



High Brown Belt - 1st 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. 10th Kyu (*white belt*) is the lowest, and 1st Kyu (*high brown belt*) is the highest. After the Kyu are the *Dan*, or black belt degrees. 1st Dan black belt is the lowest and 10th Dan black belt is the highest. A TKC student can expect to train 6-8 years to earn the rank of 1st 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.

High Brown Belt - 1st Kyu

A minimum of 48 months of total training time.

A minimum of 9 months from last full kyu promotion.

General Requirements:

Ability to demonstrate all fundamental body movements and techniques. In depth knowledge of the application to all five Heian kata. Shifting, rotation, vibration. All required techniques from 10th Kyu to 2nd Kyu can be demonstrated with proper timing, application, balance, distancing, stance, kime, and zanshin.

The Exam:

All 2nd Kyu Middle Brown Belt requirements plus the following:

- 1) Moving forward and backward - front stance - low block, reverse hand punch, face block, reverse hand punch, outer block, reverse hand punch, inner block, reverse hand punch
- 2) Front stance - sanbon-zuki (triple punch)
- 3) 4-step Kihon (back stance knife block version) and 4-step Kihon (JKA version)
- 4) Knife-hand block in back stance, front leg front kick, reverse spear-hand thrust in front stance, pull back to knife-hand block in back stance.
- 5) Front kick, side thrust/snap kick and round kick with each leg (side kicks crossing from horse stances)
- 6) Stationary position - front stance - front kick, side kick (snap *and* thrust) and round kick with the same leg without putting it down
- 7) **Kata - Heian Shodan - Heian Godan or Tekki Shodan** and basic applications (*examiner chooses one of these*)
- 8) **Kata - one Sentei kata of students choice (Bassai Dai, Kanku Dai, Ji'in, Empi, Jion, Hangetsu, or Jitte)**
- 9) One-step self-defense
- 10) Jiyu Kumite (free sparring)

