

RIVERBEND TAE KWON DO ACADEMY

RANKING SYSTEM & MEANINGS

SIGNIFICANCE OF BELT COLORS

There are eight belts: white, yellow, orange, green, blue, brown, temporary black and black. White is given to beginners and black is given to students who have progressed through the grades and have a solid foundation for learning the techniques of Tae Kwon Do.

The definitions of the belts are as follows:

White Belt

Signifies **innocence**, as that of the beginning student who has no previous knowledge of Tae Kwon Do.

Yellow Belt

Signifies the earth from which a plant sprouts, like a **dandelion**, and takes root as the foundation of Tae Kwon Do is being laid.

Orange Belt

Signifies the plant's growth, now it is more noticeable. Like a **bush**.

Green Belt

Signifies the plant's continued growth as Tae Kwon Do skills begin to develop. Like a **tree**.

Blue Belt

Signifies the **sky** towards which the towering plant matures.

Brown Belt

Signifies **danger**, cautioning the student to exercise control and warning the opponent to stay away.

Black Belt

Opposite of white, therefore signifying **knowledge, maturity and proficiency** in Tae Kwon Do, also indicates the wearer's imperviousness to darkness and fear.

Students must grade through the following belts in the following order:

white belt given to the beginner (10th gup)
yellow belt (9th gup)
orange belt (8th gup)
low green belt (7th gup)
high green belt (6th gup)
low blue belt (5th gup)
high blue belt (4th gup)
three stages of brown belt (3rd gup thru 1st gup)
Temporary Black Belt
Black Belt (1st Dan/Degree to 9th Dan/Degree)