

Bottom Line Up Front: This Committee recommends that Shufu should use the USJF Promotion Requirement Guidelines with no additions.

The Shufu Special Committee for Standards/Requirements discussed many topics/issues during multiple meetings and we came to a few conclusions.

- Shufu is vested in USJF and there is no intent to part from USJF.
- No matter what we change to, there will be discrepancies between what was and what is to be...it is unavoidable.
- Changing to USJF standards would decrease the risk, as these standards are in use by other Yudanshakai's and our Yudanshakai is familiar with them.
- It would alleviate confusion that exists today, as the requirements at USJF Changed and Shufu did not keep up...this would not only correct those discrepancies, but it would prevent us from ever being out of sync with USJF again, since if they changed, we would be using their current standards as they change. If in the future, Shufu as a body did not agree with future changes, we would then decide if we would want to leave USJF at that time.
- This Committee reviewed all available information about all Judo Governing bodies as compared to Shufu and this Course of Action is appropriate.
- There are some that believe that any Course of Action other than maintaining the status quo could be perceived as lowering the standards, that a Cast System could form resulting in animosity for Judoka under the "Old Requirements" vs the "New Requirements"...The Committee however does not see this as a problem. Shufu leaders will not only set the tone but will make it a non-issue by correcting any inappropriate attitudes, as the Judoka who are coming up through the system would not be to blame that the requirements changed...it would be us as Blackbelts that would be to blame if any animosity was to emerge as we set the tone for the Yudanshakai. Shufu is filled with so many good people and the Committee just can't see members of the Yudanshakai doing this to rising Judoka... it would go against the basic principle of Judo"Mutual Respect and Benefit."
- Finally, the committee discussed the potential for Shufu Judoka seeking promotion under USJF Guidelines to encounter more stringent requirements in some areas such as Time in Grade... our recommendations include the stipulation that any individuals that are negatively affected by the transition be afforded the option to adhere to the old requirements for a period of time to be determined to minimize the impact to their progression (for this one grade)..

After considerable effort, the Committee has concluded there is no perfect solution, but we believe that the Committee was formed because there is a desire within the Yudanshakai to change or become irrelevant and we believe this is the best Course of Action. We must make a decision and in the course or implementation, we will make it right.

Respectfully,

Shufu Special Committee for Promotion Requirements