



USJA National Promotion System

Our system is designed to ensure that ranks awarded reflect the technical expertise, character development, and overall contribution of the individual. The process requires the direct evaluation of all candidates.

1. Candidates must meet certain minimum requirements to become eligible for promotion. They must then pass an exam and be recommended for promotion by their instructor for higher dans (black belts) ranks and provide the proper amount of documented USJA Activity Points.
2. All recommendations for promotions must be submitted to the USJA National Office on the proper forms for approval.
3. All candidates for promotion or validation must be Active Annual or Sustaining Life Members of a USJA Chartered Club with the proper time in grade in the previous rank.
4. A \$35.00 non-refundable processing fee must accompany all Dan (black belt) ranks (RFPs and RVPs) recommendations. The remainder of the promotion fee must be remitted upon notification of successfully being promoted or validated.
5. A current clear \$30 background check is required for Dan ranks via the USOC's [Online Screening Site](#).
6. [Heads-Up](#) - current online certification required for Dan ranks ([NFHS is now available as an alternative](#)).
7. [SafeSport](#) - current online certification also required for Dan ranks, ([MAAPP Guidebook](#)).
8. Promotions are done in accordance with USJA's National Promotion Board -
 - Ranks below 4th Dan are processed by the office.
 - Ranks of 4th Dan and above must include a brief biography with a passport photo or jpg
 - Ranks of 4th and 5th Dan are reviewed by a sub-committee of the Promotion Board.
 - Ranks above 9th Dan require the additional approval of the USJA's Board of Directors.

Links to USJA Promotion Forms:

- [Junior Promo Application](#)
- [Junior / Senior Kyu Exam](#)
- [Senior Kyu Promo Application](#)
- [Senior 1st - 5th Dan Exam](#)
- [Senior 1st- 3rd Dan Promo Application](#)
- [Senior 4th Dan+ Promo Application](#)
- [Senior Rank Validation Application](#)
- [Promotion Points Breakdown](#)
- [USJA Senior Activity Log Template](#)
- [Purchase USJA Promotion Manual](#)
- [List of all USJA Forms & Applications](#)
- [USJA Club Membership Application](#)
- [USJA Membership Application](#)
- [USJA Join Online](#) or [Renew Online](#)