

Section 1 Purpose

The purpose of the bylaws described below is to establish requirements for the examination for titles and degrees for the pursuers of karate-do as well as set a standard for Shibu, Fuku Shibu and Jun Shibu dojo responsibilities and expectations.

Section 2 Dan Degree Qualifications for Candidacy

- 1 The dan degree starts from sho-dan and ends in jyu-dan.
- 2 The qualifications for candidacy for dan degrees and kyu degrees are specified below.

Dan Degree	Minimum Years of Training and Requirements
Sho-dan	More than 3 years of Shido-kan training
Ni-dan	More than 2 years of Shido-kan training and continuous (2 years) Beikoku membership after receiving Sho-dan
San-dan	More than 3 years of Shido-kan training and continuous (3 years) Beikoku membership after receiving Ni-dan
Yon-dan	More than 4 years of Shido-kan training and continuous (4 years) Beikoku membership after receiving San-dan
Go-dan	More than 5 years of Shido-kan training and continuous (5 years) Beikoku membership after receiving Yon-dan
Roku-dan	Go-dan holder above 35 years old with approval of the dojo head, more than 6 years of Shido-kan training and continuous (6 years) Beikoku membership after receiving Go-dan.
Nana-dan	Roku-dan holder above 40 years old with approval of the dojo head, more than 7 years of Shido-kan training and continuous (7 years) Beikoku membership after receiving Roku-dan.
Hachi-dan	Nana-dan holder above 50 years old with approval of the dojo head, more than 8 years of Shido-kan training and continuous (8 years) Beikoku membership after receiving Nana-dan.
Kyu-dan	Entrusted to the Okinawa Shorin Ryu Karate Do Board of Directors
Jyu-dan	Entrusted to the Okinawa Shorin Ryu Karate Do Board of Directors

- 3 The minimum age for adult ranking Sho-dan is fourteen years old.
- 4 The upper limit dan degree for high school students is Ni-dan. The upper limit kyu degree for elementary division is ik-kyu in accordance with The Okinawa Shorin Ryu Karate Do Association Regulations.
- 5 A dan holder from another style may obtain an appropriate dan degree, if he/she earns the approval of the head of dojo and passes an examination conducted by The Title and Dan Degree Examination Committee (hereafter referred to as The Committee). With respect to a kyu holder of another style, the matter is entrusted to the judgment of the head of dojo.

Section 3 Dan Degree Examination Requirements

- 1 The examination requirements for title and dan degree are a recommendation from the head of dojo and "jitsugi" (practical skill) examination.

2 The examination for title and dan degree is held three times a year; March, July and November. The time and date of the examination are set by the president of The Beikoku Shido-kan Association.

3 The examination for title and dan degree will only be conducted under the presence of the President of The Beikoku Shido-kan Association.

4 The testee for 1st kyu and above must be an active member in The Beikoku Shido-kan Association. Effective 2002, all persons holding a dan rank are required to maintain continuous active association membership status. It is the responsibility of the head of each dojo to ensure that all said students are complying with this stipulation. Prior to recommending a student to test, it is the responsibility of the student's Sensei to ensure they have minimum recommended training time and are active on membership status since 1st Kyu. Dojo membership status is updated quarterly and can be viewed at http://www.ihadojo.com/Association/dojo_directories.htm

5 The testee must be an enrolled student in a participating Branch or Sub-Branch dojo.

6 The examination for 4th dan or above will be conducted at the Hombu dojo only.

7 The testee is highly recommended to attend 10 pre-test sessions with Hanshi Iha within a 3 month period leading up to their test (Michigan students only). This pre-test may include normal class times at the Hombu. A pre-test attendance card will be provided at the Hombu dojo for visiting students. It is the student's responsibility to give Hanshi Iha their pre-test card before each class. This pre-test card will be marked by Hanshi Iha then the card will be kept in the Hombu attendance card box. Dojos outside of Michigan must arrange a similar system with the seniors in their area. Note; any seminars attended will count as 2 pre-test sessions.

8 The judge panel will consist of 10 senior Sensei, picked at each test by the president of The Beikoku Shido-kan Association. Passing will be based on a 60% or greater vote.

Section 4 Dan Degree Registration Fee

1 It is the responsibility of each branch dojo, and sub-branch if appropriate, to submit a list of recommended testees to The Beikoku Shido-kan Association Headquarters a minimum of 6 weeks in advance of the test for approval. Criteria for dojo recommendation to include:

- Appropriate skill level for dan degree
- Maintaining regular training and contributing to the dojos growth
- Continuous membership in the Beikoku Association

2 An applicant who wishes to take the examination for title and/or dan degree is required to submit an application form (a link to the form is available on the Web at http://www.ihadojo.com/Association/Title_degree.htm) and appropriate fees to The Beikoku Shido-kan Association Headquarters no later than 2 weeks in advance to the examination

date. This registration fee is refundable if the applicant does not pass the examination. The registration fee must be paid by check, credit card or money order to:

Original Okinawa Karate
P.M.B. #285
503 Mall Court
Lansing, MI 48912

Dan Degree		Registration Fee	
Sho-dan	(1 st)	\$200	
Ni-dan	(2 nd)	\$200	
San-dan	(3 rd)	\$200	
Yon-dan	(4 th)	\$225	
Go-dan	(5 th)	\$250	
Roku-dan	(6 th)	\$600	fee includes new obi and Title with Certificate of Rank
Nana-dan	(7 th)	\$650	fee includes new obi and Title with Certificate of Rank
Hachi-dan	(8 th)	\$700	fee includes new obi and Title with Certificate of Rank

3 A successful Kyu-dan, Jyu-dan, or Hanshi title applicant is eligible to obtain a certificate, if he/she gains a recommendation from the president of The Beikoku Shido-kan Association and passes an examination conducted by The Okinawan Shido-kan Headquarters (President Katsuya Miyahira). The examination fee and registration fee is in accordance with The Okinawan Shorin Ryu Karate Do Association Regulations.

Section 5 Dan Degree Certificate Authorization

Those who pass a dan degree examination conducted by The Beikoku Shido-kan Association shall receive an authorized certificate from The Okinawan Shido-kan Headquarters (President Katsuya Miyahira). Any certificate without the approval of The Okinawan Shido-kan Headquarters is considered invalid.

Section 6 Dan Degree Belt Colors

Dan degree belt colors under the control of The Beikoku Shido-kan Association are specified as follows.

Dan Degree	Belt Color
Sho-dan through Roku-dan	Black
Nana-dan through Hachi-dan	Red and White
Kyu-dan through Jyu-dan	Red

Section 7 Title Qualifications for Candidacy

Beginning in November, 2007, candidates testing for 6th dan and higher will receive the matching title as well. This is included in the dan testing fee.

The titles are not accumulative; to achieve a title rank one does not need to have been certified in the previous title.

The title names are specified as Shidoin, Renshi, Shihan, Kyoshi and Hanshi.

1 Title Definitions-

- Shidoin:** An "apprentice or assistant instructor" who has not yet been formally recognized as a Sensei.
- Renshi:** "A person who has mastered oneself". This person is considered fully capable to open a branch dojo. The holder of Renshi "has a name"; he is no longer one of the many.
- Shihan:** "A Certified Instructor". This person is recognized as having the ability to oversee an area of dojos and is trusted to be able to maintain quality not only by example of his own school, but by those that his students may open up.
- Kyoshi:** "Knowledgeable Person". He is a senior member who has gained the respect of members from all over as well as his teacher. The Kyoshi is recognized as being able to represent the Hanshi anywhere he goes.
- Hanshi:** "Master". An honorary title given to only the highest ranked of an organization. This title is given to someone who has spent their life promoting selfless karate and their teacher's organization, and has performed the above duties extremely well. The Hanshi is a successor to the teachings of his teacher.

2 A karate-do pursuer with san-dan and below may obtain the "Shidoin" title, if he/she develops excellent ability, technique and character, and moreover earns the approval of the head of dojo and The Title and Dan Degree Examination Committee (hereafter The Committee).

3 A yon-dan or go-dan holder may obtain the title of "Renshi", if he/she earns the approval of the head of dojo and passes an examination conducted by The Committee.

4 A karate-do pursuer with roku-dan and over may obtain the title of "Shihan", if he/she earns the approval of the head of dojo and passes an examination conducted by The Committee.

5 A Shihan license holder with the rank of nana-dan and over may obtain the title of "Kyoshi", if he/she earns the approval of the head of dojo and passes an examination conducted by The Committee.

Section 8 Title Registration Fees

1 It is the responsibility of each branch dojo, and sub-branch if appropriate, to submit a list of recommended testees to The Beikoku Shido-kan Association Headquarters a minimum of 6 weeks in advance of the test for approval. Criteria for dojo recommendation to include:

- Appropriate skill level for dan degree
- Maintaining regular training and contributing to the dojos growth
- Continuous membership in the Beikoku Association

2 An applicant who wishes to take the examination for title is required to submit an application and appropriate fees to The Beikoku Shido-kan Association Headquarters no later than 2 weeks in advance of the examination date. This registration fee is refundable if the applicant does not pass the examination. The registration fee must be paid by check or money order to:

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Titles	Registration Fee
Shido-in	\$200
Renshi	\$200
Shihan	\$300 included in dan test fee beginning November 2007
Kyoshi	\$300 included in dan test fee beginning November 2007
Hanshi	\$500 included in dan test fee beginning November 2007

3 A successful Kyu-dan, Jyu-dan, or Hanshi title applicant is eligible to obtain a certificate, if he/she gains a recommendation from the president of The Beikoku Shido-kan Association and passes an examination conducted by The Okinawan Shido-kan Headquarters (President Katsuya Miyahira). The examination fee and registration fee is in accordance with The Okinawan Shorin Ryu Karate Do Association Regulations.

Section 9 Title Certificate Authorization

Those who pass a title degree examination conducted by The Beikoku Shido-kan Association shall receive an authorized certificate from The Okinawan Shido-kan Headquarters (President Katsuya Miyahira). Any certificate without the approval of The Okinawan Shido-kan Headquarters is considered invalid.

Section 10 Kyu Rank Qualifications and Examination Requirements

The qualifications and requirements for kyu rank, adult and youth, are entrusted to the judgment of each dojo; and the approval of kyu degrees is entrusted to the judgment of the head of each dojo.