PANAMERICAN JUDO CONFEDERATION

PANAMERICAN DAN GRADE SYSTEM

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Article 1

Objective and Purpose of the System

The purpose of the Panamerican Dan Grade System of the Panamerican Judo Confederation (PJC) is to establish the continental structure related to the validation, registration, supervision and international channeling of Dan grades, in accordance with the Grades and Dan Regulations of the International Judo Federation (IJF), incorporated as Annex I of this System, and with the Rules for the Awarding of IJF Official Judo Dan Grades 1st to 10th Dan, incorporated as Annex II, promoting traceability, administrative uniformity, the preservation of the integrity of the Dan grades, their international recognition and the institutional strengthening of Judo in the Panamerican continent.

Article 2

Nature of the Dan Grades

The Dan grades represent the technical, educational, and human progress of the judoka. In accordance with the philosophical and educational principles of Judo, recognized by the International Judo Federation (IJF), the Dan Grades are based on the concepts of Tai (body), Gi (knowledge and study) and Shin (spirit).

Article 3

Validation and International Authority

The International Judo Federation (IJF) is the highest international authority on the official recognition and validation of Dan Grades. In accordance with the IJF Grades and Dan Regulations, incorporated as Annex I of this System, Dan grades will be subject to the procedures and mechanisms of international validation established by the International Judo Federation.

Within this international framework, the implementation of the new regulations reinforces the need to have a continental structure that allows for the proper organization, supervision and channeling of the processes related to the Dan grades in the Panamerican region, functions that correspond to the Panamerican Judo Confederation (PJC) in accordance with the provisions of this System.

Article 4

Role and Authority of National Federations

The National Member Federations affiliated to the International Judo Federation (IJF) shall retain their powers for the granting and national recognition of Dan grades, in accordance with the IJF Grades and Dan Regulations, incorporated as Annex I, their respective national regulations and the technical provisions established in Annexes I and II of this System.

In accordance with the structure established by the International Judo Federation (IJF), the National Federations will be responsible for the granting and national recognition of the grades from 1st to 5th Dan, and they must also comply with the new regulations, procedures and provisions established by the IJF as of 2026 for the validation and international recognition of the Dan grades.

Article 5

Role of the Panamerican Judo Confederation

The Panamerican Judo Confederation (PJC), as a continental structure recognized by the International Judo Federation (IJF), will act as a continental body for the coordination, supervision, validation and channeling of the processes related to the Dan grades within the Panamerican continent, in accordance with the Grades and Dan Regulations of the IJF and the provisions of this System.

The PJC will also maintain the corresponding Panamerican Dan Grades Register (PJC), incorporated as Annex IV of this System, in accordance with the technical provisions, formats and models established by the International Judo Federation (IJF) and the Panamerican Judo Confederation (PJC). This register may be published and updated periodically through the PJC's official media and platforms.

Article 6

Levels of Authority and Hierarchy for the Dan Grades

According to the Official Regulations of the International Judo Federation (IJF), the levels of authority and hierarchy for the Dan grades will be structured as follows:

- **1st to 5th Dan:**
  Grades 1st to 5th Dan will be subject to the proposal of the National Member Federations of the IJF for validation and international recognition, in accordance with the IJF Grades and Dan Regulations, incorporated as Annex I of this System and the continental procedures established by the Panamerican Judo Confederation (PJC).
- **6th to 9th Dan:**
  Grades 6th to 9th Dan will be subject to the corresponding continental and international validation processes established by the International Judo Federation, in accordance with the Official Regulations of the IJF, through the submission of written contributions, videos or other forms of evaluation and documentation established in Annex II of this System.
- **10th Dan:**
  The 10th Dan shall be exclusively subject to the provisions and approval of the Executive Committee of the International Judo Federation.

Article 7

Katas Recognized by the International Judo Federation

For the processes of evaluation, recognition and validation of Dan grades, the Panamerican Judo Confederation (PJC) will recognize the katas officially recognized by the International Judo Federation (IJF), in accordance with Annex I and Annex II of this System.

The katas recognized by the IJF are:

- Nage-No-Kata
- Katame-No-Kata
- Kime-No-Kata
- Ju-No-Kata
- Koshiki-No-Kata
- Kodokan-Goshin-Jutsu
- Itsutsu-No-Kata
- Kodomo-No-Kata

Article 8

IJF and Continental Union Examinations

The International Judo Federation (IJF) and the Continental Unions may, on their own initiative, organize grade examinations from 1st to 7th Dan during events such as kata or veterans' activities, or directly organize grade examinations for IJF National Member Federations that request it in the countries concerned, in accordance with the IJF Grades and Dan Regulations and the provisions of this System.

The costs associated with these processes will be borne by the applicant organization.

Article 9

Administrative Flow, Continental Validation, and International Channeling

Applications related to Dan grades must be officially submitted by the Member National Federations, in accordance with the International Judo Federation (IJF) Grades and Dan Regulations, incorporated as Annex I of this System, and using the IJF Grade Application Form, incorporated as Annex III.

The National Federations shall be responsible for certifying compliance with the applicable technical, administrative, and regulatory requirements. All applications must be certified by the President of the corresponding National Federation, in accordance with the provisions established in Annex I and Annex II of this System.

The Panamerican Judo Confederation (PJC), through the IJF Continental Grade Representative for Pan America, will conduct the review, continental validation, and international channeling of the corresponding applications, in accordance with the regulations of the IJF.

The IJF Grade Application Form, incorporated as Annex III of this System, will constitute the official instrument for the processes of continental validation and international channeling of Dan Grades.

Article 10

Contributions for the Recognition of Dan Grades

The processes of continental validation, registration, issuance of the PJC Dan Certificate, and international recognition of Dan grades shall be subject to the payment of the applicable contributions established by the PJC and the IJF, according to the grade requested and the regulatory provisions in force.

The contributions established by the IJF shall be governed by the IJF Grades and Dan Regulations incorporated as Annex I of this System and by any subsequent amendments or updates thereto.

The contributions established by the PJC shall be published and updated periodically through the official media and platforms of the PJC.

Any application for the international recognition of a Dan grade must be previously validated by the Panamerican Judo Confederation (PJC), registered in the Panamerican Dan Grades Register (PJC), and accompanied by the corresponding PJC Dan Certificate.

Article 11

Period of Implementation, Transition and Obligation of International Recognition

The IJF has set an implementation period for the application of the new Regulations until September 1, 2026. All Dan grades awarded by National Federations from January 1, 2026, must undergo the corresponding international validation process, in accordance with the IJF Grades and Dan Regulations.

The IJF has also established transitional provisions applicable during the years 2026 and 2027, including simplified procedures and formats aimed at facilitating the progressive adaptation of National Federations and Continental Unions to the new regulations, requirements and procedures related to Dan grades.

In accordance with the provisions of the IJF, international recognition of Dan grades will be mandatory for all Dan grades awarded by Member National Federations from January 1, 2026, as well as for athletes registered in Judobase for senior competitions, IJF referees and judges, IJF coaches and IJF Academy instructor candidates, the IJF technical experts and other experts or categories that the International Judo Federation determines in its current regulations.

Article 12

Application Preparation and Submission

12.1. Any application for continental validation and international recognition of Dan grades must be submitted using the IJF Grade Application Form contained in Annex III of this System.

12.2. The IJF Grade Application Form will constitute the official document for the submission of applications related to Dan grades, before the Panamerican Judo Confederation (PJC) and for the subsequent submission of the same application to the International Judo Federation (IJF) for its corresponding international recognition, avoiding duplication of forms and administrative procedures.

12.3. The form and all supporting documentation must be submitted in English.

12.4. Applications must be submitted by email to the Panamerican Judo Confederation (PJC) by the corresponding National Member Federation.

12.5. When submitting an application, the National Federation must verify that the candidate meets all the requirements established by the IJF for the grade requested and that the grade requested corresponds to the documentation submitted, including, where applicable, minimum age, minimum time in grade, complete dates (day, month, and year) of each promotion, the National Federation that awarded each grade, IJF corresponding category when applicable (from the 6th Dan), technical requirements, kata and other criteria in force.

12.6. All applications must be duly signed by the candidate and certified by the President of the corresponding National Member Federation, in accordance with the procedures and requirements established by the International Judo Federation (IJF).

12.7. The applications submitted will be reviewed by the Panamerican Judo Confederation (PJC), with the participation of the IJF Continental Grade Representative for Pan America, as part of the continental validation process and their subsequent international channeling when appropriate.

12.8. For the issuance of the PJC Dan Certificate, and its registration in the Panamerican Dan Grades Register (PJC), the applicant must maintain an active affiliation with the PJC, in accordance with the current administrative provisions of said organization.

12.9. Incomplete applications, with insufficient information, missing documentation or that do not meet the established requirements may be returned to the corresponding National Federation for correction or supplementation before continuing the validation process.

Article 13

Final Provisions

Cases not provided for in this System will be resolved in accordance with the IJF Grades and Dan Regulations, the Rules for the Awarding of IJF Official Judo Dan Grades 1st to 10th Dan and the other provisions in force applicable in each case.

When a National Member Federation is unable to certify compliance with the requirements established by the International Judo Federation (IJF), the candidate must undergo the corresponding evaluation or examination procedure of the IJF, either in person or video evaluation, in accordance with the provisions established in Annexes I and II of this System.

The evaluations or examinations conducted in accordance with the provisions of the International Judo Federation (IJF), either in person or by video, must be conducted by examiners or judges validated by the International Judo Federation, in accordance with the provisions established in Annex I of this System.

Future modifications approved by the International Judo Federation (IJF) will be considered by the Panamerican Judo Confederation (PJC) for the updating and adaptation of the continental procedures and mechanisms established in this System.

13.1 IJF Categories Applicable to Higher Grades

In the IJF Grade Application Form (Annex III to this System), the corresponding category (A, B, C or D) shall be indicated where applicable in accordance with the provisions of the IJF.

The categories constitute an evaluation element for applications for validation of higher grades from 6th Dan and are not applicable to applications for validation from 1st to 5th Dan.

National Federations and applicants must carefully check the declared category before submitting the application, taking into consideration the requirements, minimum ages, periods of permanence between grades and other requirements and conditions established by the IJF for each category.