



## Blue Belt - 6th Kyu Promotion Exam Requirements

### **Karate Ranking**

The colored belt ranking system used at the Traditional Karate Center is based on similar systems found in other Japanese martial arts. Karate ranking is based on technical competence and character development. It measures one's improvement, provides valuable feedback and helps to motivate the student towards reaching their goals.

Belt ranking in our dojo uses a system with 10 major levels, or Kyu. 10<sup>th</sup> Kyu (*white belt*) is the lowest, and 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu (*high brown belt*) is the highest. After the Kyu are the *Dan*, or black belt degrees. 1<sup>st</sup> Dan black belt is the lowest and 10<sup>th</sup> Dan black belt is the highest. A TKC student can expect to train 6-8 years to earn the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Dan black belt. This level is not considered an end, but a new beginning in karate training.

Intermediate belt ranks, called *Provisional* ranks, are also awarded to students from white belt to purple belt. These ranks are not *Full Kyu* levels but stepping stones in between full ranks.

In addition to Full Kyu and Provisional ranks, there are also black rank stripes that can be earned on the student's existing belt. There are three stripe levels between each belt rank in the youth program, and one stripe level between each full rank in the adult program.

Students are not judged in comparison to one another, but are judged against a minimum standard necessary to earn each specific rank. Judges will take into consideration the age, individual progress and improvement of each student. Some specific technical areas of importance include: (1) the ability to move correctly and smoothly from one stance to another, (2) weight distribution in stances, (3) breathing in correspondence with body movements, (4) coordination, (5) physical endurance in stance work, (6) proficiency in kata and knowledge of application of kata, (7) ability to focus, (8) use of hip, (9) proper usage of the different striking surfaces of the hands, arms, feet and legs, (10) knowledge of effective target areas.

**Students participating in a promotion exam are responsible for making themselves familiar with all of the requirements and judging criteria for their specific level of promotion. Also, it is important to remember that these requirements are only part of the test - regular class time, attitude, spirit and attendance are also taken into consideration.**

### **Blue Belt - 6th Kyu**

*A minimum of 12 months of total training time.*

*A minimum of 3 months from last full kyu promotion.*

*A minimum of 18 total classes from last exam.*

### **General Requirements:**

Ability to perform combination techniques with sharp rotation of hips. Improved concentration and power in kata. Improved speed and reaction in kihon drills. Improved footwork and body shifting. Awareness of tension and weight distribution in stance work.

### **The Exam:**

*All 7th Kyu Green Belt requirements plus the following:*

- 1) Moving forward and backward - front stance - front kick
- 2) Moving forward and backward - front stance - face block, reverse hand punch
- 3) Moving forward and backward - front stance - low block, reverse hand punch
- 4) Moving forward and backward - front stance - outer block, reverse hand punch
- 5) Moving forward and backward - front stance - inner block, reverse hand punch
- 6) 10-Step Kihon
- 7) 4-Step Kihon - back stance knife block, shift to front stance spear hand strike, shift to horse stance low block, shift to front stance reverse hand punch
- 8) Front kick, side thrust/snap kick and round kick with each leg (side kicks crossing from horse stances)
- 9) Moving forward - rear leg front kick, rear leg round kick, reverse hand punch
- 10) **Kata - Heian Sandan**

