

Background: Shufu has traditionally held semi-annual centralized events. Some Shufu clubs send students to promotional events, others do not. For some clubs, this is a matter of distance; for other clubs, it is a choice. Over the years, the event has modified: no kohaku shiai, limited regular shiai, etc.

Current Shufu promotion process:

Choice of centralized or in-club

Junior – Goyku – Sankyu

Senior - Gokyu - Yonkyu

Centralized only:

Junior – Nikyu and above

Senior – Sankyu and above

Problem statement: With a geographically diverse population of clubs and a wide range of sizes within Shufu, all clubs should have the same process and options for promotions. An overarching influencing factor is that all clubs or individuals have a choice between the three national organizations (USA Judo, USJF, and USJA).

Question we are aiming to answer: What is a fair, promotion process for Shufu to adopt or develop in today's environment?

Research Item #1: National Organization promotion information

USJF

1. Need to go through a Yudanshakai, either Shufu or another yudanshakai
2. USJF membership is required for both the club and the individual promoting.
3. Dan ranks: 1d \$125, 2d \$150, 3d \$175, 4d \$200, 5d \$225, 6d \$250, 7d \$300, 8d \$350

USJA

1. Membership required for both the club and the individual promoting.
2. Coaches can promote up to ikkyu, then recommend above that.
3. Juniors: \$15; instructor signs off
4. Seniors: 6th – 4th \$25, 3rd \$35, 2nd \$45, 1st \$55. Signer is a USJA black belt and two ranks above the applicant.
5. Dan: \$35 processing fee, rest of promotion fee remitted when pass. Signer is a USJA black belt two ranks above applicant, higher dan ranks require two or more signers: 4 dan and up are signed off by CRE (certified rank examiner): 1d \$150, 2d \$175, 3d \$200, 4d \$225, 5d \$250, 6d \$275, 7d \$325, 8d \$375, 9d \$425, 10d \$525

USAJudo

1. Membership required for instructor and individual (not the club).
2. Juniors and seniors below brown belt: in-club; instructor signs; optional to let USAJudo know. No charge.
3. Senior brown belts: verify/certify by signature; report to USAJudo; appears on membership card
4. Dan: sign by instructor; minimum one rank above applicant; 4 dan and above go through USAJudo Promotion committee: 1d \$150, 2d \$175, 3d \$200, 4d \$225, 5d \$250, 6d \$275, 7d \$300, 8d \$325
5. \$7/certificate if desired.
6. \$5 for hard copy of rank card.

Research Item #2: At a March 2017 international kata event attended by Karen Whilden, Diane Jackson and Fran Vall, several clubs from across the USA were in attendance. The opportunity was taken to ask about their promotion processes. Listed below is information gathered:

- A west coast USJF club:
 - No centralized promotion; all in-club
 - Shodan and above presented to yudanshakai
 - No fee for mudansha
 - \$35 for yudansha + USJF fee + kodokan (if desired)
- A USA Judo and USJA Texas club:
 - No centralized promotion; In-club promotion
 - club fee; national organization fee (when needed for higher ranks); no other fees
 - Records kept by the club
 - USJA – need a high ranking examiner for in-club promotions
- A Texas club: some club members are USA Judo and other club members are USJA:
 - Club members decide what national organization to join
 - USJA: able to promote up to up to 3rd degree (head sensei is Godan)
 - USA Judo: Shodan and aboveRecords kept by the club
 - Fees: national fee only + cost of belt (no club or local fee, unless paid back through national organization)
- A mid-west USJF club:
 - In-club promotions: able to promote up to Ikkyu (as long as head sensei is at least Shodan)
 - Yudanshakai: keeps kyu promotion record and gives certificate
 - Fee: \$5/ junior; \$15/Sr to yudanshakai
 - Promotion for Shodan and above conducted by Board of Examiners –fee for testing; offered 2x/year
 - In-club promotion allowed to Shodan with 3 BOE present to test and permission by the BOE chair

- East Coast non-affiliated club:
 - Developed club-specific promotional standards
 - Club fee only; certificate from club
 - No students to black belt yet. But will comply with the national organization's requirements of student's choice.

Research Item #3: How have promotions involvement from clubs and finances changed over recent years? Data from records on Shufu website under promotions

Table 1: Number of Promotions per club per promotion event

Bolded "JC#" = listed a Shufu club on Shufu website

(Numbers may be close but not entirely accurate due to late-night counting)

	2012				2013				2014				2015				2016				total
	Sprg		Fall		Sprg		Fall		Sprg		Fall		Sprg		Fall		Sprg		Fall		
	Jr	Sr	Jr	Sr	Jr	Sr	Jr	Sr	Jr	Sr	Jr	Sr	Jr	Sr	Jr	Sr	Jr	Sr	Jr	Sr	
JC1	25	12	14	12	20	13	13	5	20	6	16	6	24	9	24	12		1		1	243
JC2		5		4		12		5		7		4		7				5	12		61
JC3	5	1	6	1	10	3	2	1	8	3	3	3	5	2	2	4					59
JC4		2		1		1		3		11		9		8		7	6	8	1		57
JC5	3	5		6		3		6	7		6	1	4	2	4		2	6			55
Club not named																			19	36	55
JC7	3	1	4	3		3	3	5	3	3	3	3	4	3	2	4	1	3			51
JC8	4	2	8	1	5		3	2		3	6	3	3	1	5	4				1	51
JC9	3		6	2	4		5		5		4		2	1	2	1	1				36
JC10	1	1	1	2		3		1		3		4		1		4		8		1	30
JC11					3		2		2		2		1		4		4	1			19
JC12		3		4				1		3		3			1	1		1			17
JC13																	1	0	7		17
JC14	2	1	2	1		1	2	1		1	2	1			1			1			16
JC15	3	1	1	2	1		2	2		1		1				1					15
JC16						5		2		2		2				3					14
JC17		3		2						2		2		1		2					12
JC18				2	2	1			2	1	1	1	1								11
JC19															3		5	1			9
JC20		3		1		1				1		1				1					8
JC21					2	1			2	1			1								7
JC22																		3			3
JC23		2																			2
JC24											1		1								2
JC25					2																2
JC26			1	1																	2
JC27													2								2
JC28															2						2
JC29																2					2
JC30				1																	1
JC31							1														1

2012				2013				2014				2015				2016				total			
Sprg		Fall		Sprg		Fall		Sprg		Fall		Sprg		Fall		Sprg		Fall					
Jr	Sr	Jr	Sr	Jr	Sr	Jr	Sr	Jr	Sr	Jr	Sr	Jr	Sr	Jr	Sr	Jr	Sr	Jr	Sr				
JC32															1					1			
JC33																				0			
JC34																				0			
JC35																				0			
JC36																				0			
JC37																				0			
JC38																				0			
JC39																				0			
JC40																				0			
JC41																				0			
JC42																				0			
	49	42	43	46	49	47	32	4	5	49	48	43	4	5	47	36	48	47	3	6	52	20	39

Table 2: Breakdown of Shufu membership, finances, number of promotions, and rank distribution

(Numbers are close but may not entirely accurate due to late-night counting)

Event	Total # Shufu members	\$ Income	Venue \$ / Expenses / \$ to Yudanshakai / \$ to Club	# Promoted	Junior: Up to Sanky u	Jr: Nikyu/ Ikkyu	Senior: Up to Sanky u	Sr: Nikyu/ Ikkyu	Shodan and above
2010	782								
2011	827								
Sprg 2012	771	Not posted	Not posted	91	47	3 / 0	30	4 / 6	8
Fall 2012		Not posted	Not posted	89	42	2 / 1	32	2 / 11	4
Sprg 2013	720	\$4640	1392/ 396/ 1426/ 1426	124	48	1 / 0	52	9 / 3	11
Fall 2013		\$3180	1272/ 416/ 745/ 745	82	26	3 / 1	38	6 / 3	5
Sprg 2014	637	\$3920	1568/ 262/ 1048/ 1048	103	43	3 / 0	41	4 / 4	8
Fall 2014		\$3380	1352/ 600/ 714/ 714	95	37	0 / 1	41	2 / 4	10
Sprg 2015	697	\$3290	1326/ 495/ 740/ 740	85	35	10 / 1	25	2 / 0	7
Fall 2015		\$4040	1616/ 665/ 880/ 880	101	40	4 / 0	34	8 / 4	11
Sprg 2016	616	\$4710	1240/ 3470/ 10/ 10	91	31	3 / 0	38	8 / 3	8
Fall 2016		Not posted	Not posted	55	17	1 / 1	22	4 / 3	7
2017	530								

RECOMMENDATIONS on Promotion Process for Jr and Sr .Gokyu – Sankyu:

- 1) All clubs can choose in-club or centralized promotion for Jr and Sr .Gokyu – Sankyu
- 2) Centralized Shufu promotions:
 - a. Fee for promotion examination and/or shiai for centralized event
 - b. Examined by a BOE member
 - c. BOE or sub-group reviews that all promotion criteria are met
 - d. Shufu-issued rank certificate included in fee
 - e. Shufu keeps record of promotion
- 3) In-club Shufu promotions:
 - a. Head sensei can promote- Gokyu – Sankyu
 - b. Head sensei responsible to assure Shufu promotional criteria are met
 - c. Club maintains list of Gokyu – Sankyu promotions
 - d. Club decides on club fee, club certificate, etc.
 - e. No Shufu fee for Gokyu – Sankyu
 - f. If Shufu certificate or if Shufu-maintained record of rank is desired, a fee is charged and head sensei (or parent with sensei approval) sends in promotional criteria paperwork (e.g., demonstration scores, points. TIG)

OPEN DISCUSSION on Promotion Process for Nikyu – Ikkyu - Shodan:

Option 1: Status Quo	Option 2: Hybrid	Option 3: Decentralized Demonstrations
Centralized promotion only	Clubs can choose to attend centralized event or grade in-club and send results to BOE for review & approval	No centralized event In-club demonstrations only (or at a small event) with BOE review & approval
No club-in allowed	For in-club: Results are sent for BOE review and approval, including: TIG*, Competition points, Dues, Back dues; Scores for: Basics, Nage, Osaekomi, Shime, Kansetsu, Renraku, Kaishi, Kata, and *NEW ADD: Gokyu – Sankyu dates of promotion	BOE meets 2 times per year to review promotion criteria and approve. Yudansha meeting could occur on same day.

- 1) Do we want to extend the rank limit for the option of in-club promotions?
 - a) Nikyu: Option 1 or 2 or 3
 - b) Ikkyu: Option 1 or 2 or 3
 - c) Shodan: Option 1 or 2 or 3
- 2) If in-club demonstration (Options 2 or 3) approved, who should examine?
 - a) Nikyu: 1) head sensei, 2) 1 BOE member, 3) 2 BOE members or 4) other
 - b) Ikkyu: 1) head sensei, 2) 1 BOE member, 3) 2 BOE members or 4) other
 - c) Shodan: 1) head sensei, 2) 1 BOE member, 3) 2 BOE members or 4) other
- 3) If Option 2 or 3 is approved, should there be a fee for this service? 1) Yes 2) No

Other process questions

- 1) Are centralized promotions intended to:
 - a) be money making events?
 - b) be at least break-even events?
 - c) be a service that Shufu is willing to pay for (i.e., lose money on)?
- 2) For promotions, should the sanction committee review include fiscal solvency of the event before granting the sanction? And if potentially not fiscally solvent have the acceptance or rejection go through a decision process, e.g., accept the overage, look for another possibility for holding the event.
- 3) Open Comment: Please provide any constructive feedback on your club needs, concerns, and suggestions for a Shufu promotion process that would be a service to your club and you would find to be fair to all clubs within Shufu.

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