

### **Bujinkan ranking system**

10<sup>th</sup> Kyu – Mukyu – white belt – red patch, white kanji (lettering)  
9<sup>th</sup> Kyu – Kukyu – green (male) / red (female)  
8<sup>th</sup> Kyu – Hachikyu – 1 silver star  
7<sup>th</sup> Kyu – Shichikyu – 2 silver stars  
6<sup>th</sup> Kyu – Rokukyu – 3 silver stars  
5<sup>th</sup> Kyu – Gokyu – 4 silver stars (brown (senior student only) belt)  
4<sup>th</sup> Kyu – Shikyu – 1 gold star  
3<sup>rd</sup> Kyu – Sankyu – 2 gold stars  
2<sup>nd</sup> Kyu – Nikyu – 3 gold stars  
1<sup>st</sup> Kyu – Ichikyu – 4 gold stars  
1<sup>st</sup> Dan – Shodan – red patch, black kanji – black belt (1<sup>st</sup> degree black belt)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dan – Nidan – 1 silver star (2<sup>nd</sup> degree black belt)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Dan – Sandan – 2 silver stars (3<sup>rd</sup> degree black belt)  
4<sup>th</sup> Dan – Yondan – 3 silver stars (4<sup>th</sup> degree black belt)  
5<sup>th</sup> Dan – Godan – red patch, black kanji, white outline (5<sup>th</sup> degree black belt)  
6<sup>th</sup> Dan – Rokudan – 1 gold star (6<sup>th</sup> degree black belt)  
7<sup>th</sup> Dan – Nanadan – 2 gold stars (7<sup>th</sup> degree black belt)  
8<sup>th</sup> Dan – Hachidan – 3 gold stars (8<sup>th</sup> degree black belt)  
9<sup>th</sup> Dan – Kudan – 4 gold stars (9<sup>th</sup> degree black belt)  
10<sup>th</sup> Dan – Judan – orange patch, green kanji (10<sup>th</sup> degree black belt)  
11<sup>th</sup> Dan – Judan Menkyo Kaiden Chigyo – 1 gold star (11<sup>th</sup> degree black belt)  
12<sup>th</sup> Dan – Judan Menkyo Kaiden Suigyo – 2 gold stars (12<sup>th</sup> degree black belt)  
13<sup>th</sup> Dan – Judan Menkyo Kaiden Kagyo – 3 gold stars (13<sup>th</sup> degree black belt)  
14<sup>th</sup> Dan – Judan Menkyo Kaiden Fugyo – 4 gold stars (14<sup>th</sup> degree black belt)  
15<sup>th</sup> Dan – Judan Menkyo Kaiden Kugyo – 5 gold stars (15<sup>th</sup> degree black belt)  
Soke – gold patch, white kanji (16<sup>th</sup> degree black belt)

Soke = Grandmaster (16<sup>th</sup> Dan always)

Dai-Shihan = The Most Excellent one who shows the way (15<sup>th</sup> Dan)

Yushu Shihan = The Excellent one who shows the way (15<sup>th</sup> Dan)

Shihan = The one who shows the way (general) (10<sup>th</sup> Dan minimum)

Shidoshi = Master (5<sup>th</sup> Dan minimum)

Shidoshi-ho = Sub-master (1<sup>st</sup> Dan minimum)

Senpai = 2<sup>nd</sup> in command (brown belt, 5<sup>th</sup> kyu minimum)

Dojo-cho = Dojo headmaster

Jonin = head (of the organization)

Chunin = torso (managers)

Genin = foot (soldiers)