



In Kyokushin Karate, titles reflect a practitioner's teaching rank, experience, and seniority. These designations are divided into Teaching Titles (instructor roles based on hierarchy) and Dan Ranks (formal degrees of black belts).

- **Kohai:** A junior student or anyone of a lower grade than yourself. It is a relative title and is rarely used to address someone directly.
- **Senpai (or Sempai):** "Senior student" or mentor. This title is typically awarded to 1st and 2nd Dan black belts and designates an assistant instructor.
- **Sensei:** "One who has gone before" or teacher. Typically awarded to 3rd or 4th Dan black belts, this is the title for a fully capable dojo instructor.
- **Shihan:** "Master" or chief instructor. This title is highly respected and is generally reserved for practitioners of 5th Dan or higher.
- **Kancho (館長)** is a Japanese martial arts title meaning "Head of the Hall" or "Director," referring to the founder or leader of an entire organization or school (dojo). It represents the highest level of authority and stewardship over a style's philosophy, direction, and legacy, distinct from technical teaching roles like Sensei or Shihan. **This title is used by "Kancho Shokei Matsui".**
- **Sosai:** "President" or Director-General. This is a unique, singular title historically reserved for the founder of Kyokushin Karate, Masutatsu Oyama.

Black Belt (Dan) Ranks

The black belt system consists of 10 degrees, with the rank escalating numerically from 1st to 10th.

- **Shodan (1st Dan):** The entry point to mastery (black belt with one gold stripe).
- **Nidan (2nd Dan):** Second degree (two gold stripes).
- **Sandan (3rd Dan):** Third degree (three gold stripes).
- **Yondan (4th Dan):** Fourth degree (four gold stripes).
- **Godan (5th Dan):** Fifth degree (five gold stripes).
- **Rokudan (6th Dan):** Sixth degree.
- **Shichidan (7th Dan):** Seventh degree.



- **Hachidan (8th Dan):** Eighth degree.
- **Kyudan (9th Dan):** Ninth degree.
- **Judan (10th Dan):** Tenth degree, usually reserved for the absolute head of an international organization.