Shufu Yudanshakai Time In Grade (TIG) Requirements

For all USJF Judo rank promotion (except white belt/Rokkyu), candidates must have an appropriate Time in Grade (TIG). The TIG is intended to measure how much practical experience you have gained in doing Judo. It assumes you practice regularly during your entire TIG. If you take an extended absence from Judo, you should exclude that time from your TIG.

The table assumes that training for, competing in, and winning at competition events demands more intense practice and more focused acquisition of Judo skills. The higher the level of the event, the more intensity is presumed. Therefore, TIG is reduced as you compete and win at higher level events.

There are five classes of competitors for Shufu Promotion purposes. You qualify for competitor classes based on your highest level competition finish since your last promotion. If you do not meet the criteria for one of the classes, you are a **Non-Competitor**.

A Class Competitor (Shiai Team Member of the Olympic, World Championship and/or Pan Am Games. Placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd at class A international tournament.)

B Class Competitor (Placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd at the US Senior Nationals and/or any other point receiving international tournament.)

C Class Competitor (Placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd in a regional black belt division. Placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd at the Ladder Tournament, National Collegiate, High School Nations or any non-point qualifying international competition.)

D Class Competitor (Placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd at the US Senior Nationals Kata Championships. Placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd in Masters category at the US Senior Nationals.)

E Class Competitor (Shiai, Masters, or Kata competitor who competed in any sanctioned tournament. You earn points according to the number of wins. If you do not qualify for A-D above, you are an E class competitor. If you qualify for class C-D, you may select class E if doing so reduces your time in grade by points earned.)

Shufu Yudanshakai Required Time in Grade Table (8/31/2009)
Find the Time in Grade that applies to you

Rank you are rising to	Non Competitor		Competitor								
	Age <35	Age 35+	E Class Points					D Class	C Class	B Class	A Class
			Special	5+	10+	15+	20+				
Gokyu	3 mos		3 mos					None	None	None	None
Yonkyu	6 mos		6 mos & 2+ pts	--	--	--	--				
Sankyu	9 mos		< 5 pts treated as non-competitor	6 mos	3 mos	--	--				
Nikyu	1.5 yr	1 yr		9 mos	6 mos	3 mos	--				
Ikkyu	2 yr	1.5 yr		1 yr	9 mos	6 mos	3 mos				
Shodan	4 yr	3 yr		2 yr	1 yr	9 mos	6 mos				
Nidan	6 yr	5 yr		4 yr	3 yr	2 yr	1 yr	2.5 yr	1.5 yr	1 yr	6 mos
Sandan	8 yr	6 yr		5 yr	4 yr	3 yr	2 yr	3.5 yr	2.5 yr	2 yr	1 yr
Yondan	9 yr	8 yr		7 yr	6 yr	5 yr	4 yr	5.5 yr	4 yr	3.5 yr	1.5 yr
Godan	11 yr	10 yr		9 yr	8 yr	7 yr	6 yr	8 yr	6 yr	5 yr	3 yr
Rokudan	12 yr		12 yr	10 yr	9 yr	8 yr	12 yr	9 yr	7 yr	5 yr

Examples:

1. You are a blue belt (yonkyu) and have been practicing at your club regularly for the last year although you have not competed since you were a green belt. You are a non-competitor and your TIG requirement is 9 mos. Your 12 months of practice meet the TIG requirement.

2. You are an ikkyu and trying to earn your shodan. You are 31 years old. You have gained 9 competition points since your last promotion. You have been in your current rank for 14 months. Since you have 5+ points, but not 10+ points, your time in grade requirement is 2 years. You have not met the TIG requirement for Shodan.

3. You are a shodan. You have been in rank for one year. Prior to your promotion to Shodan, you placed 3rd in the US Senior Nationals qualifying you as a Class B competitor. This year you only placed fifth at the Nationals, but you had 12 competition points from other tournaments. Since you did not place at Nationals since your last promotion, you are an E class competitor with 10+ points and your TIG requirement is three years.

The chart above consolidates a range of material from the Shufu Senior Rank Requirements dated August 2009. It is not an official document, but may serve as a useful guide to understanding the TIG requirement.