



Akitas Judo Clubs
 Akitas Southend Judo Club (3038), Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre, Garon Park, Eastern Avenue SS2 4FA
 Akitas Parling Magna Judo Club (3063), Parling Magna Parish Hall, 432 Little Waresing Road, Parling Magna SS3 0LN
 Akitas Raleigh Judo Club (3068), Raleigh Leisure Centre, Priority Chase, off Rawrett Lane, Raleigh SS6 9NF
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Dan grades

The belt system is a distinctive feature of judo. A player can test his ability by entering for examination within a system of grades and, by demonstrating superiority over a cross-section of players at the same level as him/herself, he/she wins promotion to the next rank. In this way successive ranks become populated by increasingly skilful players until eventually all judoka who participate consistently are distributed through the hierarchy according to their proven ability.

The time-honoured distinction is between Kyu (student) and Dan (advanced) grades. Put simply, the distinction marks the point at which the emphasis shifts away from the acquisition of technique on to its effective application.

Promotion within the Dan degree does not carry a change of designated colour until 6th Dan is reached. Even then it is customary for the holder to continue wearing a black belt in everyday practice, reserving the official colour for ceremonial occasions. The Dan grades are as follows:

| Grade | Belt Colour | Traditional Name |
|----------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 1st Dan | Black | shodan |
| 2nd Dan | Black | nidan |
| 3rd Dan | Black | sandan |
| 4th Dan | Black | shidan (yondan) |
| 5th Dan | Black | godan |
| 6th Dan | Alternate red and white blocks | rokudan |
| 7th Dan | Alternate red and white blocks | shichidan |
| 8th Dan | Alternate red and white blocks | hachidan |
| 9th Dan | Red | kudan |
| 10th Dan | Red | judan |

Although examinations are held in the United Kingdom for promotion up to 5th dan, the Dan grades beyond that are only awarded through the Board of Directors of the BJA.