

# USJA RECOMMENDATION FOR VALIDATION OF JUDO RANK

Revised March 11, 2015

**Background:** There seems to be some confusion on what judo validation means. Some comes from the belief if it is not on the application form it is not required. That is not correct. Please understand while promotions are strictly reviewed as are requirements and documentation, validations go through even closer examination because they can eliminate decades of formal rank progression through the ranks system.

The USJA Promotion Board is responsible to evaluate all validations.

Validation is the process where someone has a vast amount of Judo experience and has no officiate certificate of Judo rank from an organization approved by IJF can obtain an official USJA rank certificate recognized all over the world for excellence.

When someone presents their case for validation they should expect a very carefully review of everything they have done going back to the first day they stepped on the mat. Where someone may join a club, enter one or more tournaments and do remarkable well this does not mean they are eligible for validation. It is a factor to consider but does not take the place of years of experience and the ability to pass every requirement in the USJA promotion system. Someone must not be validated because they are a “good guy” or they happen to have much knowledge of another martial art.

When considering someone for validation it not only is required that they be test for the rank you want validated you must test for all prior ranks. I would like to caution those that are incline to sign someone off without testing including vocabulary, skill and if required Kata without actually testing. Everyone doing so including the student thereby commits an ethical violation. They should be sanctioned to include being removed as a member. We take this type of action very seriously.

Also think about how you progressed over many years. Does this person have enough time in judo had they actually been promoted through every rank they would have enough time for the proposed validation rank. Can they document a vast amount of experience with evidence? Have I verified everything? Have I tested the person through the complete rank system? Does this person measure up to or exceed the ability and knowledge of other holding this rank? **If not, do not consider validation. The highest rank possible with proper test for validation is Yodan 4<sup>th</sup> Dan. The completed test(s) copied from the Guide must be attached**

## **What do I need for validation:**

1. Fill out the complete Validation form without omission.
2. Send verifiable documentation to prove a vast amount of experience
3. Send evidence that you tested the person to the complete USJA Senior Rank Promotion system and a copy of the completed test(s) including vocabulary, technical skill and Kata **MUST be attached** or validation will be denied
4. Send evidence of superiority in Judo tournaments giving detail such as number in the division number of fights, rank of the opponent, name of the event(s) and date.
5. Send photo and apply for BGS for all black belts

6. Supply statements from others supporting this validation
7. Have the person examined and signed off by USJA Black Belts holding required rank.
8. Send the proper fee and everything to the National USJA Office

### USJA REQUEST FOR VALIDATION OF JUDO RANK

Rank validation sought by candidate	Required rank and number of examiners
<b>Kyu grades</b>	one 1 <sup>st</sup> dan or above
<b>1<sup>st</sup> dan</b>	one 3 <sup>rd</sup> dan or above
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> dan</b>	two 4 <sup>th</sup> dans or above
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> dan</b>	two 5 <sup>th</sup> dans or above
<b>4<sup>th</sup> dan</b>	two 6 <sup>th</sup> dans or above and approved by the PB

The “USJA Request for Validation of Judo Rank” form has instructions for completion and lists all current validation fees. The examiner(s) will complete the “USJA Request For Validation Of Judo Rank” form, recommend the new member to the rank they believe the new member is qualified to hold, and send it with the appropriate validation fee to the USJA National Office for processing. **The candidate must be tested to the USJA requirements in effect for the rank considered and that documentation must be included when sent to the National Office.** Upon receipt of the correctly documented information and validation form with associated paperwork and with approval of the PB, the USJA National Office will forward the new member a membership card and rank certificate. **A person can only be validated once. That becomes the date of their valid promotion. Validation of Judo Rank is only for those that lack credentials of valid judo rank recognized by the International Judo Federation IJF. Once they have a valid rank they cannot be validated.**

When considering someone for validation remember this requires documentation on many years of studying Judo and although significant just because someone excels in competition this is only part of the requirements that must be met. There must be a equivalent time equal to the time one who have spent going through each rank up to the recommended rank.

Equivalent time This is the recommended minimum the applicant must have spent in the study of judo from the start of their study to the date of the recommendation for Validation.

Rank	Min study time	Rank	Min study time	Rank	Min study time
6 <sup>th</sup> Kyu	2 months	5 <sup>th</sup> Kyu	5 months	4 <sup>th</sup> Kyu	10 months
3 <sup>rd</sup> Kyu	16 months	2 <sup>nd</sup> Kyu	2 years	1 <sup>st</sup> Kyu	3 years
1 <sup>st</sup> Dan	4 years	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan	6 years	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan	10 years
4 <sup>th</sup> Dan	15 years				

**Testing: Every person recommended for validation must be tested and meet all requirements. You must attach the full test including skill and vocabulary or recommendation will be denied.**