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# UNITED WORLD MUAY THAI ASSOCIATION

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## RANKING SYSTEMS

For US instructors only

*Suggested Ranking systems for Muay Thai Schools*

Welcome Muay Thai Kru / Instructors

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*As most of you all ready know, Muay Thai has no official ranking system other than your fight status. This works well in Thailand, however in the states most students of Martial arts are used to Belt ranking systems or other forms of progression and achievement acknowledgment, such as certificates and colored belts.*

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**You as instructors and gym owners must decide how you will incorporate the many forms of ranking systems into your own schools, and find the system that works best for you. Below are some of the top Grading and ranking systems used today by instructors and Muay Thai institutions everywhere.**

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**Listed Below are the top 3 Ranking systems in use today**

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### **Khan level ranking system**

Many schools have adopted the Khan level progression system including the Muay Thai federation, and other Muay Thai schools, including The United World Muay Thai Association. This system of student progression is outlined here.

Here at the UWMTA we promote Khan Level grading with Certificates

**1st Khan - White - Druang Rang / Prajioud / Prajeat**

**2nd Khan - Yellow - Druang Rang / Prajioud / Prajeat**

**3rd Khan - Yellow and White - Druang Rang / Prajioud / Prajeat 4th Khan - Green - Druang Rang / Prajioud / Prajeat**

**5th Khan - Green and White - Druang Rang / Prajioud / Prajeat 6th Khan - Blue - Druang Rang / Prajioud / Prajeat**

**7th Khan - Blue and White - Druang Rang / Prajioud / Prajeat 8th Khan - Brown - Druang Rang / Prajioud / Prajeat**

**9th Khan - Brown and White - Druang Rang / Prajioud / Prajeat 10th Khan - Red - Druang Rang / Prajioud / Prajeat**

**11th Khan - Red and White - Druang Rang / Prajioud / Prajeat ( Jr instructor ) Instructor trainee**

**12th Khan - Red and Yellow - Druang Rang / Prajioud / Prajeat ( Kru / instructor )**

**13th Khan - Red and White - Druang Rang / Prajioud / Prajeat ( Senior Kru / instructor ) Kru Yai**

**14th Khan - Silver - Druang Rang / Prajioud / Prajeat ( Master Instructor ) Ajarn / Ajahn / Arjarn**

**15th Khan - Gold - Druang Rang / Prajioud / Prajeat ( Grand Master )**

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**Other Muay Thai Schools like - JD Muay Thai K1 - has the same as above except for a level 15 Khan that is Silver and Gold - Druang Rang / Prajioud / Prajeat**

**16th Khan is Gold - Druang Rang / Prajioud / Prajeat - Grand Master**

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### Tassels only Ranking system

Many Muay Thai Schools use the armband Tassel system only for ranking students the Tassels are called Druang Rang or Prajeat or Prajioud

White - Beginner Student

Yellow - Basic Knowledge

Green - intermediate

Blue - Advanced knowledge of Muay Thai techniques

Black - All basic and Advanced knowledge of Muay Thai techniques and theory

Red - Jr Instructor

Red and Black - Instructor / Kru

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This style of ranking is the closest to the Thailand systems or progression. In Thailand Your fighting status plays a big part in your ranking system.

This is why many instructors of Muay Thai and Muay Boran in the U.S insist on their students sparring as part of their training. However many students wish to train without hard contact. Many instructors will not progress students that refuse to spar, however, we feel every student has to find their own path, and should not be held back from progress due to their lack of full contact sparring. You as instructors must choose your own teaching styles as well!



### Certificate only Level Grading and Rank

Other schools use the Level systems with Certificates for ranking. Listed Below are the most popular Certificate only systems. These systems are very popular with many gyms and with instructors who have previous martial arts experience before teaching Muay Thai.

- level 0 - ( white belt equivalent ) - 6 months
- Level 1 - ( Yellow Belt Equivalent ) - 6 months
- Level 2 - ( Orange Belt Equivalent ) - 6 Months
- Level 3 - ( Purple belt Equivalent ) - 6 months
- Level 4 - ( Blue Belt Equivalent ) - 6 months
- Level 5 - ( Green Belt Equivalent ) - 6 months
- Level 6 - ( Brown Belt Equivalent ) - 6 months
- Level 7 - ( Black Belt Equivalent ) - 6 months ( 4 years of training )
- Level 8 - ( Jr instructor - 2nd Dan/Degree Black Equivalent ) 5 - 6 years of training
- Level 9 - ( Instructor / Kru - 3rd Dan/Degree Black Equivalent ) - 8 years of training
- Level 10 - ( Senior Instructor / Kru - 5th Dan/Degree Black ) - ( 5 years of teaching )
- Level 11 - ( Master Instructor / Kru - 8th/Dan/Degree Black ) - ( 10 + years as instructor )
- Level 12 - ( Grand Master Instructor / Kru - 10th Dan/Degree Black ) - ( 20 years as instructor )

*Please Note:*

*All Black Belt Dan/Degree's shown above are only representing Equivalents for Western and United States Martial Arts Students and for the Art of Muay Thai Kick Boxing or Muay Boran Martial Arts there are no official ranking systems for Muay Boran or Muay Thai Kick Boxing*



***Some Final thoughts on Ranking systems :***

***Many Variations of these Ranking systems are in effect today, they are easy to incorporate into most gyms and schools. many schools use levels in between these 12 to rank the students up every 3 months instead of every 6 months, like giving the student a white with yellow stripe after 3 months and so on. You must find the right system for your school or gym, these top 3 systems are just example progression systems.***

***Thank you***

***The United World Muay Thai Association***

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