



USA TAEKWONDO ANNOUNCES COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED STATES TAEKWONDO GRANDMASTERS SOCIETY

Colorado Springs, COLORADO. USA Taekwondo CEO Bruce Harris announces that USA Taekwondo and the United States Taekwondo Grandmasters Society have entered into an agreement that will allow both organizations to partner and to work together to provide increased membership services to the members of USA Taekwondo by initiating the USA Taekwondo National Dan Promotion Test.

The United States Taekwondo Grandmasters Society is an organization of senior, high-ranking Taekwondo Grandmasters in the United States of America. Their primary purpose is to provide leadership, information, and guidance in the area of the Martial Arts aspects of Taekwondo. USA Taekwondo is the officially recognized National Governing Body for the Sport of Taekwondo by the US Olympic Committee. Taekwondo is more than just a sport; it is also a Martial Art. As such, the member Club Organizations that comprise the membership of USA Taekwondo, teach a martial arts curriculum in addition to teaching sport Taekwondo in most instances. Not everyone enrolls in a Taekwondo school to become an Olympic athlete. Many enroll for the aspects that are traditional to the martial arts side of Taekwondo- respect, self-control, discipline, self-defense, etc. As a result, they usually attain improved self-esteem, improved health benefits, and they become better citizens who respect others. Where USA Taekwondo provides the only path to competing and earning the right to represent the USA in Olympic Taekwondo competition, we now have a way to assist our member clubs in developing the martial aspects of their schools.

Partnering with the US Taekwondo Grandmasters Society is a very good way to combine sport and martial arts. The way the partnership is designed to work is to allow the US Taekwondo Grandmasters Society to participate in the National Dan Promotion Test by providing staffing for the USA Taekwondo National Test Commission. This Test Commission will consist of three (3) to five (5) senior Taekwondo Masters/Grandmasters who will conduct the National Dan Promotion Test at our USA Taekwondo National Championships. The US Taekwondo Grandmasters Society will conduct an Instructional Seminar on the morning of the 2014 National Dan Promotion Test in San Jose, CA that is designed to review all of the Test Criteria on which applicants will do their practical test that afternoon. In the future, we are already making plans for the US Taekwondo Grandmasters Society to provide instructional seminars in Poomsae, and in other areas that will be done in conjunction with the USA Taekwondo National Championships, and which will be a requirement for future Dan Test applicants.

USA Taekwondo CEO Harris said “I am very pleased and excited for this partnership between our two organizations. This will be a great benefit for our membership, and it marks a milestone of cooperation with Taekwondo organizations in the USA.”



GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES FOR NATIONAL DAN PROMOTION TEST

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the National Dan Promotion Test is to provide an opportunity to Taekwondo practitioners to test for USA Taekwondo and/or Kukkiwon Dan Black Belt promotions, and to attain a Conversion USA Taekwondo Dan for those Taekwondo practitioners who currently hold International Taekwondo Federation Dan Certification.
- 1.2 The National Dan Promotion Test will be available to persons who have continued to train and practice Taekwondo under their Grandmaster or Master, but who, for whatever reason in the past, never took advantage of the opportunity to apply for, test and to receive the USA Taekwondo and/or Kukkiwon Dan Certification.
- 1.3 The National Dan Promotion Test **will not be available** for those who are applying for Skip Dan, or Time-Compressed Dan Promotions.
- 1.4 The National Dan Promotion Test will be for those Taekwondo Black Belts who are eligible to test for 4th through 7th Dan Black Belt only. Those testing for 1st through 3rd Dan must test with their current Instructor.

SECTION 2. NATIONAL DAN PROMOTION TEST INFORMATION

- 2.1 The National Dan Promotion Test will take place under the auspices of USA Taekwondo and will comply with the guidelines from USA Taekwondo, and Kukkiwon- The World Taekwondo Headquarters.
- 2.2 The National Dan Promotion Test will be conducted only by the USA Taekwondo recognized National Board of Examiners, and at the direction of the USA Taekwondo CEO/ President.
- 2.3 The Date and location for the National Dan Promotion Test will coincide with the date and the site of the USA Taekwondo Senior National Championships.
- 2.4 The Application Fees for the National Dan Promotion Test will be the publicized with the cost of the various USA Taekwondo and/or Kukkiwon Dan applications,

to include fees for all levels included in the Promotion Test. For example, a Kukkiwon 2nd Dan who is a School 7th Dan Black Belt and who is seeking to convert their Kukkiwon 2nd Dan to the equivalent USA Taekwondo Black Belt level of 7th Dan will pay the fees for USA Taekwondo 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Dan fees prior to the Promotion Test. Only the conversion of School Black Belts to the equivalent USA Taekwondo Dan level will be allowed. **No conversion of School Black Belt to equivalent Kukkiwon Black Belt will be allowed.**

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 National Dan Promotion Test. A Dan Promotion Test conducted by the USA Taekwondo National Board of Examiners that meets the requirements established by USA Taekwondo and/or Kukkiwon- The World Taekwondo Headquarters. The Scope of the National Dan Promotion Test covers those who are testing for 4th thru 7th Dan USA Taekwondo and/or Kukkiwon Black Belt Certifications.
- 3.2 National Board of Examiners. Those persons appointed by the CEO of USA Taekwondo to serve as the National Board of Examiners. Each person must possess the minimum USA Taekwondo and/or Kukkiwon Dan Rank of 8th Dan. The National Board of Examiners will have the responsibility of conducting each National Dan Promotion Test promoted and hosted by USA Taekwondo.
- 3.3 Conversion Dan. A Conversion Dan is applied for only in the case where a Taekwondo practitioner has been continuously active in Taekwondo under the guidance of their Grandmaster or Master, and who has attained a School Black Belt rank, but who either did not start or continue to get USA Taekwondo and/or Kukkiwon Dan certifications for some reason. A Conversion Dan may only be applied for with the written approval of the Grandmaster or Master Instructor of the person seeking the Dan Conversion. A Conversion Dan can only be received once during the lifetime of the Taekwondo practitioner. The Conversion Dan is also for those who currently hold certification with the International Taekwondo Federation (ITF). The ITF conversion Dan certification will only be to that of a USA Taekwondo Dan certification, not an equivalent Kukkiwon Dan certification.
- 3.4 Grandmaster or Master Instructor. For purposes of the Conversion Dan this individual must be a minimum 6th Dan USA Taekwondo or Kukkiwon Black Belt with a continuous record of Taekwondo practice that may be substantiated either through school advertisements over a long period of time (Yellow Pages, School Website, etc) or by personal knowledge of other Taekwondo community Grandmasters or Senior Masters. The burden of proof as to high-level USA Taekwondo or Kukkiwon Dan Black Belt credentials and continuous Taekwondo practice is on the Grandmaster or Master Instructor. The Grandmaster or Master Instructor must have a direct connection to the person being recommended.

- 3.5 Skip Dan. A Skip Dan is applied for when a Taekwondo practitioner meets the requirements and stipulations from USA Taekwondo and/or Kukkiwon, such as achieving a Gold Medal in Olympic or World Championship competition, or some other meritorious competition achievement. **Skip Dan Applications will only be accepted at the USA Taekwondo Dan Office and will not be a part of the National Dan Promotion Test Program.** Approval of a Skip Dan will be by USA Taekwondo only and all decisions are final.
- 3.6 Time-Compressed Dan Promotion. A Time-Compressed Dan Promotion is given to an applicant who has distinguished themselves in various areas of Taekwondo, to include competition. Other considerations for qualifying for a Time-Compressed Dan Promotion will be recent or long-term outstanding meritorious performance in other areas of Taekwondo such as Referee, Coach, high-level Taekwondo administrator, etc. Time-Compressed Dan Promotion Applications will only be accepted at the USA Taekwondo Dan Office and will not be a part of the National Dan Promotion Test Program. Approval of a USA Taekwondo Time-Compressed Dan Promotion will be by USA Taekwondo, in accordance with current USA Taekwondo guidelines, and all decisions are final.

SECTION 4. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- 4.1 All applicants for the National Dan Promotion Test must fill out a USA Taekwondo and/or Kukkiwon Dan Application Form. The section regarding Taekwondo History/Achievements is of paramount importance in seeking to test for a Conversion Dan, or for a Time-Compressed Dan.
- 4.2 All applicants for the National Dan Promotion Test must meet the USA Taekwondo and/or Kukkiwon requirements for the rank for which they are testing. For example, those testing for 4th Dan must perform one Taeguk Poomsae selected by the National Board of Examiners, Pyongwon Poomsae (and one other Black Belt Poomsae), Kyorugi (Sparring) and Kyukpa (Breaking) for their Promotion Test. Test requirements are outlined below.
- 4.3 The completed Promotion Application must be submitted to USA Taekwondo, along with the correct payment amount, to be received by USA Taekwondo not later than 4 weeks prior to the date of the National Dan Promotion Test. This will allow adequate time for USA Taekwondo to review your application and respond to you, either with an Acceptance or Rejection notification regarding your application to test. This will also allow adequate time for you to make travel arrangements upon your application being accepted for the Promotion Test.

- 4.4 Payment of application Fees will be only by Money Order or Cashier's Check. Your application is not complete until payment is received and all information on your application has been verified.
- 4.5 **Application Fees are non-refundable.** If an applicant is declined for the National Dan Promotion Test because of lack of verification of credentials, that person will forfeit the Application Fees.
- 4.6 If a person is accepted for the National Dan Promotion Test and does not pass the Promotion Test, that person may apply for a re-test at the next National Dan Promotion Test conducted by USA Taekwondo and will only be subject to an administrative re-test fee of \$100 USD.

SECTION 5. TEST CRITERIA

NOTE: 1st through 3rd Dan Test Criteria are only for those who are converting from either School Black Belt or ITF Black Belt.

- 5.1 For promotion to USA Taekwondo 1st Dan:
 - 5.1.1 Discretionary: Taeguk Poomsae (selected by National Board of Examiners)
 - 5.1.2 Mandatory: Koryo Poomsae
 - 5.1.3 Kyorugi
 - 5.1.4 Kyukpa
- 5.2 For promotion to USA Taekwondo 2nd Dan:
 - 5.2.1 Discretionary: Taeguk Poomsae (selected by National Board of Examiners)
 - 5.2.2 Mandatory: Keumgang Poomsae
 - 5.2.3 Kyorugi
 - 5.2.4 Kyukpa
- 5.3 For promotion to USA Taekwondo 3rd Dan:
 - 5.3.1 Discretionary: Taeguk Poomsae (selected by National Board of Examiners)
 - 5.3.2 Mandatory: Taebek Poomsae
 - 5.3.3 Kyorugi
 - 5.3.4 Kyukpa
- 5.4 For promotion to USA Taekwondo and/or Kukkiwon 4th Dan:
 - 5.4.1 Discretionary: Taeguk Poomsae (selected by National Board of Examiners)
 - 5.4.2 Mandatory: Pyongwon Poomsae + 1 Additional Black Belt Poomsae (selected by National Board of Examiners)
 - 5.4.3 Kyorugi
 - 5.4.4 Kyukpa
 - 5.4.5 10-page thesis on appropriate Taekwondo subject.
- 5.5 For promotion to USA Taekwondo and/or Kukkiwon 5th Dan:

- 5.5.1 Discretionary: Taeguk Poomsae (selected by National Board of Examiners)
- 5.5.2 Mandatory: Sipjin Poomsae; and Keumgang, Taebek or Pyongwon (selected by National Board of Examiners)
- 5.5.3 Kyorugi
- 5.5.4 Kyukpa
- 5.5.5 10-page thesis on appropriate Taekwondo subject.

- 5.6 For promotion to USA Taekwondo and/or Kukkiwon 6th Dan:
 - 5.6.1 Mandatory: Jitae Poomsae; and Taebek, Pyongwon or Sipjin (selected by National Board of Examiners)
 - 5.6.2 Kyorugi
 - 5.6.3 Kyukpa
 - 5.6.4 10-page thesis on appropriate Taekwondo subject.

- 5.7 For promotion to USA Taekwondo and/or Kukkiwon 7th Dan:
 - 5.7.1 Mandatory: Cheonkwon Poomsae; and Pyongwon, Sipjin or Jitae (selected by National Board of Examiners)
 - 5.7.2 10-page thesis on appropriate Taekwondo subject.

- 5.8 For promotion to USA Taekwondo and/or Kukkiwon 8th Dan:
 - 5.8.1 Mandatory: Hansoo Poomsae; and Sipjin, Jitae, Cheonkwon (selected by National Board of Examiners)
 - 5.8.2 10-page thesis on appropriate Taekwondo subject.
 - 5.9.3 Minimum age: 44 years old
 - 5.9.4 Recommended by 9th Dan USA Taekwondo or Kukkiwon holder, or President/CEO of USA Taekwondo

- 5.9 For promotion to USA Taekwondo and/or Kukkiwon 9th Dan:
 - 5.9.1 Mandatory: Ilyo Poomsae; and Jitae, Cheonkwon or Hansoo (selected by National Board of Examiners)
 - 5.9.2 10-page thesis on appropriate Taekwondo subject.
 - 5.9.3 Minimum age: 53 years old
 - 5.9.4 Major contribution to Taekwondo in the USA to be determined by President/CEO of USA Taekwondo.
 - 5.9.5 Recommended by 9th Dan USA Taekwondo or Kukkiwon holder, or President/CEO of USA Taekwondo

- 5.10 Written Thesis. All written thesis must be ten (10) typewritten pages (one-inch margins, double-spaced) in English on a subject that is pertinent to Taekwondo. Subject may be selected at random by the person testing. Thesis must be submitted to USA Taekwondo at the same time the Application Form is submitted. If a Promotion Application is accepted, the thesis will remain the property of USA Taekwondo. If a Promotion Application is rejected, the thesis will be returned to the applicant.
 - 5.10.1 The thesis will not be approved if another person submits the same subject matter.

- 5.10.2 The thesis will not be approved if it is meet the requirements indicated in Section 5.10 above.
- 5.10.3 The thesis will not be approved if the title and subject matter are different.
- 5.10.4 The thesis will not be approved if the content is deemed to be substandard by USA Taekwondo.

SECTION 6. NATIONAL DAN TEST SCHEDULE

- 6.1 The National Dan Promotion Test will take place on the day preceding the start of the competition, at the USA Taekwondo National Championships.
- 6.2 There will be an Instructional Practical Seminar that will take place on the same day preceding the National Dan Promotion Test. This seminar is included as a part of the testing fees and will review all of the test criteria prior to taking the actual test.
- 6.3 The 2014 National Dan Promotion Test will only be for those persons testing for USA Taekwondo and/or Kukkiwon 4th through 7th Dan Black Belt.

SECTION 7. NOTIFICATION OF TEST RESULTS

- 7.1 Participants in the National Dan Promotion Test will receive notification of their test results within 30 days following the National Dan Promotion Test.
- 7.2 Promotion Certificates will be processed and sent to each participant passing the test within 30 days of the completion of the National Dan Promotion Test.
- 7.3 When possible, the results of the National Dan Promotion Test will be made known at the completion of the National Dan Promotion and certificates will be distributed and presented at that time.

