

The GCSF Belt System

For All Combat Sports, One Federation

A GYM OWNER'S GUIDE

Global Combat Sports Federation • Kickboxing • Muay Thai • Japanese Jiu Jitsu • Savate • MMA
globalcombatsportsfederation.com

A GCSF belt system gives your gym a structured, safety-first path that maps directly onto an internationally recognised competition ladder from novice through advanced levels. That means clearer member progression, safer competition, a recognised instructor certification pathway, and a revenue share on every examination. This guide shows what affiliation delivers, how the commission model works, and how to get started.

IN ONE SENTENCE

Affiliation turns a loose striking programme into a structured, retainable, fundable product, with each member's belt acting as a safety gate to the competition class they are ready for.

Who We Are

A worldwide federation with internationally recognised instructor certification

The Global Combat Sports Federation (GCSF) is a worldwide governing body uniting Kickboxing, Muay Thai, Japanese Jiu Jitsu, Savate and MMA under one framework. It is led by Thom Harinck (President), Johan Vos (Vice-President) and Rion G. O. Rijker (Secretary), figures central to the development of Dutch-style kickboxing.

GCSF works with recognised national federations around the world. Through these partnerships, GCSF instructor diplomas are issued at the **Level 3 Trainer-Coach qualification** (EQF Level 3 equivalent), and affiliated gyms gain access to a national quality-mark accreditation pathway.

The Strategic Case for Belts in Your Gym

HIGHER RETENTION

A visible, gradeable path gives recreational members a concrete reason to stay: a next belt to train for, not just "more classes". Grading cycles create natural re-engagement moments through the year.

SAFER COMPETITION

The belt acts as a safety gate: students only step into the ring once they reach the orange-belt threshold, then compete in the class their belt and record support.

INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION & QUALITY-MARK PATHWAY

Your team can earn a nationally recognised Level 3 Trainer-Coach diploma through our federation partnerships, and your gym can work toward a national quality-mark accreditation, increasingly relevant for public and municipal recognition and venue access.

MARKETING ADVANTAGE

Affiliated gyms appear in the GCSF gym locator and Dan Registry, with partner branding that signals credibility to prospective members and parents.

The Revenue Share Model

Your gym keeps a share of every examination

Examinations are a recurring revenue line, not a cost. Colour-belt fees are shared **60% gym / 40% GCSF**, with the gym keeping the majority on every kyu grading it runs. Dan grades and the instructor diploma carry their own splits, reflecting central panel and certification work.

EXAMINATION	TOTAL	GYM	GCSF
Colour belt – youth (5th/4th/3rd kyu)	€30	€18	€12
Colour belt – youth (2nd/1st kyu)	€40	€24	€16
Colour belt – adults (5th/4th/3rd kyu)	€40	€24	€16
Colour belt – adults (2nd/1st kyu)	€55	€33	€22
1st Dan (Black Belt)	€175	€60	€115
2nd Dan (incl. ceremonial belt)	€250	€75	€175
3rd Dan	€300	€75	€225
Instructor Diploma (Level 3)	€450	n/a	€450

ILLUSTRATIVE ANNUAL PROJECTION

A gym grading 60 adult colour-belt students per year (mixed grades, ~€45 average) keeps roughly **€1,600** in gym share, before any Dan grades or the retention upside of a structured path. Figures are illustrative; your result depends on member numbers and grading frequency.

What Your Gym Receives

- Authority to run kyu examinations and award all colour belts (via a diploma-holding instructor).
- The full belt-to-class curriculum mapped onto novice, intermediate and advanced competition levels.
- Listing in the GCSF gym locator and access to the Dan Registry.
- Access to the instructor certification pathway and national quality-mark accreditation route.
- Partner branding (stickers, digital badges) and central marketing support.

Belt-to-Class Reference

The safety gate your members progress through

For Kickboxing, Muay Thai, MMA and Savate, each belt maps onto a stage in an internationally recognised competition ladder from **novice through intermediate to advanced levels**. Competition is only permitted from the orange belt onward.

BELT (KYU)	COMPETITION	LEVEL	PROFILE
White	Not permitted	–	Beginner, first 3–6 months.
Yellow (5th kyu)	Not permitted	–	Core technique phase.
Orange (4th kyu)	Permitted from here	Novice	First bouts for novice fighters, 18+.
Green (3rd kyu)	Ongoing	Novice → Intermediate	After 3 novice wins → Intermediate.
Blue (2nd kyu)	Ongoing	Intermediate	Experienced amateur.
Brown (1st kyu)	Ongoing	Advanced	After 6 intermediate wins → Advanced.
1st Dan	Ongoing	Advanced → Elite	After 8 advanced wins → Elite.
2nd Dan	Ongoing	Elite / Pro	Fully developed competitor.

JAPANESE JIU JITSU – SEPARATE TRACK

Japanese Jiu Jitsu does not use the novice-through-advanced competition levels. It follows its own technical ladder built on self-defence and partner work; belts certify technical level rather than competitive readiness.

The Instructor Certification Pathway

Through our national federation partnerships, your instructors earn a nationally recognised Level 3 Trainer-Coach diploma. For your gym this means access to a national quality-mark accreditation route, competition under recognised national regulations (an official fight passport), and stronger standing for public and municipal recognition, credibility that prospective members and parents increasingly look for.

Certifying Your Team

From 2nd Dan to certified instructor and cornerman

The GCSF Instructor Diploma is open from **2nd Dan** (or a demonstrably equivalent technical level) with at least five years of coaching experience, set at the **Level 3 Trainer-Coach qualification** through our national federation partnerships.

THREE PROOFS OF COMPETENCE

1. Preparing and delivering training.
2. Guiding the athlete and the group.
3. Competition and sparring coaching.

ALSO REQUIRED

- VOG (certificate of good conduct)
- First-aid / AED diploma
- Signed GCSF code of conduct

WHAT A CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR MAY DO

- Run kyu examinations and award all colour belts (not Dan grades).
- Corner your own athletes at **novice and intermediate-level** bouts.
- Corner at **advanced and elite-level** bouts with 2nd Dan plus the diploma.
- Teach youth, provided their VOG is current.

Continuing education runs at 20 points per year, including one mandatory central training (8 points). Diploma holders must attend the two annual central trainings.

Central Examinations – Twice a Year

Dan examinations run **twice a year** (around April and October) at the fixed Amsterdam venue, alongside the two mandatory central trainings (spring: technical and rules; autumn: didactics, safety and Dan-exam preparation). To enter students, register them through your affiliated-gym account at least the announced deadline ahead of the session; colour-belt gradings you run in-house on your own schedule.

Youth Programmes & Marketing

Safe J-class grading and visible affiliation

Youth Programmes – safe J-class grading

The youth (J-class) track lets you grade junior members safely and visibly, which parents value:

- Own kyu progression up to brown belt, **never a black belt under 18**.
- No techniques to the head (in line with international youth-safety standards).
- No low kicks under 14; no knee techniques under 12.
- Headguard, shin guards and mouthguard mandatory.
- Own youth bouts under J-class rules (3 × 1 min, no head contact).
- At 18, a probationary re-evaluation bridges into the adult system.

Marketing & Visibility

- **Dan Registry:** verifiable rank records that reinforce your gym's credibility.
- **Gym locator:** prospective members find you as an official GCSF affiliate.
- **Partner branding:** window stickers, certificates and digital badges.
- **Grading cycles:** natural content and event moments through the year.

Onboarding – Four Steps

- 1** Apply for affiliation and sign the GCSF code of conduct.
- 2** Get at least one instructor on the instructor certification pathway (or recognise an equivalent existing qualification).
- 3** Adopt the belt-to-class curriculum and schedule your first in-house kyu gradings.
- 4** Go live in the gym locator and Dan Registry, and enter your first students for central Dan examinations.

Factsheet

Prices, commission and planning

Examination Prices & Commission

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HOW GCSF COMPARES

GCSF examination fees are in line with other major international federations. GCSF adds clear extra value for your gym: internationally recognised instructor certification, the embroidered ceremonial black belt from 2nd Dan, entry in the central Dan Registry, and a revenue share on every examination.

60%

GYM SHARE ON COLOUR BELTS

2×

CENTRAL DAN EXAMS PER YEAR

2×

CENTRAL TRAININGS PER YEAR