

ITKF TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION GUIDE

July 2021

**INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONAL KARATE FEDERATION
TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION GUIDE**

July 2021 Edition

Number	Content	Pages
No. 1	Ranking	1 – 7
No. 2	Ranking Examiner	8 – 11
No. 3	Certified Coach	12 - 13
No. 4	Qualified Judge	14 – 16
Appendix	Ranking Standards	17 – 31

1. RANKING

I. GENERAL

A. ITKF Ranking

1. The ITKF itself does not issue ranking but rather recognizes the ranking of each style/school provided the respective style's/school's ranking requirements matched by the ITKF's ranking standards.
2. The ITKF recognizes only ITKF registered ranking, and no other ranking.
3. Participants in ITKF sanctioned events (unless with an officially approved written exception from ITKF Technical Committee) must have ITKF Registered Dan ranking in accordance with ITKF Dan registration policies.
4. Recognition of graduations and issuance of official diplomas is the exclusive prerogative of ITKF. Regional Organizations do not have this function.

B. Approved Style/School Eligibility Requirements

The ITKF gives approval to style/school organizations that have ranking requirements that match the ITKF ranking criteria. These approved organizations are to be known as International Eligible Style Organizations (I.E.S.O.).

1. International Approval
 - a. The ITKF Technical Committee gives approval to international style/school organizations which have five or more countries in each of 3 continents and which have matching ITKF ranking standards; these are to be known as International Eligible Style Organizations (I.E.S.O.).
 - b. A national member of an I.E.S.O. automatically becomes an E.S.O. in its respective country.

2. National Approval

Other than I.E.S.O., ITKF Member Organizations (ITKF M.O.) may give approval to respective style organizations if ranking requirements match ITKF Ranking Standards. This approval shall be through the approval and authority of the ITKF Technical Committee.

II. RANKING EXAMINATIONS

A. Sho (1st) – Roku (6th) Dan

1. Examination

Each E.S.O. conducts examinations under the supervision of their respective ITKF M.O.

2. Examination Procedure

- a. Examinations are conducted according to each respective style's methods based on ITKF requirements.
- b. Official examinations must be sanctioned by the respective ITKF M. O. Technical Committee
- c. Examinations are conducted by ITKF registered examiner(s).

Remarks:

- 1) *In the case of the unavailability of local registered examiner(s), organizations can invite ITKF qualified examiner(s) from another country.*
- 2) *In the case of an unapproved E.S.O. style/school, the examination must be held in the presence of a registered ITKF M.O. technical representative who must be a registered ITKF examiner.*

B. Shichi (7th) Dan and Above

1. Examination

Each E.S.O. conducts examinations under the supervision of their respective ITKF M.O.

2. Examination Procedure

- a. Examinations are conducted according to each respective style's methods based on ITKF requirements.
- b. Official examinations must be sanctioned by the respective ITKF M.O.
- c. Examinations are conducted by ITKF registered examiner(s).

Remarks:

- 1) *In the case of the unavailability of local registered examiner(s), organizations can invite examiner(s) from another country.*
- 2) *In the case of an unapproved E.S.O. style/school, the examination must be held in the presence of a registered ITKF M.O. technical representative who must be a registered ITKF examiner.*
- 3) *Upon recommendation of a respective ITKF M.O., the ITKF Technical Committee makes the final approval of successful promotion. ITKF Technical Committee reserves the right to require additional information or research from candidate in addition to ITKF M.O. recommendation.*

III. RANKING REGISTRATION

A. Sho (1st) Dan through Roku (6th) Dan

Documents and fees are to be submitted through respective ITKF M.O. to the ITKF Administrative Office.

Registration materials must be submitted within 90 days of the examination date.

1. The completed ITKF Dan Registration Application Form. It must bear the signatures of ITKF registered examiner(s) and ITKF M.O. representative(s).

Remark:

In case of non-E.S.O. examination, the Dan Registration form must have signatures of the ITKF M.O. Technical Committee Chairman and the President of the non-E.S.O. organization.

2. *A thesis. In case of ranking from Yon (4th) Dan to Roku (6th) Dan, each applicant must also submit a thesis on a technical subject pertinent to Traditional Karate, written in English and typed double space in 12-point font size on a minimum of 7 pages (Cover Page {Title, Author, Country, and Date} / Abstract {350 words} and Key Words {3} / Introduction / Objectives / Theme development and Discussion / Conclusion / References / Appendices).*

3. Registration fees, as decided by the ITKF Board of Directors.

B. Shichi (7th) Dan and Above

Documents and fees are to be submitted through respective ITKF M.O. to the ITKF Administrative Office.

1. The completed ITKF Dan Registration Application Form. It must bear the signatures of ITKF registered examiner(s) and ITKF M.O. representative(s).

Remark:

In case of non-E.S.O. examination, the Dan Registration form must have signatures of the ITKF M.O. Technical Committee Chairman and the President of the non-E.S.O. organization.

2. The recommendation letter from the respective ITKF M.O. Technical Committee.
3. A thesis. Each applicant must submit a thesis on a technical subject pertinent to Traditional Karate, written in English and typed in 12-point font size, double space and a minimum length of 10 pages (Cover Page {Title, Author, Country and Date} / Abstract {350 words} and Key Words {3} / Introduction / Objectives / Theme development and Discussion / Conclusion / References / Appendices). A copy of the Examination Thesis must be forwarded to ITKF Technical Committee with the ITKF M.O.'s recommendation letter.
4. Registration fees, as decided by the ITKF Directors Meeting.
5. The ITKF Technical Committee reviews and approves the ranking.
6. If ITKF Technical Committee gives approval of the application resulting in automatic registration. If no approval – no registration. But, official feedback of deficiencies provided to the candidate for future progress.

Remark:

In case of an application denial by the Technical Committee, the registration fee is refunded.

IV. RECOMMENDED RANK

Registration procedures are the same as for regular ranking registration except that on the registration form, make the notation as to “Recommended _____ Dan”.

1. Make sure to clearly indicate the notation as to “Recommended _____ Dan”.
2. Send the recommendation letter from the respective ITKF M.O. Technical Committee to ITKF Technical Committee.
3. Send the registration fee. The fees are decided by the ITKF Directors Meeting.

V. DIPLOMA

The date on the diploma is the same as the ITKF registration date.

ITKF will issue the digital Diploma with QR Code.

VI. HONORARY RANKING

The procedure is as follows:

- A. The respective ITKF M.O. submits the following documents and fee to the ITKF Administrative Office:**
 1. A recommendation letter including reasons for recommending honorary ranking.
 2. Name of candidate (title, address, and short biography).
 3. Processing fees, as decided by the ITKF of Directors Meeting.
- B. ITKF Directors Meeting Ranking Approval**

The ITKF Directors Meeting makes final decision for honorary ranking.
- C. ITKF issues the digital diploma with QR Code for Honorary Ranking upon approval.**

2. RANKING EXAMINER

I. GENERAL

For ranking to be recognized by ITKF, the examination must be conducted by an Examiner registered with the ITKF.

II. INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC QUALIFICATIONS

International and Domestic qualifications are awarded under the following authority:

A. International (Classes AA, A, B and C)

International qualifications are issued under the direct authority of the ITKF Technical Committee upon completion of the qualification process. ITKF Member Organization (ITKF M.O.) may not ignore or over-ride the qualifications issued by the ITKF.

B. Domestic (Class D and E)

Domestic qualifications are issued under the authority of the respective ITKF M.O. Technical Committee, provided the ITKF M.O. has met the technical requirements of the ITKF and has been granted approval to issue Domestic ITKF qualifications under the authority of the ITKF by the ITKF Technical Committee.

III. CLASSES OF REGISTERED EXAMINERS

Registered Examiners include AA, A, B, C, D and E classes. The authority of each class is as follows:

Class E and D: One class D or two class E Examiner can conduct up to and including an Ichi (1st) - Kyu exam.

Class C: One class C Examiner can conduct up to and including a Sho (1st) - Dan exam; two can conduct a Ni (2nd) - Dan exam.

Class B: One Class B Examiner can conduct up to and including a Ni-Dan exam; two can conduct a San (3rd) - Dan exam.

Class A: One Class A Examiner can conduct up to and including a Yon (4th) Dan exam; two can conduct a Go (5th) Dan and three can conduct a Roku (6th) Dan examination.

Class AA: One Class AA Examiner can conduct up and including a Go (5th) Dan exam; two can conduct a Hoku (6th) Dan, and three can conduct higher examinations.

Remarks:

- 1) *Class E and D examiner can only conduct an exam within his/her own respective country.*
- 2) *Each examiner is limited to testing within his/her own respective style. (For further details see ITKF Ranking Standards)*
- 3) *Must pass ITKF Examiner Qualification requirements, including ITKF sanctioned examination criteria.*

IV. NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTERED EXAMINER

A. ITKF Certified Coaches Qualification

B. Recommendation by Respective Style Organization

Remark:

Style Organization must be approved as International Eligible Style Organization (I.E.S.O.) by ITKF; see ITKF Technical Qualification Guide No. 1 "Ranking".

C. Registered Rank with ITKF

1. **Class E:** San-Dan or higher
2. **Class D:** Yon-Dan or higher
3. **Class C:** Go-Dan or higher
4. **Class B:** Roku-Dan or higher
5. **Class A:** Shichi-Dan or higher
6. **Class AA:** Hachi-Dan or higher

D. Any other requirements as stated by ITKF Ranking Standards (See ITKF Ranking Standards)

V. REGISTERED RANKING EXAMINERS

A. Registration

The following documents are to be sent to the ITKF Administrative Office through the respective ITKF Member Organization (ITKF M.O.):

1. Completed Registered Examiner Registration Form.

Remark:

The signatures of the respective member ITKF M.O. Technical Chairman and E.S.O. representatives are required.

2. Copy of the ITKF Certified Coach Diploma.

3. Registration fees, as decided by the ITKF Directors Meeting.

B. Diploma

The ITKF will issue the appropriate digital diploma with QR Code to the registered examiner.

VI. TERMS OF RENEWAL

A. The term of a registered examiner is for a period of two years or less, beginning from initial date of registration to the end of the following year.

B. Renewal Procedure

To qualify for renewal, the following documents and fees are to be sent through the respective ITKF M.O. to ITKF Administrative Office:

1. Completed ITKF Ranking Examiner Renewal Application Form.

2. Renewal fees, as decided by the ITKF Directors Meeting.

3. Participate in a Master Course or Examiners Course approved by the ITKF.

4. Completion of any Technical Requirements as outlined by the ITKF Technical Committee

Remarks:

1) 3 months after the end of a term, new registration is required. (See V)

2) Upon renewal, the ITKF will issue a digital diploma with QR Code.

VII. REGISTRATION TO A HIGHER-CLASS LEVEL

In the case of an examiner attaining the next higher class, registration procedures must be followed as outlined in V. If any portion of the former class rating term still remains upon reaching the higher-class rating, there is no refund of fees.

3. CERTIFIED COACH

I. GENERAL

To be officially qualified to coach in an official event, an individual must have an ITKF Certified Coach's license; also, an ITKF Ranking Examiner must have an ITKF Certified Coach's license.

II. QUALIFICATIONS OF CERTIFIED COACH

- A. Hold San-Dan or higher rank.
- B. Have completed an ITKF sanctioned Certified Coaches Course and successfully taken the Certified Coaches examination (within one year of registration).
- C. Within one year, have participated in and successfully completed an ITKF sanctioned Judges Seminar.
- D. Submit recommendation from respective style organization.

III. REGISTRATION

A. Registration

Through the respective ITKF Member Organization (ITKF M.O.), send the following documents and fees to the ITKF Administrative Office:

- 1. Completed ITKF Certified Coaches Registration Form.
- 2. Copy of certification of passing ITKF Certified Coaches Examination (within one year).
- 3. Copy of certification of successful completion of ITKF sanctioned Judges Seminar (within one year).
- 4. Registration Fees, as decided by the ITKF Directors Meeting.

B. Diploma

The ITKF Administrative Office will issue the appropriate digital Diploma with QR Code.

IV. TERMS OF RENEWAL

- A. The term of a Certified Coach is two years or less, beginning from initial date of registration to the end of the following year.
- B. For renewal before the end of the term, the individual must send the following documents and fees to the ITKF Administrative Office through their respective ITKF M.O.:
 - 1. Completed ITKF Certified Coaches Renewal Application Form.
 - 2. Copy of certification of completion of ITKF sanctioned Judges Seminar or Judges Refresher Course.
 - 3. Verification of completion of any technical requirements as determined by the ITKF Technical Committee.
 - 4. Renewal fees, as decided by the ITKF Directors Meeting.

Remark:

3 months after the end of a term, new registration is required, and the candidate must complete a new registration procedure as outlined in II.

4. QUALIFIED JUDGE

I. GENERAL

ITKF Qualified Judges must judge all ITKF official competitions.

II. TYPE, CLASS AND AUTHORITY OF QUALIFIED JUDGES

A. Type

There are two types of Qualified Judges: Kumite and Kata.

B. Class

Each type of Qualified Judge has an A, B, C (international level) and D (domestic level) class rating.

C. Authority

1. Because of varying qualifications, a Kata judge cannot judge a Kumite event or vice versa; however, the same individual can qualify to judge both Kumite and Kata.

2. Judging Capacities

A. Class A

Class A Judge can serve as Kan-sa (Arbitrator) or Shu-shin (Referee) of world-class international competitions and any other judging activities.

B. Class B

Class B Judge can serve as Shu-shin of Continental or regional scale international competitions or as Fuku-shin (Corner Judge) of world-class international competitions.

C. Class C

Class C Judge can serve as Fuku-shin of Continental or regional level international competitions.

D. Class D

Class D Judge can serve as Shu-shin of national competitions.

III. JUDGES QUALIFICATIONS (Kumite and Kata)

A. Class A

1. Two or more years of experience as Class B Judge.
2. After receiving Class B qualification, completion of the ITKF International Judges' Promotion Course and successful completion of Class A Judge's examination.
3. Roku-Dan or higher rank registered with the ITKF.

B. Class B

1. Two or more years of experience as Class C Judge.
2. After receiving Class C qualification, completion of the ITKF International Judges' Promotion Course and successful completion of Class B Judge's examination.
3. Go-Dan or higher rank registered with the ITKF.

C. Class C

1. Two or more years of experience as a Class D judge.
2. After receiving Class D qualification, completion of a sanctioned Continental or ITKF International Judges' Promotion Course and successful completion of Class C Judge's examination.
3. Yon-Dan or higher rank registered with the ITKF.

D. Class D

1. Completion of an ITKF sanctioned National Judges' Seminar or Judges' Refresher Course.
2. Successful completion of an ITKF sanctioned Class D judge's examination.
3. San-Dan or higher rank registered with the ITKF.

IV. REGISTRATION OF JUDGES QUALIFICATION

A. Registration

Through the respective ITKF M.O., send the following documents and fees to the ITKF Administrative Office:

1. Completed Qualified Judge Registration Form.
2. Copy of certification of passing of Qualified Judges Examination (within one year).
3. Qualified Judge's Registration Fees, as decided by the ITKF of Directors Meeting.

Remarks:

- 1) *Individual must register separately for Kumite and Kata.*
- 2) *In the case of attaining a higher-class rating, a new registration must be submitted; there are no refunds of fees if previous term has not expired prior to moving to a higher class.*

B. Diploma

The ITKF will issue the appropriate digital Diploma with QR Code.

V. TERMS OF RENEWAL

A. The Term of a Qualified Judge is for a period of two years or less, beginning from initial date of registration to the end of the following year.

B. Renewal

For renewals before the end of the current term, send the following documents and fees through the respective ITKF M.O. to the ITKF Administrative

Office:

1. Completed ITKF Qualified Judge Renewal Application Form.
2. Copy of certification of completion of the ITKF International Promotion Course or the ITKF sanctioned Judges' Seminar or Judges' Refresher Course (within one year).
3. Verification of any technical requirements as determined by the ITKF Technical Committee.
4. Renewal Fees, as decided by the ITKF of Directors Meeting.

Remarks:

- 1) *3 months after a term has expired, the registrant must begin a new registration procedure (see IV-A).*
- 2) *Upon renewal, the ITKF will issue the appropriate digital diploma with QR Code.*

APPENDIX

RANKING STANDARDS

RANKING STANDARDS

Article 5

Ranking Standards

5.1 General

Under these standards, the ITKF recognizes karate-do ranking that is in turn recognized by its own country's ITKF Member Organization (ITKF M.O.).

5.2 Definition

Ranking is the evaluation of an individual's progress towards the attainment of human perfection through the practice of karate. This evaluation is not based solely upon the physical techniques of karate. It encompasses the entire human being's physical, moral, and spiritual development. Promotions in rank are awarded in proportion to an individual's degree of development toward the karate goals of perfection. The established standards of progress and criteria for advancement are explained as follows.

5.3 Type of Ranking

There are three types of ranking, and they are as follows:

1. **Regular Rank:**

The stage of progress of the human character as reached through physical and spiritual practice of karate.

2. **Recommended Rank:**

The stage of progress of the human character as reached through an individual's continued practice as well as one's total contribution and service to the development of karate.

3. **Honorary Rank:**

An award of rank as a result either directly or indirectly of one's service and support of the development of karate.

5.4 Regular Ranking Standards

The ranking standard for each development level is defined as follows:

HACHI-KYU (8 th Kyu)	This is the ability level wherein the individual is able to perform and apply the simplest external actions and techniques.
SHICHI-KYU (7 th Kyu)	
ROKU-KYU (6 th Kyu)	Each of these levels requires an increased stage of development of both technical and mental skills.
GO-KYU (5 th Kyu)	
YON-KYU (4 th Kyu)	
SAN-KYU (3 rd Kyu)	Must have the general ability to compete under the international competition rules with controlled simple and effective techniques.
NI-KYU (2 nd Kyu)	
ICHI-KYU (1 st Kyu)	At this point, the individual must be capable of executing all fundamental body movements and techniques with proper application. This includes all hand and leg techniques.
SHO-DAN (1 st Dan)	This level necessitates a further maturation of abilities. All basic body movements and techniques, including hand and leg techniques, can be applied with extended force and proper application in basic combinations.
NI-DAN (2 nd Dan)	This state requires the personal assimilation and performance of all basic body movements and techniques to such a degree that their application is in accord with the individual's own unique body demands.
SAN-DAN (3 rd Dan)	At this position, the individual has acquired the understanding of the underlying principles in all basic body movements and techniques. Moreover, this understanding can be demonstrated in the application of techniques under varied circumstances and conditions.
YON-DAN (4 th Dan)	The individual attaining this standing has exemplified knowledge of the principles of body movements and techniques and their application under varied conditions to such a degree that the ability to instruct others has been gained.
GO-DAN (5 th Dan)	This is the level wherein research has been completed in some limited area. This research includes its application in a manner that is both relevant and applicable to the individual's particular physique.
ROKU-DAN (6 th Dan)	The attainment of this position necessitates the performance of karate research in an area that by its nature has a universal benefit to be derived by its application.
SHICHI-DAN (7 th Dan)	To achieve this level, the individual must have undertaken advanced research through actual application and extensive testing of the general research technique.

HACHI-DAN (8 th Dan)	At this point, research must have been completed in a new and previously unknown area.
KYU-DAN (9 th Dan)	The requirements for this standard call for an uncommon dedication for an extended period of time to the areas of individual achievement, research and technique. This dedication must have culminated in karate achievement and development of the highest and most extraordinary order. Moreover, this accumulated knowledge and expertise must have been utilized in the general service of karate development.
JU-DAN (10 th Dan)	This is the stage where the individual has finally neared the highest image of karate development. This has been brought about by the continuous practice and pursuit of the truth that is to be found in the human ideal.

Remarks:

- 1) *Basic Technique: Includes all stances, punching, striking, blocking, and kicking.*
- 2) *Each level of ranking requires that the individual has accomplished all preceding ranking requirements.*

5.5 Recommended Ranking Standards

1. Has applied oneself by hard work, through continuous practice to achieve a high spiritual development. However, there is a physical limitation or handicap.
2. Has provided distinguished service through instruction and continued practice but is limited or lacking in technique for respective rank.
3. Has fulfilled necessary regular ranking requirements but through circumstances has been unable to be evaluated under required ranking procedures.
4. Any circumstances other than described above and have contributed to the advancement of karate, such as research, development, practice, etc.

5.6 Honorary Ranking Standards

Must have the respect of the community by virtue of one's good character. The following is a detailed order of such ranking conditions:

SHO-DAN (1 st Dan)	Has provided indirect support of karate at the local community level within a country or territory.
NI-DAN (2 nd Dan)	Has provided direct support of karate at the local community level within a country or territory.
SAN-DAN (3 rd Dan)	Has provided indirect support of karate at the national level.
YON-DAN (4 th Dan)	Has provided direct support of karate at the national level or may be a local dignitary or leader who has provided indirect support.
GO-DAN (5 th Dan)	Has provided indirect support of karate as a national dignitary or leader in such areas as social, educational, and financial, or may be a local dignitary or leader who has provided direct support.
ROKU-DAN (6 th Dan)	Has provided direct support of karate as a national leader.
SHICHI-DAN (7 th Dan)	Has provided indirect support of karate as a national sovereign or top leader or highest official.
HACHI-DAN (8 th Dan)	Has provided direct support of karate as a national sovereign, top leader or highest official.
KYU-DAN (9 th Dan)	Has provided indirect support of karate as an international leader or internationally respected figure.
JU-DAN (10 th Dan)	Has provided direct support of karate as an international leader or internationally respected figure.

5.7 Training Term and Age Requirements

KYU	TRAINING TERM	AGE REQUIREMENTS	REMARKS
HACHI-KYU (8 TH KYU)	More than 3 months practice	None	None No recommended Kyu ranking
SHICHI-KYU (7 TH KYU)	More than 3 months practice after receiving HACHI (8th) KYU	None	
ROKU-KYU (6 TH KYU)	More than 3 months practice after receiving SHICHI (7th) KYU	None	
GO-KYU (5 TH KYU)	More than 3 months practice after receiving ROKU-KYU (6 th Kyu)	None	
YON-KYU (4 TH KYU)	More than 3 months practice after receiving GO-KYU (5 th Kyu)	None	
SAN-KYU (3 RD KYU)	More than 3 months practice after receiving YON-KYU (4 th Kyu)	None	
NI-KYU (2 ND KYU)	More than 4 months practice after receiving SAN-KYU (3 rd Kyu)	None	
ICHI-KYU (1 ST KYU)	More than 6 months practice after receiving NI-KYU (2 nd Kyu)	None	

RANK	MINIMUM TRAINING TERM FOR REGULAR RANK	MINIMUM TRAINING TERM FOR RECOMMENDED RANK	MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENTS
SHO-DAN (1 st Dan)	More than 3 years total practice or 10 months after received ICHI (1 st) KYU	More than 3,5 years total practice or 1,2 years after receiving ICHI (1 st) KYU	Must be at least 16 years old
NI-DAN (2 nd Dan)	More than 2 years after receiving SHO (1 st) DAN	3 years or more after SHO (1 st) DAN	Must be at least 21 years old
SAN-DAN (3 rd Dan)	More than 3 years after receiving NI (2 nd) DAN	4 years or more after NI (2 nd) DAN	Must be at least 25 years old
YON-DAN (4 th Dan)	More than 4 years after receiving SAN (3 rd) DAN	5 years or more after SAN (3 rd) DAN	Must be at least 30 years old
GO-DAN (5 th Dan)	More than 5 years after receiving YON (4 th) DAN	6 years or more after YON (4 th) DAN	Must be at least 36 years old
ROKU-DAN (6 th Dan)	More than 6 years after receiving GO (5 th) DAN	7 years or more after GO (5 th) DAN	Must be at least 42 years old
SHICHI-DAN (7 th Dan)	More than 7 years after receiving ROKU (6 th) DAN	8 years or more after ROKU (6 th) DAN	Must be at least 48 years old
HACHI-DAN (8 th Dan)	More than 8 years after receiving SHICHI (7 th) DAN	9 years or more after SHICHI (7 th) DAN	Must be at least 56 years old
KYU-DAN (9 th Dan)	More than 9 years after receiving HACHI (8 th) DAN	10 years or more after HACHI (8 th) DAN	Must be at least 65 years old
JU-DAN (10 th Dan)	More than 10 years after receiving KYU (9 th) DAN	11 years or more after KYU (9 th) DAN	Must be at least 75 years old

5.8 Qualifications of Examiner

Class E and D:

Necessary Ranking: SAN (3rd) DAN or Higher

General Standards:

1. **Kata**
 - a) Must understand technique and application for all kata used for HACHI (8th) KYU through and including SHO (1st) DAN.
 - b) Understands and can demonstrate all basic elements of technique.
 - c) Uses fair and objective judgment.
2. **Kihon**
 - a) Understands and can demonstrate the underlying principles for all body movements and techniques required for all HACHI (8th) KYU through SHO (1st) DAN examinations.
 - b) Uses fair and objective judgment.
3. **Kumite**
 - a) Understands and can demonstrate the underlying principles for all body movements and techniques required for all HACHI (8th) KYU through SHO (1st) DAN examinations.
 - b) Uses fair and objective judgment.
4. **Rules**

Must know thoroughly and be able to explain all ITKF Ranking Rules.
5. **Good Character and Judgment**

Must be considered of the highest character and be known for fair, objective and impartial judgment.
6. **Has passed the ITKF M.O. sanctioned qualifying examination as approved by the ITKF.**

Class C

Necessary Ranking: **GO (5th) DAN** or Higher

General Standards:

In addition to those standards for Class E and D criteria the following are required:

1. Understands the principles of karate techniques.
2. Has 10 or more years of experience as a karate instructor.
3. Has the ability and can provide corrective instructions to NI (2nd) DAN examinee.
4. Has 4 or more years as a Class D examiner.
5. Has successfully completed the ITKF sanctioned qualifying process.

Class B

Necessary Ranking: **ROKU (6th) DAN** or Higher

General Standards:

In addition to those standards for Class C criteria the following are required:

1. Understands the principles of karate instruction.
2. Has the ability and can provide corrective instructions to SAN (3rd) DAN examinee.
3. Has 5 or more years as a Class C examiner.
4. Has successfully completed the ITKF sanctioned qualifying process.

Class A

Necessary Ranking: **SHICHI (7th) DAN** or Higher

General Standards:

In addition to those standards for Class B criteria the following are required:

1. Has performed general research in karate and has experience in applying such research.
2. Has the ability to evaluate someone else's research objectively and impartially.
3. Has 6 or more years as a Class B Examiner.
4. Has successfully completed the ITKF sanctioned qualifying process.

Class AA

Necessary Ranking: **HACHI (8th) DAN** or Higher

General Standards:

In addition to those standards for Class A criteria the following are required:

1. Has the ability to assess the technical and personal development of graduates.
2. Has 7 or more years as a Class A Examiner.
3. Has successfully completed the ITKF sanctioned qualifying process.

5.9 Required Examiners

HACHI (8th) through ICHI (1st) KYU One class D (or higher); or two class E examiners.
(**1D or 2E**)

SHO (1st) DAN	One Class C (or higher) Examiner; or two Class D Examiners; or one Class D and two Class E Examiners. (1C or 2D or 1D + 2E)
NI (2nd) DAN	One Class B (or higher) Examiner; or two Class C Examiners; or one Class C and two Class D. (1B or 2C or 1C + 2D)
SAN (3rd) DAN	One Class A Examiner; or two Class B Examiners; or one Class B and two Class C Examiners; or four Class C Examiners. (1A or 2B or 1B + 2C or 4C)
YON (4th) DAN	One Class A and one Class B Examiners; or three Class B Examiners. (1A + 1B or 3B)
GO (5th) DAN	One Class AA Examiner; or two Class A Examiners. (1AA or 2A)
ROKU (6st) DAN and above	One Class AA and one Class A Examiners; or three Class A Examiners. (1AA + 1 A or 3A) Approval of ITKF Technical Committee.
SHITI (7st) DAN and above	Two Class AA Examiners and one Class A Examiner. (2AA + 1A) Approval of ITKF Technical Committee.

5.10 Examination Standard for Regular Ranking

RANK	CONTENTS OF EXAMINATION	MAIN POINT OF EXAMINATION
HACHI (8 th) KYU	KATA - Most basic Kata.	Correct body movement.
	KIHON - Most basic and simple blocking, punching and kicking techniques.	Outside expression of basic technique.
	KUMITE - Most simple application of basic technique.	
SHICHI (7 th) through ICHI (1 st) KYU	KATA - Shows progressive technical development using basic katas.	SHICHI (7 th) – YON (4 th) KYU - Check correct movement for technique. SAN (3 rd) – ICHI (1 st) Kyu - Check application of power for each technique as well as <u>overall balance</u> .
	KIHON SHICHI (7 th) – ICHI (1 st) KYU - Shows progressive addition of techniques.	SHICHI (7 th) – YON (4 th) KYU - Shows correct movement and some power. SAN (3 rd) KYU and up - Provides sufficient power and control of limited techniques.
	ICHI (1 st) KYU - Has acquired all basic techniques.	ICHI (1 st) KYU - Generally <u>performs basic techniques</u> .
	KUMITE SHICHI (7 th) – ICHI (1 st) KYU - Shows progressive addition of techniques	SHICHI (7 th) – ICHI (1 st) KYU - Check for correct application of technique, increasing timing, distance, and execution of techniques.
	ICHI (1 st) KYU - Has acquired all basic attack and defense techniques.	ICHI (1 st) KYU - Check each attack and defense for correct form, timing, and distance.

Traditional Karate

<p>SHO-DAN (1st Dan)</p>	<p>KATA - Intermediate kata.</p> <p>KIHON - Performs single techniques and basic combinations.</p> <p>KUMITE - From freestyle position is able to use basic techniques for defense and attack.</p>	<p>Check each body movement and technique for correct and effective application. Also, look for smooth transition from technique to technique.</p> <p>Same as above but must be able to use each technique effectively.</p> <p>Can apply basic techniques from free style position with correct timing and distance.</p>
<p>NI-DAN (2nd Dan)</p>	<p>KATA - Intermediate kata.</p> <p>KIHON - Combination of all basic techniques.</p> <p>KUMITE or SELF-DEFENSE - Free sparring or self-defense from multiple positions, with and without weapons.</p>	<p>Smooth continuation of all technique along with correct application of techniques and matching such techniques to one's individual physique.</p> <p>Switch-back techniques are smooth and sharp with correct body movement as well as tailoring such movements to individual's physique.</p> <p>Has digested basic technique and can execute under different circumstances. Also has proper timing, distance and strategy.</p>
<p>SAN-DAN (3rd Dan)</p>	<p>KATA - Advanced Kata</p> <p>KUMITE or SELF-DEFENSE - Free sparring or self-defense with multiple attacks from multiple positions with and without weapons.</p>	<p>The basic factors are expansion and contraction, proper power and speed, application, breathing, feeling, etc.</p> <p>Proper execution of each technique under varied circumstances, using proper timing, distance, and strategy.</p>
<p>YON-DAN (4th Dan)</p>	<p>KATA - Advanced Kata</p> <p>INSTRUCTION - Must provide instruction with self demonstration.</p>	<p>All actions of kata are fully understood as to movement and purpose.</p> <p>Understands principles of both technique and the spirit of karate.</p>
<p>GO-DAN (5th Dan)</p>	<p>KATA - Advanced Kata with all required factors combining both physical and spiritual.</p> <p>RESEARCH - Presentation of favored technique along with explanations and self-demonstration.</p>	<p>Must have overall understanding of all facets of Kata and must demonstrate mastery of Kata.</p> <p>Must understand the formal academic and scientific principles supporting his/her karate research.</p>

Traditional Karate

		Also, must understand and demonstrate self-awareness of his/her own body in relation to karate technique.
ROKU-DAN (6 th Dan)	<p>KATA</p> <p>– Advanced Kata with all required factors combining both physical and spiritual.</p> <p>RESEARCH</p> <p>– Presentation of written report of karate research with explanations and self-demonstration.</p>	Must have correct understanding of karate principles. Must be a deep seeking research project. Result of research must be of general beneficial application.
SHICHI-DAN (7 th Dan)	<p>ADVANCED KATA</p> <p>– Advanced Kata with all required factors combining both technical and spiritual.</p> <p>RESEARCH</p> <p>Presentation of written report on karate research and the application and experience of such research.</p>	Must provide support data of research with actual application.
HACHI-DAN (8 th Dan)	<p>ADVANCED KATA</p> <p>– Advanced Kata with all required factors combining both technical and spiritual.</p> <p>Presentation of written research report on a new and yet untouched area.</p>	Must provide a new or unique research into a deep-seeking subject, supported by scientific, philosophic, or psychologically accepted research data from other research fields.
KYU-DAN (9 th dan)	Presentation of written research	A review of previous knowledge, research, and contributions to Karate along with distinguished service to the martial art.
JU-DAN (10 th dan)	Same as above.	Must embody the highest human ideals as developed through Karate.

5.11 **Recognition of Ranking**

1. Under these standards, ranking recognition is under the authority of the respective ITKF member organization. The ITKF Technical Committee shall reserve the right to establish the highest-ranking level that can be granted by a member organization. The criteria for this determination shall be based upon the proficiency level of the examiner(s) in the member organization's country.
2. Ranking recognition is granted by the ITKF member organization in either one of two ways: Directly by the National Karate Federation or through the National Karate Federation's recognized karate-do educational organization (E.S.O.).

5.12 **Ranking Registration**

1. All ranking shall be recognized as official when registered with the ITKF Administrative Office through a member organization in good standing.
2. Ranking registration must be done using the ITKF Official Registration Form. The established ITKF Registration Fees shall apply. Honorary ranking shall be excluded from payment of any registration fee.
3. Roku (6th) Dan or higher ranking shall require the prior approval of the ITKF Technical Committee at time of registration by the member organization.
4. Honorary ranking shall require the prior approval of the ITKF Directors Meeting at time of registration by the member organization.

5.13 **Transfer of Ranking**

Rank-holders relocating to another country must re-register their ranking with the ITKF through the member organization of the new country.

5.14 **Disciplinary Action**

The ITKF Technical Committee is empowered to evaluate ranking standards. Where deviations from these standards are found, the ITKF Technical Committee may recommend the Directors Meeting to suspend non-complying ITKF M.O. until the appropriate remedial action is taken.