

# **SOCIETY OF MARTIAL ARTS AUSTRALIA (SOMA)**



## **General Requirements For the Promotion of Rank of Members**

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

This document has been prepared for the Society of Martial Arts for the purpose of providing a uniform approach to grading issues within its membership.

Throughout this document the terminology used is relative to the main Japanese martial arts of karate, ju-jitsu and judo.

Chinese, Korean and other martial arts styles have their own terminologies. However, to keep the document simple and easy to understand these have not been mentioned.

Wherever possible the closest terms in other martial arts styles may be substituted for the terminology used in this text.

Distribution is restricted to Executive Committee Members, the Grading Panel and Chief Instructors of the SOMA only. This document is NOT to be made available to ANY person outside the SOMA without the prior permission of the President of SOMA and the author, Gary Simpson.



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## **SOCIETY OF MARTIAL ARTS (SOMA)**

### **General Requirements For the Promotion of Rank of Members**

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## **SOCIETY OF MARTIAL ARTS (SOMA)**

### **General Requirements For the Promotion of Rank of Members**

These rules are to be used as a guide for grading or rank promotions of members within SOMA to provide a uniform, across-the-board and fair, unbiased approach.

#### **RULE 1: THE APPLICANT MUST BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING:**

NO “new” member will be elevated in rank without first being a member of SOMA in good standing for a **MINIMUM** period of **12 months**. This will address, to some extent, “grade and leave” rank hunters and “grade hurdlers” from other organizations.

#### **RULE 2: APPLICATION FOR GRADING PROMOTION:**

**2.1** An individual application (see Rule 4) will be received in good faith by the Grading Panel (see Rule 9) and a decision will be made within one calendar month of its merit or otherwise, after its presentation and discussion at the next scheduled SOMA Board meeting. Depending on timing this could therefore require up to two months.

**2.2** An individual may be nominated or recommended by a more senior rank and be seconded by a more senior rank. Such applications will carry more weight and be considered more favourably than if the individual applied only by himself or herself.

#### **RULE 3: RANK APPLICATIONS SHOULD ONLY BE MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED “AGE AND EXPERIENCE” MATRIX (SEE MATRIX BELOW):**

In general, applications and recommendations will be more favourably looked upon if the following age and experience requirements are met.

<b>MINIMUM AGE:</b>	<b>MINIMUM YEARS (*)</b>	<b>MAXIMUM RANK</b>
16	3	1 <sup>st</sup> Dan or Degree
18	5	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan or Degree
21	8	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dan or Degree
25	12	4 <sup>th</sup> Dan or Degree
30	17	5 <sup>th</sup> Dan or Degree
36	23	6 <sup>th</sup> Dan or Degree
43	30	7 <sup>th</sup> Dan or Degree
51	38	8 <sup>th</sup> Dan or Degree
60	47	9 <sup>th</sup> Dan or Degree
70	57	10 <sup>th</sup> Dan or Degree

(\*) Years are to be CONTINUOUS years of TRAINING and TEACHING and will need to be evidenced in a resume (with proof) unless otherwise known by the Grading Panel. No breaks in training are allowed when counting minimum years.

*SOMA Grading and Grading Criteria and Rules for Promotion:*

**NOTE:** Pages 5 to 16 have been removed from public view.

The first four pages have been supplied as a sample only to show prospective members the level of scrutiny and deliberation that the Grading Panel goes through to establish the bona fides and merit of each applicant.

The full versions of the **General Requirements For the Promotion of Rank of Members** are available for viewing by Chief Instructors from:

- 1 – The SOMA President or
- 2 – The Executive Officer

No copies of this document are available to anybody else to protect the integrity of the publication.

