the Chief Instructor may not form part of the panel or decision to award.