

PROMOTION COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTIONS TASK FORCE

INTRODUCTION

The evaluation of an application for promotion to the rank of Rokudan and above falls within the realms of objectifiable, concrete information and the abstract. We balance accomplishments, abilities, and the attributes of the individual. We judge character, skill, leadership abilities and their dedication to the Judo community. We ask for tangible and measurable while expecting to quantify an idea or concept that cannot be held. If the answer or answers were easy, the rank would be without merit. Yet, without agreement on principles, there is potential for no one to rise to the level needed to progress to the next rank.

When discussing the concept of contributions, several issues arose identifying confusions related to worthiness of an application for Rokudan and above.

- Yudanshakai Promotions:
 - There is the possibility for a Yudanshakai to withhold rank from dedicated, long actively practicing Judoka in part due to culture issues surrounding the self-promotion of senior sensei.
 - This is now being addressed by the PC with a review of potential candidates for promotion based on time and grade (TIG) through current USJF registration. The PC notifies the YDK of the possibility of promotion solely based on TIG requirements being met. The YDK still has discretion and authority to submit an application for promotion on behalf of the candidate.
 - These Yudanshakai then do not allow deserving younger students who meet all the promotion requirements to pass those senior sensei in rank. This is a serious problem because it creates a promotion bottle neck within clubs and Yudanshakai that becomes very difficult to rectify.
- General Issues and Concerns:
 - Definitions - A lack in clarity, understanding and agreement of what constitutes a contribution worthy of promotion within the Dan ranks.
 - Time In Grade - It should not be possible for an individual to be promoted with only *Time In Grade*... in other words, *Time In Grade* does not allow for entitlement for promotion.
 - Accountability - As the Promotion Committee, are we consistently holding candidates accountable for the expectations of recommended rank promotion? In general, this inconsistency and lack of clarity results from us not having a clear understanding of how to collect information from the candidates for Rokudan and higher candidates.

- Information from the Candidate - Often, the requested information and the personal narrative or Curriculum Vitae (CV) submitted is lacking content, which almost forces Committee members to personally know the candidate prior to receiving the application packet to make an informed decision.

BACKGROUND — PHILOSOPHY

Philosophically, our Promotion Committee has agreed that the progression through the Dan ranks should reflect a notable change in the individual over time, as well as a progression from an internal to an external focus. Due to this progression most of the certifications the USJF offers should be earned through the Shodan through Godan development stages.

- **Shodan and Nidan candidates** are primarily internally focused on self-development.
- **Sandan candidates** are starting to personalize their Judo style, have a greater understanding of technical aspects of Judo, and learning how to teach and begin to independently teach not only general classes in the dojo, but starting to share knowledge in areas of interest.
- **Yodan candidates** are teaching with a greater understanding of Judo are involved at the club and local level and increase service to the club and to students.
- **Godan candidates** start bridging teaching and giving back, being involved at a regional level, and be encouraged but not required to be involved at the national level, based on their area of personal expertise. As a teacher they should have a greater understanding of technical Judo, of teaching all ages and skill levels, and be able to adapt to the learning needs of all students.
- **Rokudan candidates** have made a transition to a selfless approach to Judo, sharing Judo, and developing others. Time and effort in Judo is significantly greater than as a Godan. They will have students that emulate the example taught to contribute to society and the Judo community within the *Time In Grade* period. ***At some point, your rank is not yours, it belongs to your students.***
- **Shichidan candidates** should have national impact... nationally known for their expertise, recognition in political power, the accomplishments of their students has significance, and they should have contributions at the national level at the very least. This must be reflected within the *Time In Grade* period.
- **Hachidan candidates** should, within the *Time In Grade* period, have international impact through being known for their expertise or through their direct students. The nation should know the impact of their Judo, abilities, knowledge, and areas of expertise. This would include things such as:

- Coaching a World team
- Creating instructional videos
- Teaching a clinic in another country
- Create written work with international distribution
- Have developed students with similar experiences (surrogates).

CONTRIBUTION TYPES

There are two basic types of contributions: short-term and long-term. A Rokudan, Shichidan, and Hachidan candidate should have a combination of both short-term and long-term contributions. The amount and/or quality of these contributions should notably develop in depth and maturation with each promotion application. **More emphasis on short-term and long-term contributions should be given to those who create selflessly rather than for personal monetary gain or profit.**

SHORT-TERM CONTRIBUTIONS

Short-term contributions include, but are not limited to:

- Head Sensei able to demonstrate the ability to teach and coach with a notable level of Quality
- Committee member at the National level
- Local, Regional, and National Officer positions
- Certifications such as:
 - Kata teaching or judging
 - Referee educator or Pan American or International referee
 - Coaching
 - Teaching
 - Professional such as Teacher/Educator, Medical Doctor, Physical therapist
- Some professions can have direct carry-over impact on Judo

LONG-TERM CONTRIBUTIONS

Long-Term Contributions include, but are not limited to:

- Judo Business: develop and share a business model that can help others be successful in judo with focus on topics such as marketing, professionalizing, branding, etc.
- Develop and distribute scholarly materials, such as:
 - Author a book
 - Write articles
 - Research
 - Lecture Tours
 - Keynote National or International Clinics/Lectures
- Lifetime achievements such as an IJF Award

- Develop a program that has a positive impact for multiple generations, for example but not limited to:
 - Teaching, coaching, etc. by developing programs to teach others how to teach, coach, and lead others
 - Education program within a school district
 - Community based program for at-risk youth
 - Clinic or Seminar Instructor Program: Develop a program to teach others how to create, organize and teach a Judo Clinic or Judo Seminar.
 - Judo Leadership Program: Develop a program on how to lead others through the teachings of Professor Kano, through Judo
 - Tournament Director Program
- Creation of instructional materials and other media.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are some recommendations for the Promotion Committee to seriously consider so our review of applicants reflects integrity, quality, and so our decisions are made with all members fully informed before making those decisions.

1. Standardize the process used for the review of every application that is brought to the table.
2. Come to agreement that a qualified candidate should have measurable growth through their current rank worthy of promotion to the next level. The term measurable means this is an objective process determined through testing, evaluation, success of students, and maturation of skill and delivery.
3. For the Resume or CV specific for the form 20 for Rokudan, Shichidan , Hachidan and Kudan:
 - a. Create a template
 - b. Specify the topics desired for inclusion:
 - i. Personal philosophy
 - ii. Accomplishments and awards through the *Time In Grade* period, as well as Lifetime achievement awards
 - c. Contributions made within the *Time In Grade* period at the:
 - i. local (club or Yudanshakai) level
 - ii. Regional (beyond state-wide) level
 - iii. National level
 - iv. International level
 - d. A balance of short -term and long-term contributions should be clearly articulated by the candidate within separate spaces
 - e. Special certifications that might not be reflected in the *Time In Grade* Deductions
 - f. Students who emulate the example taught directly by the candidate to contribute to society and the Judo Community within the *Time In Grade* period
4. All Yudanshakai need to be trained in the application process. It is important to:

- a. Conduct annual Zoom training sessions for each Yudanshakai Promotion Committee Chair to review all the Rank requirement recommendations, process regulations and time limitations.
- b. The Zoom training is particularly important for high rank promotions.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we would like to leave you with this thought:

True teachers always want their students to exceed what they were able to accomplish themselves.