



Peterson's Martial Arts Mu Sa Kwan Tang Soo Do Federation

WHAT IS A BLACK BELT?

“Dan” is a term used to designate a level of achievement of black belt. “Black Belt” means dark blue colored dee (belt), and someone who wears one is also known as *Yu Dan Ja*, meaning Black Belt Holder. The blue color represents the end of one of the stages towards true mastery, but more importantly, it is the beginning of a path to the next stage. The color also represents mastery, calmness, dignity, and sincerity.

You can also continue the analogy, from the gup ranks, of comparing the dan ranks to the higher levels of education. For example, in reaching 1st dan, the student has earned a high school diploma and is now beginning college to study for his/her bachelor's degree. Upon reaching 3rd dan, s/he has earned his/her bachelor's degree and begins working on his/her master's degree.

The Dan should be qualified as follows:

1. **Nature**

The dan is motivated primarily by the ideals on human service rather than that of any other reason (such as revenge, violence, fighting, or riches). Choose this art as your own way of life.

2. **Achievement**

The dan is an exemplary martial artist who has trained incessantly to achieve maturation of body and mind, and the invincible spirit of Federation.

3. **Professional**

The dan is a professional regardless of whether or not it is his or her profession. Therefore, the dan must constantly strive to reach a higher level of perfection of body and mind, through practice. The dan must do this in such a manner as to enhance the prestige and dignity of his or her profession.

4. **Loyalty**

Dans are completely loyal and motivated by the pride and honor of their art to help their studio, instructor, Grand Master, and Federation.

5. **Contribution**

A dan volunteers his/her help. S/He should aid in all Mu Sa Kwan Tang Soo Do activities and devote his/her knowledge to the improvements of human welfare.

6. **Justice and Truth**

The dan is a person who is capable of judging clearly, truth and untruth, and justice and injustice. Even when the truth-justice has bitter taste, remain fixed on the side of truth and justice.

7. **Leadership and Respect**

The dan is a leader in Mu Sa Kwan Tang Soo Do and all social functions. S/He should lead a righteous and respectable life according to the principles and creeds of the Federation.



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8. Brotherhood

The dan is a person who shows intimate brotherhood and sacrifice for the members of the dan community, in order to protect the prestige of the black belt.

9. Heritage

The dan is responsible for the continuation of Mu Sa Kwan Tang Soo Do. S/He must constantly recruit new students in order to transfer our art to the next generation, constantly teaching the proper way.

10. Application

The dan is one who is capable of applying his/her knowledge and skill of Mu Sa Kwan Tang Soo Do to his/her own or another's life, in a practical way, for better living.

DAN BELT SYSTEM

The following is the dan belt system used by the Mu Sa Kwan Tang Soo Do Federation:

DAN	BELT	REQUIRED TIME	POSITION
1 st Dan (<i>Cho</i>)	Navy blue - 1 gold stripe	6-9 months after 1 st gup	Dan member - Instructor Trainee (<i>Bo Kyo Sa Nim</i>)
2 nd Dan (<i>Ee</i>)	Navy blue - 2 gold stripes	1 year after 1 st dan	Dan member - Class Instructor (<i>Kyo Sa Nim</i>)
3 rd Dan (<i>Sam</i>)	Navy blue - 3 gold stripes	2 years after 2 nd dan	Intermediate dan member - Senior Instructor (<i>Bo Sa Bom Nim</i>)
4 th Dan (<i>Sa</i>)	Navy blue - red trim	3 years after 3 rd dan	Intermediate dan member - Master Instructor (<i>Sa Bom Nim</i>)
5 th Dan (<i>Oh</i>)	Navy blue - red trim	4 years after 4 th dan	Intermediate dan member - Master Instructor (<i>Su Suk Sa Bom Nim</i>)
6 th Dan (<i>Yuk</i>)	Navy blue - red trim	5 years after 5 th dan	Senior dan member – Master Instructor (<i>Su Suk Sa Bom Nim</i>)
7 th Dan (<i>Chil</i>)	Navy blue - red trim	6 years after 6 th dan	Senior dan member – Assistant Grand Master (<i>Bo Kwan Jang Nim</i>)
8 th Dan (<i>Pal</i>)	Navy blue - red stripe	7 years after 7 th dan	Advanced dan member – Grand Master (<i>Kwan Jang Nim</i>)
9 th Dan (<i>Ku</i>)	Navy blue - red stripe	8 years after 8 th dan	Advanced dan member – Grand Master (<i>Kwan Jang Nim</i>)



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The Mu Sa Kwan Tang Soo Do Federation has set 9th Dan as the highest attainable level possible. This philosophy is within the ancient oriental concept that nine is the biggest single-digit number, and 10th level means perfection itself. While we should always strive to better ourselves and our art, we must also accept our human limitations.