

OCTOBER 2022

# GENERAL SYSTEM OF GRADUATION



**IBJJF**

INTERNATIONAL BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU FEDERATION

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

## INDEX

	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>
ARTICLE 1	<b>BELTS</b>
ARTICLE 2	<b>MINIMUM AGES</b>
ARTICLE 3	<b>MINIMUM PERIOD</b>
ARTICLE 4	<b>DEGREE SYSTEM</b>
ARTICLE 5	<b>IBJJF REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY FOR THE BLACK BELT CERTIFICATE AND DEGREES</b>
ARTICLE 6	<b>PROFESSORS AND INSTRUCTORS</b>
ARTICLE 7	<b>ATHLETES WITH PROVISIONAL GRADUATION</b>
ANNEX I	<b>SUGGESTED DEGREE SYSTEM FOR ATHLETES AGED 4 TO 15 YEARS</b>



IBJJF presents this revised version of the **General Graduation System** to provide every Jiu-Jitsu athlete, from the White Belt to the Red Belt, access to the graduation processes recognized by IBJJF.














The aim of this revision is to provide a more detailed version of the IBJJF **General Graduation System**. There are no changes to the current regulations with exception to Article 3, which has updated the minimum period of permanence required for the Purple Belt Juvenile.

The **General Graduation System** is always evolving and may need to be modified over time according to the needs of Jiu-Jitsu.



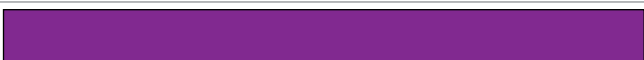





*International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation*

## 1 ARTICLE 1 – BELTS

### 1.1 Belt ranks for athletes aged 04 to 15 years old (Mighty-Mite 1 to Teen 3)

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	

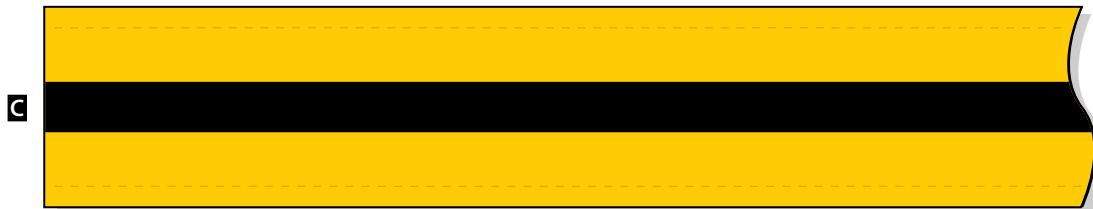
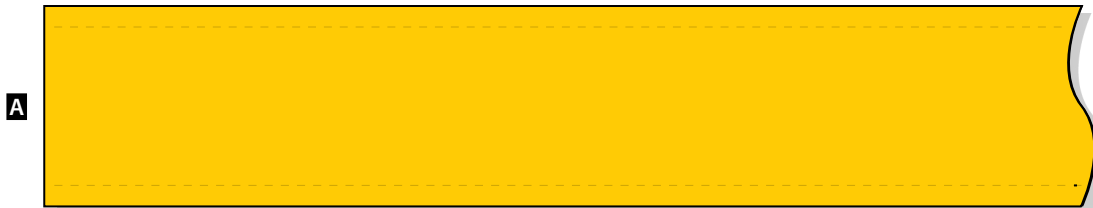
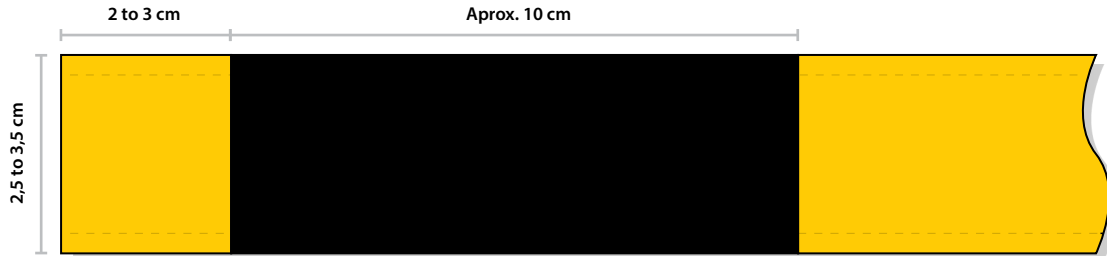
### 1.2 Belt ranks for athletes aged 16 years and older (Juvenile 1 and up)

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

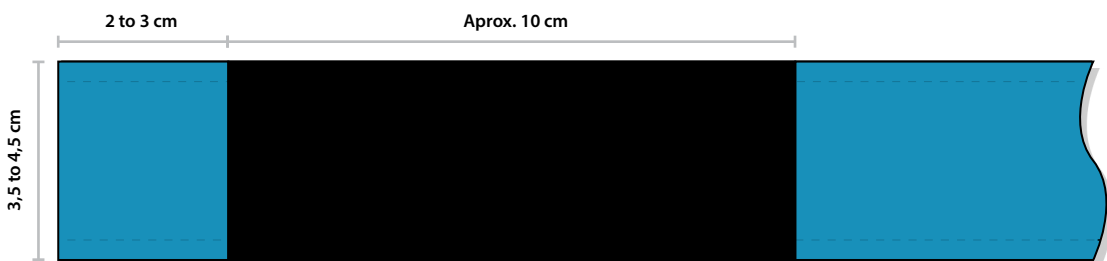
#### 1.3.1 Athletes aged 04 to 15 years old (Mighty-Mite 1 to Teen 3)

Belts should have a width of 2.5 cm (0.98 in) to 3.5 cm (1.38 in). A black bar of approximately 10 cm (3.94 in) in length should be positioned between 2 cm (0.79 in) to 3 cm (1.18 in) on one end. Only a white (B), black (C), or same color of the group (A) is allowed in the center of the belt running along its entire length.



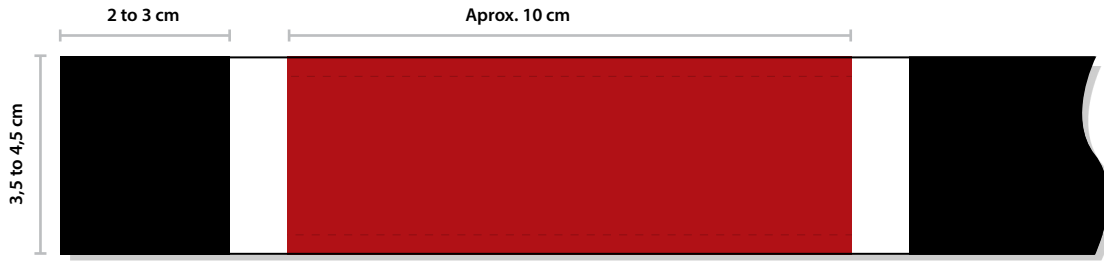
#### 1.3.2 White Belt to Brown Belt (Athletes aged 16 years old and up ( Juvenile 1 and up)

Belts should have a width of 3.5 cm (1.38 in) to 4.5 cm (1.77 in). A black bar of approximately 10 cm (3.94 in) in length should be positioned between 2 cm (0.79 in) to 3 cm (1.18 in) on one end.



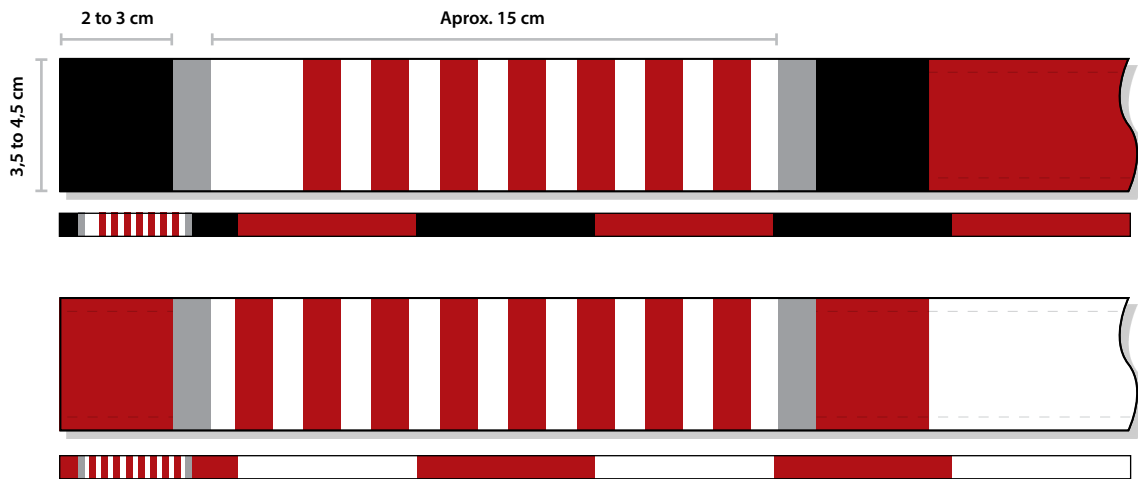
### 1.3.3 Black Belt

Black Belts should 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) on one end. It will be delineated by two white bars and will receive markings from one to six degrees.



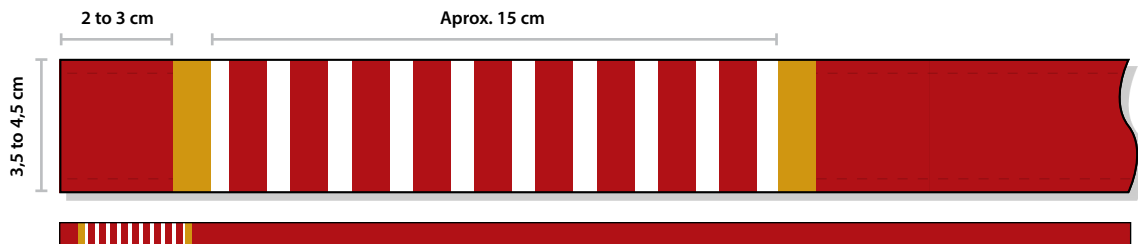
### 1.3.4 Red and Black Belt / Red and White Belt

Masters' belts are Red and Black (7<sup>th</sup> Degree) and Red and White (8<sup>th</sup> Degree) in alternating bars of 20 cm (7.87 in) in width. The belts should have a white bar of approximately 15 cm (5.91 in) in length placed between 2 cm (0.79 in) to 3 cm (1.18 in) on one end. It is delineated by two silver bars between which degrees are received in red bars.



### 1.3.5 Red Belt

A Grand Master's Belt is Red (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Degrees). It should have a white bar of approximately 15 cm (5.91 in) in length placed between 2 cm (0.79 in) to 3 cm (1.18 in) on one end. The bar is delineated by two gold bars 2 cm (0.79 in) wide between which degrees are received in red bars.



## 2 ARTICLE 2 – MINIMUM AGES

### 2.1 The graduation of athletes must meet the following age requirements for each belt

2.1.1 Athletes between 04 to 15 years old (Mighty-Mite 1 to Teen 3)

- I. **White Belt:** Any age.
- II. **Group Grey (Grey and White Belt, Grey Belt, Grey and Black Belt):** Ages 4 to 15 years old. (Mighty-Mite 1 to Teen 3)
- III. **Group Yellow (Yellow and White Belt, Yellow Belt, Yellow and Black Belt):** Ages 7 to 15 years old. (Pee-Wee 1 to Teen 3)
- IV. **Group Orange (Orange and White Belt, Orange Belt, Orange and Black Belt):** Ages 10 to 15 years old. (Junior 1 to Teen 3)
- V. **Group Green (Green and White Belt, Green Belt, Green and Black Belt):** Ages 13 to 15 years old. (Teen 1 to Teen 3)

2.1.2 Athletes from 16 years old: ( Juvenile 1 and up)

- I. **White Belt:** Any age.
- II. **Blue Belt:** 16 years old or older . ( Juvenile 1 and up)
- III. **Purple Belt:** 16 years old or older. ( Juvenile 1 and up)
- IV. **Brown Belt:** 18 years old or older. (Adult and Masters)
- V. **Black Belt:** 19 years old or older. (Adult and Masters)
- VI. **Red and Black Belt:** 50 years old or older. (Masters)
- VII. **Red and White Belt:** 57 years old or older. (Masters)
- VIII. **Red Belt:** 67 years old or older. (Masters)

### 2.2 Observations

2.2.1 The athlete's age in the IBJJF system is determined by the completed or to be completed age in the current year, based on the following formula:  $CURRENT\ YEAR - BIRTH\ YEAR = AGE\ OF\ THE\ ATHLETE.$

2.2.2 The following chart depicts the formula listed in [Article 2.2.1](#).

Division	Age by birth year
	$CURRENT\ YEAR - BIRTH\ YEAR$ $= AGE\ OF\ THE\ ATHLETE$
Mighty-Mite 1	4
Mighty-Mite 2	5
Mighty-Mite 3	6
Pee-Wee 1	7
Pee-Wee 2	8
Pee-Wee 3	9
Junior 1	10
Junior 2	11
Junior 3	12
Teen 1	13
Teen 2	14
Teen 3	15
Juvenile 1	16
Juvenile 2	17
Adult	18 - 29
Master 1	30 - 35
Master 2	36 - 40
Master 3	41 - 45
Master 4	46 - 50
Master 5	51 - 55
Master 6	56 - 60
Master 7	61 and up

2.2.3 Athletes turning 16 years old (Juvenile 1) in the current year must follow the belt system in Article 1.2. They must be promoted to the new rank which is determined by the previous rank:

- I. **White Belt:** may remain in White Belt;
- II. **Grey Belt, Yellow Belt, Orange Belt:** must turn to Blue Belt;
- III. **Green Belt:** may turn to Blue or Purple Belt according to the 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 Belt Progression Bar]																									
	Grey	[Grey Belt Progression Bar]																									
	Grey / Black	[Grey Belt Progression Bar]																									
<b>YELLOW GROUP</b>	Yellow / White				[Yellow Belt Progression Bar]																						
	Yellow				[Yellow Belt Progression Bar]																						
	Yellow / Black				[Yellow Belt Progression Bar]																						
<b>ORANGE GROUP</b>	Orange / White							[Orange Belt Progression Bar]																			
	Orange							[Orange Belt Progression Bar]																			
	Orange / Black							[Orange Belt Progression Bar]																			
<b>GREEN GROUP</b>	Green / White										[Green Belt Progression Bar]																
	Green / Black										[Green 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 meet the following minimum periods of permanence in each belt**

##### **3.1.1** Practitioners aged 04 to 15 years old (Mighty-Mite 1 to Teen 3)

- I. No minimum period of stay in each belt.

##### **3.1.2** Athletes aged 16 and 17 years old (Juvenile 1 and Juvenile 2)

- I. **White Belt:** No minimum time.
- II. **Blue Belt:** No minimum time.
- III. **Purple Belt:** Athletes are eligible for the Brown Belt only in the Adult Division. See [Article 3.1.3. III](#) for minimum periods for the Purple Belt in the Adult Division.

##### **3.1.3** Athletes from 18 years old - White Belt to Brown Belt (Adult and Masters)

- I. **White Belt:** No minimum time.
- II. **Blue Belt:**
  - a. 2 (two) years.
  - b. 1 (one) year if the athlete was previously registered as a Grey, Yellow, or Orange Belt.
  - c. No minimum period if the athlete was previously registered as a Green Belt.
  - d. No minimum period if the athlete was previously registered as a Blue Belt Juvenile.
  - e. No minimum period if the athlete is the Adult Blue Belt World Champion.
- III. **Purple Belt:**
  - a. 1 (one) year and a half.
  - b. 1 (one) year if the athlete was previously registered as a Blue Belt Juvenile.
  - c. No minimum period if the athlete was previously registered as an Orange or Green Belt and as a Juvenile Blue Belt.
  - d. No minimum period if the athlete was previously registered as a Juvenile Purple Belt.
  - e. No minimum period if the athlete is the Adult Purple Belt World Champion.
- IV. **Brown Belt:**
  - a. 1 (one) year.
  - b. No minimum period if the athlete is the Adult Brown Belt World Champion.

##### **3.1.4** Athletes from the Black Belt

- I. **Black Belt:** 31 years.
- II. **Red and Black Belt:** 7 years.
- III. **Red and White Belt:** 10 years.
- IV. **Red Belt:** undefined.

##### **3.1.5** The periods listed under [Article 3.1.4](#) are fixed, not minimums. The athlete must remain in each belt rank for these exact lengths.

#### **3.2 Observations**

##### **3.2.1** The periods listed in [Article 3](#) are counted from the day the athlete completes registration of each belt rank with IBJJF.

##### **3.2.2** The time taken to graduate the athlete from White Belt to Black Belt is at the professor's discretion. However, IBJJF will only recognize the graduation if it meets the mandatory minimum times listed for each belt.

##### **3.2.3** The Black Belt rank and higher (Red and Black Belt, Red and White Belt and Red Belt) must meet the mandatory time requirement listed for each rank in order for the graduation to be recognized by IBJJF.

## 4 ARTICLE 4 - DEGREE SYSTEM

### 4.1 Division by degrees

#### 4.1.1 Athletes aged 04 to 15 years old (Mighty-Mite 1 to Teen 3)

- I. IBJJF suggests professors have a method of dividing each belt by degrees. Refer to the suggestions in Annex I.

#### 4.1.2 Athletes aged 16 years and older (from Juvenile 1 and up)

- I. **White Belt, Blue Belt, Purple Belt, Brown Belt:** these are divided into single color belts and by 4 degrees.
- II. **Black Belt:** single color belt and divided by six (6) Degrees.
- III. **Red and Black Belt:** represents the Seventh Degree Black Belt.
- IV. **Red and White Belt:** represents the Eighth Degree Black Belt.
- V. **Red Belt:** represents the Ninth Degree Black Belt.

#### 4.1.3 Up until the Brown Belt, the adoption of the IBJJF Degree System is at the professor's discretion.

#### 4.1.4 IBJJF will only recognize degrees on the Black Belt that are in accordance with the IBJJF Degree System.

#### 4.1.5 Athletes from the Black Belt rank and higher (Red and Black Belt, Red and White Belt and Red Belt):

- I. The 1<sup>st</sup> (First) Degree can be requested after a minimum period of 3 (three) years of proven activity in the Black Belt under IBJJF.
- II. The 2<sup>nd</sup> (Second) Degree can be requested after a minimum period of 3 (three) years from the previous graduation or with 6 (six) years of proven activity in the Black Belt under IBJJF.
- III. The 3<sup>rd</sup> (Third) Degree can be requested after a minimum period of 3 (three) years from the previous graduation or with 9 (nine) years of proven activity in the Black Belt under IBJJF.
- IV. The 4<sup>th</sup> (Fourth) Degree can be requested after a minimum period of 5 (five) years from the previous graduation or with 14 (fourteen) years of proven activity in the Black Belt under IBJJF.
- V. The 5<sup>th</sup> (Fifth) Degree can be requested after a minimum period of 5 (five) years from the previous graduation or with 19 (nineteen) years of proven activity in the Black Belt under IBJJF.
- VI. The 6<sup>th</sup> (Sixth) Degree can be requested after a minimum period of 5 (five) years from the previous graduation or with 24 (twenty four) years of proven activity in the Black Belt under IBJJF.
- VII. The 7<sup>th</sup> (Seventh) Degree (Red and Black Belt) can be requested after a minimum period of 7 (seven) years from the previous graduation or with 31 (thirty one) years of proven activity in the Black Belt under IBJJF.
- VIII. The 8<sup>th</sup> (Eighth) Degree (Red and White Belt) can be requested after a minimum period of 7 (seven) years from the previous graduation or with 38 (thirty eight) years of proven activity in the Black Belt under IBJJF.
- IX. The 9<sup>th</sup> (Ninth) Degree (Red Belt) can be requested after a minimum period of 10 (ten) years from the previous graduation or with 48 (forty eight) years of proven activity in the Black Belt under IBJJF.
- X. The 10<sup>th</sup> (Tenth) Degree (Red Belt) was given only to the pioneers of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu: Carlos, Oswaldo, George, Gastão e Helio.

#### 4.1.6 Every graduation to a new degree on the Black Belt is counted starting from the issuance of an IBJJF Certificate and/or with proof of completion of the activities listed in [section 4.2.1](#).

### 4.2 How to prove activity in the Black Belt

#### 4.2.1 The year(s) an athlete completes any of the activities listed below will be counted towards the degree certification.

- I. Active membership: Maintaining active membership through the year(s).
- II. Academy registration under IBJJF: listed as a Head Professor or Additional Professor.
- III. Approving students: Professors who regularly approve athletes' membership requests under IBJJF through the year(s).
- IV. Black Belt/Degree Certification previously granted by IBJJF.
- V. Titles won by the athlete in an IBJJF championship
- VI. IBJJF Referee Training Program Certificate and Rules Course Certificate, both granted by IBJJF.

#### 4.2.2 The year(s) an athlete does not complete any of the activities listed in [Article 4.2.1](#) will not be counted towards the degree certification.

#### 4.2.3 The IBJJF Referee Training Program Certificate and the Rules Course Certificate mentioned in [Article 4.2.1 VI](#) will not be accepted as proof of the athlete's first activity under IBJJF towards the Black Belt Certification.

## **5 ARTICLE 5 – IBJJF REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY FOR THE BLACK BELT CERTIFICATE AND DEGREES**

### **5.1 Requirements**

- 5.1.1 Must be affiliated to IBJJF at the time of the request.
- 5.1.2 The athlete cannot have a provisional graduation (see Article 7).
- 5.1.3 Must provide a First Aid or CPR course certificate.
- 5.1.4 Must provide an IBJJF Referee Training Program, Rules Seminar or Rules Webinar Certificate of successful completion dated within a 12 (twelve) month period before the date of application.

### **5.2 Observations**

- 5.2.1 The Black Belt Certification process requires a thorough analysis of documents by IBJJF and differs per athlete. Therefore, the time required for approval might vary.
- 5.2.2 IBJJF may require additional courses to those mentioned in the Article 5.1.4. for the Black Belt Certification application process. In this case, further information will be provided.
- 5.2.3 For some countries, additional documents may be required from those listed in Article 5. In this case, further information will be provided.

## **6 ARTICLE 6 - PROFESSOR AND ADDITIONAL PROFESSOR**

**6.1 The membership request of an athlete graded in Belts of White, Grey, Yellow, Orange, Green, Blue, Purple and Brown must be signed/approved by an IBJJF affiliated Black Belt Professor (except a provisional Brown Belt, see Article 7).**

**6.2 The graduation of an athlete to Black Belt can only be signed by a Black Belt Professor who has at least 2 (two) Degrees certified by IBJJF (except a provisional Black Belt, see Article 7).**

## **7 ARTICLE 7 – ATHLETES WITH PROVISIONAL GRADUATION**

**7.1** Athletes receive a provisional graduation when they register their Brown or Black Belt under IBJJF without having previous registration at the prior belt rank. Provisional athletes are:

- I. Brown Belts who have never had IBJJF registration.
- II. Black Belts who have never had IBJJF registration.
- III. Brown Belts who have never had Purple Belt registration with IBJJF.
- IV. Black Belts who have never had Brown Belt registration with IBJJF.

**7.2** Athletes with provisional graduation are classified as “provisional” for 2 (two) years starting from the date of membership payment confirmation. During this period, IBJJF reserves the right to revoke an athlete’s graduation at its discretion.

**7.3** The membership request of a provisional Brown Belt must be signed/approved by a Black Belt Professor with a minimum graduation of 2 (two) degrees.

**7.4** The membership request of a provisional Black Belt athlete must be signed/approved by a Black Belt Professor with a minimum graduation of 3 (three) degrees.

**7.5** Athletes with provisional graduation must remain registered for 2 (two) years under the Professor who approved their membership with IBJJF. After this time is completed, the athletes are allowed to change the Professor who will approve their membership.

**7.6** Athletes with provisional graduation cannot be the Head Professor of an academy, but they can be an Additional Professor.

**7.7** Black Belt athletes with provisional graduation cannot request a Black Belt Certificate with IBJJF until the provisional period is completed.

**7.8** The year(s) that the athlete is actively registered as Provisional Black Belt will be counted towards the time for their degrees.

**7.9** The year(s) that the Brown Belt athletes remain as provisional, does not hinder the Brown Belt athlete’s graduation to Black Belt, as long as the athlete meets the minimum time requirement as Brown Belt.



**GENERAL SYSTEM OF GRADUATION**

***ANNEX I***

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

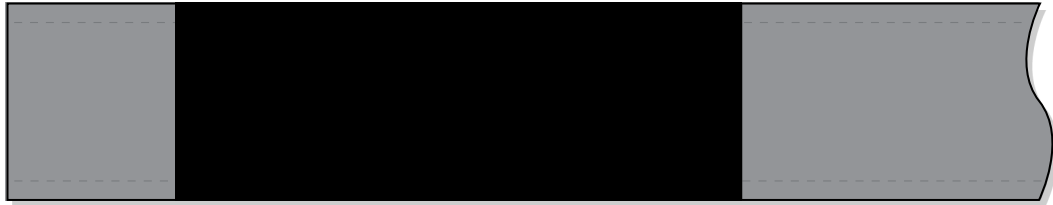
## **1 ANNEX**

**IBJJF suggests 3 (three) methods of dividing each belt in degrees for practitioners aged 04 to 15 years old. Adoption of any of the following methods is at the discretion of each professor.**

### **1.1 Quarterly System (every 3 months)**

For academies that adopt the graduation system of every three months, IBJJF suggests three degrees for each belt. The Fourth Degree will graduate the athlete to the next belt color according to the images below.

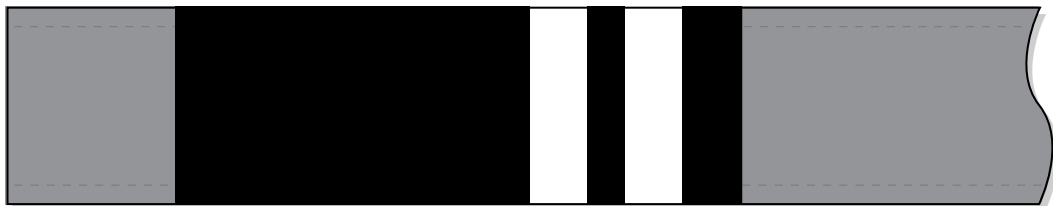
**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> MONTH**



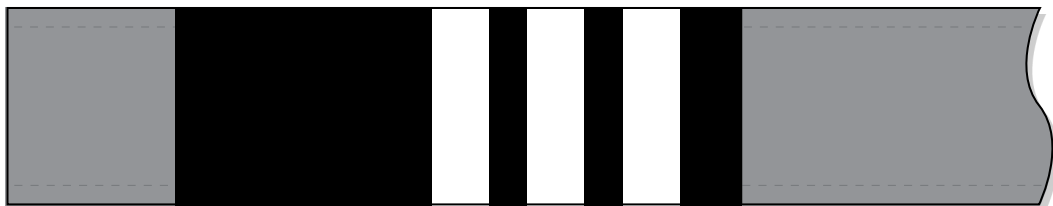
**4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> MONTH**



**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**

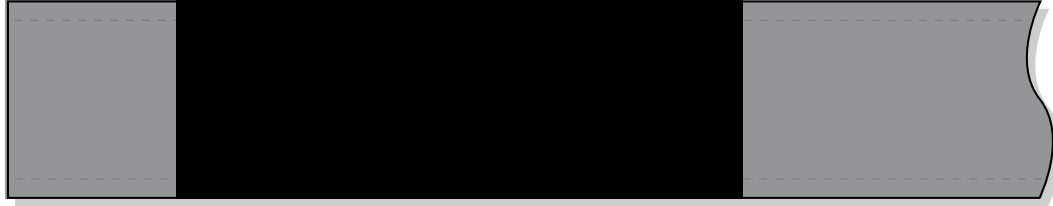


**TOTAL: 1 YEAR**

## 1.2 Triannual System (every four months)

For academies that adopt the graduation system of every four months, IBJJF suggests two degrees for each belt. The Third Degree will graduate the athlete to the next belt color according to the images below.

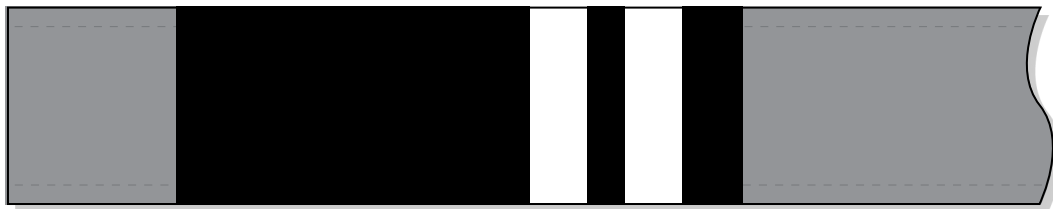
1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> MONTH



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 academies that adopt the graduation system of every month, IBJJF suggests 11 degrees for each belt. The 12<sup>th</sup> Degree will graduate the athlete to the next belt color. The first four degrees are white, the next four are red and the last three are the color of the next belt, as shown in the image below.

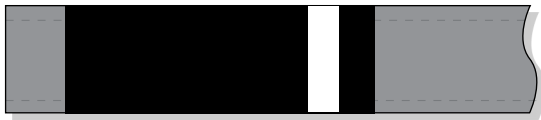
1<sup>st</sup> MONTH



7<sup>th</sup> MONTH



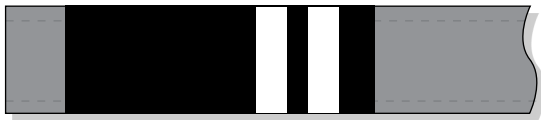
2<sup>nd</sup> MONTH



8<sup>th</sup> MONTH



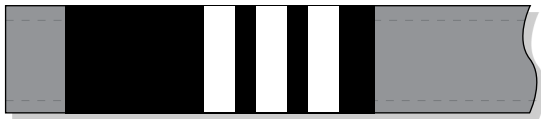
3<sup>rd</sup> MONTH



9<sup>th</sup> MONTH



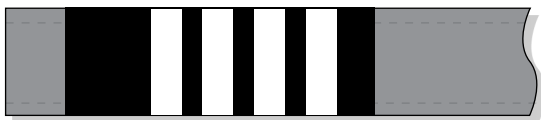
4<sup>th</sup> MONTH



10<sup>th</sup> MONTH



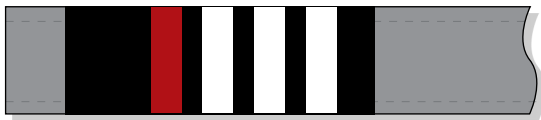
5<sup>th</sup> MONTH



11<sup>th</sup> MONTH



6<sup>th</sup> MONTH



12<sup>th</sup> MONTH



TOTAL: 1 YEAR



## 1.4 Degree system for White Belts and White and Grey Belts

IBJJF suggests 1 degree per month in White/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



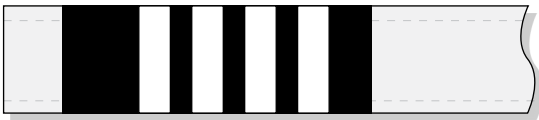
#### 3<sup>rd</sup> MONTH



#### 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



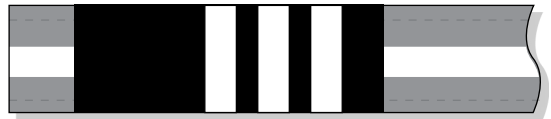
#### 2<sup>nd</sup> MONTH



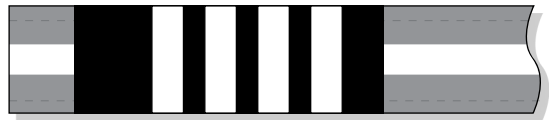
#### 3<sup>rd</sup> MONTH



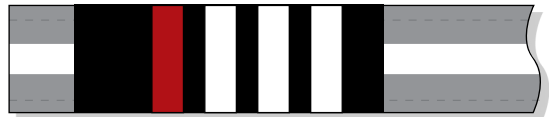
#### 4<sup>th</sup> MONTH



#### 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  
OCTOBER 2022

Design and Illustrations: ©Victor Gruzman

**VERSION 2.3**



**IBJJF**

INTERNATIONAL BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU FEDERATION

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