

Lil' Dragon to Big Class Transition Process

(April, 2021)

General Scope: Survival of the dojo depends on offering high-quality classes. Thus, transition from Dragons to Big Class is not based solely on age, Dragons rank or skill level. While those qualities do play a role in the process, it's more a matter of the Dragon's maturity and ability to adapt to the more advanced format without being a distraction.

The process below facilitates a smooth transition and insures the Big Classes maintain the quality our older crowd has come to expect.

- 1. Nomination:** An instructor reports to Master Jeff that a Dragon student is exceptionally attentive and quiet during Dragons class, competent in all self-defense and bag techniques, and that their basic forms are on par with an adult junior belt.
- 2. Initial Assessment:** Master Jeff may invite the Dragon student to a single, trial Big Class. During the initial assessment, Master Jeff observes not the Dragon but the older students' reaction to them. If the Dragon is at all distracting, the process ends. Examples of unacceptable distraction include excessive fidgeting, talking out of turn, and the constant need for one-on-one attention to explain techniques and procedures—anything that lowers the quality of the class. If it's not a good fit, the Dragon student may try again after they've matured a few months.
- 3. Confirmation Assessment:** If the Dragon passes the initial assessment, Master Jeff may invite them to a second Big Class for a confirmation assessment. The same procedures and policies apply as in the initial assessment.
- 4. Big Class Qualification:** If all goes well in the confirmation assessment, Master Jeff may issue the Dragon a yellow qualification slip during the next qualifying period. This is an official invitation to the next Big Class testing. At testing, the Dragon will demonstrate their skills and receive their Big Class yellow belt. (Everyone must start at yellow belt, regardless of the quantity and quality of the forms they know.) During the wait for testing, the Dragon student may attend Big Class *on a trial basis only*. If distractions occur during this trial time, Master Jeff may relinquish testing permission, and the process ends. The Dragon student may try again after they've matured a few months.
- 5. Official Transition:** Upon receiving the Big Class yellow belt at testing, the Dragon student officially becomes a Big Class student. They may then attend both classes if they wish. However, emphasis should be on Big Class.