

Technical Regulations for Master Grades

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Foreword by the Head of the Technical Commission

By achieving the 1st master grade in kickboxing, you have reached an important milestone on your journey in this fascinating sport.

This achievement is not only a recognition of your skills and dedication, but also a foundation for guiding and supporting others on their path.

As a master, you are able to independently lead training sessions, conduct student grade examinations from yellow to brown belt, and award the corresponding student grades. You can pass on techniques that not only improve technical skills but also deepen the understanding of the art of kickboxing.

Furthermore, you have the ability to specifically improve the physical condition and strength of your students, preparing them optimally for potential tournament fights through targeted training sessions.

The focus is not only on fighting, but on kickboxing as a holistic sport that combines discipline, technique, fitness, and mental strength. This milestone motivates you to further develop your knowledge and abilities, to serve as a role model and inspire the next generation of kickboxers.

Your commitment helps to uphold the values of the sport and to promote kickboxing as a lifelong passion and a school of life.

Best regards

Paolo Ziliotto
Head of the Technical Commission

1 Requirements

The requirements (see Annex C: Master Grades 1–5) that must be fulfilled in order for a candidate to register for the 1st master grade examination are described below. The requirements must be demonstrated before the preliminary examination. In justified exceptional cases and with the approval of the examination management, certain requirements may also be fulfilled after the preliminary examination, but no later than before the main examination.

1.1 General requirements

For the 1st master grade (“black belt”), the candidate must have practiced kickboxing for at least four years. The candidate must hold a WAKO passport and four consecutive WAKO Switzerland licenses, one of which must be valid for the current year.

To obtain the 1st master grade, the candidate must complete the preliminary examination and pass the main examination. Both the preliminary examination and the main examination consist of two parts: a conditioning part and a technical part. In order for the master grade examination to be considered passed overall, both parts must be passed individually with a minimum grade of 4.0. The technical part may only be performed if the conditioning part has been passed beforehand.

The minimum age for the 1st master grade examination is 18 years. An exception applies to candidates who take the additional test “competition points”. For these candidates, the minimum age is 16 years.

2 Mandatory Courses

2.1 Kuatsu Course

Each candidate must complete a Kuatsu course.

This course only needs to be completed once and remains valid for all subsequent grade promotions.

3 Additional Tests

When registering for the 1st master grade examination, each candidate must have completed at least one of the following additional tests:

- Competition points
- Referee points
- Self-defence

3.1 Competition Points

For the additional test “competition points”, 50 points must have been achieved since the last belt promotion. Competition points may be supplemented with referee points. The points system is as follows:

Type of competition	Win	Loss	Draw
National (PF, LC, KL)	2 points	1 point	-
National (ring sports)	4 points	2 points	1 point
International (PF, LC, KL, incl. beginner categories)	4 points	2 points	-
International (ring sports)	8 points	4 points	4 points

3.2 Referee Points

For the additional test “referee points”, 50 points must have been achieved since the last belt promotion. Referee points may be supplemented with competition points. The points system is as follows:

Type of tournament	full day participation	half day participation	flat rate for all days
National	6 points	3 points	-
International tournaments	-	-	15 points
European and World Championships	-	-	20 points

Referee licenses are considered equivalent to fighter licenses.

3.3 Self-Defence

For the additional test “self-defence”, the candidate must have attended four self-defence courses organized by WAKO Switzerland within the two years prior to the main examination and must have passed the corresponding examination.

For the examination, the candidate is responsible for arranging a sparring partner.

The self-defence examination must be completed before the main examination.

4 Formal Requirements

In addition to the above requirements, the candidate must submit the following documents when registering for the 1st master grade examination:

- Criminal record extract (not older than 6 months)
- WAKO Switzerland passport
- 4 consecutive WAKO Switzerland licenses, one of which must be valid for the current year

5 Examination Regulations

5.1 Examination Procedure

In addition to the requirements (points 1–4), obtaining the 1st master grade requires the successful completion of the technical examination (consisting of the preliminary examination and the main examination) before the expert team of the examination commission. In the following, the term master grade examination refers to the acquisition of the 1st master grade.

The organization of a master grade examination is the responsibility of the examination management and its expert team. They determine the requirements and the framework of the examination.

The master grade examination is opened on Sportdata for approved candidates and the registration tool is made available.

The examination management appoints the necessary experts for conducting the master grade examination. Depending on the number of candidates, the expert team may consist of three or four experts.

5.2 Registration

To register for a master grade examination, the candidate must fulfill all requirements (points 1–4).

Registration is carried out by the club manager or coach of the club in which the candidate trains or is a member.

Application forms and requests for all master grades are available on the website wako.ch.

In addition to the registration of the candidate, a coach must also be registered and must be present at the master grade examination (preliminary and main examination). Registration for the master grade examination, including the accompanying coach, must be completed exclusively via Sportdata.

A coach may also register for several candidates from their club.

The fully completed application form and all required documents must be sent to the administration of the Technical Commission at least two weeks before the master grade examination. These documents will be treated confidentially.

If convictions appear in the criminal record extract, the Technical Commission will decide on admission to the examination based on the candidate's specific situation.

When registering for the master grade examination, WAKO Switzerland charges an examination fee of CHF 200, which must be paid before the preliminary examination.

5.3 Preliminary Examination

The preliminary examination is mandatory and serves as an assessment of the candidate's level. However, it does not have to be passed in order to register for the main examination. Although the preliminary examination does not have to be passed, the examination expert will provide a recommendation during a discussion on whether the candidate should register for the main examination. The final decision to register for the main examination lies solely with the candidate.

The evaluation of the preliminary examination is identical to that of the main examination and will be communicated to the candidate in writing no later than two weeks after the preliminary examination.

The preliminary examination is only valid for the main examination held in the same year. If the main examination is not taken or is not passed, the preliminary examination must be repeated in the following year.

5.4 Equipment

Each candidate is responsible for bringing the correct and complete equipment to the master grade examination. No clothing or equipment will be provided by the expert team. The following clothing is mandatory:

- Kickboxing trousers
- Club shirt
- Brown belt

During partner exercises and training fights, candidates are free to use their own individual equipment. However, the following equipment items are mandatory at a minimum:

- Boxing gloves or point fighting gloves
- Shin guards
- Foot guards
- Mouthguard
- Groin protector (men)
- Chest protector (women)
- Headgear (only for training fights)
- Bag work must be performed with closed gloves. These may be regular boxing gloves or special bag gloves.
- Headgear is mandatory for sparring fights

5.5 Missing or Incorrect Equipment

Missing or incorrect equipment will be noted during the preliminary examination. The affected examination block will be graded with an insufficient mark of 3.5.

During the main examination, it is at the discretion of the examination supervisor to sanction the candidate in the affected examination block with an insufficient mark of 3.5 or, in severe cases, by excluding the candidate from the examination.

5.6 Liability and Insurance

With the exception of training fights, wearing headgear is not mandatory during the master grade examination. However, wearing headgear is strongly recommended and the association declines any liability for injuries.

Insurance coverage is solely the responsibility of the candidates.

5.7 Temporary Health Issues

If a candidate is unable to perform part of the examination or certain movements due to recently occurring health issues or injuries, they must withdraw from the master grade examination. Temporary health issues will not be taken into consideration during the examination.

The experts will also not take injuries occurring during the examination into account. It is the candidate's responsibility to complete the examination without injury.

5.8 Permanent Physical Limitations

If a candidate has permanent physical limitations, a corresponding medical certificate must be attached to the registration form. Without this certificate, no limitations can be considered.

In the case of permanent physical limitations, the following points must be observed:

The form “Medical Certificate for Master Grade Examination Candidates” available on the website wako.ch must be completed and submitted to the administration of the Technical Commission at least two weeks before the examination.

The medical certificate must clearly state the medical condition, the situations in which it occurs, and the exercises that may be affected.

During the preliminary examination, the candidate and the expert team will discuss which movements or exercises are affected by the condition. Based on this discussion, it will be determined which exercises may be omitted or replaced with alternatives. A written record binding for both parties will be created to ensure traceability.

The examination management is responsible for deciding whether a candidate with permanent physical limitations will be admitted to the examination. If necessary, a separate examination date with specific exercises may be considered.

5.9 Withdrawal from the Examination by the Candidate

The candidate may withdraw from the examination at any time. The examination will be considered failed and the entire examination must be repeated.

6 Content and Procedure of the Master Grade Examination

The master grade examination is divided into a conditioning part and a technical part. More information about exercises and tasks, as well as the techniques being tested, can be found in “Annex A: Tasks and Techniques.”:

Since the names of techniques may vary between clubs, the English terminology for all techniques applies during the examination, as listed above. The experts will demonstrate individual techniques and combinations. In addition to the standard techniques, evasive and avoidance movements as well as blocking and counter techniques in different variations will also be assessed.

6.1 Confirmation of the Passed Examination

After the examination, all evaluation sheets signed by the respective experts are submitted to the administration for evaluation.

Within 14 days after the examination, candidates receive the evaluation sheets from the individual experts, including the grades from the preliminary and/or main examination.

If the main examination is clearly passed, the passport, black belt, and diploma will be handed to the candidate immediately after the main examination.

A passed examination recorded in the WAKO Switzerland passport is only valid with the signature of the examination management.

Master grade diplomas are only valid with the signatures of the president, the examination management, and one expert.

6.2 Repetition of the Examination

A failed main examination may only be repeated after a waiting period of one year. If the examination is not passed a second time, the waiting period will again be one year. If the examination is not passed a third time, the examination management will determine the next examination date.

A successfully completed additional test remains valid and does not need to be repeated.

The fee of CHF 200.– must be paid again.

A criminal record extract must be submitted again, respecting the maximum validity period of 6 months.

If the examination is aborted, the entire examination must be repeated..

7 Higher Master Grades

Both the 1st Master Grade and the higher master grades require certain waiting periods and prerequisites to be fulfilled. The specific requirements for the higher master grades are listed below.

7.1 1st Master Grade

The 1st Master Grade can only be obtained by passing an examination.
(See Annex C: Master Grades 1–5)

7.2 2nd–5th Master Grade

From the 2nd Master Grade onwards, reduced requirements apply to the candidate.
(See Annex C: Master Grades 1–5)

7.3 Waiting Periods for Master Grades

The waiting periods for each master grade correspond to the grade itself (grade/years), namely:: **6:6 – 7:7 – 8:8 – 9:9**

From the age of 60, the waiting period per master grade is 5 years.

Ordinary promotion is limited to the 9th Master Grade.

7.4 6th Master Grade and Higher

For the 6th Master Grade and higher, the following special provisions apply. Promotion to the next higher grade is granted exclusively by the Technical Commission.

Master grades from the 6th grade onwards cannot be applied for by the candidates themselves. They must be proposed by the club leader with written justification (ordinary procedure) or recommended by the Technical Commission (extraordinary procedure).

7.4.1 Ordinary Award

The written application submitted by the club leader must contain a detailed justification outlining the skills, achievements, and special contributions that qualify the candidate for the award of the next higher master grade.

For the ordinary award of a master grade, at least one of the following criteria must be fulfilled::

- Youth development work or continuous/long-term promotion of youth development
- Official long-term functions within the federation
- Other continuous and long-term work for the federation
- Valuable continuous and long-term work within the

The Technical Commission reviews the club leader's application based on the described criteria.

The Technical Commission may reject the application submitted by the club leader, stating the specific reasons. A rejection decision will be communicated in writing by e-mail..

7.4.2 Fee

The fee amounts to CHF 200 per master grade.

7.5 Extraordinary Award

The 1st Master Grade can only be obtained by passing the master grade examination. An award for extraordinary achievements is excluded.

An award of a master grade for extraordinary achievements (extraordinary award) is therefore only possible from the 2nd Master Grade onwards. It requires the approval of the Technical Commission.

When awarding extraordinary master grades, no grades may be skipped.

The application for the award of an extraordinary master grade may be submitted by:

- the head of the Technical Commission
- a club leader

Recognition may be granted for:

- international success at World or European Championships,
- recognition of long-term work in the technical field,
- or leadership roles,

provided that these constitute particularly outstanding achievements.

In such cases, the next higher master grade will be awarded to the member concerned.

The waiting periods between master grades must be respected.

The decision regarding the award lies with the Technical Commission.

7.5.1 Fee

Extraordinary awards are exempt from fees.

7.6 Recognition of Foreign WAKO Master Grades

A candidate may take a master grade examination during a stay abroad or during a course attended abroad.

If the candidate is a WAKO Switzerland member, he or she must inform the Technical Commission in advance, which must approve the recognition request.

Recognition can only be granted if the examination was completed with the relevant foreign WAKO examination commission.

The candidate must provide written confirmation that he or she holds the master grade to be recognized.

The confirmation must be issued by the organization that awarded the grade.

The official application form for master grades available on the website wakoswitzerland.ch must be used.

7.6.1 Control Examination

If the 1st Master Grade was obtained within WAKO Switzerland, a control examination is not required. Otherwise, a control examination is mandatory.

A control examination / course / lesson conducted by the applicant will be attended and evaluated by an expert appointed by the head of the Technical Commission.

The decision on whether the master grade can be recognized is based on the technical quality demonstrated.

During the evaluation of the technical quality, it must be ensured that the applicant possesses the necessary qualifications of a master grade holder in kickboxing in order to properly train their students.

Following the evaluation, the appointed expert prepares a report outlining the results of the assessment.

The head of the Technical Commission decides on the awarding of the master grade based on this evaluation.

7.6.2 Fees

The fee for the recognition of foreign WAKO master grades amounts to CHF 200 per recognized master grade.

Example:

If the 3rd and 4th master grades were obtained abroad within WAKO and this can be verified, the cost for the recognition of the 4th master grade in Switzerland amounts to CHF 400 (2 × CHF 200).

7.7 Recognition of Non-WAKO Master Grades

Master grades from other martial arts or associations may be recognized upon application by the head of the Technical Commission.

Only the 1st Master Grade will be recognized, regardless of the grade held by the applicant. This rule applies to associations both nationally and internationally.

The official application form available on the website wakoswitzerland.ch must be used.

Further master grades must be obtained according to the master grade regulations. A control examination is mandatory..

7.7.1 Requirements

The following requirements apply for the recognition of non-WAKO master grades:

- The applicant must have practiced kickboxing for at least three years (the burden of proof lies with the applicant)
- Must be a member of a WAKO Switzerland club or school
- Must present two consecutive WAKO Switzerland licenses
- Passed examination

7.7.2 Control Examination

A control examination is mandatory.

A control examination / course / lesson conducted by the applicant will be observed and evaluated by an expert appointed by the head of the Technical Commission.

The decision on whether the master grade can be recognized is based on the technical quality demonstrated.

During the evaluation, it must be ensured that the applicant possesses the necessary qualifications of a master grade holder in kickboxing in order to properly train their students.

Following the evaluation, the appointed expert prepares a report outlining the results. The head of the Technical Commission decides on the awarding of the master grade based on this.

7.7.2.1 Examination

There are two possible ways to recognize a master grade:

1. If the applicant is under 45 years of age, the 1st Master Grade must be obtained by passing the regular black belt examination..
2. If the applicant is 45 years of age or older, a control examination / course / lesson conducted by the applicant will be observed and evaluated by an expert appointed by the head of the Technical Commission. The decision on whether the master grade can be recognized is based on the technical quality demonstrated. During the evaluation it must be ensured that the applicant possesses the necessary qualifications of a master grade holder in kickboxing in order to properly train their students. Following the evaluation, the appointed expert prepares a report outlining the results. The head of the Technical Commission decides on the awarding of the master grade based on this assessment..

7.7.3 Fee

The fee amounts to CHF 200

8 Examination Requirements – Self-Defence

For the 1st to 5th Master Grade, self-defence may be chosen as an additional test. Courses attended for a master grade are not counted toward the number of courses required for the next higher master grade.

The additional self-defence test is considered completed once the examination has been successfully passed.

The requirements and the techniques to be tested can be found in “Annex B: Self-Defence.”.

9 Technical Commission

The Technical Commission is a working group within the WAKO Switzerland association and is subject to the Ethics Statute of Swiss Olympic.

9.1 Members of the Technical Commission

The Technical Commission consists of:

- the Head of the Technical Commission (namely Paolo Ziliotto)
- a board member (namely Georges Nikiteas)
- the Deputy Head of Black Belt Examinations (namely Dave Turkalj)

9.2 Responsibilities of the Technical Commission

The Technical Commission decides on the following matters. Decisions are made by majority vote. The list is exhaustive:

- changes to fees for master grade examinations
- extraordinary awards from the 2nd Master Grade onwards
- handling of appeals
- withdrawal / revocation of master grades
- admission to the 1st Master Grade examination in cases of criminal record entries
- awarding of the 6th Master Grade and higher
- The board and the Head of Sport are regularly informed about the activities and decisions of the Technical Commission.

10 Head of the Technical Commission

The Head of the Technical Commission is responsible for:

- warding the master grades
- quality assurance of the master grades
- the content and implementation of the provisions stated in the master grade regulations
- the development and further improvement of the technical regulations
- coordination of the Technical Commission
- Any changes or adjustments to the Technical Regulations for Master Grades are the sole responsibility of the Head of the Technical Commission.

11 Head of Black Belt Examinations

The Head of Black Belt Examinations appoints authorized and validated experts for the execution of master grade examinations.

These experts may also be appointed for individual examinations.

The experts are appointed by the Head of Black Belt Examinations.

The Head of Black Belt Examinations strives to include new experts in the expert pool.

12 Appeals

Appeals against decisions regarding the awarding of master grades must be submitted within two weeks by e-mail to the Head of the Technical Commission.

The Technical Commission reviews the appeal and provides its response in writing by e-mail.

13 Sanctions Against Master Grade Holders

The Board is authorized to impose sanctions on master grade holders in cases of violations of the Ethics Statute.

Such violations may be sanctioned, among others, with the following measures:

- prohibition from participating in WAKO tournaments and events
- exclusion from activities carried out within WAKO Switzerland
- expulsion from the WAKO Switzerland association

The duration of the sanction(s) will be determined according to the severity of the violation.

14 Validity of the Technical Regulations for Master Grades

These regulations come into force on 1 January 2026.

All applications and requests not yet finalized and confirmed in writing by the Head of the Technical Commission or the Technical Administration are subject to these regulations.

15 Annex A: Tasks and Techniques

Section	Exercises/Tasks	Remarks
Conditioning part	3x3 minutes skipping rope with variations	
	60 squats	without kicks
	60 push-ups (men)	20 on the fists, narrow and wide push-ups
	40 push-ups (women)	20 on the fists, narrow and wide push-ups
	80 trunk bends	
Zum Technischen Teil wird zugelassen, wer den Konditionsteil mind. mit der Note 4.0 besteht.		
Technical part	Shadow boxing	1x3 minutes hand techniques
		1x3 minutes leg techniques (double kick)
		1x3 minutes combined
	Predefined basic drills	Hand techniques
		Leg techniques
		combined
	Predefined partner exercises	Hand techniques
		Leg techniques
		combined
	Heavy bag work	1x3 minutes hand techniques
		1x3 minutes leg techniques (double kick)
		1x3 minutes combined
	Boxing attack / defense	2x1 minutes
	Leg attack defense	2x1 minutes (double kick)
	Training fight	3x3 minutes combined (including 1 round LowKick)
Among others, the following techniques will be tested (without guarantee):		
Forward Stands	Backward Stands	Sideway Stands
Frontkick	Sidekick	Roundhousekick
Hookkick	Backkick	Axekick
Slider	Lowkick	Jap
Punch	Cross	Hook
Short Hook	Upper Cut	Backfist

16 Annex B: Self-Defence

	1. Dan	2. Dan	3. Dan / 4. Dan / 5. Dan
Requirements	WAKO Switzerland courses: 4 in the last 2 years before the 1st Dan <i>The self-defence examination is conducted separately. If SD is chosen as an additional test for the 1st Dan, the SD examination must be passed.</i>	Number of WAKO Switzerland courses: 8	Number of WAKO Switzerland courses 3rd Dan: 12 Number of WAKO Switzerland courses 4th Dan: 16 Number of WAKO Switzerland courses 5th Dan: 20
Tested techniques	Breakfall techniques backward, sideways, forward, over obstacles Transport holds – 2 variations Throwing techniques – 3 variations Joint lock techniques – 2 variations Holding techniques – 2 variations Defence against choking – 4 variations Ground defence – 3 variations Defence against body hold – 2 variations Defence against lapel grab – 2 variations Defence against hair grab – 2 variations Defence against headlock – 2 variations Defence against neck lock – 1 variation Defence against punch – 3 variations Defence against kick – 3 variations Striking techniques with knee, elbow, head Multiple attackers consecutively from one direction	Breakfall techniques backward, sideways, forward, over obstacles Transport holds – 2 variations Throwing techniques – 3 variations Joint lock techniques – 3 variations Holding techniques – 3 variations Defence against choking – 4 variations Ground defence – 3 variations Defence against body hold – 2 variations Defence against lapel grab – 2 variations Defence against hair grab – 2 variations Defence against headlock – 2 variations Defence against neck lock – 1 variation Defence against punch – 3 variations Defence against kick – 3 variations Knife defence – 2 variations Gun defence – 2 variations Striking techniques with knee, elbow, head Multiple attackers consecutively from one direction Multiple attackers consecutively from several directions	Breakfall techniques backward, sideways, forward, over obstacles Transport holds – 2 variations Throwing techniques – 3 variations Joint lock techniques – 4 variations Holding techniques – 4 variations Defence against choking – 4 variations Ground defence – 3 variations Defence against body hold – 2 variations Defence against lapel grab – 2 variations Defence against hair grab – 2 variations Defence against headlock – 2 variations Defence against neck lock – 1 variation Defence against punch – 3 variations Defence against kick – 3 variations Knife defence – 2 variations Gun defence – 2 variations Striking techniques with knee, elbow, head Multiple attackers consecutively from one direction Multiple attackers consecutively from several directions Ground fighting against different opponents 3x2 minutes

17 Annex C: Master Grades 1–5

		1. Dan	2. Dan	3. Dan	4. Dan	5. Dan
Administration	Minimum age	16 (CP) / 18	18 (CP) / 20	21 (CP) / 23	25 (CP) / 27	30 (CP) / 32
	Duration of kickboxing practice	min. 4 years	-	-	-	-
	Licenses since last award	4	2	3	4	4
	Criminal record extract (max. 6 months)	yes	no	no	no	no
Requirements	Student grade	Brown belt	-	-	-	-
	Waiting period since last award	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years
	Kuatsu course	yes	no	no	no	no
Additional tests	Competition points (CP)	50 pts since last award	50 pts since last award	50 pts since last award	50 pts since last award	50 pts since last award
	Referee points	50 pts since last award	50 pts since last award	50 pts since last award	50 pts since last award	50 pts since last award
	Self-defence	4 courses + examination	8 courses after last examination	12 courses after last examination	16 courses after last examination	16 courses after last examination
Examination	Preliminary examination	yes	no	no	no	no
	Main examination	yes	no	no	no	no
Special	Extraordinary award	no	yes (TC decision)	yes (TC decision)	yes (TC decision)	yes (TC decision)
Application fee		CHF 200.00	CHF 200.00	CHF 200.00	CHF 200.00	CHF 200.00