



SSWU Dan Grading Regulations

Dan Grading Philosophy

The SSWU exists to promote the teaching and practice of Shitoryu karatedo and to enable practitioners to train together amicably in the spirit of Shukokai, the 'way for all'. It is a democratic, not-for-profit, and non-hierarchical organisation run for the benefit of its members. Therefore, the SSWU aims to facilitate dan grading opportunities for members within a fair and coherent framework while minimising the regulatory requirements that must be followed. Fairness, honesty, and integrity are the core values at the heart of SSWU procedures. The SSWU dan grading procedures and guidelines are overseen by the Technical Director.

*Note: the SSWU also provides a programme for the award of **Shido Menkyo and Shogo degrees**. These are the **Instructor Licence's of Jun Shidoin, Shidoin, Jun Shihan and Shihan and Instructor Ranks of Renshi, Kyoshi and Hanshi**. Details of this programme can be found in the '**SSWU Shido Menkyo and Shogo Degree regulations**' document.*

General Guidelines for Members

The SSWU currently offers a grading syllabus from 1st dan to 8th dan for its members and a route for progression to 9th and 10th dan.

- For grades **1st – 3rd dan** member groups may adopt the SSWU syllabus or they may use their own grading syllabus if they wish.
- Under normal circumstances gradings for **4th – 8th dan** should follow the SSWU grading syllabus.
- *In all cases the minimum age and time periods between gradings outlined in the SSWU syllabus must be adhered to.*

Approved Dan Grading Officers

All SSWU dan gradings will be overseen by an SSWU-approved dan grading officer.

Under normal circumstances the minimum grade of an approved dan grading officer will be 4th dan.

The SSWU will maintain and publish a list of approved dan grading officers who may examine candidates either individually or as members of a panel in accordance with these guidelines.

- All chief instructors/heads of member associations of 4th dan and above will automatically qualify as approved dan grading officers.
- These chief instructors/heads of member associations may, if they wish, nominate other senior dan grades within their own association for approval by the SSWU Directory Committee. Under normal circumstances the approval will be granted and the wishes of the chief instructor/head of association will be given effect. In special circumstances a 3rd dan may be approved by the SSWU Directory Committee (for example where a member



group does not have someone of the required grade to be an approved dan grading officer).

Dan Gradings

SSWU-approved dan grading officers can organise dan gradings at any time and they may examine candidates either individually or as part of a panel in accordance with these guidelines.

Generally, the dan grading officer overseeing a grading should be a minimum of two grades higher than the grade being attempted by the candidate.

- Where this is the case the dan grading officer may oversee the dan grading alone.
- Where this is not possible then the candidate will need to be examined by a dan grading panel. The panel will be composed of a minimum of two people comprising:
 - an approved dan grading officer who is a minimum of one grade higher than the grade being attempted; and
 - at least one other panel member (not necessarily an approved dan grading officer) who is, as a minimum, the same grade as the grade being attempted.

If a situation arises where the above criteria cannot be met, the SSWU will endeavour to find an alternative arrangement to facilitate the grading. In these instances, the interested parties should contact the SSWU Technical Director, Mr Christopher Mileham, at chris.mileham@btinternet.com

Dan Gradings examined by the SSWU Senior Dan Grade Panel

There will be opportunities for SSWU members to grade before the SSWU Senior Dan Grade Panel (for example at an SSWU seminar or similar event). This panel consists of the highest grades within the SSWU.

All gradings before the panel (from 1st – 8th dan) will follow the SSWU Dan Grading Syllabus.

Applications to grade in front of the SSWU senior dan grading panel should be notified to the General Secretary, Mrs Gayle Berry-Zochbauer, at gaylebz@gmail.com

Dan Grading Fees

Generally, dan grading fees are payable to the dan grading officer, not the SSWU.

The fees outlined in the SSWU Dan Grading Fees table are for guidance and they set the maximum fee that can be charged to a candidate. For the sake of consistency, it is expected that dan grading officers will follow the fees in the table - however they are not mandatory. Dan grading officers are free to set their own *lower* dan grading fees where they feel this is appropriate, for example where economic circumstances justify a reduction. In these instances, such decisions would have the full support of the SSWU Directory Committee.

Where candidates choose to grade in front of the SSWU Senior Grading Panel then the grading fee will be the relevant fee detailed in the table and it will be payable to the SSWU.



Shitoryu Shukokai Karatedo World Union



SSWU Dan Grading Syllabus Summary

Grade	Grading Criteria	Kata List	Kata	Bunkai	Jiyu Kumite	Ippon Kumite	Thesis
1 st Dan	Min age 15 Min 3 years training	Heian 1 – 5* Sanchin Tensho Naihanchi Shodan Bassai Dai Seienchin Kosokun Dai	2 Kata <i>Candidate's choice</i> 1 Kata <i>Chosen by panel</i> *Maximum 1 Heian Kata	2 Bunkai <i>Candidate's kata</i> <i>*No bunkai for panel's choice</i>	2 Bouts	Instead of jiyu kumite for mature candidates at discretion of grading panel	N/A
2 nd Dan	Min age 17 Min 1 year since 1 st dan	Annanko Seisan Saifa Bassai Sho Paiku	2 Kata <i>Candidate's choice</i> 1 Kata <i>Chosen by panel</i>	2 Bunkai <i>Candidate's kata</i> <i>*No bunkai for panel's choice</i>	2 bouts	As above	N/A
3 rd Dan	Min age 20 Min 2 years since 2 nd dan	Shisochin Niseishi Nipaipo Kosokun Sho Heiku	2 Kata <i>Candidate's choice</i> 1 Kata <i>Chosen by panel</i>	2 Bunkai <i>Candidate's kata</i> <i>*No bunkai for Panel's choice</i>	2 bouts	As above	N/A
4 th Dan	Min age 24 Min 3 years since 3 rd dan	Matsumura Rohai Kururunfa *Tomari Bassai or Oyadomari Bassai Ohan Chatanyara - Kushanku	2 Kata <i>Candidate's choice</i> 1 Kata <i>Chosen by panel</i>	3 Bunkai <i>Candidate's kata</i> <i>*No bunkai for Panel's choice</i>	2 bouts	As above	N/A
5 th Dan	Min age 29 Min 4 years since 4 th dan	Seipai Unshu Gojushiho Papuren (long) *Suparimpei	2 Kata <i>Candidate's choice</i> 1 Kata <i>Chosen by panel</i>	3 Bunkai <i>Candidate's kata</i> <i>*No bunkai for Panel's choice</i>	2 bouts	As above	N/A
6 th Dan	Min age 35 Min 5 years since 5 th dan	Kata from the senior kata list	2 kata <i>Candidate's choice</i>	4 Bunkai From each kata	N/A	N/A	Thesis <i>Theme chosen by SSWU Dan Grading Panel</i>
7 th Dan	Min age 42 Min 6 years since 6 th dan	Kata from the senior kata list	2 kata <i>Candidate's choice</i>	4 Bunkai From each kata	N/A	N/A	Thesis <i>Theme chosen by SSWU Dan Grading Panel</i>
8 th Dan	Min age 50 Min 7 years since 7 th dan	Kata from the senior kata list	2 kata <i>Candidate's choice</i>	4 Bunkai From each kata	N/A	N/A	Thesis <i>Theme chosen by SSWU Dan Grading Panel</i>
9 th Dan	No exam	<i>Awarded by SSWU Directory Committee for exceptional lifetime achievement in karatedo</i>					
10 th Dan	No exam	<i>Awarded by SSWU Directory Committee for exceptional lifetime achievement in karatedo</i>					

*Tomari Bassai or Oyadomari Bassai

*Suparimpei - this may be Shitoryu, Goju, Shukokai or Bechurin version.



SSWU Dan Grading Syllabus – Explanatory Notes

Kata

- 1st - 3rd dan.

Three kata from the relevant kata list must be performed.

Two kata chosen by the candidate. (For 1st dan *no more than one Heian kata may be chosen*).

One kata chosen by the grading officer/panel.

- 4th - 5th dan.

Three kata from the relevant kata list must be performed.

Two kata chosen by the candidate.

One kata chosen by the grading officer/panel.

- 6th - 8th dan.

Two kata must be performed, chosen by the candidate from the senior kata list.

Bunkai

- **1st - 3rd dan.**

Two bunkai for each of the candidate's chosen kata must be performed.

Note: bunkai is not required for the kata chosen by the grading officer/panel.

- **4th - 5th dan.**

Three bunkai for each of the candidate's chosen kata must be performed.

Note: bunkai is not required for the kata chosen by the officer/panel.

- **6th - 8th dan.**

Four bunkai for each of the candidate's chosen kata must be performed.

Kumite

For gradings 1st - 5th dan the kumite section of the exam will be either Jiyu kumite or Ippon kumite, depending on age of the candidate. This will be decided by the dan grading officer/panel after due consultation.

Jiyu kumite bouts will follow WKF kumite rules.

Note: there will be no kumite requirement for gradings 6th – 8th dan.

Thesis

For gradings 6th - 8th dan the candidate will be required to compile a thesis. The theme will be chosen by the grading officer/panel and notified to the candidate a minimum of six weeks before the grading.



SSWU Senior Kata List

SHURI-TE KATA:

1. Ananako / Annanku
2. Bassai Dai
3. Bassai Sho
4. Chatanyara Kushanku
5. Chinte
6. Chinto
7. Gojushiho
8. Jiin
9. Jion
10. Jitte
11. Kishimoto no Kushanku
12. Kosokun Dai
13. Kosokun Shiho
14. Kosokun Sho
15. Matsukaze (Wankan)
16. Matsumura Bassai
17. Matsumura Rohai
18. Naihanchi Nidan
19. Naihanchi Sandan
20. Niseishi
21. Oyadomari Bassai
22. Rohai Shodan

23. Rohai Nidan

24. Rohai Sandan

25. Sochin

26. Tomari Bassai

27. Unshu

28. Wanshu

SHITO-RYU KATA (Mabuni)

29. Aoyagi / Seiryu

30. Shinpa

WHITE CRANE KATA (Gokenki)

31. Hakutsuru / Hakkaku /
Hakucyo

32. Nipaipo

33. Paporen / Pappuren
(Short Version)

34. Paporen / Pappuren
(Long Version)

NAHA TE KATA

35. Gekisai Dai Ichi

36. Gekisai Dai Ni

37. Kaishu Sanchin

38. Kururunfa

39. Saifa

40. Sanseru

41. Seipai

42. Seienchin

43. Seisan

44. Shisochin

45. Suparimpei /
Superrinpei / Bechurin

RYUEI RYU KATA

46. Anan

47. Anan Dai

48. Heiku

49. Ohan

50. Ohan Dai

51. Paiku

52. Pachu



SSWU Dan Grading Fees

Grade	Grading Fee
1 st Dan	150 euros
2 nd Dan	200 euros
3 rd Dan	250 euros
4 th Dan	300 euros
5 th Dan	350 euros
6 th Dan	400 euros
7 th Dan	450 euros
8 th Dan	500 euros

IMPORTANT NOTE: If a dan grading candidate is unsuccessful then 50% of the dan grading fee will be refunded.

SSWU Bank details

Where the dan grading is before the SSWU Senior Dan Grade Panel and the grading fee is therefore payable to the SSWU then those fees should be paid by bank transfer a minimum of one week before the grading date.

The SSWU General Secretary, Mrs Gayle Berry-Zochbauer, should be notified once payment has been made at gaylebz@gmail.com

Bank details are as follows.

Name of account Shitoryu Shukokai Union Europe
Bank address Bank Austria, Schottengasse 6-8, A 1010 Wien.
IBAN AT86 1200 0004 0910 0005
BIC BKAUATWW
Personal address associated with account (if requested):
Carl Klose Gasse 61, 2460 Bruck an der Leitha, Austria

If you have any questions relating to these guidelines, please contact the SSWU Technical Director,

Mr Christopher Mileham at chris.mileham@btinternet.com



Shitoryu Shukokai Karatedo World Union

SSWU APPROVED DAN GRADING OFFICERS

This is the official list of individuals who are currently approved by the SSWU to supervise dan gradings in accordance with the SSWU Dan Grading Regulations (in alphabetical order).

- Ian Barlow (8th dan)
- Thomas Geiger (7th dan)
- Thomas Hausner (8th dan)
- Chris Mileham (8th dan)