

I will also not be able to attend since I am to play a part in Nancy's son's wedding on the 13th of August. I have included my thoughts on the idea of selecting other than USJF to stay with.

Hayward Nishioka

Nanka Options

By Hayward Nishioka, Nanka Member

As of late there are members that think we should change horses in mid-stream. I am not one of them. Some members are eager to join USA Judo and dump USJF, and if that doesn't work, they would go rogue. Here are my reasons and my thoughts on the matter. Many of the problems began to occur about the time that we were starting to get back to normalcy from COVID 19. Everyone was getting tired of wearing masks and keeping to ourselves.

Some were brave and practiced with suffocating masks on. Then, and even now, in tournaments, first with masks then without them, was a delight. After being cooped up all COVID season long, it was almost as if it was a badge of honor to go out and compete, in spite of the threat of getting deathly sick. Why, we even paid a lot more just to compete. The ones who held tournaments were overjoyed. They made a lot of money during this time. USA Judo sponsored tournaments charging \$100.00 per entry. Some tournaments had 7 or 800 contestants. That's a lot of money. It doesn't cost 70 thousand dollars to run a tournament. Where did all the money go?

COVID is for us what the Black Plague was for England and Europe in the 16, and 1700s. A game changer. For one thing wages went up, along with costs for goods and services in the old country. Have you noticed that even here today in the USA, TIPS went up after COVID. The only thing going down is, loyalty, honor, respect, patience, values that historically we could count on. Hard work for good money.

Let's look at what the problem is in changing organizations. First let's look at USA Judo, our National Governing Body, the organization that should be training and developing our National Judo Team. This was the first choice of those who wanted to change organizations. The following are some reasons not to join them:

1. Their leaders don't know or have done real judo.
2. They have a ten-member board that doesn't represent anyone nor answer to, nor represent the judo community. Who do they report to? How do they take back problems from the judo community? Who represents you?!
3. YOU have no voice or vote that really matters. Just because they allow you to vote for a class A, B, and C member, a Referee's, coaches, and two athletes representative every four years. They do not include a mechanism by which concerns may be brought forward from the greater judo community to be discussed in these important areas. As for the other four members left, I have no idea what they do or how they get there. DO YOU
4. As Travis Stevens said as he walked out with Harrison of a dinner honoring him and Kayla, "USA Judo has no plan." USA Judo doesn't train champions before, during, nor after, qualifying tournaments.

5. They do hold 5 or 6 qualifying tournaments a year. That is only to become a member of the USA Judo team. To get to the international tournament they qualified to get to, one must pay their own way. If number one can't afford the trip, how about number 2 or 3.
6. Because you get no coaching, and you are up against some of the best in the world your chances of placing are slim. Especially true if you are a newcomer to international tournaments, and have little experience, you're just there for the flight.
7. You want to be a coach, you can if you can afford the trip. I have heard of some trips where there was no one who could afford the trip. Imagine going on a trip to a foreign country and no one is in charge. I wouldn't send my child into that kind of "Never neverland" never!
8. We had one athlete who tested positive for COVID in Europe and had to stay there for a while---ALONE. Who do you complain to then?
9. Still, there are US players who just want to say they were on the USA Judo team. I would imagine that is okay but for those who want to qualify for the World Team or the US Olympics teams you have to attend and qualify at IJF specified tournaments. Only a few from the USA will make it.
10. Only a few as compared to a Nation of judo enthusiasts whose character's will be enhanced through the experience of judo. That is what we should be thinking about.
11. On the positive side. USA Judo does a fine job at getting sanctions out. They seem to be the "go to organization" for instant sanctions, Safe Sport certs, and Heads up. One "caveat emptor" may be the waiver clause that athletes must sign that has to do with bodily injury or death in the tournament entry form.

Going Rogue puts us in a precarious position. The main reason the idea of splitting away from the USJF came up was initiated by a letter from Mark Hill, USA Judo President to Mitchell Palacio, USJF President

Given the broken promises record of USAJ it is difficult to read into the letter that USAJ was looking for a three-way merger, with them in control of insurance, Safe Sport, possibly Heads up, and even Smooth Comp. While it sounds nice that we try to get along, look at their track record. I think what our leaders are doing now is correct. Make them think of the cost factors that they are having to deal with, before jumping into their fire to see who gets cooked over. Think about it, it's still early in the game and there is no need to rush into the fire to be roasted.

1. If we decide to go rogue, who do you think will come to our tournaments? USA Judo? USJF? USJA? Maybe JiuJitsu? Maybe AAU judo? and who will be the referees? What amount of insurance will we have to shell out for?
2. Not everyone will go rogue, what of the old-time clubs that are aligned with Japanese Community Centers, and Buddhist churches? I doubt very much that they want to throw out their history of where judo started and the good that it has done for the Japanese/American Community. I for one, would be thinking, what would my sensei be thinking of me giving up our soul for a few shekels of silver? The true worth of judo is in the character that it can build in our children. The experiencing of fighting for a worthy cause, learning of bravery, loyalty, the never give up attitude, and the respect that it can build in our members. That's what our true Nanka judo sensei's look for and build in

addition to the confidence that is built in each judoka. Yes, competition is important, but so is the character it builds.

3. A smaller split up Nanka will mean that it may lose its position and power in the USJF. You must have at least 500 members to have a seat on the JF Promotion Board. There are issues with voting rights also attached to the number of members you have. Right now, because of COVID nothing is changed, but I'm sure that will change with a split.
4. Even now, it is hard to get people to sit on certain committees. I mentioned that there aren't enough members to fill all the spots necessary. One of our leaders thought there was. Yet we have several areas where there is a need but not enough people who are capable or at least willing to try to do the job. Some jobs need an expert. Like a parliamentarian, or refereeing, or coaching, or teaching, or leading a group. I am always open for volunteers, and we have plenty of jobs to be done. Just think, the more members you have the more choices you have to select from. The less members the less choices to select from. A split up of Nanka would mean even less. Any volunteers?

Doing Nothing is really doing something as far as we are concerned.

Sitting quietly and waiting to see what happens is the better part of valor for us. Yes, we will lose money by not doing anything right now. But by taking a position because we did not get our way this time can be really devastating to our Yudanshakai which will be divided if not actually, at least psychologically. We will lose our advantage of numbers, as well as our efforts to make better citizens. We will lose our advantage as a leading yudanshakai in the USJF. To do other than to wait you will risk the future of Nanka Yudanshakai. Let's show more character than being the ones that destroyed a great Yudanshakai, one of the oldest judo organizations in the United States that was recognized by the Kodokan by Jigoro Kano in 1930, but really came to fruition earlier thanks to Tokugoro Ito, Yondan who came to the Los Angeles area from Seattle in 1915 and started building judo here. XXX