USNF Ranking Regulations

Section I General Rules

Article 1 Instructor titles (Shogo) are awarded by the President of the All Japan Naginata Federation (AJNF) according to the Ranking Regulations of the AJNF (Appendix A is a translation of the Shogo section of these AJNF regulations). USNF recommendations for Shogo are submitted to the AJNF thru the INF.

Article 2 Dan ranks are awarded by the President of the AJNF according to the Ranking Regulations of the INF. Appendix B contains the USNF Regulation for Dan Board Composition. Appendix B supersedes the INF Regulation (June 26, 2003) for only those requirements listed. USNF requests for Dan certifications are made by the USNF President to the INF who requests certification from the AJNF.

Article 3 Kyu ranks are awarded by the USNF President according to these regulations.

Article 4 Candidates for examination must be:

a. members of the USNF,
b. members of other Naginata federations recognized by the International Naginata Federation (INF), or
c. individuals practicing in a non-INF country.
    1. Non-USNF members must provide the USNF with written permission from their Naginata federation prior to participation in a USNF examination.
    2. Individuals in non-INF countries must provide USNF with written permission from their INF Zone Director.

Article 5 All examiners must be members in good standing of the USNF, unless a specific exemption is granted by the President of the USNF for a particular examination.

Article 6 The President of the USNF authorizes all Kyu and Dan Promotional Examinations. Typically, Kyu and Dan Promotional Examinations are held at the national level twice a year: at the annual General Meeting and at the Annual Seminar. The composition of Testing Boards must follow the requirements in Appendix B

Article 7 USNF Regional Federations may hold up to four (4) Kyu promotional examinations per year, and two (2) Dan promotional examinations per year. Regional Federations examinations must be authorized by the USNF President, and notification must be given to the USNF Executive Secretary at least 30 days prior to the scheduled examination date, although notification 60 days prior is preferred. This examination will be listed in the USNF Calendar as soon as possible.

Section II Kyu Requirements

Article 1 Kyu rank has six levels from 6 kyu to 1 kyu and is awarded according to the candidate's demonstrated ability.

Article 2 USNF Kyu Examiners shall be approved by the USNF Board of Directors from a list of candidates submitted by the USNF Regional Federations at the start of each fiscal year. Minimum requirements for Kyu Examiners shall include: (1) Third Dan or higher in rank; (2) participation in one USNF seminar or USNF sanctioned seminar outside of the candidate's regional federation in the last two years; and (3) participation in one USNF or INF refereeing seminar in the last two years. The list of approved USNF Kyu examiners will be published by the USNF office in the first month of each fiscal year.

Article 3 A Kyu Examination Panel shall consist of a minimum of three examiners from the current approved USNF Kyu or Dan Examiners lists. All decisions require approval of a majority of the Panel. The examiner with the most seniority in rank serves as the chief examiner of the Panel.

Article 4 Each affiliated regional federation is authorized to administer Kyu Promotional Examinations, provided the examination is authorized by the USNF President and notification is given to the USNF Executive Secretary at least 30 days prior to the scheduled examination date. This examination will be listed in the USNF Calendar as soon as possible.

Article 5 The technical requirements for Kyu ranks are listed in Appendix C. At the request of a regional federation president, the Technical Committee may waive the Waiting Period for a kyu rank for a specific individual. At the request of a regional federation president, the Technical Committee may waive the bogu requirement for 1-kyu for extenuating circumstances.

Section III Dan Requirements

Article 1 Dan rank has five levels from Shodan (1 dan) to Godan (5 dan) and is awarded by the AJNF according to the candidate's demonstrated ability.

Article 2 USNF Dan Examiners shall be approved by the USNF Board of Directors from a list of candidates submitted by the USNF Regional Federations at the start of each fiscal year. Minimum requirements for Dan Examiners shall include: (1) Fourth Dan or higher in rank; (2) certified referee (either AJNF or INF certification); and (3) participation in one USNF or INF refereeing seminar in the last four years. The list of approved USNF Dan examiners will be published by the USNF office in the first month of each fiscal year. A USNF Dan Examiner may fill any role requiring a USNF Kyu examiner.

Article 3 A Dan Examination Panel must be formed in accordance with the Ranking Regulations for Dan Testing (Appendix B). Examiners shall be selected from the current approved USNF Kyu or Dan Examiners lists. All decisions for Shodan thru Sandan promotion require approval of a majority of the Panel. The examiner with the most seniority in rank serves as the chief examiner of the Panel.

Article 4 Each affiliated regional federation is authorized to administer Dan Promotional Examinations up to Sandan, provided the examination is authorized by the USNF President and notification is given to the USNF Executive Secretary at least 30 days prior to the scheduled examination date. This examination will be listed in the USNF Calendar as soon as possible.

Article 5 The technical requirements for Dan ranks are listed in Appendix D.

Section IV Shogo Recommendation Committee

Article 1 The President of the USNF authorizes the USNF Shogo Recommendation Committee to make decisions concerning the recommendation of USNF members for Godan (5-dan), Renshi, and Kyoshi.

Article 2 The Shogo Recommendation Committee shall be comprised of all the USNF members who hold any of the shogo titles. The chairman of the Shogo Recommendation Committee shall be the member of the committee holding the most senior Shogo title for the longest period of time.

Article 3 A committee member may not deliberate on their own application.

Article 4 The Shogo Recommendation Committee shall be responsible for guiding, advising, and developing prospective godan and shogo candidates among the USNF members.

Article 5 The Shogo Recommendation Committee shall decide all procedures for making its recommendation(s), including the practical performance and essay of any prospective candidates, and any paper forms required from the candidate or the candidate's regional federation. The decision to recommend a USNF member to the AJNF for consideration for godan (5-dan) or a shogo title must be made by a two-thirds majority of the Shogo Recommendation Committee.

Article 6 The application may be submitted at any time of the year by regional federations, but no later than 60 days prior to the biannual USNF tests. The practical performance and essay shall be held in conjunction with the biannual USNF testing.

Article 7 The Hanshi Shogo is awarded by the All Japan Naginata Federation (AJNF). Should the AJNF recommend a USNF member for Hanshi, this committee will support the recommendation.

Article 8 Following the submission of the formal application to the All Japan Naginata Federation, a candidate's regional office may request a copy of the application as submitted.

Section V Examination Fee Structure

Article 1 The USNF kyu examination fee is $20.00. The kyu rank certificate fee is $20.00. Additional shipping and handling fees may be assessed on an as-needed basis to cover additional mailing costs for rank certificates mailed outside the United States.

Article 2 The kyu fee structure may be modified by the USNF Board of Directors as required, without amending these Regulations.

Article 3 The fee structure for dan and shogo ranks is set by the AJNF.

Appendix A: INF/AJNF Requirements for Shogo

	Application eligibility standards	Standards for judgment on qualification	Age	Condition
Renshi	A person with 5th dan or higher, with a broad global outlook, excellent techniques, and leadership (instructional) ability. Holder of 3rd class certified official judge qualification	1. He is instructing members affiliated with the Federation. 2. Practical techniques: a) Shikake oji b) Renmei no Kata 3. Submission of a discussion essay	30 or older	More than 5 years since receiving 5th Dan
Kyoshi	A person who has trained hard as a Renshi, who has outstanding knowledge and techniques of Naginata, and who has contributed to the dissemination and development of Naginata. Holder of 2nd class certified official judge qualification	1. He is instructing members affiliated with the Federation. 2. Practical techniques: a) Shikake oji b) Renmei no Kata 3. Submission of a discussion essay	40 or older	More than 10 years since receiving the Renshi Title
Hanshi	He has accumulated experience as Kyoshi, is virtuous and pure, has a harmonious character, and shows noble-spirited leadership (instructional) concepts. As such, he is worthy as an exemplary model for other people.	1. He has thoroughly mastered Naginata and its theory and has highly polished practical technical expertise. 2. He has made prominent contributions to world development in operations, dissemination, research, and other aspects. 3. Based upon deliberation of the documents.	60 or older	More than 20 years since receiving the Kyoshi Title

Appendix B: USNF Regulation for Dan Testing Board Composition

Dan	Testing Board Composition			Total
	Shinsa-In[1]	USNF Dan Examiner	USNF Kyu Examiner	
1st Dan (Shodan)	1 person	1 person	1 person	3 persons
2nd Dan (Nidan)	2 persons	1 person	-	3 persons
3rd Dan (Sandan)	3 persons	2 persons (one with Godan or higher)	-	5 persons

Footnotes:

1. A person who is Renshi or has a higher title and approved as an official examiner by AJNF.

Appendix C: USNF Standards for Kyu Examinations

Rank	Grading Basis	Key Points	Kamae & Footwork	Happoburi	Datotsu	Uchikaeshi	Shikake-Oji	Bogu	Waiting Period
6 Kyu	Recognizes standard vocal commands in Japanese and safely demonstrates required techniques in response to a leader.	Chudan no kamae Okuri-ashi Ayumi-ashi Jogeburi	Chudan Hasso Okuri-ashi Ayumi-ashi	Jogeburi	Shomen Furiage sune				
5 Kyu	Performs required techniques safely with a partner and demonstrates introductory consistency of ma-ai when in chudan no kamae.	Chudan no kamae Hasso no kamae Okuri-ashi Ayumi-ashi Jogeburi	Chudan Hasso Okuri-ashi Ayumi-ashi	Jogeburi	Shomen Furiage sune **Sokumen** **Sune uchi**		**1 & 2**		
4 Kyu	Demonstrates introductory consistency in body control, hanmi, footwork, hand positions, and eye contact.	Chudan no kamae Hasso no kamae Okuri-ashi Ayumi-ashi Jogeburi	Chudan Hasso Okuri-ashi Ayumi-ashi	Jogeburi	Shomen Furiage sune Sokumen Sune uchi	***Zenshin*** **(forward)**	1 & 2		
3 Kyu	Demonstrates moderate consistency in correct body control, hanmi, kamae, hand positions, footwork, and eye contact with their partner. Usually reaches desired target with monouchi.	Chudan no kamae Hasso no kamae Jogeburi	Chudan Hasso Okuri-ashi Ayumi-ashi **Hiraki-ashi**	Jogeburi	Shomen Furiage sune Sokumen Sune uchi	*Zenshin* (forward)	1, 2, & **4**		None
2 Kyu	Demonstrates consistency in correct hand positions and hanmi. Demonstrates moderate consistency in ishizuki length and hasuji.	Wakigamae	Chudan Hasso Okuri-ashi Ayumi-ashi Hiraki-ashi	Jogeburi	Shomen Furiage sune Sokumen Sune uchi **Dou**	*Zenshin* (forward)	1, 2, **3**, & 4		**At least** 6 months after 3 Kyu
1 Kyu	Demonstrates smooth performance in ShikakeOji and in kamae to strike transitions. Advanced consistency in striking and receiving with the monouchi. Transfers all appropriate techniques into bogu.	Jogeburi Datotsu (strikes) Uchikaeshi (*zenshin*)	Chudan Hasso Okuri-ashi Ayumi-ashi Hiraki-ashi **Tsugi-ashi**	Jogeburi	Shomen Furiage sune Sokumen Sune uchi Dou	*Zenshin* (forward)	1-**5**	**Uchikaeshi** **Kakarigeiko** **Gokakugeiko**	**At least** 6 months after 2 Kyu

NOTE: All skills are cumulative. Candidates should conform to the fundamentals of *reigi* (etiquette) at all levels and should wear a proper Naginata uniform when testing. Those testing for the first time are not required to have the uniform. Refer to AJNF Naginata Handbook, Instructions for grading examinations, p.1, and Naginata and reigi (manners), p.4 for more information.

Appendix D: USNF Standards for Dan Examinations

	Grading Basis	1st Test				2nd Test	Minimum Age	Waiting Period
		Basics	Waza	Match (Bogu)	Lead Practice	Written Exam		
Shodan	People who have mastered basic techniques	• Jo-ge buri • Datotsu: ○ Men, Sokumen, Sune, Do	Shikake-Oji #1 thru #5	• N/A	No	Yes	13 years (Junior High School and up)	At least 6 months after 1 kyu
2 dan	People who can see the chances for striking and have forceful techniques	• Happo buri • Datotsu: ○ Men, Sokumen, Sune, Do, Kote	Shikake-Oji #1 thru #8	• Uchikaeshi • Kakari Geiko • Gokaku Geiko	No	Yes	16 years (High School and up)	At least 1 year after Shodan
3 dan	People who have mastered match methods and can instruct beginners	• Happo buri • All strikes	Shikake-Oji #1 thru #8	• Uchikaeshi • Hikitate Geiko • Shiai	Yes	Yes	19 years	At least 2 years after 2 dan
4 dan	People who have mastered advanced techniques, and possess the ability to referee	• Happo buri • All strikes	Shikake-Oji #1 thru #8 All Japan Kata #1 thru #5	• Uchikaeshi • Hikitate Geiko • Shiai • Referee*	Yes	Yes	22 years	At least 3 years after 3 dan
5 dan	People who understand the logic of techniques, and who are honest and steadfast	• Happo buri • All strikes	Shikake-Oji #1 thru #8 All Japan Kata #1 thru #7	• Uchikaeshi • Hikitate Geiko • Shiai • Referee*	Yes	Yes	25 years	At least 3 years after 4 dan

* Refereeing in the 4 dan and 5 dan test is not required for candidates already possessing Official Referee Certification.

Appendix E: INF Criteria for Dan Examination

Dan	Passing Criteria	First Examination				Written Test	Age	Time Period
		Basics	Waza	Shiai	Instruction			
1	Acquisition of the basic techniques	Joge-buri Datotsu (Men, Soku-men Sune, Do) Uchikaeshi	Shikake-Oji 5-hon	No	No	Yes	over 13 or junior high students	6 months after taking the grade of 1-kyu
2	Understanding of shiai and the ability to discern striking opportunities	Joge-buri Yoko-buri Uchikaeshi Datotsu (Men, Soku-men Sune, Do, Kote)	Shikake-Oji 8-hon	Uchikaeshi Kakari-geiko Gokaku-geiko	No	Yes	over 16 or high school students	1 full year after taking shodan
3	The ability to compete and instruct beginners	Happo-buri All Datotsu striking targets	Shikake-Oji 8hon	Uchikaeshi Hikitate-geiko Shiai	Yes	Yes	over 19	2 full years after taking 2-dan
4	High level of technical ability, and acquisition of Shinpan skills	Happo-buri All Datotsu striking targets	Shikake-Oji 8-hon Zen Nihon-no-Kata 5-hon	Uchikaeshi Hikitate-geiko Shiai Shinpan	Yes	Yes	over 22	3 full years after taking 3-dan
5	Understanding of technical principles, and how the principles of Naginata can be applied to self-development	Happo-buri All Datotsu striking targets	Shikake-Oji 8-hon Zen Nihon-no-Kata 7-hon	Uchikaeshi Hikitate-geiko Shiai Shinpan	Yes	Yes	over 25	3 full years after taking 4-dan