

International Shitō-ryū Karate Federation Karate Syllabus

Last revision: August 2010

Rank	Kata	Line*	Kanji	Literal translation	Creator/lineage	Additional notes
10級	Kihon kata 1-4 (<i>zenkutsu-dachi</i>)	S	基本の型 (一、二、三、四)	Basic forms 1-4	N/A	Introduced around 1935 as beginning training kata for larger groups, particularly in the school systems.
9級	Kihon kata 1-4 (<i>nekoashi-dachi</i>)	S	基本の型 (一、二、三、四)	Basic forms 1-4	N/A	
8級	Ten no kata	S	天の型	Heaven kata	<i>Collaboration</i>	Created 1935-40 as basic training kata represent the Itosu line (Ten no kata) and Naha line (Chi no kata). Known as <i>fugu-gata</i> 1 & 2 in Shorin-ryū, Chi no kata is known as <i>Geki-sai dai-ichi</i> in Gojū-ryū.
7級	Chi no kata	N	地の型	Earth kata	<i>Collaboration</i>	
	Pinan nidan (Heian shodan)	S	平安 二段	Peace/tranquility level 2	<i>Itosu Ankō</i>	
6級	Pinan shodan (Heian nidan)	S	平安 初段	Peace/tranquility level 1	<i>Itosu Ankō</i>	Introduced by Itosu 1902~1907. Known as <i>shite</i> , or "lower" kata and used as a basis for more advanced "named" forms. Japanese pronunciation is <i>heian</i> .
5級	Pinan (Heian) sandan	S	平安 三段	Peace/tranquility level 3	<i>Itosu Ankō</i>	
4級	Pinan (Heian) yondan	S	平安 四段	Peace/tranquility level 4	<i>Itosu Ankō</i>	
3級	Pinan (Heian) godan	S	平安 五段	Peace/tranquility level 5	<i>Itosu Ankō</i>	
2級	Shinsei	N/O	新生	New birth	<i>Mabuni Kenwa</i>	Short training kata developed by Mabuni Kenwa 1935-40. Known as <i>Geki-sai dai ni</i> in Gojū-ryū.
1級	Ji-in	S	慈韻、慈蔭 慈暎、慈允	Mercy/benevolence + tone/shadow/fall/sincerity	<i>Itosu Ankō</i>	Set of three sister kata. Though extremely popular, their history beyond Itosu is unknown. Ji-in is the most varied of the three, but is rarely practiced outside of Shito-ryū.
	Jūte (Jitte)	S	術手、十手	Skilled hands, ten hands		
	Jion	S	慈音、慈恩	Mercy/benevolence + sound/grace		
	Jū-roku	O	十六	Sixteen (Japanese)	<i>Mabuni Kenwa</i>	Lit. "Sixteen", for Showa 16 (1941), the year Mabuni Kenwa created the kata.
初段補	Bassai dai	S	抜塞、抜砦 (大)	Overcoming obstacles, breaking through a stronghold	<i>Itosu Ankō</i>	Dozens of Bassai (Passai) forms are practiced in a wide variety of styles. They typically share a beginning movement of rushing forward into a reinforced block.
	(Matsumora) Rōhai	S	(松茂) 鷲牌、明鏡	Sign of the eagle, clear/bright mirror	<i>Matsumora Kōsaku</i>	The original version of the Rōhai kata. Three later versions of Rōhai also exist by Itosu.
	Matsukaze (Wankan)	S	松風 (腕寛、王冠)	Wind in the pines (relaxed arm, king's crown)	<i>Originally a Tomari kata</i>	Mabuni Kenwa called this kata Matsukaze. His version differs greatly from the Shotokan <i>Wankan</i> .
	Shimpa	N/O	新破、心波 心破、審破	New defeat, waves of the heart, broken spirit, defeated judgment	<i>Mabuni Kenwa</i>	Created by Mabuni and Konishi around 1925 to capture what they had learned from a trip to see Uechi, who had just returned from China.
	Sanchin	N	三戦	Three battles	<i>Higaonna Kanryō</i>	The core form of Naha-te styles, derived from Southern Shaolin Kung-fu styles found in Fujian Province.
初段	Seipai	N	十八	Eighteen (Okinawan)	<i>Higaonna Kanryō</i>	Advanced Naha-te form brought from Fujian by Higaonna.
	Naihanchin (Naifanchi) shodan	S	内歩進 初段	Advancing with inside steps	<i>Matsumura Bushi, Itosu Ankō</i>	A straight-line form practiced in <i>kiba-dachi</i> , or "horse (riding) stance".
	Tenshō	N	転掌	Rotating palms	<i>Miyagi Chōjun</i>	Created by Miyagi after visiting China around 1915. Miyagi created the kata by attaching Chinese-style movements to the Sanchin footwork. Our version includes a defense against a grab to the long, Chinese-style sleeves that supposedly predates Miyagi's version.

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	Seienchin (Seiunchin)	N	制引戦、征遠鎮	Pulling and controlling the fight, subjugate and tranquilize at a distance	<i>Higaonna Kanryō, Nakaima Kenri</i>	Higaonna and Nakaima brought Seienchin back from China after studying a form of kung-fu in Fujian.
	Ānankō	S/O	安南公、安南硬	Pacified southern government, peaceful, unwavering south	<i>Chotoku Kyan</i>	Kyan popularized this kata after his return from Taiwan in 1927.
	Saifā	N	碎破、最破	Crush and destroy, extreme destruction	<i>Higaonna Kanryō</i>	Another Fujian kata introduced by Higaonna.
二段	Kōsōkun (Kankū, Kūsankū) shō	S	公相君 (觀空) 小	Named after the Chinese <i>kenpō</i> practitioner Kōshō (Kankū: open vista)	<i>Itosu Ankō</i>	Named after the Chinese kenpō practitioner Kung Shang K'ung (Kōshō) who visited Okinawa as an attaché in the 18th century
	Kōsōkun (Kankū, Kūsankū) dai	S	公相君 (觀空) 大		<i>Itosu Ankō</i>	
	Wanshū	S	腕秀	Superb ability	<i>Wang Ji via Itosu or Kyan</i>	Became the Shotokan Empi kata. Named after the Chinese ambassador Wang Ji who brought the original form to Okinawa in the 17th century.
	Bassai shō	S	拔塞、拔砦 小	See above	<i>Itosu Ankō</i>	See above
	Nijūshihō (Nīseishī)	O	二十四步	Twenty-four steps (Japanese) (Nīseishi: Okinawan)	<i>Aragaki Seishō</i>	One of the many forms brought back from Fujian and popular in Naha.
	Hakuryū	N	白龍	White dragon	<i>Kojo/Tsai</i>	One of three "white animal" kata originating in the old Okinawan <i>Kojo-ryu</i> style.
三段	Sōchin	O	壯鎮	Heroic tranquility	<i>Aragaki Seishō</i>	Probably originated in Fujian. Aragaki taught this kata to Mabuni, who brought it to Japan.
	Chintō	S	鎮党、鎮束 鎮東、岩鶴	Suppressing factions, suppress and govern, crane rock	<i>Matsumura Sōkon</i>	Shuri Matsumura version with a straight-line <i>embusen</i> for fighting in narrow confines
	Shihō Kōsōkun	S/O	四方公相君	Shihō: four directions Kōsōkun: see above	<i>Itosu Ankō via Mabuni Kenwa</i>	It is likely that Mabuni devised this kata based on Itosu's <i>sho</i> and <i>dai</i> versions (see above).
	Chinteī	S	鎮定、珍手	Establishing a center of peace, rare hands	<i>Itosu Ankō</i>	Brought to Okinawa by Itosu from China. Unique for its use of a two-fingered spear to the eyes.
	Aoyagi (Aoyanagi)	O	青柳	Green willow	<i>Mabuni Kenwa</i>	Because it was designed by Mabuni Kenwa when he was teaching at an all-girls school, Aoyagi has the reputation of being a kata designed for women.
	Sanseirū	N	三十六手	Thirty-six hands (Okinawan)	<i>Higaonna Kanryō</i>	Another Fujian kata introduced by Higaonna.
四段	Seisan (Seishan/Hangetsu)	N	征参、十三手 半月	Subjugate and defeat, thirty hands (Hangetsu: half-moon)	<i>Higaonna Kanryō, Miyagi Chōjun</i>	Naha-te version brought to Okinawa in the 19th century by Arakaki, Nakaima, Sakiyama, Higaonna, and Uechi
	Gojūshihō (Ūseishī)	S	五十四步	Fifty-four steps (Japanese) (Ūseishi: Okinawan)	<i>Matsumura Sōkon via Itosu or Kyan</i>	Old form likely originating in Fujian.
	Shisōchin	N	四向戦	Four-directional battle	<i>Higaonna Kanryō</i>	Introduced to Okinawa from China by Higaonna.
	Ryūsan	O	龍産、龍山	Birth of the dragon, dragon mountain	<i>Hanashiro Chōmo</i>	It is likely that Hanashiro originally learned this kata from Gokenki
	Tomari Bassai	S	拔塞、拔砦 (泊)	See above	<i>Chotoku Kyan</i>	See above
	Kakuha	N	鶴破	Crane tearing/destroying	<i>Toguchi Seikichi via Miyazato Eikō</i>	Created by Tōguchi Seikichi, a direct student of Miyagi Chōjun and founder of Shōrei-kan Gojū-ryū.
五段	Nipaipō	O	二十八步	Twenty-eight steps (Okinawan)	<i>Gokenki</i>	Introduced by Gokenki in the late 1920s. Mabuni Kenwa was one of the few to preserve it.
	Sūpārinpei (Pecchūrin)	N	壹百零八手	108 hands	<i>Higaonna Kanryō</i>	One of the most advanced kata in Higaonna's Naha-te syllabus.

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	Unshū (Unsū)	O	雲手	Cloud hands	<i>Aragaki Seishō, Mabuni Kenwa</i>	Mabuni is one of the few practitioners to pass down this advanced White Crane form from Aragaki.
	Kururunfā	N	久留頓破 来留破	Long-awaited stop + immediate destruction, arrive + stay + destroy	<i>Higaonna Kanryō</i>	Includes defenses against grabs to the long, Chinese-style sleeves popular in Fujian, as well as rear full-nelson and bear-hug attacks
	Wanduan (Wandō)	O	王導	Way of the king	<i>Tang Daiji</i>	Tang Daiji was a Chinese tea merchant who worked in Okinawa in the early 18th century. Contains both Shurite and White Crane (Naha-te) elements.
	Sūchin	N	守戰	Defending in battle	<i>Miyazato Eikō</i>	Includes a reverse roundhouse technique that resembles a Fujian deity found in the Bubishi military encyclopedia.
Gokenki kata	Hakuchō (Haffā)	WC	白鳥	White bird	<i>Matsumura Bushi, Gokenki</i>	Thought to all be unadulterated White Crane kata.
	Hakutsuru shō	WC	白鶴 小	White crane		
	Hakutsuru dai	WC	白鶴 大			
	Hakutsuru	WC	白鶴			
	Paipōren (Pāpōren)	WC	八步連	Eight connected steps		
	Paihō	WC	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>		
Ryūeiryū kata	Pāchū	O	巴球	Spiraling ball	<i>Nakaima family</i>	Traditionally unknown outside of Ryūei-ryū and among Hayashi Teruo's highest-ranking students
	Ānan	O	安南	Pacified south		
	Heikū	O	黒虎	Black tiger		
	Paikū	O	白虎	White tiger		
	Ōhan	O	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>		

*S=Shuri-te, N=Naha-te, WC=White Crane, O=Other. N/O and S/O indicate forms that have a distinct Naha-te or Shuri-te flavor but were created outside of these lines.

Sources: *Unante* by John Sells, *Karate-dō* and *Karate Kyōhan* by Mabuni Kenei, *Karate-dō Kata Daikan* by Sakagami Ryūshō, and direct information from Hanshi Rudy Crosswell. Additional kanji research by Dawn Croft.