



国際武道院
国際武道連盟
Kokusai Budoin, IMAF
International Martial Arts Federation

Kokusai Budoin • Kokusai Budorenmei • International Martial Arts Federation (IMAF)
Consolidated Rank, Title, Official Instructors License (OIL) Requirements, and Regulations

Dan Rank

1st Dan (*Shodan*): An Individual who has passed an examination, and successfully completed the course requirements as set by each division. Older than 15 when promoted to 1st Kyu.

2nd Dan (*Nidan*): An Individual who has passed an examination, and successfully completed the course requirements as set by each division. More than a year and a half after promotion to shodan (1st Dan). Minimum 17 years of age.

3rd Dan (*Sandan*): An Individual who has passed an examination, and successfully completed the course requirements as set by each division. More than two years after promotion to nidan (2nd Dan). Minimum of 19 years of age.

4th Dan (*Yondan*): An Individual who has passed an examination, and successfully completed the course requirements as set by each division and is recognized for knowledge and expertise in traditional Japanese martial arts. More than three years after promotion to sandan (3rd Dan). Minimum 22 years of age.

5th Dan (*Godan*): An Individual who has passed an examination, and successfully completed the course requirements as set by each division and is recognized for knowledge and expertise in traditional Japanese martial arts. More than four years after promotion to yondan (4th Dan). At least three years after receiving Renshi title.

6th Dan (*Rokudan*): All requirements as set forth above. More than 5 years after promotion to *Renshi*. More than 5 years after promotion to godan (5th Dan). Minimum 32 years of age.

7th Dan (*Shichidan*): All requirements as set forth above. A person of outstanding character and proven leadership credentials. More than six years after promotion to rokudan (6th Dan). Minimum of 40 years of age. At least 7 years since receiving Kyoshi title.

8th Dan (*Hachidan*): All requirements as set forth above. A person of outstanding character and proven leadership credentials. More than ten years after promotion to shichidan (7th Dan). Minimum of 50 years of age.

9th Dan (*Kudan*): All requirements as set forth above. A person of outstanding character and proven leadership credentials. Minimum of ten years after receiving the Hanshi title. By Special Award of the Executive Board of Examiners.

10th Dan (*Judan*): All requirements as set forth above. Hanshi 9 Dan, a person of outstanding character, proven leadership credentials, and many years of experience. By Special Award of the Executive Board of Examiners.



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Title

Renshi: A person of recognized knowledge and expertise in traditional Japanese martial arts. Minimum of two years since promotion to yondan (4th Dan). Written essay or publication required.

Kyoshi: A person of recognized knowledge and expertise in traditional Japanese martial arts. Minimum of two years since promotion to rokudan (6th Dan). Minimum of 34 years of age. Written essay or publication required.

Hanshi: Minimum rank of 8 Dan, at least 50 years of age. Individual of outstanding character, technique, and extensive teaching experience who has demonstrated exceptional service for the development of Martial Arts. Written essay or publication required.

Meijin: Minimum rank of Hanshi 10 Dan, at least 70 years of age. Individual of outstanding character, technique, and extensive teaching experience who has demonstrated exceptional service for the development of Martial Arts. By Special Award of the Executive Board of Examiners.

As a rule, promotions and titles must be obtained in order, as shown below.

1st dan → 2nd dan → 3rd dan → 4th dan → Renshi → 5th dan → 6th dan → Kyoshi → 7th dan → 8th dan → Hanshi → 9th Dan → 10th Dan → Meijin

Glossary of Titles

Kokusai Budoin, IMAF is alone in granting title in all the Martial Arts. In Japan titles are awarded only within the arts that employ traditional weapons. However, IMAF members who qualify through outstanding dedication and leadership may be selected from any division.

Renshi: Minimum rank, 4th Dan. Ability to teach practical methods and basic techniques. Proven dedication to Budo through extensive teaching experience. Written essay or publication required. Similar to the title, Bachelor of Arts

Kyoshi: Minimum of two years since promotion to 6th Dan, Renshi title holder. Outstanding knowledge of the traditions and methods of Budo. Demonstrated excellence of technique and teaching methods. Written essay or publication required. Similar to the title, Master of the fine Arts.

Hanshi: Minimum rank of 8th Dan, Kyoshi title holder, and 50 years of age. An Individual of outstanding moral and personal character. Proven leadership and exceptional contributions to Budo, as well as a deep understanding of the techniques, history, and spirit of the Martial Arts. Written essay or publication required. Similar to the title, Doctor of Philosophy.

Meijin: An individual that has attained the highest rank of 10th Dan. Awarded by a special board of examiners. The term Meijin translates to "Grand Master".



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Official Instructors License

The Kokusai Budoin • Kokusai Budorenmei, International Martial Arts Federation (IMAF) Official Instructor License (OIL) is granted to qualified individuals in recognition of his/her experience and expertise as a teacher. An examination is required, and the OIL must be renewed every two years for it to remain valid.

Official Instructor License requirements and patch color:

- G. S1 Minimum rank, Hanshi 8th Dan (yellow patch)
- G. 1 Minimum rank, Kyoshi 7th Dan, four years after receiving G. S2 (yellow patch)
- G. S2 Minimum rank, Kyoshi 7th Dan (red patch)
- G. 2 Minimum rank, Kyoshi 6th Dan (red patch)
- G. 3 Minimum rank, Renshi 4th or 5th Dan (blue patch)
- G. 4 Minimum rank, 4th Dan
- G. 5 Minimum rank, 3rd Dan

Official Examiners will be selected among Official Instructor License holders of each division and appointed by Kokusai Budoin, IMAF Headquarters Japan.



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Branch Country Regulations

Overview

As an international organization, Kokusai Budoin, IMAF recognizes the importance of clear regulations and high standards for its branches and members worldwide. It is the goal of our federation to create and maintain a world-class organization rooted in the values of traditional Japanese martial arts - *Budo*.

1. Each Branch Country is authorized a maximum of three Branch Directors. The primary position will be held by a person of international standing who will act as President. The two other Directors will assist the President and in case of his absence, will assume the President's duties. These positions will be known as Vice President(s).

2. Regional Directors, as many as appropriate, will be recommended for appointment by each country's Branch Directors. Official certification will be issued by Kokusai Budoin, IMAF Japan Headquarters.

3. Branch and Regional Directors in each country should have the following qualifications:

- Title holder and possess the rank of 4th Dan or higher.
- The ability to correspond and converse in English or Japanese.
- Regional Directors are exempt from language requirements.

Note: the ability to communicate in English is highly encouraged. Exceptions to these regulations can be requested from Kokusai Budoin, IMAF Japan Headquarters.

4. Three to five qualified Examiners for each division will be selected by the Japan Headquarters Board of Examiners and certified by Kokusai Budoin, IMAF. The Official Examiners will oversee and coordinate examinations with their Branch Country.

5. All Branch Officials will be certified by the President of Kokusai Budoin, IMAF.

6. The term of service of officers shall be two years. However, reappointment of officers is authorized. The term of service in a position vacated shall be the remainder of that of the predecessor.

7. Any officer who acts in a manner inappropriate to his/her position may be dismissed from his/her position by decision of Kokusai Budoin, IMAF Japan Headquarters.

8. Directors of Branch Countries will make no regulations or directive in conflict with regulations established by Kokusai Budoin, IMAF.



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9. All Branch Directors are authorized to communicate directly with Headquarters Kokusai Budoin, IMAF on all matters.
10. All requests for technical or promotional assistance will be forwarded to Kokusai Budoin, IMAF Japan Headquarters by Branch Directors. Direct communication by other members is not authorized. This is a courteous procedure in consonance with Budo.
11. Each Branch Country is authorized to conduct seminars, demonstrations and examinations, as required, preferably in cooperation with other member countries. Furthermore, each Branch Country is authorized and encouraged to directly request all necessary assistance from Kokusai Budoin, IMAF Japan Headquarters, including the presence of technical advisors and other officials as required.
12. Kokusai Budoin, IMAF insignia, trademarks, logos, materials or other related articles shall not be used in any commercial means or way without authorization in writing from Headquarters Japan. IMAF insignia is registered in accordance with International Law and therefore should not be used without permission.
13. The creation and/or use of Kokusai Budoin, IMAF imprinting stamps with IMAF identification mark is prohibited unless specifically authorized by Kokusai Budoin, IMAF Japan Headquarters.
14. All Branch Directors are automatically selected as Councilors for Kokusai Budoin, IMAF Japan Headquarters with full rights and privileges of that office.
15. Branch Countries are allowed to register the name in their respective countries with the understanding that the name of IMAF is no one person's property. The use of the name Kokusai Budoin, IMAF is limited to those who have been authorized through appointment by Headquarters.
16. At the end of a term of appointment all representatives are required to turn over any and all materials belonging to Kokusai Budoin, IMAF to the newly appointed representative. This includes any and all use of the name Kokusai Budoin, IMAF and any of its associated trademarks or privileges.