



Black Belt Grading Guidelines

Congratulations on achieving your 1st Dan Black Belt. Up until this point you have essentially learnt the basics of General Cho's Taekwon-Do.

Many students of Taekwon-Do stop at the rank of 1st Dan and onwards for various reasons. With this said there is a huge difference between getting your Black Belt and being a Black Belt. Getting your Black Belt is a huge achievement and it's something you should be proud of and wear as a badge to acknowledge your commitment to the art for approximately 4 years and so on for higher ranks.

BEING A BLACK BELT IS ON A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LEVEL.

The ultimate act of being a black belt is opening your own club and sharing your knowledge and passion with your community. In the process you are keeping General Choi Hong Hi's legacy alive and changing people's lives by exposing them to our wonderful art. This is no easy task and it is reserved for those who are willing to sacrifice for the art in so many ways. They are a special breed of martial artist and are second to none.

For many black belts opening their own club may not be viable due to many factors and this is understandable. However with this said black belts do have a responsibility to give back to the ART, YOUR INSTRUCTOR, YOUR CLUB AND THE COMMUNITY. In the martial arts world there are now so many black belts who are riding on the coat tails of the hard work and dedication of instructors, clubs, and organisations that provide a platform for students to achieve and excel in martial arts.

At Chang-Hon Taekwon-Do we want to ensure this is not happening and that Black Belts are fulfilling their fullest potential and giving back to the art whilst not ignoring the other priorities in there live such as work, education and family.

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As a black belt there are many expectations and values placed on you by the ART, your instructor, fellow black belts, students and parents of students. A Chang-Hon Black Belt should always display the following characteristics regardless of rank.

Promote the Art at every opportunity.

Be hard working.

Be humble.

Show courtesy.

Be respectful at all times.

Be of strong character.

Have good communication skills.

Be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

Work with your instructor for the betterment of your club and Chang-Hon Taekwon-Do New Zealand.

Training time requirements between Dan gradings.

1st to 2nd Dan ... 18 months

2nd Dan to 3rd Dan ... 2 years

3rd Dan to 4th Dan ... 3 years

4th Dan to 5th Dan ... 4 years

5th Dan to 6th Dan ... 5 years

6th Dan to 7th Dan Master ... 6 years

7th Dan to 8th Dan Senior Master ... 7 years

8th Dan to 9th Dan Grand Master ... By invitation

As you can see the training time requirements between Dan gradings is quite substantial. There are two reasons for this. With 2 exceptions you will have 3 new patterns to learn, new techniques to master and understand the application of these techniques. Some of the new techniques can be very challenging which will require lots of practice and repetition. This can also be said for the step sparring, releasing techniques, close quarter combat and destruction. If we add this time to the time that is required in the previous chapters on being a black belt it actually makes sense and the numbers do add up. As you move forward in rank then the expectations of being a black belt increase in the demands. For example; there are bigger demands expected from 5th Dan opposed to a 1st Dan and this is reflected in the time requirements.

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In the past when General Choi Hong Hi would conduct IIC's (international Instructor Courses). Attendees would be gifted a 6 month time reduction between Dan gradings. You could only ever redeem it once regardless of how many IIC's you attended. There are still IIC's running today but they do not carry the same weight so that time reduction I believe is no more.

In Chang-Hon Taekwon-Do we are keen to keep the tradition of a 6 month time reduction for Dan gradings to be used once only.

1. If you attend a Tul Tour you will be eligible for a 6 month time reduction. I firmly believe that if General Choi was still with us today he would be ecstatic at the fact that Taekwon-Do practitioners were visiting the homeland of Taekwon-Do. Learning the history, training at the historical sites and engaging in the Korean culture.
2. If You are consistently operating at a very high level in club and Chang-Hon New Zealand domains year on year then you may be eligible for a 6 month time reduction. Applications will be assessed by the Chang-Hon Masters.

Dan Requirements

In the pages that follow each Dan requirements are listed. At Black Belt level the expectation is that you seek knowledge and it's not handed to you on a plate or in this instance in an expanded syllabus like the previous Gup syllabus.

This can be done through many mediums.

Your instructor.

The Taekwon-Do Resource Centre

The condensed encyclopedia.

The 15 volume encyclopedia.

The many essay that have been written by black belts.

YouTube Media.

Chang-Hon Taekwon-Do seminars and events.

The journey continues so let's get to work.

Master Neill Livingstone QSM