



British Aikido Federation

Technical Director, Minoru Kanetsuka, 7th Dan, Aikikai Foundation, Tokyo

REQUIREMENTS OF ETIQUETTE FOR EXISTING AND PROSPECTIVE DAN GRADES

The BAF Technical & Grading Committee would like to make it clear that high standards are required for all Dan Grade examinations.

To ensure adequate preparation, application for all Dan Grade Examinations should, normally, be made **at least 6 months** in advance. The normal venue for Yudansha gradings will be BAF Summer School.

The prerequisite time between Dan gradings is **only a minimum based on regular training and is not an automatic entitlement to take your next grade.** Guidance on your readiness should be sought from either the Technical Director or a current BAF Shido-in.

All application forms should be properly completed, Form 1A and Form 2 by the candidate and Form 1B by the club instructor. **ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE COUNTERSIGNED EITHER BY THE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR OR A CURRENT BAF SHIDO-IN** There should be an up-to-date photograph of the candidate. Where required (1st & 2nd Dan), an essay should be attached or provided no later than 1 month prior to the grading. The correct BAF grading fee must be paid before the grading (in the event of failure this fee is not refundable)

During the six months preceding the grading, candidates should make every effort to practice regularly with a BAF Shido-in, and to visit other BAF dojos, they should also make every effort to attend BAF national courses. They should attend all Aikido classes at Summer School, unless they have a dispensation from the Technical & Grading Committee.

If it is not possible for a candidate to comply with the above requirements, they should apply **in writing** to the Technical & Grading Committee explaining their difficulties. Every consideration will be given to candidates who may not be able to genuinely comply with the full requirements. Overseas candidates who are unable to comply with these requirements should submit a letter from their National Federation stating that their application for grading is approved of.

ALL Candidates must, upon arrival at Summer School, leave a deposit, in Japanese Yen, equivalent to the full Hombu registration fee for their grade: They should also present their BAF book and, if already a Dan grade, their Yudansha book and Hombu membership card.

Shodan 21,000 Yen -Nidan 21,000 Yen –Sandan 31,000 Yen - Yondan 41,000 Yen
(In the event of failing the grade, the deposit will be returned in full)

The Technical & Grading Committee reserves the right to refuse entry to a grading. The reason will be given to the refused candidate (e.g. incorrect attitude, insufficient regular training, etc.).

IMPORTANT THINGS TO THINK ABOUT - Can you practice Aikido for life?
As a Dan grade you are expected to set a good example in technique, spirit and attitude.

Prepare fully for your grading, technically, physically, emotionally and financially.

Do not forget all the technical terms of Aikido. You may have written a very good essay, you may be able to speak well about the philosophy of Aikido but is your philosophy reflected in your practice?

Upon passing a grade, remember your instructors; thank them for their dedicated efforts on your behalf. You may or may not end up better than your teacher, but will you always be grateful to them?

Remember, all the techniques you have learnt are only the beginning; a black belt is still only a belt! Learning and developing your Aikido is a lifelong journey. Simply enjoy your practice and try to give others the benefit of your experience. Aikido presents a way of self-understanding

Always keep an open mind: there are many different ways to learn. Accept all teaching, even if you do not understand at the time. Do not become arrogant or complacent.