Judging Guidelines for Belt Promotion Exams

The following guidelines govern belt promotion exams in the Stanford Jujitsu Club. Though these should normally be followed, the senior judge (always a black belt) may make exceptions given extenuating circumstances.

I) Judging Panel
The judging panel is to consist of at least 3 members including at least one black belt from the Stanford Jujitsu Club. All Zen Budokai black belts present should serve on the panel. If there are not at least 3 black belts on the panel or the senior black belt feels that the size of the panel should be increased, the senior black belt may increase the size of the panel as they see fit provided all members of the panel are ranked two belts above the rank for which the testee is testing (note: this means only blue belts and higher can serve on the judging panel). Exceptions:
   1. In the case of a test for brown belt, then all panel members must be black belts
   2. In the case of a test for any black belt rank, all panel members must have the black belt rank for which the testee is testing or higher.

II) Time at Rank
In order to be promoted, the testee must have met time at rank requirements. These are as follows:
   - Yellow: one Stanford academic quarter (~3 months) at white
   - Green: 3 months at yellow
   - Blue: 4 months at green
   - Purple: 6 months at blue
   - Brown: 6 months at purple
   - Black: 1 year at brown

Note that these are minimum times and most students, especially at higher ranks, will need longer. Also note that these define the minimum time required to reach shodan as 3 years. These requirements assume regular training of 2-3 times per week; increased training time beyond this does not decrease the time at rank requirement.

III) Applied Jujitsu/Judo Line
When testing for blue and higher, testee must successfully demonstrate (as determined by the judging panel) defenses in applied jujitsu and/or a judo line.

IV) Failure Criteria
   1. **3 Outs**: if the testee acquires 3 "outs", they automatically fail. An "out" occurs when any one of the following criteria are satisfied:
      a) The testee is asked to do a technique, does it incorrectly, is asked to repeat it twice more, and fails each successive time. In other words, the technique is executed 3 times and each time it is performed incorrectly ("3 strikes"). Thus, 3 strikes equals 1 out.
      b) When testing for green and higher, the testee incorrectly handles a weapon (grabs the blade of a knife, points a gun at themselves, etc.), turns their back to uke in a clearly dangerous way, or otherwise demonstrates lack of basic situational awareness.
      c) The judges have to help the testee perform the technique correctly (perhaps to allow a follow-up technique to be executed).
      d) (Note: the following failure criterion is temporarily waived (as of July 2014) when testing for purple or lower until the seniors standardize this requirement. It still applies when testing for brown and black.) For green and higher, the testee is unable to answer basic verbal questions on vocabulary, the history of Zen Budokai, or the history of jujitsu in general.
2. **Poor Performance in Applied Jujitsu/Judo Line:** if the judging panel determines that the testee did not perform adequately on applied jujitsu/judo line, this is sufficient grounds for failure.

3. **Absence of Fundamental Skills/Awareness:** if the judging panel determines there is some essential skill that was consistently absent during either the test or training, i.e.
   - Awareness of the safety of uke or themselves
   - The ability to safely and effectively teach others at lower rank
   - Lack of seriousness in demeanor
   this is sufficient grounds for failure.

V) **Promotion and Feedback**

1. A pass or fail decision shall be unanimous among the judging panel.

2. Regardless of whether the test results in a promotion or not, the testee will immediately be given constructive feedback verbally, both positive and negative, as to why they did or did not pass. If the testee failed, the judges will make clear what needs to improve in order for a promotion.

3. In the event of a promotion, the senior-most member of the judging panel who is not Jim will send an email out to the Club email list announcing the promotion. In the event of a test for shodan, all Stanford black belts who served on the panel shall provide feedback (both positive and negative) to the testee via a single email regardless of whether the testee was promoted or not. The senior-most Stanford black belt who served on the panel and is not Jim is responsible for collecting feedback from each Stanford judge, editing these if needed, and sending them to the testee in a single email.

4. In the event of a promotion, the testee is “rewarded” by a single throw from each of the following:
   - All judges
   - All ukes
   - All other students present for the test who hold the rank to which the student was promoted or higher

The order of the throws should be from highest to lowest in seniority. If the throw performed is not one in which the testee has trained, the tori must execute the throw carefully so that the testee’s safety is never compromised.