

**USAJudo Junior Promotion Rank System:**

1. After playing the sport of Judo for a minimum of 2 months & having competed in a tournament including at least 1 other club; or having been in judo for a minimum of 3 months without entering competition, the following exams may be given by the instructor:

**For Juniors: Ages**

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 4- 6  | - the first promotion exam is to Jr.-1 <sup>st</sup> Degree  |
| 7- 9  | - the first promotion exam is to Jr.-2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree  |
| 10-12 | - the first promotion exam is to Jr.-3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree  |
| 13-15 | - the first promotion exam is to Jr.-4 <sup>th</sup> Degree  |
| 7- 9  | - the second promotion exam is to Jr.-5 <sup>th</sup> Degree |
| 10-12 | - the second promotion exam is to Jr.-6 <sup>th</sup> Degree |
| 13-15 | - the second promotion exam is to Jr.-7 <sup>th</sup> Degree |
| 10-12 | - the third promotion exam is to Jr.-8 <sup>th</sup> Degree  |
| 13-15 | - the third promotion exam is to Jr.-9 <sup>th</sup> Degree  |

All subsequent promotions & exams used are to the next higher numerical grade, with time-in-grade & point requirements as stated in the chart at the end of these policies.

**2. Minimum time-in-grade required (& number of classes attended) for:**

**a. Competitors**

Ranks 1-12: 2 months in grade (16 classes) between promotions.  
Ranks 13-16: 3 months in grade (24 classes) between promotions.  
Ranks 17-20: 4 months in grade (32 classes) between promotions.

**b. Non-competitors:**

Ranks 1-12: 3 months in grade (24 classes) between promotions.  
Ranks 13-16: 4 months in grade (32 classes) between promotions.  
Ranks 17-20: 6 months in grade (48 classes) between promotions.

**3. Guidelines for maximum rank for age in the Jr. promotion system:**

| <u>Age</u> | <u>Maximum rank for age</u> |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| 4          | Jr. 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree  |
| 5          | Jr. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree  |
| 6          | Jr. 5 <sup>th</sup> Degree  |
| 7          | Jr. 7 <sup>th</sup> Degree  |
| 8          | Jr. 9 <sup>th</sup> Degree  |
| 9          | Jr. 11 <sup>th</sup> Degree |
| 10         | Jr. 13 <sup>th</sup> Degree |
| 11         | Jr. 15 <sup>th</sup> Degree |
| 12         | Jr. 17 <sup>th</sup> Degree |
| 13         | Jr. 19 <sup>th</sup> Degree |
| 14         | Jr. 20 <sup>th</sup> Degree |
| 15         | Ikkyu                       |

Juniors over 15 years old should be promoted under the Senior System.

**4. Suggested number of tournaments entered since last promotion for Competitor Status:**

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| For Ranks 1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>   | 1 Tournament  |
| For Ranks 5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>   | 2 Tournaments |
| For Ranks 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>  | 3 Tournaments |
| For Ranks 13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> | 4 Tournaments |
| For Ranks 17 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> | 5 Tournaments |

(See below for tournament definition).

**A. Tournaments in the USAJudo Junior Promotion System:**

The term "tournaments" is understood to mean "tournament-equivalents", & is similar to the Senior Rank System where Junior Division competitors will receive credit for:

1. Entering 1 tournament if it is Local including 2 or more clubs.
2. Entering 2 tournaments if it is Regional including representation by at least 3 states or 10 clubs, or is a State Championship.
3. Entering 3 tournaments if it is a limited International event including representation by at least two countries (i.e., Am-Can Challenge, etc.)
4. Entering 4 tournaments if it is a National Point Championship.
5. Entering 5 tournaments if it is an International Championship where the competitor has been selected to represent the US (i.e., Pan American Junior & Juvenile Championships).

**B. Additional Equivalents:**

6. Entering 1 tournament (for providing Table work, officiating, mat set-up, tear-down, etc. for each day of tournament service.
7. Entering 1 tournament for each day attending a clinic or camp.

**5. Transition from Junior to Senior Rank in the USAJudo:**

The instructor may change the junior to the Senior Rank System if that Junior regularly competes in Senior Division competition as long as that junior falls within the age guidelines of the following chart, or upon the 16th birthday of that junior (upon which the transition to Senior Rank is mandatory):

| <b><u>Junior Grade = Equivalent Senior Grade</u></b> |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup>                    | (White Belt)                              |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup>                    | Rokyu (Yellow Belt)                       |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup>                    | Gokyu (Orange Belt)                       |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>                   | Yonkyu (Green Belt)                       |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>                   | Sankyu (Brown Belt-3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade) |
| 20 <sup>th</sup>                                     | Nikyu (Brown Belt-2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade)  |

Juniors who are 16 years old may be tested for Shodan by their coaches if they have placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in national or international competition, if their last promotion was to Ikkyu.

**Fees:** Coaches are encouraged to charge whatever fee will be necessary to help their club's maintenance. However USAJudo requires only \$8 for each promotion in the USAJudo Junior Promotion System, \$3 of which will be refunded to the candidate's State Judo Organization registered with USAJudo (refunds are made quarterly).