

Grade Recognition in the Lancashire Aikikai

Members who hold grades from other Associations.

The Lancashire Aikikai does not formally endorse any grades other than its own. However, this should not prevent members practicing at the level they are actually are - not necessarily what their 'paperwork' says. The Lancashire Aikikai sees anyone informally as being the grade they held when they joined us and acknowledge Hombu grades. To this end a Club Leader should keep a copy for their records a copy of the grading certificate or other record.

A member cannot be placed in the position of practising unsafely because of the way a class or course is split by grade when they are expected or assumed to be able to practise at a higher level than their abilities, as opposed to their 'paperwork', appear to indicate. Club Leaders should hold a conversation with the member to ensure safety. (See Note B)

Dan Grade:

- If a Hombu grade is held, when they reach the standard¹ for their next grading level and satisfy any time period they may grade.
- If a non Hombu DG grade is held then Hombu requires that the member is subject to Hombu rules which means progression starts as a 1st Dan grading² (assuming they meet the required standard) in the normal way. Subsequent progression is as for any member

Kyu Grade:

- Where a Kyu grade is held, when they reach the standard³ for their next grading level they may grade in the normal way subject to the normal rules.

Notes:

- A. Yokohama International Aikido Club & Hombu membership is required when a member takes a Lancashire Aikikai & Hombu grading processed for the first time.
- B. There are benefits from a grading system in giving members targets and allowing instructors to structure classes with ease. But safety as noted above is important regarding abilities and skill levels so the "conversation" should cover classes and courses and instilling in the member a common sense approach of not putting themselves at risk by practising beyond their ability.

If a member says "I just want to practise I'm not interested in grading further" that is not problem but they should go to the level of practise that is suitable for them when a split by grade occurs in a class or course. This can occur :

- i. when someone returns to Aikido after a long break or
- ii. there is change of style or approach or
- iii. progressed whilst not grading for sometime

- C. The Grading Review Group should be made aware of anyone holding 2nd Kyu or above joining

¹ "standard" means that required by the Lancashire Aikikai and Hombu

² Even if their grade by their Association was to a higher level.

³ "standard" means that required by the Lancashire Aikikai and Hombu