



Presidents Ad Hoc Committee on Sr. Rank

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Rationale for the revised Senior Rank Requirement Recommendations for Sankyu, Nikyu and Ikkyu

The tripod structure of the development of a true Judoka with physical, spiritual and custodial strengths to become the best person possible was an important part of Professor Jigoro Kano's vision in his development of Judo.

Kyu ranks are spaced and developed to allow for relatively rapid growth with consistent practice. By the time an adult is entering the higher Kyu rank stages of Judo development, one should be exploring techniques and strategies that complement one's personal physique, movement, and personality. One should also be ready to begin the study of the rhythm, balance, and timing of Nage No Kata.

These higher Kyu rank individuals also need to recognize and understand that growing into and through a Dan rank takes more time due to the expected increase in understanding while internalizing deeper knowledge, higher level and more complex skill acquisition, and the need to have the Dan rank represent personal growth, continuous development, and contribution. In short, Kyu ranks are incrementally step-by-step.

Dan ranks, on the other hand, can be represented as the effect of dropping a pebble into a calm pool. The first ripple is small, but those ripples become waves that are ever expanding, larger in size, and the time it takes to generate the power of self, depth of knowledge, clarity of purpose, and contribution to the greater good become greater with each step and take significantly longer amounts of time to fully develop.