



RULES

PROMOTION TO GRAND MASTER IXth DEGREE

1. PREPARATION PERIOD

This will be 8 years, minimum, from the date of promotion to 8th degree.
An extra waiting period of four years will be applied for candidates coming from other organizations and who did not obtain their rank of 7th or 8th degree certificate from our ITF.

2. AGE

The candidate must be at least 60 years old in the year of the application.

However, the application may be sent to the NA no sooner than 6 months prior to the promotion date to 9th Degree.

3. CV

Submit a personal CV.

4. BACKGROUND CHECK

Must include a personal background check.

A background check cleared by the local authority must be certified by the NA/AA. In case there is no such system then the NA/AA must certify that the candidate has no criminal convictions or pending actions against him.

Definition: Background checks provide an opportunity for someone to check a person's criminal record, education, employment history, and other past activities in order to confirm their validity.

5. PLAQUE

Candidate must be a current plaque holder.

Candidate must have at least eight valid plaques in the preparation period.
In case a member did not pay the annual teaching license (plaque) fee during a certain period of time specified in the ITF By Laws, then the waiting time for promotion will be increased for that the period of time or the penalty shall apply if the plaque fee is not paid by the time that the next payment is due.

6. COURSES

Must attend at least two IIC's and one International Do Course = IDC since grading to 8th degree black belt.

7. WRITTEN SUPPORT

Require written support from at least three 9th degree GMs before requesting promotion.

The GMs report must include a personal history with regards to the applicant. The report should outline the GM's relationship with the candidate, including the number of years they have known the candidate, and how frequently they met and in what types of circumstances.

The report should describe the candidate's personal character compared with the values of ITF Taekwon-Do, and the candidate's technical knowledge and competence in ITF Taekwon-Do.

8. STANDING

- A The candidate cannot have pending sanctions or pending disciplinary actions etc. against his/her person.
- B During the applicant's career have accomplished duties for Taekwon-Do in his/her country and the ITF.
- C The candidate must be in good standing with his/her national organization or AA and the ITF.

9. APPLICATION FOR PROMOTION

- A. The applicant must complete all relevant sections with the information required and sign it.
- B. He/she should send the form to the NA administration with the addition of his/her CV, thesis and letters of recommendation from at least three supporters who must themselves be Grand Masters.
N.B. The letters from the supporters must detail how they know the applicant, how many years they have known him/her, how often they met and in what circumstances.
Please note that the supporter should know about the applicant more than meeting on a few courses or similar.
- C. It is required that he/she arranges to have a meeting with a panel from the Grand Masters' Promotion Committee (GMPC) through the NA. At this meeting the Committee shall interview the candidate.
- D. The thesis should be a minimum of 10,000 words. The candidate will also be permitted to submit an equivalent thesis in an alternative medium, e.g. video, audio, website, physical composition or structure, etc. Someone could craft a statue or piece of artwork, build a machine or device that helps teach Taekwon-Do etc. The thesis should further ITF TKD in some way (which may not be technical). However, it should be allowable to submit a piece of work prepared earlier in the candidate's career, if it remains relevant.

The meeting should be arranged at a time and place which is suitable for all. It should be noted that this meeting must take place before the GMPC can make a decision about the promotion. This meeting could be by teleconference, through media such as Skype, Facetime, Zoom etc. and shall be recorded.

10. ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY THE NA/AA:

The secretary is responsible for:

- A. Checking all of the required documents are present (application form, CV, thesis, sponsor forms), and that all details are correct (date of promotion, age, waiting time, number of IICs', plaque payments). Should there be any discrepancies he/she must have them rectified before taking further action.
- B. Checking if the candidate came from another organization and rejecting the application if it is before the four year added time period has expired.
- C. Certifying that a personal background check of the candidate has been made and is satisfactory. This check should have been by the relevant local authority.
- D. Certifying that during the candidate's career he/she has been in good standing with the national organization and the ITF. Any GM application must be approved by the NA even though the applicant is part of an AA.
- E. Certifying that during the candidate's career he/she was loyal and accomplished duties for Taekwon-Do in the country and the ITF.
- F. Certifying that the candidate was cleared at any disciplinary hearing and that there are no pending sanctions or disciplinary actions outstanding.
- G. Having the completed form signed by the president of the NA.
- H. Sending all required documents in full to the ITF once completed. Documents will not be accepted or processed if any part of the application is not included.

11. ITF

On receipt of the application by the Secretary General of the ITF, he/she will be responsible for:

- A. Checking all details are correct and all requirements are met.
- B. When everything is correct he/she will send the documents to the chairperson of the GMPC.

12. GMPC

On receipt of the documents, the chairperson will check them and forward them with his/her comments to the GMPC members. The members will review the documents and forward any comments to the chairperson. When agreement is reached by all members of the GMPC that the candidate should be interviewed then a meeting will be arranged by the GMPC and the

candidate interviewed. During the interview the candidate will be asked about a suitable occasion for presentation of the certificate. Following the interview, a decision will be made by the GMPC about the suitability of the candidate to be promoted. The chairperson will inform the NA about the decision. Should the candidate have been successful, the Sec Gen of the ITF will be asked to send the appropriate certificate to the NA. Please note that the promotion is only valid when the presentation ceremony has taken place.

13. DATE OF PROMOTION

- A. The date put on the certificate will ideally be the date when the certificate is presented to the GM at a WORLD EVENT. When this is impossible it should be a CONTINENTAL EVENT. When this is further impossible it should be a NATIONAL EVENT. In other cases the GMPC will suggest a date.
- B. The Sec Gen will inform the president of the NA/AA that it has been approved, but not give details. The GMPC, at the interview with the candidate, will ascertain when it could be presented.
- C. The title will only be effective from the moment he/she receives the certificate.

Approval and version control

This policy was approved by the Board of Directors on 1th August 2021.

Date	Description	Version
6 th June 2021	Rules Promotion to Grand Master IXth Degree	1
1 st August 2021	Rules Promotion to Grand Master IXth Degree	2

These guidelines come into force on 1st January 2022.