



**SHOTOKAN KOKUSAI  
KARATEDO SOUTH AFRICA**

AMANZIMTOTI ▪ AVOCA ▪ DURBAN NORTH ▪ OTTAWA ▪ OVERPORT ▪ SHAKASKRAAL ▪ SHALLCROSS ▪ STANGER  
AL KHOBAR, SAUDI ARABIA

**BROWN BELT EXAMINATION POLICY**

January 2017

In accordance with SKKSA's philosophy of teaching and practicing international-standard quality karatedo, a set of criteria has been established to ensure our students receive the best possible instruction to prepare them for these senior levels.

This policy document outlines the requirements for eligible karateka undertaking the SKKSA Brown Belt Examination Programme. The requirements established herein establish the level of minimum proficiency required to undertake this senior examination; i.e. karateka are encouraged to exceed these requirements to ensure success at the year-end examination.

The Brown Belt Examination Programme

This programme is an intensive, advanced programme that forms a prerequisite for entry into the Dan Level training. It prepares karateka for the advanced concepts that are required at this level, both mentally and physically. The grading syllabus for these three examinations forms the basis of the 1st Dan Black Belt examination. It is imperative that karateka approach this programme with a mature mindset. Concepts introduced and revised at this level go beyond regular weekday training at local dojo level, and as such karateka are required to attend the weekly Senior Session.

This programme is vast and complex, and thus attendance is required throughout the year to ensure a student receives full instruction of the entire programme. For this reason, attendance is monitored with SKKSA ID, and periodic attendance reports are provided to dojo instructors to help monitor student progress during this programme.

**1. REQUIREMENTS TO MEET ENTRY FOR EXAMINATION**

Saturday Training Sessions

Senior instruction is given during weekly two-hour sessions, on a Saturday, at the SKKSA headquarters in Durban North. The entire brown belt syllabus from 3rd Kyu to 1st Kyu is introduced and revised during this time, parallel to additional coursework deemed suitable for students at this level. In order to qualify for entry into the final examination, karateka must meet the following requirements:

Affiliation

- Prospective candidates must be registered with SKKSA during the year of the examination
- Karateka are required to sign-in to each senior session using their student card, in order for that session to be counted towards their attendance criteria. It is the student's responsibility to ensure their name is entered.

Attendance

- Attend **a minimum 50%** of all eligible Saturday Sessions
- An eligible Saturday Session is defined as that Saturday on which official senior instruction is given during the two-hour period at the HQ dojo. Note that attendance at any other karate event (e.g. participation at an invitational, regional, national or international event) on an eligible Saturday Session will not be counted towards a session trained. Students will therefore be required to make up that missed lesson
- Attendance must be **consistent throughout the year**
- Karateka must train the full session (2hrs) for that session to be counted on their profile
- Karateka are required to train a **minimum of 80%** of their weekday training at local dojo-level

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- Catch-up sessions in the 3rd and 4th quarter in an effort to reach the required 50% attendance minimum will not be accepted
- Karateka must attend the full duration of the annual Summer Course, held in December. This includes all eligible training sessions prior to the Final Examination. **Full attendance at this Course is mandatory**

Readiness level to undertake examination

- A student must be a **minimum of 10 years old** at the date of examination to undertake a Brown Belt examination
- Although a student may meet the above attendance criteria, including the 50% attendance at Senior Saturday Sessions, eligibility to enter the Final Examination will remain at the discretion of the dojo instructor, who will assess the same based on the student's grasp and execution of the prescribed examination programme. Karateka are therefore encouraged to apply the required seriousness, dedication and focus at the Senior Saturday sessions

Factors for disqualification from entry

- Karateka attending sessions in the first half of the year only, will not be considered for entry into the examination
- Actions taken in the public sphere (i.e. Outside the dojo) that may bring the organization's name into disrepute will be marked against the student, and may cause a potential candidate to be withdrawn from the Brown Belt Examination Programme. This is at the discretion of the Chief Examiner

**2. EXAMINATION**

Brown belt examinations follow the syllabus set-out by the SKKSA Kyu Programme. All brown belt programmes will only be examined in December, at the annual Summer Course. Exceptions may only be made in extreme circumstances, at the discretion of the Chief Examiner. International brown belt examinations may take place in July at the SKISF Swiss Summer Course in Locarno, Switzerland; karateka undertaking this international examination are subject to the separate training policies for international gradings.

Examination Day Requirements

- Candidates must be affiliated students with SKKSA for the duration of the year of examination
- Karateka must be present 30 minutes prior to the start of examination for entry into the session
- Karateka must be present throughout the scheduled duration of the Summer Course and examination. This is inclusive of the post-examination presentation ceremony
- Karateka must be dressed in the correct attire throughout the duration of examination, including the post-examination presentation ceremony

**3. ACCEPTANCE OF THIS POLICY**

This policy is provided as-is. Your acceptance of the terms and information set out above indicates your agreement with SKKSA's Brown Belt Examination Programme.

I, _____ agree to the terms set out above for the SKKSA Brown Belt Examination Programme. I accept that any deviation from the terms above may lead to disqualification from entry into the Final Examination.	
Signed:	
x _____ (Candidate for Exam)	x _____ (Parent/Guardian)
Date: _____	Location: _____