



2021 SYLLABUS QUESTIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED

JANUARY 2021

Grading Syllabus:

2.2 - Application approval – “the Head Sensei of the candidate must inform Judo Canada’s office if the candidate is not recommended”

If a candidate does the online registration without informing his/her sensei, the sensei will not know the application has been sent until sensei receives a confirmation via the online process. Shouldn’t the recommendation for promotion come from the sensei first?

- The candidate will have to click the box on the online form stating they did inform their Head Sensei before sending the application. The Province and the Head Sensei will have an opportunity to review the completed grading application well ahead of the grading examination and inform both the candidate and Judo Canada if there is a sufficient reason not to recommend the candidate.

3.1.1. – a candidate must meet all the criteria for the recommendation

Could a test site/page/workbook be provided so candidates can tally up all their points before doing the actual online submission?

- The candidates can use the online form to validate if they meet the requirements. If they don’t have enough points, they will get notified by the system. If they have enough points, and just want to test it, they should not make the payment.

3.1.1 – have their application validated by the respective PGC/TGC and Head sensei of the dojo

As the application process is through provincial/territorial Judo federation, these validation/confirmations will be done after the online submission?

- The NGC and Judo Canada’s office will verify if the candidate meets the Syllabus requirements. After that, the province/territory will have to validate the truthfulness of the information entered on the online form by the candidate.

3.2.1 –The PGC/TGC are to validate the truthfulness of the information that a candidate completed online on Judo Canada’s website. Do you have any advice on what or how the PGC/TGC can use to validate the information? Previously, we had candidates enclose copies of the final tournament draw sheets or Tournament Point Certification forms as evidence of shiai points. We may have received clinic or referee sign-in sheets to confirm attendance. We had both the candidate and head instructor sign the Point Summary form certifying the truthfulness. Under the new process, it appears the PGC/TGC have little basis for signing off on validity of the information. Often the candidates are not known to all the members of the Provincial Grading Committee.

- The PGC/TGC can use any means they need to verify the truthfulness of the candidate’s information, including requiring candidates to send in their forms to the provincial/territorial office for review, if it makes the process easier.

3.2.1 The Head Sensei must validate the application - does that mean sign or something else. What are we looking for here? 3.2.1 states that the Head Sensei or Head Coach will receive a copy of the application for comment. Who follows up the NGC or PGC/TGC and what would this look like?

- As soon as the online application is validated by the NGC, it is sent to the province/territory and the Head sensei. The province must validate the information and the Head sensei will have to contact Judo Canada’s office only if he/she doesn’t recommend the candidate.

3.6.6 Is it possible to summarize and publish the additional requirements and costs for Kodokan diplomas? Eg. Number of years at dan grade, or Kata required for High Dan. The “Internal Regulations for Kodokan Ascending Qualifications” is not clear (link provided under Appendix B on page 25)?

- Judo Canada is rendering a service to its membership by being a bridge between the candidate and the Kodokan delegate in Canada. All available information we have on Kodokan requirements is currently posted on Judo Canada’s website. Note that parts of these requirements have not been translated from Japanese by the Kodokan. That is why Judo Canada’s Kodokan delegate is required to analyze each application in order to determine eligibility. You will be informed of the Judo Canada and Kodokan fees at the end of your Judo Canada grading application.

Are there any additional kata requirements for females in order to receive their Kodokan Certificate?

- The requirements are the same for males and females to receive Kodokan certification.

4.1 – Competitive Stream – the candidate can only claim contest points under section 4.1; Under this stream, do candidates NOT receive points for time in grade?

- No, under the competitive stream a candidate can only claim points from competition matches results. There are no points accumulated for time in grade and participation in this stream.

How are candidates in the competitive stream judged at clinics. If it is not a formal grading how would the examiners judge candidates in a group setting with all the requirements listed? How would someone fail to do this process? Are they judged only if they are participating?

- Candidates meeting the requirements of the competitive stream will have the privilege of attending a kata clinic during which they will be expected to participate fully in all techniques. The numbers of candidates per clinic will be limited to no more than 10 per clinic in order to allow plenty of time for candidates to supervised and to demonstrate the kata techniques in an informal setting. Mastery is not expected. Engagement and willingness to learn is.

Why are only Ne-waza tournament points counted for 30 years old and up? If we are going to try to promote and grow Ne-waza shiai then there shouldn’t be an age restriction?

- There is no age restriction for Ne-waza tournaments but, for grading purposes. A judoka under 30 years old should do regular shiai to claim points.

In the Competitive Stream, the Kata clinic is supposed to be done after the candidate is approved by National Grading Committee, but I did not find the information in the Syllabus. My thoughts are as like all other required competitions points, or any other points, it’s always counted from the last promotion. Why could it not be done before the approval?

- Candidates must meet all criteria before applying for a grading exam or clinic if eligible for the competitive stream. A kata clinic for candidates in the competitive stream is treated as an informal exam and should be offered only to those candidates who meet the criteria and who have completed the online form.

For high Dan career achievements, being part of a provincial/territorial, national, or international committee will give criteria for high Dan, but for Shodan to Godan, if you are working on a committee you do not get any points for your next grading. How can we consider points for this kind of involvement?

- The NGC did include committee volunteering as an activity where one can pick up points.

2021 GRADING SYLLABUS QUESTIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED

We already have a bunch of people who got approved for grading under the 2017 Syllabus, paid their fees (June or December grading exams which were cancelled). How are you going to transfer their points to the new Syllabus? How do you define if they want to go for Competitive or Technical Stream? Is there a chance that someone couldn't be approved under the new Syllabus but was approved under the previous one?

- A candidate who has been approved to go for grading under the 2017 Syllabus can attend a grading exam in 2021 under the 2021 Syllabus exam requirements and does not need to be re-approved. In this case, the candidate will have to attend a technical stream exam. As the competitive stream is a new method for grading and was not available before 2021, clinics will only be offered to candidates applying in 2021 and beyond.

On kata judging certification can a candidate claim points for each Kata, they are certified and each level they get certified for?

- No, a candidate may claim points for one certification level per promotion, regardless of the number of Kata. For example, if a candidate is certified as a National C kata judge in Nage-no-kata they then have met the National Level criteria. No further points can be claimed for certification in other Katas or for other levels in the same Kata (such as moving from National C to B then to A). Points for multiple certifications would potentially allow for aggregate points beyond what the Syllabus intends.

Can a candidate claim points for attending a Continental clinic or an International clinic?

- A candidate attending an International clinic for 4 hours or more can also claim 5 points. It does appear in the technical stream grid. There is no list, but we can easily track if it was an official international clinic.

Does a candidate that shows up for two hours on Friday for a clinic and two hours a Sunday meet the criteria for a four-hour clinic?

- No, to be recognized, the candidate must participate in provincial/Judo Canada sanctioned clinics for a minimum of four hours on the same day.

What is an event? Could a two-day Provincial Championship be considered as an event? Or is each day considered as a distinctive event since the age divisions are not the same on the Saturday and Sunday.

- An event is recorded in its entirety, whether it lasts a day or a week.

4.2.1 Due to current Covid lockdowns, will 2020 be considered an "active year" if a member is in good standing and was active in 2019? Meeting the minimum of 120 hours on the mat during a twelve-month period will be difficult in 2020.

- A letter was sent to provinces/territories and Chairs of PGCs/TGCs explaining a special amendment to this clause for the 2020-2021 season.

4.2.8. Kata Judge certification - Is there a provincial certification?

- At this point in time, there is no provincial certification for Kata judges. In cases where a province is willing to have one, the points awarded for a provincial certification are already included in the 2021 Syllabus.

4.2.11 Are these events recognized (sanctioned?) by JC or is the JC recognition only speaking to the training camp part of this?

- Modified: A total of 5 points per event will be awarded, on a per clinic basis (minimum 4 hours in duration), to participants up to a maximum of 30 points per year, for participation at provincially or nationally sanctioned professional development: Kata, referee, technical clinics and training camps; or similar clinics sanctioned by a foreign governing Judo body recognized by Judo Canada.

4.3.2 Career achievement - Seminar / Clinic since the last promotion - It is not indicated unless it is as a participant or a learning facilitator?

- The criteria for the seminar / clinic is recognized only by the person in charge of the clinic. The participants are not admissible for that criteria.

What is the point total necessary for a promotion for the 6th Dan and above?

- Point total does not apply for the high dan grading. Only age, time in grade and the criteria are required.

Regarding criteria for the Rokudan and above, are the St. Jean Kata Open Championships and the Canadian Championships recognized?

- Only the Open and Elite Canadian Championships are recognized. Since the Canadian Kata Championships occur during the Open Canadian Championship, they meet the criteria for participation in a competition.

Criteria to be promoted to high Dan grading are very hard to achieve for small provinces. What is the rationale behind this decision?

- The NGC analyzed Syllabi from 7 different countries and adjusted our own Syllabus to the Canadian reality. The NGC wants to support the commitment to the sport that people from all provinces put in judo. Most active Godans across Canada will have opportunities to continue their learning and development and work toward achieving whatever categories they require to apply for Rokudan, along with minimum age and time-in-rank requirements. Beyond that rank, we saw in our review in all other countries that the influence a judoka has nationally and internationally was recognized by other judo federations, and this became a major consideration in being promoted.

Why has there been a change in the category requirements for 6th Dan and above?

- Following an extensive review of the high dan syllabi in other countries, the NGC decided to create a new high Dan approach that would recognize both the competitive stream and the technical stream, consistent with other countries. In both cases, the new Syllabus reflects Judo Canada's values and allows for lifelong learning and development in judo.

Appendix A: Where can I see an example of how to demonstrate the syllabus techniques?

- There are links to video clips of all techniques on Judo Canada's Guidelines. Also, the NGC and PGCs/TGCs are to provide Grading clinics on techniques and katas regularly.

Grading Guidelines:

Providing pass/fail results with constructive feedback to the candidate at the examination upon completion of their assessment. Does this mean immediately after the presentation? What if the examination members want to discuss a certain candidate in a meeting at the end of the examination day with the whole committee in case of conflicting points of view?

- After each examination performance, judges consult each other to confirm the success or failure of the candidate including the strengths and weaknesses of the candidate's examination. Then, they bring the candidate and their Head Sensei to the judges' table for feedback and results.

With the possibility of the sensei of the candidate sitting across from the examiners, would he/she be in on the feedback given to the candidate after the completion of the assessment? I believe in transparency, but this could lead to confrontations with Grading Committee members. Maybe the sensei should only be allowed to talk with the Chair of the PGC/TGC.

- Consistent with Judo Canada's vision of transparency and fairness regarding the new Grading Syllabus, feedback must be given by the judges who have assessed each candidate, ideally immediately following the judges' discussion has concluded. Respecting these values by all parties should not result in any confrontation. Any confrontation that may arise should be reported through the proper procedures of Judo Canada through the Complaints and Dispute resolution policy.

If examiners do evaluate solely as Kata judges do in a tournament, older candidates or physically impaired candidates might fail their grading exam. Can examinations be adapted?

- The evaluators will have to be certified as national kata judges by 2023 but they will have to use their judgment in evaluating an older or a physically impaired candidate. The components of a technique should be demonstrated, and the capacity to perform at a Kata competition level is not required. Questions can be asked to the candidate to validate their knowledge of the Kata in cases where techniques were not demonstrated to a satisfactory level.

The examiners are using a score card that is marked out of 10 for the different required elements then the Chair of the PGC/TGC signs a form with the candidates marked as Repeat, Fair, Good, Very good, Excellent. If you average the scores of the 3 examiners what would be the score needed for each of fair, Good, Very good, Excellent that the Chair of the Grading Committee would put on his form? These are two different scoring systems.

- You are right we don't need to write Repeat, Fair, Good, Very good, Excellent. Only Pass, Fail or Repeat should be marked on the grading evaluation form by the Chair of the PGC/TGC for each element evaluated by the judges.

Are the scorecards filled out at the clinics for the competitive stream?

- No scorecards have to be filled at the competitive stream clinic.

The scorecards for Tachi-waza and Katame-waza- There are 8 separate listings of Tachi-waza exams and 4 each for Shime-waza, Kansetsu-waza and Osae-waza for the different Dan grades. The Katame-waza techniques have 5 techniques in each different exam. Are the judges to choose 3 techniques from these 5 for Shodan and 4 for Nidan and Sandan? Why weren't the cards made with the required number of techniques for each grading?

- You are right on the scorecards; there are more techniques offered than the number requested for the exam. It is the judges' decision which techniques from the list they will ask to meet the number of techniques required in the Syllabus. We did not do more exams cards to overload the Guidelines document, but all techniques are included on the exam cards.

Why do the Kata scorecards have extra evaluations at the bottom, normally most of these factors are taken into account with the execution of each technique. This is adding extra areas to someone's Kata evaluation to pick up errors that might already have been scored with the mark of the execution of the technique.

- The general elements found at the bottom of the Kata scorecards are mostly to give extra feedback to candidates. A "fail" or a "to improve" means a candidate will have to pay attention to these elements.