

# UNITED STATES JUDO ASSOCIATION



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## USJA (ACE) Aikido Certified Examiner Division

### Policy on Rank Promotions in Aikido

#### USJA Aikido Promotion Policy.

The standard USJA Aikido promotion policy is similar to Judo and Jujitsu. That is, USJA (ACE) Aikido Certified Examiners may recommend promotion to any rank up to the rank below their own Aikido rank. For example, a Aikido Nidan may recommend promotions up to and including Aikido Shodan.

#### Ranks Obtained Through Other Ryu.

The USJA will recognize Aikido ranks awarded by other legitimate Aikido organizations if proof of rank is provided. A certified English translation and copy of the certificate are required. The rank will be registered with the USJA and marked on the membership card in the "Other Martial Arts" section. Promotion to a higher rank and to obtain an USJA Certificate requires examination by a certified USJA (ACE) Aikido Certified Aikido Examiner, under the current USJA (ACE) Aikido Certified Examiners Division Training Manual for Instructors on Junior & Senior Rank Requirements.

#### Promotion Ratification and Timing.

All Aikido promotions are ratified through the USJA National Headquarters. Promotions are made at three Mon levels. For Juniors Degree's, Senior Kyu and Dan ranks up to Yodan, accredited "USJA (ACE) Aikido Certified Examiner" Sensei may test and evaluate candidates, and send promotion recommendations to the National Office. Yodan and above ranks must be approved by the USJA (ACE) Aikido Certified Examiners Committee/Promotion Board, which evaluates recommendations quarterly. All recommendations must be properly documented. Supporting evidence and appropriate fees must be included.

#### Eligibility.

USJA members, regardless of age, may be eligible for promotion in Aikido when they have completed the appropriate time in grade and can demonstrate the rank requirements. Each individual must be recommended by a USJA (ACE) Aikido Certified Examiner.

#### Technical Demonstration Requirements.

USJA members, who are candidates for USJA Aikido rank, must demonstrate - with balance, effectiveness, and skill - the techniques required for the rank for which they are being examined. Other than time in grade and demonstrating the technical requirements for that rank, there are no other requirements for promotion in Aikido.

#### Promotion Fees.

Fees for all USJA Aikido ranks are the same as for Judo and are listed on the Recommendation for Aikido Promotion form.

USJA Form 4-A January 1, 2016 - All previous forms are obsolete

## **How Do You Get a Aikido Rank Certification and Promotion Seminar For Your Club?**

To schedule a USJA (ACE) Aikido Certification and Promotion Seminar write or call (1-516-366-3311). The USJA National Office will arrange for a high Dan USJA (ACE) Aikido Certified examiner to visit you. The USJA will pay his travel expenses. The only requirements are that you must guarantee that there will be at least 20 people on the mat paying a weekend seminar fee of \$25.00 each, and you must provide room and board for the clinician(s) while he/they is/are with you. For students, remote from a local Dojo, clinics are held throughout the year, which may be conveniently located near them. Another alternative is to attend one of the annual Aikido camps held each year at locations across the country.

### **USJA (ACE) Aikido Certified Examiner Certification.**

The USJA certifies (ACE) Aikido Certified examiners according to Aikido rank as listed on the "Application for Certification as a USJA (ACE) Aikido Certified Examiner." Examiner certification is not automatic as part of a promotion. Aikido sensei can only be certified for USJA (ACE) Aikido Certified examiner after examination by the of the USJA (ACE) Aikido Certified Examiners. Only USJA (ACE) Aikido Certified examiners certified by the board members of the USJA (ACE) Aikido are eligible to recommend candidates for Aikido rank promotion. The latter is an important qualification, and ensures that the candidates are truly reviewed on their Aikido ability and teaching quality, in addition to their abilities in self-defense techniques learned in other martial arts.

### **Policy on Rank Registration.**

The USJA Aikido Division would like to accommodate all practitioners in the various styles of the art, in getting their legitimate ranks registered. To protect the validity of these ranks, we require that all requests for rank registration are accompanied by a photo copy of the latest rank certificate, and the completely filled out Aikido rank form, describing all the dates and times in grade in each previous Dan rank.

Upon entry as members, the provided rank registration will be added to our database, as described on the candidate's provided certificate copy. No one will be promoted or accepted at a higher rank level, until reviewed and tested by a qualified USJA (ACE) Aikido Certified examiner of higher rank, and/or by the USJA Chairman of the (ACE) Aikido Certified Board of Examiners. This provides for formal rank registration, and for future rank promotion.

The USJA realizes that there are instances, where Aikido Sensei have been teaching independently, or have been teaching their own system for many years, and may even be Hanshi or Soke (highest ranked individual in their organization) of their own style. Since these Sensei may not have been ranked by a national organization, and no knowledge of their style and ability may be evident, the USJA requires that evidence of quality is provided in the form of a written curriculum for the various ranks, and/or an unedited video tape of the techniques in that style.

Corroborating evidence may also need to be collected through visual observation by higher ranking members of the USJA's (ACE) Aikido Certified Examiner Board. In other words, the Ranking Board needs to be convinced that the described rank compares with other national standards, particularly as it relates to total time in the various ranks.

The USJA cannot accept higher Dan ranks that are not within the time in grade schedule, as defined on the Aikido application form. The USJA will neither accept rank promotions that are not deemed to conform to an acceptable standard.