



## Yellow Belt - 9th 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.**

### **Yellow Belt - 9th Kyu**

*A minimum of 3 months of total training time.*

*A minimum of 12 classes attended.*

### **General Requirements:**

Basic knowledge of dojo etiquette, including proper bowing in both standing and kneeling positions. Basic blocking, striking and kicking techniques from appropriate stances. Knowledge of basic Japanese terminology, including counting from 1 to 10. The ability to do a minimum of 10 push-ups and 20 sit-ups.

### **The Exam:**

- 1) Stationary position - ready stance - punch low, middle, and high
- 2) Stationary position - horse and square stance - punch and block combinations (face block and low block)
- 3) Step forward and backward - front stance - middle punch
- 4) Step forward and backward - front stance - low block
- 5) Step forward and backward - front stance - face block
- 6) Stationary position - front stance - rear leg front kick
- 7) Moving forward and backward - front stance - front kick - middle punch
- 8) 6-Step Kihon (front stance - low block, punch, face block, punch, rear leg front kick, punch)
- 9) 10 push-ups and 20 sit-ups/crunches
- 10) **Kata - Taikyoku Shodan (Kihon Kata Ichi)**

