



**Republic of Ireland Taekwon-Do Association  
(R.I.T.A.)**

# Grading Policy

## **GRADING EXAMINERS**

The President of the R.I.T.A. will be the Chief Examiner as long as he/she remains in office. For a Black Belt grading the Chief Examiner will appoint a Panel of Examiners who must be 4<sup>th</sup> Degree or higher and ITF International Instructors to assist the Chief Examiner. In the event that the Chief Examiner and the Panel are unqualified to grade certain members, the Masters' Council may invite a guest I.T.F. Master to perform the black belt grading.

Appropriate hospitality will be accorded to the Chief Examiner and members of the Panel.

As per I.T.F. Rules and Regulations Item 10, 4th Degrees and above being classified as International Instructors will be entitled to grade their own students. The Masters' Council may require the attendance of a member of the Panel of Examiners for a pre-set number of grading

In accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the I.T.F. no member or member school other than the Masters' Council of the R.I.T.A. may invite examiners from outside the R.I.T.A. to grade their students.

No Black Belt member may apply to grade outside Ireland without the written permission of the Masters' Council.

## Black Belt Gradings

Black Belt gradings will be held twice per year at approximately six month intervals. One black belt grading to be held on the third Saturday in March and one black belt grading to be held on the third Saturday in September.

All applications for Degree certificates from the I.T.F. must be signed by the President of the R.I.T.A.. The President of the R.I.T.A. must be fully aware and be happy with what he/she is signing.

Applications for IV Degree promotion grading and above must have the minimum requirement as outlined below.

- Must meet the ITF rules with regard to age
  - See section below
- Apply to the master council at least 6 months prior to grading date
  - Written letter with Instructors permission
  - Thesis for ITF (This may be a draft of the final version)
- Be an instructor within an existing school with more than 20 members (10 per instructor 4<sup>th</sup> Dan and above)
  - Actively increasing the size of the existing school
  - Taking classes regularly
  - Or be the Instructor in their own school
- Have the required time between the last grading
  - See section below
- Attended International Seminars / Technical Seminars as outlined below (quantity since last grading)

○ 4 <sup>th</sup> Dan	-	1 or more
○ 5 <sup>th</sup> Dan	-	2 or more
○ 6 <sup>th</sup> Dan	-	2 or more
○ 7 <sup>th</sup> Dan	-	3 or more
○ 8 <sup>th</sup> Dan	-	4 or more
○ 9 <sup>th</sup> Dan	-	4 or more +
- Attend RITA Tournaments regularly to umpire
- Regularly attend the RITA AGM
- Advancement of the RITA and personal development
  - 1) Personal Attend Squad Training as a competitor or assistant to the coach.
    - This can be as a manger or trainer for squad sessions.

OR

- 2) Be an active chairperson on an RITA committee

The qualifications for taking black belt gradings are:

- (a) The person taking the grading must have trained under a qualified instructor for a reasonable time before taking the grading, must have attended a preliminary grading and must be recommended for promotion by his/her instructor.
- (b) From 1st degree onwards members who wish to grade must attend several courses and seminars as outlined by the R.I.T.A. minimum requirements for Black Belt gradings (see Tables 1 and 2).
- (c) The pre-grading course must be attended.
- (d) The dobok should be very smart and clean (new, if possible) with all of the necessary badges and flashes sewn on.
- (e) The only protective equipment to be worn is a gum shield and a groin guard for males or a gum shield and a breast guard for females. Groin guards are compulsory for all male members above the grade of 6<sup>th</sup> Kup.
- (f) The participants must be physically fit and not suffering from any medical condition which may endanger themselves or others.

#### **PERIOD OF WAITING BETWEEN BLACK BELT GRADINGS**

- A. 1<sup>st</sup> Degree to 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree - 18 months. (Minimum age 14 years old)
  - B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree to 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree - 24 months. (Minimum age 16 years old)
  - C. 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree to 4<sup>th</sup> Degree - 36 months. (Minimum age 22 years old)
  - D. 4<sup>th</sup> Degree to 5<sup>th</sup> Degree - 48 months. (Minimum age 25 years old)
  - E. 5<sup>th</sup> Degree to 6<sup>th</sup> Degree - 60 months. (Minimum age 30 years old)
  - F. 6<sup>th</sup> Degree to 7<sup>th</sup> Degree - 72 months. (Minimum age 37 years old)
  - G. 7<sup>th</sup> Degree to 8<sup>th</sup> Degree - 84 months. (Minimum age 45 years old)
  - H. 8<sup>th</sup> Degree to 9<sup>th</sup> Degree - 104 months. (Minimum age 55 years old)
- (TKD Encyclopaedia Vol. 1 page 94.)

## Continuous Personal Development for Black Belt Holders

**Table 1: Adult Black belts must meet these requirements between gradings.**

Grade	Time (years)	National B/B classes	Umpires Course	Instructors Course	ITF Thesis	No. of national OR international seminars	International Instructors Courses
1 <sup>o</sup> – 2 <sup>o</sup>	1.5	2	C	C	-	1	-
2 <sup>o</sup> – 3 <sup>o</sup>	2	3	B	B	-	1	-
3 <sup>o</sup> – 4 <sup>o</sup>	3	4	A	A	Thesis	2	1

- Black belt classes and courses attended will be recorded in their licenses.
- Black belts need to become instructors with their own school (or assistant instructor with Masters Council permission) before they can go for 4<sup>th</sup> degree or above. Please check additional RITA requirements for promotions from 3<sup>rd</sup> degree and above.

**Table 2: Junior Black Belts must meet these requirements between gradings.**

Grade	Time (years)	National B/B classes	Instructors Course	No. of national OR international seminars
1 <sup>o</sup> – 2 <sup>o</sup>	1.5	2	-	1
2 <sup>o</sup> – 3 <sup>o</sup>	2	3	-	1

## Colour Belt Grading

Instructors should try to ensure that there is a minimum of 4 gradings per year and students must be made aware in good time of the dates of the gradings. There are a number of requirements a student must reach before being allowed to grade:

- The student must regularly attend class
- The student must be competent and able to perform the compulsory requirements for their grading as outlined in their student handbook.
- The student should demonstrate learning by applying the corrections made by their instructor.
- The student should demonstrate that they also practice at home on their fundamental requirements, flexibility and conditioning.
- The student should know all of their terminology, not just for their current grade but all terminology from preceding grades.
- The student must receive permission to grade from their instructor. In the event that the student is under 18, a parent/guardian can, if they choose, request to speak with the instructor at the end of class to request permission to grade.
- The student must have paid the grading fee and given their grading license to their instructor two weeks before the grading date set.
- The students' dobok should be washed, ironed and neatly presented at all times especially for the grading.
- Show courtesy, respect and moral standards.
- Students should be competent on physical, technical and theoretical material from the previous (lower) grades.
- Students should note that as they progress through each belt, it is expected that their flexibility, fitness and execution of their movements are also progressing at the expected level required to pass their grading.
- The examiner's decision is final.

## **RECOMMENDED PERIOD OF WAITING BETWEEN KUP GRADINGS**

White:	10th - 9th Kup	
Yellow Tag:	9th - 8th Kup	- 1 month.
Yellow:	8th - 7th Kup	
Green Tag:	7th - 6th Kup	- 2 months.
Green:	6th - 5th Kup	
Blue Tag:	5th - 4th Kup	- 3 months.
Blue:	4th - 3rd Kup	
Red Tag:	3rd - 2nd Kup	- 4 months.
Red:	2nd - 1st Kup	- 5 months.
Black Tag:	1st Kup - 1st Degree	- 6 months.

Note: The above times are suggested times according to Gen Choi's encyclopaedia.

However typical grading times are 3-4 months based on training 3 times a week.

'A' level pass can halve the above mentioned training periods.

### **Tigers Programme (6 years of age to 8 years of age)**

The Tigers programme runs concurrently with the school year from September to June. There is one grading per year. Once the student has completed the Tigers Programme or reaches the age of 9 they will be moved into the Dragon's programme.

### **Dragons Programme (9 years of age to 12 years of age)**

The Dragon's programme runs concurrently with the school year from September to June. There is one grading per year. Once the student has reached the age of 12 they will be moved to the main class, usually between March and June.

### **Grading Fees**

*All grading fees should be paid in advance of the grading, it is not appropriate to take money immediately prior or subsequent to the grading.*

It should also be noted that the result of the grading is normally conveyed to the student on the day/night of the grading. The result can however, in certain circumstances, be deferred to a later date which will be identified by the examiner.

The level of fees for full members will be set by the Masters' Council.

Full members who need to re-apply for a grading will pay a fee agreed by the Masters' Council.

## **R.I.T.A. LICENCE AND GRADING BOOKLET**

All Full members must possess and retain in good condition the booklet supplied by the R.I.T.A. Full members must possess a R.I.T.A. valid membership / registration card.

**QUALIFICATIONS OTHER THAN UNDER THE R.I.T.A.**

Anyone wishing to join the R.I.T.A. who has a black belt certificate from another country or association must have it verified by the I.T.F..