

USJJF Special Titles Policy

Many people are confused by the use of titles within the Martial Arts community. Each martial art and organization uses titles in a different manner; therefore the Central Technical Committee has established the following policy for the use of titles within the United States Ju-Jitsu Federation to provide for their consistent use. This policy is consistent with the use within the traditional international martial arts community.

Sensei - literally means "one who has gone before" is the term used for all instructors or teachers in any art or discipline. It is a term that is not used in connection to rank and anyone in the position of "instructor" may be referred to as "Sensei". Normally though, it is a title used to denote black belts of instructor level grade.

Renshi - First of three general grades. Independent of the US Ju-Jitsu rank system. Presented at a minimum rank of 4th Dan. Normally would include Yondan, Godan and Rokudan ranks. Demonstrated ability to teach practical methods and basic techniques, and dedication to the martial arts.

A special rank certificate will be presented at the recommendation of the member's instructor or in the absence of such, by the Central Technical Committee. Presented in recognition of contributions to the martial arts community. Approximate in title to Bachelor of Arts.

Kyoshi - Second of three instructor grades. Independent of the US Ju-Jitsu rank system. Presented at a minimum rank of Shichidan or four years after awarding of Renshi title. Demonstrated expert knowledge of the methods, traditions, teaching methods and techniques.

A special rank certificate will be presented at the recommendation of the member's instructor or in the absence of such, by the Central Technical Committee. Approximate in title to Master of Fine Arts.

Hanshi - Third of three general grades. Minimum rank of 9th Dan. Minimum of 60 years of age and must already hold the title of Koysai. Individual must be of outstanding moral and personal character. Independent of the US Ju-Jitsu rank system. Proven leadership and contributor on a National level. Profound understanding of the techniques, history and traditions, and the spirit of the martial arts.

A special rank certificate will be presented at the recommendation of the Central Technical Committee. Approximate in title to Doctor of Philosophy.

Meijin - As obtained the highest rank of 10th Dan and minimum age of 70 years old. Awarded by Special Approval of this title at the discretion of the Central Technical Committee. Awarding of a special rank certificate will be presented. Meijin translated to mean "Grand Master".

Shihan - Special Title indicating a "Head Instructor" or an "Instructor of Instructors". Minimum rank of Shichidan and holder of the Koshi title. Approval of this title is at the discretion of the Central Technical Committee. Awarding of a special rank certificate will be presented.

If you have questions regarding the USJJF Special Titles Policy, please feel free to contact the USJJF National Headquarters.