

ENGLISH  
VERSION

# **GENERAL SYSTEM OF GRADUATION**



**IBJJF**

INTERNATIONAL BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU FEDERATION

[www.ibjff.com](http://www.ibjff.com)

## CONTENTS

PAGE 3

INTRODUCTION

PAGE 4

GENERAL SYSTEM OF GRADUATION

PAGE 11

SUGGESTED DEGREE SYSTEM FOR ATHLETES BETWEEN 4 TO 15 YEARS



**In order to unify the teachings**, the practice of Jiu-Jitsu and to standardize models of competition, the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation (IBJJF) presents this General System of Graduation.

To continue the progress and spirit of the recently renewed Jiu Jitsu Book of Rules, launched in January 2012, the General System of Graduation strives to enhance the athletes' understanding of the graduation process from white belt to red belt.

The IBJJF has updated the General System of Graduation to provide improvements to our old rules. The biggest improvement is the inclusion of a new grading system for athletes 4 to 15 years of age, which separates each belt rank groups (gray, yellow, orange and green). This new system for athletes under the age of 16 will make the practice of Jiu-Jitsu more exciting and attractive by providing more frequent graduations, which also provides steady advancement throughout the athlete's career.




In regards to the grading system of athlete from 04 to 15 years old, the IBJJF added additional improvements and suggestions for professors and instructors. For Example: There are three different ways to grant degrees, which the IBJJF suggests to be done monthly, trimestrial and quarterly. The purpose of this is to track the Jiu-Jitsu practitioner's time within every color belt rank.

The current General System of Graduation is evolving and may need to be modified over time according to the needs of Jiu-Jitsu. The IBJJF intends to continue working to make the sport easier, more attractive and satisfying for athletes and professors.






*International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation*

## 1 ARTICLE 1 – BELTS

### 1.1 Belt ranks for athletes ages 04 to 15 years old

1. White	
2. Grey and White	
3. Grey	
4. Grey and Black	
5. Yellow and White	
6. Yellow	
7. Yellow and Black	
8. Orange and White	
9. Orange	
10. Orange and Black	
11. Green and White	
12. Green	
13. Green and Black	

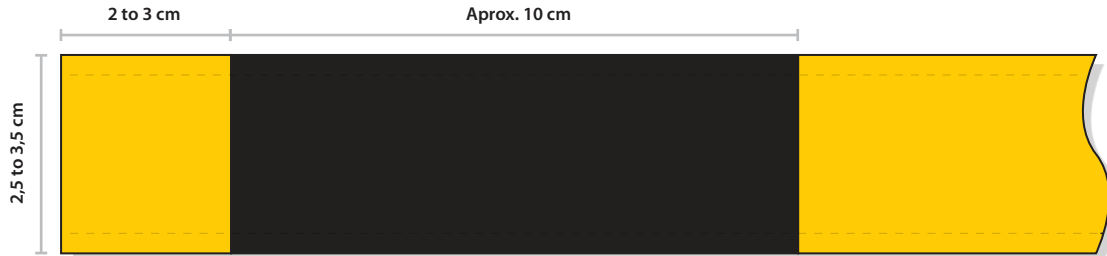
### 1.2 Belt ranks for athletes ages 16 years and older

1. White	
2. Blue	
3. Purple	
4. Brown	
5. Black	
6. Red and Black	
7. Red and White	
8. Red	

### 1.3 Configuration of Belts

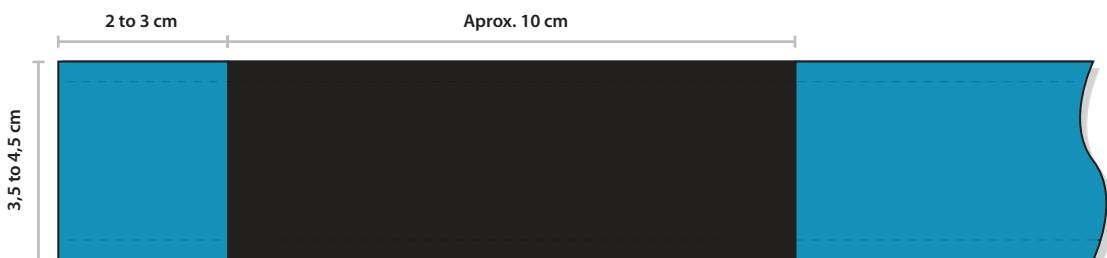
#### 1.3.1 Belts – Athletes from 04 to 15 years old

Belts will have from 2.5 cm (0.98 in) to 3.5 cm (1.38 in) wide and one black bar of approximately 10 cm (3.94 in) in length positioned between 2 cm (0.79 in) to 3 cm (1.18 in) in one of the ends. The belt may have only the color of the group or a white or black stripe in the center along its entire length.



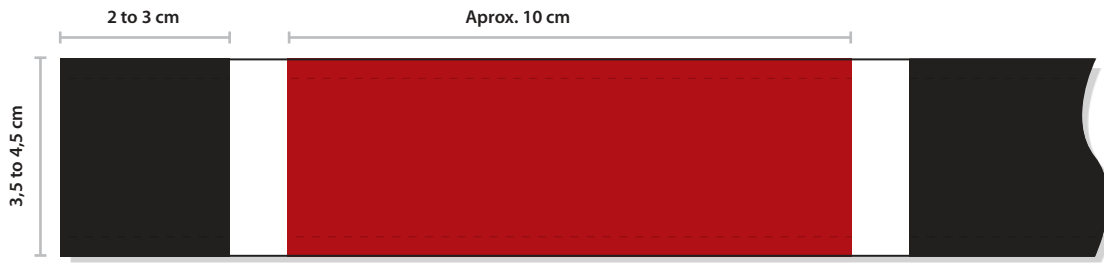
#### 1.3.2 From White Belt to Brown Belt – Athletes starting from 16 years old

Belts will have from 3.5 cm (1.38 in) to 4.5 cm (1.77 in) wide; a black bar of approximately 10 cm (3.94 in) length placed between 2 cm (0.79 in) to 3 cm (1.18 in) in one of the ends.



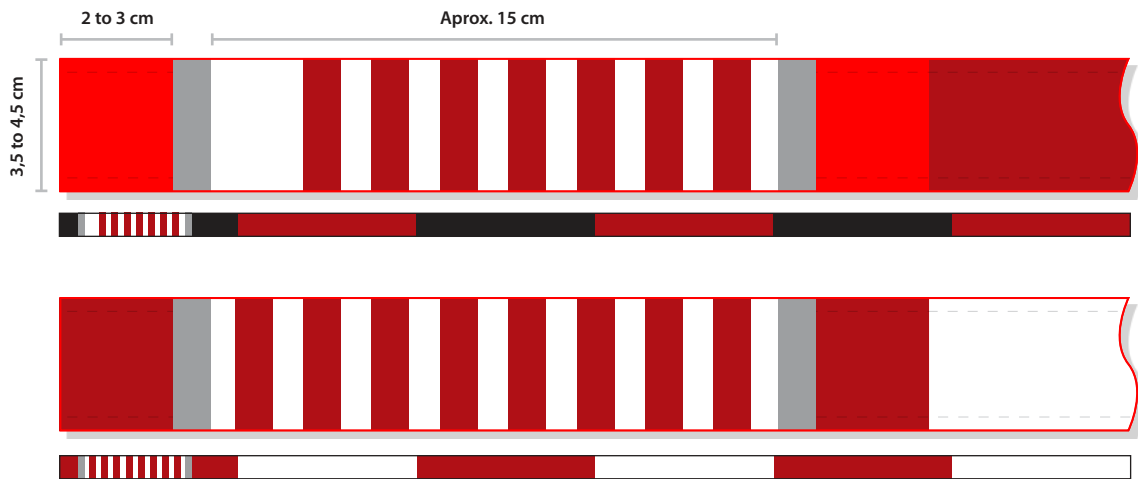
### 1.3.3 Black Belt

Black belt will have a red bar of approximately 10 cm (3.94 in) in length positioned between 2 cm (0.79 in) to 3 cm (1.18 in) in one of the ends. It will be delineated by two white bars and will receive markings from one to six degrees.



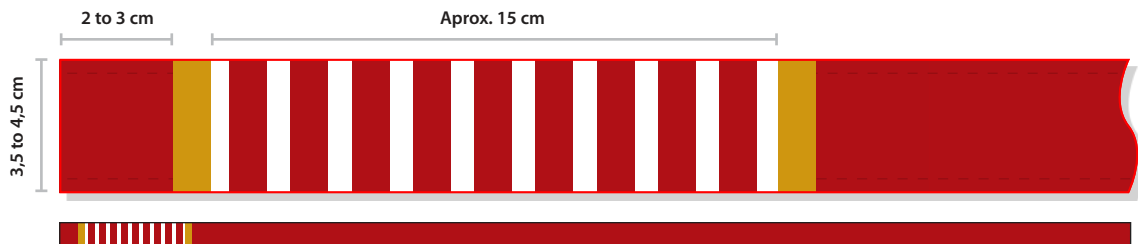
### 1.3.4 Red and Black Belt / Red and White Belt

Master's belts are red and black (7th grade) and red and white (8th grade) intercalated with stripes of 20 cm (7.87 in). The belts will have a white bar of approximately 15 cm (5.91 in) length placed between 2 (0.79 in) to 3 cm (1.18 in) in one of the ends delineated by two silver bars in which will receive degrees' markings in red.



### 1.3.5 Red Belt

The Grand Master's belt (9th and 10th degrees) will be red. It will have a white bar of approximately 15 cm (5.91 in) length placed between 2 cm (0.79 in) to 3 cm (1.18 in) in one of the ends delineated by two gold bars of 2 cm (0.79 in) which will receive degrees' markings in red.



## 2 ARTICLE 2 – MINIMUM AGES

### 2.1 Minimum age requirements for athletes between 04 to 15 years old

**White** – Any age

**Group Grey (Gray and White Belt, Gray Belt, Gray and Black Belt)** – 4 to 15 years

**Group Yellow (Yellow and White Belt, Yellow Belt, Yellow and Black Belt)** – 7 to 15 years

**Group Orange (Orange and White Belt, Orange belt, Orange and Black Belt)** – 10 to 15 years

**Group Green (Green and White Belt, Green Belt, Green and Black Belt)** – 13 to 15 years

### 2.2 Minimum age requirements for athletes starting from 16 years old

**White** – Any age

**Blue** – 16 years or more

**Purple** – 16 years or more

**Brown** – 18 years or more

**Black** – 19 years or more

**Red and black** – 50 years or more

**Red and white** – 57 years or more

**Red** – 67 years or more

### 2.3 - Observations

2.3.1 The minimum age for the athlete to be eligible to change belt is the age he or she has completed or will complete in the current year, following the formula:  $\text{CURRENT YEAR} - \text{BIRTH YEAR} = \text{AGE OF THE ATHLETE}$ .

2.3.2 In the year that the athlete turns 16 years of age, he or she must be placed in the Belt system from the [Article 1.1](#). He or she will be promoted to the new rank according to the belt he has:

**White Belt** – Remains in White Belt;

**Grey Belt, Yellow Belt, Orange Belt** – turns to Blue Belt;

**Green Belt** – turns Blue or Purple Belt according to professor's decision.

		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21...	
<b>WHITE</b>		[White Belt progression bar]																		
<b>GREY GROUP</b>	Grey / White	[Grey/White Belt progression bar]																		
	Grey	[Grey Belt progression bar]																		
	Grey / Black	[Grey/Black Belt progression bar]																		
<b>YELLOW GROUP</b>	Yellow / White				[Yellow/White Belt progression bar]															
	Yellow				[Yellow Belt progression bar]															
	Yellow / Black				[Yellow/Black Belt progression bar]															
<b>ORANGE GROUP</b>	Orange / White							[Orange/White Belt progression bar]												
	Orange							[Orange Belt progression bar]												
	Orange / Black							[Orange/Black Belt progression bar]												
<b>GREEN GROUP</b>	Green / White										[Green/White Belt progression bar]									
	Green / Black										[Green/Black Belt progression bar]									
	Green										[Green Belt progression bar]									
<b>BLUE</b>														[Blue Belt progression bar]						
<b>PURPLE</b>															[Purple Belt progression bar]					
<b>BROWN</b>																	[Brown Belt progression bar]			
<b>BLACK</b>																		[Black Belt progression bar]		

### **3 ARTICLE 3 - MINIMUM PERIOD**

**3.1** The graduation of athletes must also meet the following minimum periods of permanence in each color:

**3.1.1** Practitioners between 04 to 15 years old – No minimum period of stay in each belt.

**3.1.2** Athletes between 16 and 17 years old

**White** – No minimum time

**Blue** – No minimum time

**Purple** – 2 (two) years

**3.1.3** Athletes from 18 years old – White Belt to Brown Belt

**White** – no minimum time

**Blue** – 2 (two) years

**Purple** – 1 (one) year and a half

**Brown** – 1 (one) year

**3.1.4** Athletes from the Back Belt \*

**Black** – 31 years

**Red and black** – 7 years

**Red and white** – 10 years

**Red** – undefined

\*The periods mentioned in this topic are fixed, not minimum and determine how long each practitioner should remain in each belt.

### **3.2 Observations**

**3.2.1** The period mentioned in the **Article 3** should be counted from the day of the registration of the athlete in IBJJF in each belt.

**3.2.2** The time it takes for the athlete graduate from white belt to black belt is up to the athlete's professor. However, the IBJJF requires a mandatory minimum amount of time the athlete must spend at each belt level.

**3.2.3** From the black belt graduation on (red and black belt, red and white belt and red belt) the practitioner must meet the mandatory minimum time requirement for each belt rank after black belt graduation date.



## 4 ARTICLE 4 - DEGREE SYSTEM

### 4.1 Division by degrees

#### 4.1.1 Athletes between 04 to 15 years old

The IBJJF suggests professors have some way of dividing each belt by degrees. See the suggestions in the exhibit of this Regulation.

#### 4.1.2 Athletes ages 16 years and older

**White Belt, Blue Belt, Purple Belt, Brown Belt** – They are divided single color belts and 4 degrees.

**Black Belt** – Single color Belt and divided by six (6) degrees.

**Red and Black Belt** – Represents the seventh degree black belt

**Red and White Belt** – Represents the eighth degree black belt

**Red Belt** – Represents the ninth degree black belt

**Note:** Until the brown belt, the adoption of the degree system is up to each professor. However, when a practitioner receives their black belt it is mandatory to adopt the degree system defined by IBJJF.

#### 4.1.3 Athletes from the black belt ranking on (red and black belt, red and white belt and red belt)

- Every promotion to a new degree in the black belt is only valid starting from the issuance of an IBJJF diploma, after the applicant meets the basic requirements present in [Article 5](#).
- The first degree can only be requested after a minimum of three (3) years of the black belt graduation.
- The second and third grades can be requested only after a minimum period of three (3) years from the previous graduation.
- The 4th, 5th and 6th grades can be requested only after a minimum period of 5 (five) years from the previous graduation.
- The 7th and 8th grades (red and black belt) can be requested only after a period of 7 (seven) years from the previous graduation.
- The 9th degree (red belt) can only be applied after a minimum period of 10 (ten) years from the previous graduation.
- The 10th grade (red belt) was given only to the pioneers of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, the Gracie brothers: Carlos, Oswaldo, George, Gaston and Helio.

**Note:** The year or years the athlete does not renew his or her membership and/or register an academy with IBJJF will not count as time towards certifying a degree or degrees.

## **5 ARTICLE 5 – IBJJF BASIC REQUIREMENTS TO OBTAIN THE BLACK BELT CERTIFICATE AND DEGREES**

### **5.1 Basic Requirements**

- Must be affiliated to IBJJF in the current year.
- Must provide First Aid or CPR course certificate
- Must attend an IBJJF Referee Course within a 12 month period before the date the athlete requests the new degree
- Must attend at least one of the two requirements below:
  1. Must be the professor responsible or assistant professor at an academy that has renewed the affiliation through IBJJF in all previous years for the minimum period required for the new graduation.
  2. Must be an athlete practicing Jiu-Jitsu in an academy that has renewed the registration through IBJJF in all previous years for the minimum period required for the new graduation and has a professor (in charge) who is a black belt with at least 2 degrees certified by IBJJF. **Please Note: The professor that signs the application form also must be the professor that promoted the athlete and be a black belt with at least two degrees certified by IBJJF.**

### **5.2 Observations**

- 5.2.1 The Black belt certification graduation for each new degree is an individual process that depends on a thorough analysis by the IBJJF including examination of documents, therefore, there is no set time for its conclusion.
- 5.2.2 In countries where there is a local organization or federation linked to IBJJF who is responsible for the certification, it may require additional documents to the basic IBJJF requirements.

## **6 ARTICLE 6 - PROFESSORS AND INSTRUCTORS**

- 6.1 The membership form of an athlete graded in belts of gray, yellow, orange, green, blue, purple and brown must be signed by an IBJJF affiliated black belt.
- 6.2 The graduation of an athlete to black belt can only be signed by a black belt instructor that promoted them and must have at least 2 degrees certified by IBJJF.
- 6.3 In countries or regions where there are not enough black belts for the development of the sport, IBJJF will accept purple belt and brown belt athletes to sign as instructors. Once the minimum number is reached, the use of instructor status will be suspended.
- 6.3.1 Brown belt instructors can only graduate athletes to purple belt and purple belt instructors can only graduate athletes to blue belt.



**GENERAL SYSTEM OF GRADUATION**

***ANNEX I***

**Suggested degree system for  
athletes between 4 to 15 years old**

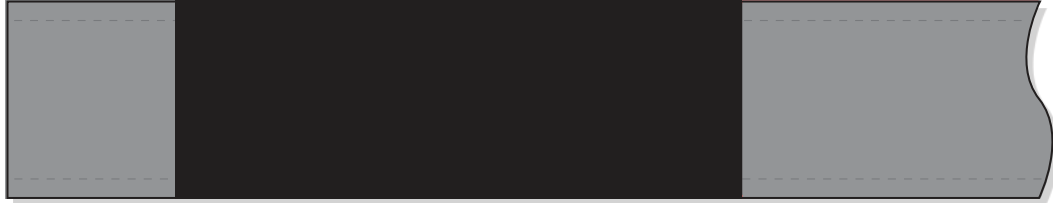
## 1 ANNEX

The IBJJF suggests three methods of dividing each belt in degrees for practitioners between 04 and 15 years. Adoption or not of one of the following methods is at the discretion of each professor.

### 1.1 Trimestrial System (every 3 months)

For the academies that adopt the degree graduation every three months, the IBJJF suggests three degrees for each belt. The fourth degree will be graduating the athlete to the next belt color according to the images below.

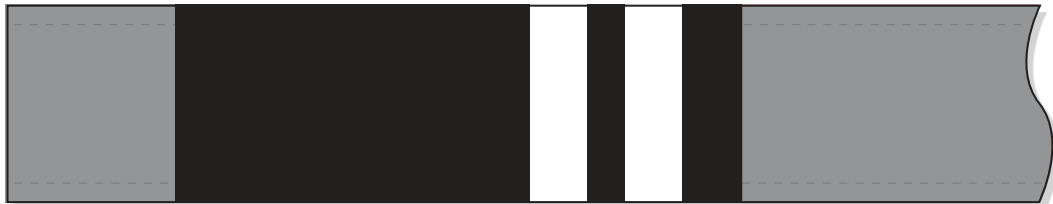
1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> MONTH



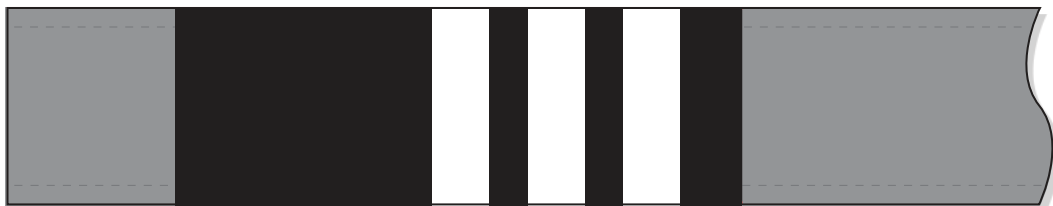
4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> MONTH



7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> MONTH



10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> MONTH



TOTAL: 1 YEAR

## 1.2 Quarterly System (every four months)

For the academies that adopt the degree graduation every four months, the IBJJF suggests two degrees for each belt. The third degree will be graduating the athlete to the next belt color according to the images below.

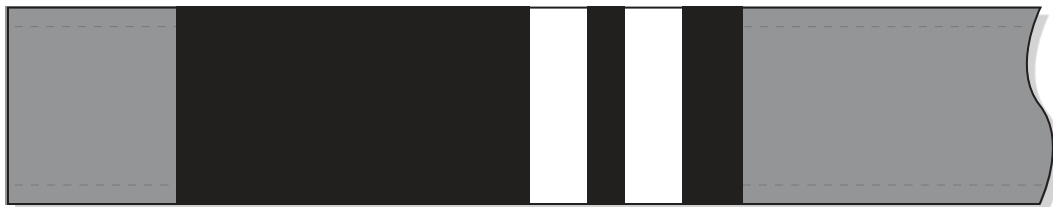
1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> MONTH



5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> MONTH



9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> MONTH



TOTAL: 1 YEAR

### 1.3 Monthly System

For the academies that adopt the degree graduation every month, the IBJJF suggests 11 degrees for each belt. The 12th degree will be graduating the athlete to the next belt color. The first four degrees are white, the next four will be red and the last three will be the color of the next belt, as shown on the image below.

1<sup>st</sup> MONTH



7<sup>th</sup> MONTH



2<sup>nd</sup> MONTH



8<sup>th</sup> MONTH



3<sup>rd</sup> MONTH



9<sup>th</sup> MONTH



4<sup>th</sup> MONTH



10<sup>th</sup> MONTH



5<sup>th</sup> MONTH



11<sup>th</sup> MONTH



6<sup>th</sup> MONTH



12<sup>th</sup> MONTH



TOTAL: 1 YEAR

## 1.4 Degrees system for white belts and white and gray belts

The IBJJF suggests 1 degree per month in White and Grey and White Belts for the completion period of 1 year in two graduations.

### WHITE BELT

1<sup>st</sup> MONTH



2<sup>nd</sup> MONTH



3<sup>rd</sup> MONTH



4<sup>th</sup> MONTH



5<sup>th</sup> MONTH



6<sup>th</sup> MONTH



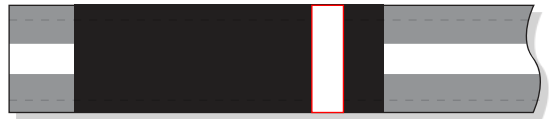
TOTAL: 6 MONTHS

### GREY/WHITE BELT

1<sup>st</sup> MONTH



2<sup>nd</sup> MONTH



3<sup>rd</sup> MONTH



4<sup>th</sup> MONTH



5<sup>th</sup> MONTH



6<sup>th</sup> MONTH



WHITE + GREY BELT/WHITE BELT = TOTAL: 1 YEAR





**INTERNATIONAL BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU FEDERATION (IBJJF)**

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL  
DECEMBER 2012

**VERSION 1.0**



**IBJJF**

INTERNATIONAL BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU FEDERATION

[www.ibjff.com](http://www.ibjff.com)

