



Examination Guidelines

valid from 30 December 2023

All personal designations are to be understood as gender-neutral. For reasons of simplicity, the masculine form has been used in these examination regulations.

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General Examination Regulations

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§1 Scope of Application

1. These examination regulations govern examinations for gradings within KIAB/NMAC/cooperation partners.
2. Special provisions and details not determined in these examination regulations shall be regulated by the regional associations within their own area of responsibility.
3. These examination regulations are not a training programme.

§2 Gradings within KIAB/NMAC

1. KIAB/NMAC awards gradings on the basis of examinations or confers gradings with the obligation to wear the belt achieved in the respective colour.
2. The gradings are divided into Kyu or student grades and Dan grades.
3. Examinations in all areas are only valid with active membership in KIAB or through an active cooperation agreement.

§3 Responsibilities for Examinations

1. KIAB/NMAC is responsible for compliance with the examination regulations within its area of responsibility and shall appoint a responsible person.
2. Participation in examinations outside the club entered in the BUDO pass requires the consent of that club.
3. Participation in examinations outside KIAB/NMAC, for example with cooperation partners, requires approval.
4. KIAB/NMAC may conduct international and nationwide examinations.

§4 Review and Quality Assurance by KIAB/NMAC

1. KIAB/NMAC may review the conduct of examinations, in particular compliance with the examination regulations.
2. In the event of established violations, examinations may be declared invalid, conditions may be imposed and, where appropriate, examiner licences may be withdrawn.

PREPARATION OF EXAMINATIONS

§5 Registration and Announcement of Examinations

1. Examinations in clubs/schools must be registered with KIAB/NMAC.
2. KIAB/NMAC shall determine, within its area of responsibility and in consultation with the respective styles, from which Kyu grade examinations may be conducted. Dan examinations shall be conducted exclusively by the head of KIAB/NMAC or by an appointed examiner.

§6 Proof of Personal Requirements

1. Examination candidates must be in possession of a valid BUDO pass.
2. Previous examinations must be proven, for example by entry in the BUDO pass.
3. Character suitability shall be determined by the dojo head before the examination.
4. Before the actual examination, the path leading up to the examination shall already be assessed by the dojo head as follows:
 - Regular participation in training; the attendance list serves as proof.
 - Modest conduct.
 - Helpfulness towards other students.
 - Talent and will.
 - Respectful and disciplined behaviour inside and outside the dojo.
 - Loyalty towards students and masters as well as towards the style.

§7 Examination Fees

1. The examination fees payable by the dojo to KIAB are set out in Appendix A to the Examination Guidelines.
2. Member schools obtain examination materials, such as examination stamps and certificates, through the KIAB office.
3. Examination fees must be paid at least one month before the examination.

REQUIREMENTS FOR EXAMINATIONS

§8 Preparation Period and Minimum Age

1. The preparation period represents the minimum period that an examination candidate requires, with regular training, in order to safely learn and present the respective examination programme.
2. The preparation period for the respective examination is regulated by the dojo examination regulations.
3. The preparation period may be shortened if the examination candidate holds a valid Trainer C licence/youth leader licence of the BLSV or a valid SDI licence. For Kyu grades, the waiting period is generally six months; for examinations for 1st Dan, it is twelve months.
4. For Dan grades, the waiting period increases according to the grade to be achieved. A reduction may be claimed only once for Dan gradings, applying to the warrior grades 1st to 4th Dan.

§9 Mandatory Courses

1. For Kyu examinations, the clubs regulate whether, and if so which, mandatory courses must be attended actively during the preparation period.
2. For a Dan examination, the examination candidate must have actively participated in four suitable courses per year during the preparation period. Which seminars are suitable must be clarified in advance with the KIAB office. If participation in the above measures is not possible in a given year, the preparation period shall be extended accordingly.
3. Candidates for Dan examinations must provide proof of participation in first-aid training or refresher training which must not be older than one year.

§10 Licences and Licence Levels

1. Candidates for Dan examinations must hold a valid KIAB licence, at least at the following level:

1st and 2nd Dan	– assistant trainer in a club
3rd and 4th Dan	– SDI trainer or C youth leader
5th Dan	– dojo head or Trainer A or Examiner A or Project EVA
2. If the examination candidate does not hold a KIAB licence of the required level, the preparation period shall be extended by one year.
3. Acquisition, validity and proof of the various requirements are determined by KIAB/NMAC.

§11 Examination Boards

1. Examinations may only be conducted by Dan holders who possess a valid examiner licence for the style being examined.
2. The appointment of examiners is made by the President of KIAB/NMAC.
3. The examination board shall be composed in such a way that no more than one examiner belongs to the club of an examinee. Exceptions are regulated by the President of KIAB/NMAC.

CONDUCT OF EXAMINATIONS

§12 Basis of the Examination

1. In the examinations, examinees must demonstrate the techniques listed for the intended grading in the KIAB examination programmes and fulfil the required movement tasks. Only the officially submitted and approved examination programmes of the dojos shall be used.
2. The examination programme represents a minimum requirement and a cross-section of the abilities and skills to be learned.
3. The training itself should be considerably more extensive. The techniques contained should be learned against a variety of attacks; the respective defensive actions should be oriented towards the attacker's reaction and be situationally applicable under realistic conditions.
4. Personal safety during defensive action must always be observed.
5. The techniques of the examination programme must be demonstrated in a school-like manner and in accordance with the underlying principles.
6. The examinee chooses his partners from among the examination participants.
7. If an adult examination participant is injured during the examination, he decides himself whether or not to complete the examination. If a minor examination participant is injured, the examiner decides.
8. If an examination participant injures another participant solely through his own fault so that the latter can no longer begin or complete his own examination, both the participant and the person responsible for causing the injury shall be excluded from the further examination.

§13 Examinations for Seniors

1. Seniors within the meaning of the KIAB/NMAC examination regulations are examinees aged 45 and over.
2. Seniors show and demonstrate the examination techniques in an age-appropriate manner; they may be less dynamic, but the techniques must be demonstrated correctly.
3. If necessary, alternative techniques or solutions to tasks in the respective examination subjects may be demonstrated. In any case, the examination board must be informed before the start of the examination.
4. The prescribed assessment criteria remain in force.

§14 Examinations for Persons with Disabilities or Impairments

1. Persons with disabilities or impairments may acquire a grading within the meaning of these examination regulations either as part of a regular examination or in a special examination.
2. Depending on the type of disability or impairment, more breaks may be taken, separate partners may be used for the examination or individual parts thereof, aids or assistive devices may be used if the task cannot otherwise be completed due to the disability or impairment, alternative techniques or solutions may be demonstrated, and techniques may be performed with reduced intensity.
3. In principle, however, the examinee with disabilities or impairments must master the tasks of the intended grading.
4. The examinee shall submit suitable proof naming the restrictions or impairments if these are not immediately apparent.
5. The examination candidate shall inform the responsible body in advance, together with the registration, about the disability or impairment as well as the type and scope of the planned examination procedure.
6. The respective examination officer shall inform the examination candidate in good time and after consultation with the designated examiners whether and how the examination can be carried out.

§15 Examinations for Children

1. Examinations for children under 15 years of age shall be designed and conducted in a child-appropriate form.

ASSESSMENT AND DOCUMENTATION OF EXAMINATIONS

§16 Assessment of Examinations

1. The examination board assesses the performances shown in each examination subject as follows:
 - a) “very good” (grade 1) – error-free execution with a very good overall impression.
 - b) “good” (grade 2) – execution with a few minor errors or minimal individual deviations from the ideal form with a good overall impression.
 - c) “satisfactory” (grade 3) – execution with hesitation, minor errors or balance problems.
 - d) “sufficient” (grade 4) – execution with errors or minor deviations with at least a sufficient overall impression.
 - e) “deficient” (grade 5) – execution with errors beyond the fine range and with an unsatisfactory overall impression.
 - f) “insufficient” (grade 6) – execution with major errors and an overall impression that is no longer sufficient.

Intermediate grades are possible, for example 1.25, 1.5, 1.75, etc.

§17 Passing the Examination

1. To pass the examination, the examinee must achieve a grade of at least 4.49. If two subjects end with a grade of 5, or one subject with a grade of 6, the examination is not passed.
2. If an examinee is not technically optimally prepared but nevertheless fulfils all examination requirements, the chief examiner may make a positive decision on the basis of the additional development criteria regulated in §6. The points to be assessed under §6 may not account for more than half a grade.
3. If examinees fulfil all points under §6 and the technical assessment at the end is better than grade 2, an examiner may allow a student grade from yellow to blue to be skipped.

§18 Entry in the Examination List

1. Assessments and results of examinations are documented in prescribed examination lists. The handling of the examination lists is regulated by KIAB/NMAC.
2. The examiners assign a grade to each examinee for the performances shown in each examination subject and enter these grades in the examination lists.
3. They determine the overall grade for each examinee and decide whether the examination has been passed or not.
4. In the “overall grade” column, the sum of all grades awarded by the examiners is to be added and divided by the number of examiners and the number of examination subjects in order to determine the average grade. The examination list is signed by all participating examiners.
5. The fully completed examination lists are scanned and sent as PDF files to the KIAB office.

§19 Procedure in the Event of Failed Examinations – Minimum Waiting Period

1. If an examinee does not pass the examination, he may take another examination at the earliest after six weeks for Kyu examinations and after four months for Dan examinations.
2. Taking another examination on the same day, for example in the case of outstanding performance, is not permitted.

§20 Documentation of Examinations

1. Confirmation of the passed examination is made by entry in the BUDO pass, stating the date of the examination and the name of the chief examiner, by stamping and by the signature of the examination chairperson.
2. Each examinee receives a KIAB/NMAC certificate after passing the examination.

EXAMINER LICENCES

§21 Examiner Licences

1. An examiner licence may be obtained by a person who is a Dan holder of KIAB/NMAC, actively practises the style for which the examiner licence is to be acquired, and has actively participated in at least two appropriate courses and in an examiner licence course for initial acquisition during the twelve months prior to acquiring the examiner licence.
2. Training and further training for the granting of examiner licences for trainers and instructors in dojos/sports schools may only be conducted by the head of KIAB/NMAC or by an appointed person or a designated cooperation partner.
3. The examiner licence is granted in writing and is valid for one year.
4. The validity of the examiner licence may be extended if the examiner concerned has actively participated in one appropriate course per year during the period of validity and has attended an examiner licence course for further training in the relevant style before expiry of the validity period.
5. In the event of violations of the examination regulations, KIAB/NMAC may withdraw the examiner licence.

ENTRY INTO FORCE

§23 Entry into Force

These examination regulations entered into force on 10 July 2003.

Style-Specific – General – Examination Regulations

§1 Kyu and Dan Grades

1. KIAB/NMAC awards the following Kyu and Dan gradings in accordance with Part A of these examination regulations:

Kyu Grades

Grade	Belt	Preparation Period
6	White	Beginner
6.1	White with yellow tip	6 months
6.2	White with yellow	6 months
5	Yellow	6 months
5.1	Yellow with orange tip	6 months
5.2	Yellow with orange	6 months
4	Orange	6 months
4.1	Orange with green	6 months
3	Green	6 months
3.1	Green with blue	6 months
2	Blue	6 months
2.1	Blue with brown	6 months
1	Brown	1 year

Dan Grades

Grade	Belt	Preparation Period
1	Black	1 year
2	Black	2 years
3	Black	3 years
4	Red-black bars	4 years
5	Red-black bars or red-white bars	5 years
6	Red-black bars or red-white bars	5 years
7	Red-white bars	5 years
8	Red-white bars	5 years
9	Red	5 years
10	White with golden stripe	5 years

2. For Dan grades, stripes may be worn at one end of the belt to distinguish the Dan grades.
3. The 1st Dan is not conferred. It must be achieved by examination.

4. The examination sequence must generally be observed.
5. Intermediate examinations are intended exclusively for children under 14 years of age. They are intended to prepare and motivate children for the examination for the respective full belt.
6. In the Kyu grades, skipping is possible if an examinee receives an overall grade better than 2.0.

§2 Reduction of Preparation Periods for Kyu Examinations

1. The preparation period may be shortened up to 4th Kyu by attending three special courses; these must be requested from the KIAB office.
2. This option may be used only once. The course must not be more than twelve weeks in the past.

§3 Additional Requirements for Participation in Dan Examinations

1. Candidates for 1st or 2nd Dan must have actively participated in a course on self-defence and assistance in emergency situations; this must be entered in the pass.

§4 Examination Boards

1. Examinations from 6.1 Kyu to 3.1 Kyu may be conducted by one KIAB/NMAC Dan holder authorised to examine.
2. Examinations from 2nd Kyu onwards must be conducted by two KIAB/NMAC Dan holders authorised to examine.
3. Examinations from 1st Dan onwards must be conducted by three KIAB/NMAC Dan holders authorised to examine, each of whom must hold at least the Dan grade sought by the examinees.
4. If the President conducts an examination, no assessor is required for Dan grades up to 3rd Dan. From an examination for 4th to 5th Dan onwards, an examination board is required. However, the examination board may be graded lower than the grading sought by the examinee(s). The assessors confirm by their signature the correctness and proper conduct of the examination.
5. The maximum number of participants for one examination board per day is 20 participants for Kyu examinations and 4 participants for Dan examinations.
6. Examinations shall be arranged with regard to the minimum number of participants in such a way that the partner changes required by the examination regulations are possible.

§5 Examination Partners

1. If an examinee is unable to choose his partners from among the examination participants, the examination board shall decide on necessary exceptions.

§6 Recognition of Gradings

1. Gradings from other associations may be recognised as KIAB gradings. This is possible only once.
2. The requirements for this are regulated in the appendix.
3. Recognition up to and including 5th Dan is carried out by technical review of five examination tasks per Kyu and Dan grade, selected by the examiners.
4. The President of KIAB/NMAC decides on the recognition of higher Dan grades.

APPENDIX TO THE EXAMINATION GUIDELINES

Examination Fees for Kyu/Dan Grades

The examination is conducted personally by the head of KIAB/NMAC. The fees are:

Yellow	€12.00	Blue	€39.00
Orange	€17.00	Brown	€45.00
Green	€28.00	Black	€150.00 (1st Dan to 3rd Dan)
Black	€150.00		(1st Dan to 3rd Dan)
Red/Black	€200.00		(4th Dan)
Red/White	€250.00		(5th Dan)
Red/White	€300.00		(6th Dan)
Red/White	€400.00		(7th Dan)
Red/White	€500.00		(8th Dan)
Red	no fee		(9th and 10th Dan)

If a dojo is in its probationary period, namely one year after admission, examinations of any kind may only be conducted by the President or by KIAB/NMAC examiners appointed by him, in accordance with the statutes.

Examinations in the Dojo

The following regulation applies to dojos, provided that the dojo head holds the Official Instructor licence and the Examiner A or B licence. The B licence entitles the holder to conduct examinations up to 1st Kyu under his own responsibility if the examination chair is held by a 1st Dan who is at least 21 years old and has held the 1st Dan for at least one year.

For holders of the A licence, the following regulation applies:

3rd Dan examines up to a maximum of	1st Dan, with two	1st Dan assessors.
4th Dan examines up to a maximum of	2nd Dan, with two	2nd Dan assessors.
5th Dan examines up to a maximum of	3rd Dan, with two	3rd Dan assessors.
6th Dan examines up to a maximum of	4th Dan, with two	4th Dan assessors.

Exception: if the President chairs the examination, only two Dan holders are required as assessors, regardless of their grading.

General Examination Requirements

- Mastery of the technical sequence, meaning the examination programme of the respective style being examined.
- Fulfilment of the necessary requirements, for example minimum waiting period, first-aid certificate, possession of required licences, etc. In exceptional hardship cases, requirements may be submitted afterwards. This is, however, tied to a deadline. If the deadline expires, the examination is void.
- The minimum waiting period has been fulfilled.
- Valid KIAB/NMAC membership, proven by sports pass and annual stamp.
- The trainer proposes the student for examination.
- Examination-relevant activities must have been fulfilled, for example minimum number of seminars, etc.
- Examinations are valid only with the current examination certificates and simultaneous entry in the pass.
- The examination fee is paid no later than one month before the examination.

Minimum Waiting Periods for Dan Examinations

1st Kyu to	1st Dan:	1 year
1st Dan to	2nd Dan:	2 years
2nd Dan to	3rd Dan:	3 years
3rd Dan to	4th Dan:	4 years
4th Dan to	5th Dan:	5 years
5th Dan to	6th Dan:	5 years
6th Dan to	7th Dan:	5 years

7th Dan to	8th Dan:	5 years
8th Dan to	9th Dan:	5 years
9th Dan to	10th Dan:	5 years

Note: In the area of 2nd to 4th Dan, it is possible to confer a Dan upon application. However, valid reasons are required, such as illness or serious injury. The 1st Dan must in all cases be obtained by examination. In the area of 5th to 8th Dan, a reduction of the waiting period may be granted upon application, but by no more than two years and only once.

Examination Requirements for Dan Examinations

Dan examinations for 1st Dan/Sho-Dan (black belt) must be taken by examination. For this purpose, all points mentioned in the general examination requirements must be fulfilled, and additionally:

- Submission of a written paper on the topic of “Budo sport”.
- Admission to the examination in accordance with consultation with the President must be available.
- An examinee must provide proof of further training for:
 - a) Trainer licence, further training or extension, for example in Germany a DOSB C/A licence and/or ÜL-F licence of a professional association such as BKB e.V., WAKO, BAKU, WKA, etc.
 - b) General further training at seminars for:
 - referees
 - examiners
 - instructors
- Minimum age for senior Dan grades is 18 years.
- Dan examinations are the responsibility of the association President. Only he is authorised to conduct Dan grades. Exceptions exist only in hardship cases if the President is prevented due to official indispensability or illness. This is emphasised because the President wishes to know all his Dan holders personally.

Awarding of Honorary Dan Grades, 2nd to 4th Dan Warrior Grades

In accordance with the resolution of 3 February 2011, an independent international committee was established. After consultation and examination of applications, this committee also decides whether a KIAB/NMAC martial artist may receive a grading without examination within the warrior grades 2nd to 4th Dan, which normally must be achieved exclusively by examination, on the basis of outstanding achievements. It should be noted that this can only be the case if a martial artist continues to devote himself uninterruptedly and with full dedication to Budo sport and, due to physical limitations or health reasons, can no longer achieve these grades by examination. Nevertheless, this person must continue to be connected with Budo sport, for example in administration, organisation, as a trainer, etc.

In order to wear a Dan grade, meaning a black belt, in a Budo sport within KIAB/NMAC, a Budoka must be worthy of being a “Sensei” in terms of technical ability and knowledge, mental maturity and conduct. This Japanese word combines the meaning of master, father and teacher. In the Kun-Tai-Ko International Association of Budo (KIAB) and the National Martial Arts Committee (NMAC), Dan gradings below 5th Dan are acquired through a very elaborate and demanding examination. Under very special conditions, however, outstanding merits may also be honoured by the awarding of a Dan grade.

In principle, the following requirements must be fulfilled for the awarding of a Dan grade without technical examination:

- The Budoka must be worthy, in terms of ability, knowledge and conduct, to wear the grade awarded.
- The Dan candidate must still participate actively in Budo activities in some form, for example as an instructor, trainer, competition supervisor or as a club or association official.
- For an honorary award, the same waiting periods and admission requirements apply as for acquisition by examination.

- The award is subject to a probationary period; this corresponds to the waiting period until the next higher Dan grade. Since this is an award, the grading may also be withdrawn later if the graded person subsequently proves unworthy, for example through serious violations of Budo etiquette or through conduct that damages the reputation of KIAB/NMAC and Budo in general. Before a decision is withdrawn, however, the person concerned shall be given the opportunity to comment on the allegations.
- The awarding and any withdrawal of an honorary grade shall be decided by an international committee consisting of high-ranking KIAB/NMAC members or members of cooperating organisations. At least two thirds of the committee must approve a decision. The acting KIAB/NMAC President has a right of veto and is also responsible for appointing the members of this committee. Legal recourse is excluded.
- A Dan candidate or athlete may not nominate himself. Rather, the proposal for such an award must be made by the direct teacher or dojo head. This proposal must be demonstrably and comprehensively justified in writing.
- The committee founded on 3 February 2011 is called the International Grade of Honor Commission (IGHC). It currently consists of the representatives, meaning national presidents, of KIAB.

Awarding of Honorary Dan Grades from 5th Dan

The first KIAB/NMAC honorary Dan grade is the 5th Dan (Go-Dan). From the last proven examination to any possible award, a minimum waiting or maturity period of five years is required. The 4th Dan must be proven by pass entry and certificate. The award is a discretionary provision. There is no entitlement to receive the honorary grade. Criteria that may lead to appointment include:

- Constant exemplary conduct in the spirit of Budo.
- Permanent activity in martial arts.
- Leadership duties over a period of at least four years.
- Exemplary conduct in Budo in the past.
- Only those organised with a school in NMAC or KIAB may receive an honorary grade.
- Publication of a work or winning championship titles in competitions.
- Proven activity as an official, seminar leader, school head or tournament organiser.
- Membership in KIAB/NMAC for at least five years.

Note:

If the holder of an honorary grade violates these requirements and thereby harms KIAB or NMAC and its cooperation partners, or Budo in any way, the Dan grade already awarded shall be withdrawn immediately and this shall be published publicly. This is intended to prevent "black sheep" from entering NMAC or KIAB. There is no entitlement to reimbursement of fees. Dan grades issued by KIAB/NMAC are valid exclusively for the duration of membership. The honorary diploma must be returned to the office by registered mail after withdrawal from KIAB/NMAC or after revocation.

Tournaments and Competitions

The awarding of Dan gradings on the occasion of outstanding performances at major international events, such as World Games, World Championships or European Championships, is not possible. Contributions to NMAC or KIAB do not include contributions or fees to other professional associations specialising in sporting competition. These entry fees, competition passes, etc. must be obtained separately and will be invoiced.

Dan Recognition Certificates

Dan grades may be recognised. This is only possible if they are proven by a pass entry or certificate. KIAB and NMAC reserve the right to verify the certificates submitted. This is intended to deny official recognition to the many Budo charlatans.

- 1st to 4th Dan: €75.00 each
 - 5th to 8th Dan: €150.00 each
 - 9th to 10th Dan: €250.00
- (A high-quality DIN A3 certificate is included in this fee.)

Instructor Recognition

It is possible to have an instructor licence from another association recognised by NMAC/KIAB. Upon recognition, the instructor receives a trainer diploma. The person's own instructor/trainer certificate would be sufficient to be active as a trainer. It is not mandatory to have an NMAC/KIAB instructor recognition certificate issued. Upon request, NMAC/KIAB reserves the right to verify the diplomas and certificates submitted.

- **€90.00** (A high-quality DIN A3 certificate is included in this fee.)