

USJF MEETING REPORT: April 15-16, 2023, Boise State University, Idaho

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May 5, 2023

The following is my report of the USJF meetings that took place in Boise State University Idaho. Please refer to my annotations marked in **bold blue font**.

Note that several meetings are held concurrently, so it is not possible to attend them all. I have added my notes to those meetings I did attend.

Schedule Day 1

Finance Committee - Attended

Treasure was not present due to illness. Ed Hanashiro (50th State) was the acting Treasurer.

Acting Chair presented YTD accounts. These were slightly skewed when comparing with previous and similar reports as President wanted to show an optimistic report and made the report a seven month one compared with normal six month.

Discussion took place on the amount of money the finance committee expected to be received from the Endowment Fund interest. There was confusion here, since current number was a guess and did not seem correct to me. I made a motion that the Finance Committee reach out to the Endowment Trustees to determine how much and how to request transfer of the Endowment general fund interest. Motion Passed.

Development Committee: Did not attend. Meeting ran concurrent with Finance

Yudanshakai President's Meeting - Attended

Meeting was called so YDK President's can share their experiences from returning out of lockdown. Also expanded to include current concerns.

I emphasized my concern with the present USJF, USJA and USA Judo situation and especially the impact not having reciprocal insurance recognition will have on our Tournaments. Some Presidents indicated similar concerns, while a few others indicated since they were in an area with very small USA Judo activity they were consequently not worried.

Junior Youth Development Committee. Meeting Cancelled

Women's Committee: Meeting Cancelled

Referee Committee: Attended

Committee no longer chaired by Calvin Terada, but now it is Julie Koyama. She indicated that she wanted to change the focus of the committee. The focus should be on investing in USJF Referee development, rather than just providing a travel fund for USA Judo Referees. Apparently, most Referees are on the West Coast while the east coast numbers are low. Julie wants to grow East Coast Referee participation. Apparently the USJF Teaching portal has referee training modules.

Discussion of strategy for Referee recruitment and retention. How to emphasize more professionalism in Referees. Tournament Directors are encouraged to compensate Referees. Richie Endow has been asked to a member of the USJF Referee Committee. IJF has reduces the max age limit on tour referees from 40 to 28.

Self Defense: Meeting Cancelled

Kata Development: Meeting Cancelled

Teaching and Coaching Seminar : Attended

Only point of note was Larry Tutsui had stepped down as Coach chair, Rod Conduragis is the new chair.

Promotion Committee:

Chaired by Kevin Tamai (Shufu)

Hayward gave opening remarks.

No Nanka promotions in consideration at this meeting

Janet Johnson presented the outline of the draft requirements for contribution for senior promotions. Time in Grade is no longer enough. Hayward indicated that the PC needs more time to consider this proposed draft.

USJF Policy and Procedures Motion (Josh Kindleberger) PASSED

Promotion candidates considered and approved as appropriate. Some candidates were tabled.

Board of Examiners Meeting: - Attended

Chaired by Mac Takeda.

Agenda adopted, Minutes of previous meeting approved.

Promotion Committees summary presented and approved

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Special Needs Judo Program report by Miki Takemori. **No progress. Help still needed**
2. Newaza Tournament Rules use Report by the Yudanshakai's. **Still needs a trial event to test the rules.**
3. Form to be used by National Office (NO) to record questions received by NO and the response. The form can be utilized to develop on our website the commonly asked questions and document the technical questions and answers in a binder for use by the NO staff. Mac Takeda. It will be put on the USJF website by Stillman. Still in the works. It will be completed once the website is completed. **No update.**
4. USJF Promotion Cheat Sheet for obtaining a Shodan. It is the chart on the various pathways to obtain a Shodan in the USJF. The chart compiled by Mac Takeda is to be placed on the USJF website. Recommended by the Promotion Committee. Still in the works. It is the same status as item 3 above. **Available on the USJF website.**
5. Second reading to Incorporate all actions from the 2016 to current BOE meeting minutes approved by the Board of Examiners which are equivalent to by-laws into a separate section. The by- laws equivalents will be posted on the website. **PASSED and to be posted.**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- I. Motion: that there will be a \$50 fee for promotion applications that are in dead file state and then resurrected. **PASSED**
- II. Response forms to be sent to Yudanshakai Promotion Chairs 6 months requesting update to stagnant applications. **PASSED**
- III. Motion: Approve the new USJF Rank Requirements for sankyu, nikyu and ikkyu. **PASSED**
- IV. Maintain the current status on Yudanshakai promotion authority as agreed during the pandemic, while Yudanshakai's rebuild their memberships. **PASSED**
- V. To create a task force to look at Promotion Authority of Yudanshakai in general. **PASSED**

Schedule Day 2

Executive Committee: Unadvertised

This meeting was held very early in the morning and not placed on the schedule until after it was held. So, no information available.

Smoothcomp Presentation: General presentation by Ricard of Smoothcomp.

Board of Directors Meeting - Attended

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Adopted with a minor change in order.

II. MINUTES FOR REVIEW & APPROVAL

- A. March 26, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting: **APPROVED**

III. REPORTS

- A. President

USJF Negotiation Team – David Matsumoto

David Matsumoto made this presentation, the obvious tone was belligerence, that USJF is deciding to operate without any relationship with USA Judo.

Matsumoto indicated to the membership that dojo/clubs with both USJF and USA Judo membership, should not allow a member to practice together if their own memberships are different. I.e. USJF cannot work out with a USA Judo member. This can only happen if both members have the same or dual membership. This is a considerable risk to Dojos/Clubs.

Matsumoto indicated that the communication trail between USJF and USA Judo has been made available on the USJF website. But on review, there appears to be gaps in that chain.

I stood up and presented Nanka's concern and position in regarding the interaction between USJF and USA Judo. That the current situation is detrimental to judo development in the USA and that it would have a direct and worrying effect on the success of our own tournaments and events. I even stated that there was a distinct danger of Nanka considering their USJF membership.

I made the following Motion:

"President shall at the earliest opportunity initiate a meeting between USJF, USA Judo and USJA to negotiate the restoration of the mutual recognition of participation insurance at single Sanction Events (As prior to the Triad Agreement)".

Motion was initially seconded by Larry Tutsui, but after short discussion, he withdrew his second. Nobody else was prepared to second my motion. So motion was not even allowed to be discussed and it died on the vine. This was even though several Yudanshakai President's who I had privately spoken to previously had indicated support for this motion.

USJF Executive presented at this point a letter they have been developing with USJA on. This is a response to the USA Judo initiative to allow USJF/USJA members to participate in a USA Judo sanctioned event, as long

as a waiver is signed indicating understanding and acceptance of not having a valid accidental insurance. A copy of this letter was only shown on the screen and was not provided. The review was based on that, but was approved by the BOD. As of the date of this report this letter has not yet been published by USJF, although the version as used by USJA has.

Safesport

USJF does not have direct access to Safesport. While the education and certification program is accessible. There is an open question as to how the three Judo organizations share relevant information on persons being investigated by Safesport and how to protect dojo's and clubs against any proven bad actors.

Short & Long Term Strategies

Big message from the President is his program to mentor the next generation. The issue, is while there is a balance of encouraging next generation leaders, the USJF Executive is promoting and recommending persons it wants in leadership and not encouraging other experienced candidates to step forward. IMHO this is diluting the organizations experience and knowledge base.

- Incentive non-USJF members to become members
- Provide as many developmental opportunities as possible
- Increase perception of importance and credibility of USJF rank
- Get the word out of USJF on the move
- Create bridges to potential crossover memberships
- Coordinate activities between USJF and USJA (**No intention to include USA Judo**)
- Presidents Ad Hoc Committee on Sr. Kyu Rank Requirements
Janet Johnson (Chair), Eric Spears, Grace Talusan, Roland Fernando

Motion: BoE with Vote for Ratification

iv. Judo Internship Program: Hannah and Julia Tsutsui

Great program and excellent presentation. Nanka should copy and use this program.

v. Koka Kids: Bryan Matsuoka

Koka Kids Promotion completed, however it is based around USJF belt ranks and not what is generally used in the US. As a program it has a lot of good content, but again only viable if you follow the USJF curriculum.

vi. Presidents Ad Hoc Committee on Jr. Rank Requirement
Janet Johnson (Chair), Jennifer Badertscher, Kevin Tamai, Ryan Shimokawa

i. Board of Examiners
Report given. See notes above.

B. Treasurer Report
i. Financial Report

Committee Appointments

B. Committee Appointment
i. Rod Conduragis – Coach Committee, Chair
