

2025 Refresh of Terms of Reference (Remit) for the Grading Review Group

Grading Review Group (GRG): The membership will consist of at least three Senior Dan Grades and will include the Aikikai's Head of Association. When vacancies occur the Aikido Management Board (AMB) will appoint from their ranks. The GRG may, from time to time, co-opt Aikikai Dan Grades for specific tasks which may be required to deal with particular issues.

The GRG sits under AMB in hierarchical terms.

{Explanation:- Aikikai or LA shall mean the Lancashire Aikikai for this document}

Purpose and Role: to support, maintain and improve Aikido standards within the Lancashire Aikikai guided by our Technical Director – Mimuro Sensei. Sensei manages and administers the Hombu grading process.

The Aikido Management Board (AMB) is formed to deal with Aikido matters. The following areas have been delegated to the GRG :-

- Creating and maintaining consistent standards
- Liaising with our Technical Director
- Coaching matters and development
- Dan Grade Continuing Professional Development

The GRG will work with Club Leaders and their members, who are 2nd Kyu or higher, to improve skills, technique and standards by:-

A. Running High Grade courses, usually 3rd Kyu and higher to provide the opportunity to practise and develop techniques, work on weapons, as well as other aspects that can be difficult to provide in local clubs with small numbers, eg defences with multiple attackers. Operate within the authority to incur costs as set by the Treasurer.

Encouraging coaching best practise by Instructors that will accelerate their student's learning and skills. Developing CPD opportunities and encouraging self reflection for both Aikido and coaching.

B. GRG will encourage members:-

- To train at our other clubs to practise with different people
- To be coached by different Dan Grades to gain fresh insights into moves
- To be objective about their standard
- To watch Gradings. 1st Kyu and Dan Gradings will be run so that members may observe and see the standard expected.

C. The GRG will encourage Club Leaders (Dojo Cho) / Yudansha:-

- To invite LA Instructors to visit their clubs
- To practise how we identify what corrections are needed initially to improve a technique
- To undertake coaching training to gain BAB Level 2 or 3 appropriate to their grade
- To be a mentor (if experienced) or mentee (wants to improve)
- Gain grading panel experience including moderation

D. The GRG will: -

- maintain grading standards by moderation and other methods, together with how gradings are conducted.
- monitor Aikikai minimum time periods between grades.
- scrutinise members being graded too quickly.
- take the view that the award of two grades at the same time should be a rare event.

We will monitor these by the Hombu Grading Rep reporting to us.

The approach to gradings in the LA is recognised with our Technical Director as:-

1. Grades below 1st Kyu are usually graded in club by the Dojo Cho approved by our Technical Director.
2. 1st Kyu will usually be graded on an Aikikai Course by a panel appointed for that purpose by this Group.
3. Club Leaders to update the GRG Liaison on their candidate working towards 1st Kyu or a Dan grade.
4. GRG to assist our Technical Director with Dan gradings - when approached and provide for recommended candidates completed Background Information Forms and attachments for Sensei.

The GRG is supported by:-

- A. The Hombu Grading Representative maintains the records of Hombu Dan Gradings and will provide the GRG with periodic updates from 2nd Kyu onwards. Our Group Lead will advise the Representative once a candidate has shown they are at a suitable standard and ready to be put forward for a Dan Grading, before our Technical Director.
- B. GRG will liaise with the Social Media Coordinator, Secretary, Webmaster and Newsletter Editor when we wish to let members know about events or information needing to be disseminated.
- C. The Course Planning Group (CPG) is responsible for organising general courses using experienced coaching personnel. The CPG will outline to GRG its planned programme which will allocate a minimum of two courses per year to High Grade development (Usually 3rd Kyu and higher). GRG and CPG will:
 - Liaise on dates and venue
 - Liaise on any specific requirements with regard venue.
 - Keep each other briefed.
 - Provide feedback from CPG general courses on matters that should be picked up by HG courses both Aikido and Coaching

Reporting The GRG will report to AMB during December on the year's business providing a concise synopsis highlighting issues, for the matters that have been delegated to the Group by AMB.

Privacy will be considered when reporting.