

Grading Mandate

Purpose

This grading mandate sets out the grading process, after consultation with the senior instructors and other qualified experienced members of our organisation, to confirm the agreed process for grading individuals within Combat Academy UK.

Grading Structures

Standard Grading System (S.G.S)

The Standard Grading System is the most used structure for grading students. The assessment process has not had any adaptations or allowances made for any of the candidates who attend the grading.

Adaptive Grading System (A.G.S)

The Adaptive Grading System is the process when an individual or individuals are required to have allowances or adaptations made to the assessment process. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Physical disabilities or disadvantages
- Psychological disabilities or disadvantages
- Cultural or religious reasons
- Age (available for individuals 50 years of age and over)

Applications for an Adaptive Grading System must be submitted no less than 7 days before the grading and should highlight the adaptations required, and the ways in which the adaptations should be made.

Applications should be made in writing and sent to: contact@combatacademy.co.uk

Progressive Grading System (P.G.S)

The Progressive Grading System does not require the individual to be assessed within the standard grading system process.

- Assessments are completed by a qualified C.A.UK instructor within the class setting, as an ongoing process.
- The P.G.S is used for Filipino Martial Arts class, and for a limited number of qualified instructors for the kickboxing criteria.

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- Both uses were formally agreed and approved by the CMAA in 2018.
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Grading Nomination

Grading nominations are made by the candidate's instructor only.

- The candidate's instructor is defined as the instructor whose initials appear on the candidate's club licence.
- If a candidate changes clubs, initials must be updated and CAUK office notified.

When nominating a candidate, instructors should be satisfied that:

- The candidate understands and can perform the syllabus to the minimum requirement (assessed in class at least once).
 - The candidate has fulfilled additional requirements (e.g. time served at grade, coaching experience, attendance, workshops).
 - The candidate understands techniques and concepts outside the syllabus.
 - The candidate is fit and able to complete the grading (or apply for A.G.S if appropriate).
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Belt Structure

Adult Black Coloured Belt – JuJitsu

- Awarded to candidates aged 13+.
- If the panel decides performance does not meet "Adult criteria technique," a Junior belt may be awarded.

Junior Striped Belt – JuJitsu

- Awarded to candidates aged 7–12.
- If a candidate aged 11–12 demonstrates "Adult criteria technique," an Adult belt may be awarded.

Cadet White Belt with Coloured Stripe – JuJitsu

- Awarded to candidates aged 5–6 (see Rubric).
- Recognises effort at a young age when the full 8 moves are not completed, even with prompting.

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Adult & Junior Black Coloured Belt (with black stripe) – Kickboxing

- Awarded to all age groups.
- Grades are still registered as Junior or Adult depending on age.

Note: The panel may occasionally award belts outside of this structure (e.g. a 13-year-old training at Junior level, or a 6-year-old performing at a higher level). These decisions require a majority vote and must be recorded clearly on the grading sheet.

Tab Awards

- Issued by the grading panel as part of the grading award in recognition of the standard achieved (see grading Rubric).
 - May also be issued in class by a qualified club instructor to recognise effort and development.
 - Minimum tab award: **1**
 - Maximum tab award: **3**
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Grading Rubric – JuJitsu

- **Cadet Belt** – For ages 4–6, where the full 8 techniques are not completed, even with prompting. Recognition of effort.
 - **Conditional Pass** – Minor faults noted and recorded. Feedback given respectfully to candidate and instructor. Conditions noted in licence.
 - Example: Minor syllabus elements missing or incorrect technique.
 - **Referral** – Candidate withdrawn or has not reached minimum standard even with prompting. Requires majority decision.
 - A second panel reassesses. If still referral, the candidate is invited to the next grading (free of charge).
 - **Grade Pass** – Full syllabus demonstrated to minimum standard with hesitation or prompting.
 - **P1** – Full syllabus with fair variety of technique, some hesitation/repetition.
 - **P2** – Full syllabus with good variety, no hesitation/repetition.
 - **P3** – Full syllabus with excellent variety, confidence, passion, control, and partner care. Consideration for next belt.
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Grading Rubric – Kickboxing

- Based on the syllabus approved by Cobra Martial Arts Association (2015).
 - Assessors are invited by the Senior Instructor, with suitable rank and coaching experience (minimum CAUK Level 2).
 - Scoring: 0–10 per technique (0 = not performed, 10 = excellent standard).
 - Additional scoring for uniform, control, fighting spirit, etc.
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Brown Belt, Black Belt & Dan Grade Mandate

- Black belt and Dan grades remain the standard of excellence in C.A.UK.
- Award of Black belts and Dan grades is the decision of the Senior Instructor (Ian Gauldie) only.
- Senior club instructors may forward nominations for service grades.

Service Dan Grades

- Awarded for exemplary service through teaching and coaching in an official (fully qualified) capacity.
- Nominations by Senior Club Instructors; final decision by Ian Gauldie.

Technical Dan Grades

- Awarded at 1st–3rd Dan.
- Candidates must perform the entire CAUK syllabus (except 2-on-1 sparring) at an official grading.
- Nominations by Senior Club Instructors; final decision by Ian Gauldie.

Time Served Requirements

DAN GRADE	TIME SERVED (AT PREVIOUS RANK, MINIMUM)
1st Dan	1 year
2nd Dan	2 years
3rd Dan	3 years
4th Dan	4 years



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5th Dan	5 years
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Black Belt Grades

- Candidates must demonstrate the full syllabus (~112 techniques) without hesitation or repetition.
- Grading held twice per year.
- Must show competence in ground fighting and kickboxing.
- Must demonstrate determined spirit, control, formal exercise, and 2-on-1 controlled sparring.

From January 2024:

- To be nominated for Brown Belt, Black Belt, or Technical Dan grades, candidates must:
 - Attend a High-Grade Syllabus Workshop (held twice per year).
 - Receive majority nomination from Senior Club Instructors.
- Senior Club Instructors may only vote/comment if they attend as official assessors.

Compliance

- Senior instructors and grading officers are expected to follow and adhere to this mandate.
- Requests for amendments must be submitted via email to the CAUK office.
- Senior instructors or grading officers acting outside this mandate will not attend gradings.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or earlier if required to reflect changes in legislation, safeguarding requirements, or operational best practice.

Effective date: 18/09/2025

Review date: 18/09/2028