



USJF Shufu Yudanshakai, Inc.
United State Judo Federation

2025 Spring Board of Directors meeting minutes (draft)
March 29, 2025 - Beltsville Community Center / hybrid



- I. Call to order. Welcome. Confirmed quorum (15%)
- II. Moment of Silence to remember those who are no longer with us or are dealing with illness
- III. Accept Agenda - Motion – R. Winston. 2nd – T. McPartland - PASS
- IV. Adopt Minutes from last meeting – Motion – D. Hugh. 2nd – K. Whilden - PASS
- V. President's Report
 - USJF National meeting is not until next week in Miami, a report of specific issues/programs/etc. will be reported in the May Shimbun
 - News from Fall 2024 USJF meetings
 - A. Motion: USJF Development Certification Standardized Fee Structure i. Rationale: To standardize the certification fees structure for all current and future USJF development certifications. The fee structure would be as follows:
 - Initial certification = \$100
 - Recertification = \$75 • For instance, the fee for an initial certification in Nage-no-kata, awarded at C Level would be \$100. The next certification to B-Level would be \$75, as this would be considered a recertification.
 - Each committee has the authority and discretion to award certifications at the level deemed appropriate to the applicant. The length of time each certification is valid, or the expiration date, shall be determined by each committee. - Current certification programs offered by USJF: Coach, Teacher, Referee, Kata, Self Defense (Rome Acopan Jr., Treasurer)
 - B. Motion: The US Judo Hall of Fame Committee (HoFC) proposes to expand its membership by adding the Promotional Committee Chair as a member for a two-year term, aligned with their election or re-election as PCC. This motion will take effect immediately upon approval by the committee and subsequent acceptance of the committee's report by the Board of Directors. Rationale: Moving the Hall of Fame, Lifetime Achievement Awards, and Presidential Recognition Awards to an Every-Other-Year Schedule:
 - Due to the limited number of nominations from Yudanshakai Presidents and other nominators, the US Judo Hall of Fame Committee (HoFC) recommends transitioning the nomination process for the Hall of Fame to an every-other-year schedule, with nominations resuming in 2026. (Neil Simon: HoF Chairperson)
 - C. Motion: The US Judo Hall of Fame Committee (HoFC) moves to award the Hall of Fame every other year, starting in 2026. As part of this change, the HoFC will skip the 2025 awards cycle. The USJF Lifetime Achievement and Presidents Recognition Award will be presented every year. (submitted by Neil Simon: HoF Chairperson)

D. Motion: 1st reading -To raise annual registration fee from \$70 to \$80 per year, commencing on September 1, 2025. i. Rationale: The USJF would raise the annual registration fee for individual members to \$80 to a minimum equivalent of similar organizations. In doing so, the \$80 would reflect the lower end of annual membership

E. Motion: 1st reading - To raise dan promotion fees for Nidan and higher. i. Rationale: The USJF last increased its dan promotion fees in 2013. This nominal increase in promotion fees will be on par with the fees of similar sports organizations. (Rome Acopan Jr., Treasurer)

F. Motion: To formalize the historic practice of retaining surplus funds in the operating funds. Rationale: To reduce redundancy at the BOD meetings each year, when a surplus is available. Starting immediately, any surplus funds would be retained in the operating funds of the organization. (Rome Acopan Jr., Treasurer)

G. 2nd Reading Motion: USJF By-Law Revision i. Second Reading: USJF By-Law revision, note for document: “Red” edits are to be deleted, “Blue” edits are revisions.

H. Motion – To allow USJF communications to be sent directly to members for the purpose of information sharing and marketing. Members will have the ability to opt-out. (Chase Morinaka, 2nd Vice President)

I. Motion – To Allow USJF communications to be sent directly to yudansha to allow for the purposes of information sharing and marketing. Yudansha will have ability to opt-out. (Chase Morinaka, 2nd Vice President)

J. Motion – To Allow USJF communications to be sent directly to head instructors, head senseis, clubs, club contacts. They will have the ability to opt-out. (Chase Morinaka, 2nd Vice President)

K. Motion – Creation of Scholarship and Grants Committee as a standing committee

Rationale: The standing committee is crucial in influencing the organization's strategic direction, steering its interests, programs, projects, and overall mission. It is tasked with reviewing key issues and recommending effective solutions. (Palacio)

L. Motion: Resolution: Strategic Plan (Hanashiro, 50th State) pdf. i. On this 12th day of November 2024, the board of directors of the United States Judo Federation, Inc. resolves to develop and implement a corporate strategic plan (“Strategic Plan”) through an action plan as described below.

Contents of Strategic Plan At a minimum, the Strategic Plan will consist of the following.

- Objectives – what should the USJF look like in the year 2035?
- Steps – what actions must the USJF take to look like what it wants to look like in 2035?
- Financial – where will funding come from to implement actions to look like what the USJF wants to look like in 2035?
- Mapping – when and what actions should be implemented to look like what the USJF wants to look like in 2035?
- Monitoring – how will the USJF know whether actions are implemented successfully to look like what the USJF wants to look like in 2035?
- Progress – how will the USJF know about the success of actions taken to look like what the USJF wants to look like in 2035?
- Course – how will the USJF manage the direction of actions to be taken to look like what the USJF wants to look like in 2035
- Other National news:
 - Most development committees will be budgeted funds (\$3000) to encourage clinics
 - Encourage increased participation younger judokas in National meetings
 - Encourage clubs to make use of the many certificates that USJF provide.

Shufu

- Looking for volunteers for various committees – Communication and secondary assistants for Treasurer, Secretary
 - Idea: Develop mentorship within Shufu to help newer members / clubs
 - Shufu continues to provide Shufu Promotional x2 year in Central and North.
 - Shufu continues to provide kata clinics, rules clinic and Takemori Memorial Clinic
 - Shufu aids with running local shiais
 - If you have suggestions to improve Shufu, please contact anyone of the Shufu Executive Committee. Our contact information is on the Shufu Webpage.
 - JTMemorial clinic – Hamada clinic on May 4 (coach of Otani – 7X world champion)
 - Email Miki if you are interested in a mentor
- VI. VP report – Mike Landstreet
- In your dojo – make sure everyone is active member. Liability for club
 - o To be promoted – must be current member
 - Reminder - Athlete fund
 - Reminder – Neil Adams clinic April 6, Sunday
- VII. Financial Report – Gaiv Tata (See Treasurer's report on Shufu Website)
- Income and expense statement
 - Shufu in good financial position
 - Shufu largest income: Yudanshakai portion of USJF Membership from USJF National
 - Clinics: use of Shufu funds, are not generally income
 - Non-clinic expenses:
 - Suggestion to investigate better rates for CDs.

- Main expense: hosting national meeting
- Added funds to athlete funds
- Noted: National USJF Endowment fund is currently on-going research on new options. Will be shared with Shufu Treasurer

Motion to accept Treasurer's report: Motion - K. Tamai. Second: D Hugh - PASS

VIII. BOE – Kevin Tamai

- USJF Promotion Committee issues
- Report on today's promotions— Percy Johnson, Nidan; Ken Barnowski, Nidan, Micheal Harrison, Yodan (must build rank).
- Old business – visit other dojos. 146 dans in Shufu
- Tad Nalls and Roy Englert Jr promoted to Shichidan
- Next promotion November 8 – Beltsville CC
- 3 proposals:
 - o Passed by Shufu: World veterans championships – move to from D to C. if 5 or more competitors
 - o Passed by Shufu: Form 20 – update to current requirements kata and shiai points; or kata or shiai point
 - o Tabled by Shufu to support individual's proposal to USJF.
 - If person completes IJF academy, then no in-person demonstration needed for promotion from Shodan through Godan
- USJF Promotional Committee
 - o Not all YDK cannot promotion to godan
 - o Potential change – “competitor for life” category. Olympians will remain in Competitor status for life. All other competitors, activity since the last promotion will apply to the next rank.
- USJF looking at Ne-waza rules
- Task force for small YDKs to combine into larger YDKs
- Certification price for dan ranks – lowest price of USJA and USAJudo
 - o USJF will increase costs for dan ranks to be more similar
- Haywood presented
 - o Can USJF petition IOC to be the national body?
 - o Reflect on how you can help judo to grow.
 - o Hall of Fame – National
 - o Lifetime Achievement Award - Local
- Motion to accept report: Motion: _D. Jackso; Second - D. Hugh: PASS

IX. New Business

- If anyone is interested in sponsoring a clinic, Shufu will help: Sanction, event process, advertising, etc.
- Upcoming Judo competitions: See Shufu Shimbun for numerous judo events (local, regional, national)
- Suggested Seminar: How to teach adaptive judo
- WANT / NEED new Communications coordinator

- A. Referee – S. Landstreet – written report; (verbal given by M. Landstreet) – written report
- B. Kata – written report – highlights given by D Jackson
 - a. August 17 (Sun): first Eastern US Kata Championship. Location: DC area
- C. Self-Defense - John Floyd
 - USJF committee moving to support straight to individuals interested.
 - Creating learning modules and certifications
 - Shufu volunteered to host self-defense in-person portion seminar
- D. Registration – Chuck Medani-----
 - Shufu Increased over last 6 months.
 - 232 junior; 407 seniors. Total - +20. = 639
 - Clubs: 30 total
 - 5: Dale City (37); 4: College Park; 3: DC Judo; 2: Hui-o; 1: Arlington Judo (91)
 - 77 members in Shufu unattached to a club
 - 8 clubs with only 1 Shufu member; 2 clubs with 2 members
 - Encourage USJF membership
 - Can at-large members be distributed? Dr Medani will check with USJF NO.
- E. Athlete Fund – Robert Hunt- last two meetings
 - Needs to be a Shufu member for 2 years to qualify for funds.
 - Not many this year – 4 requests and 4 awards
 - Balance: \$7800
 - Encourage athletes to apply.
- F. Communications – George Antoniou—
 - Contact George A to add to black belt distribution email list. Choice if want to be identified or not
 - Social media – Brandon Lang
 - Website – Ellie / Dr. Medani
 - Geoff Meixner to lead website update/reorganization. Word press
 - Kudos: Upgrade to promotion section by Karen W updated the black belt information webpage
- G. Coach Development Chair or Jr/ Senior Development Chair – Shufu -NEED volunteers
- H. Rank Registration – Karen Whilden
- I. Senior and Junior Development --NEED volunteer
- J. Shufu Shimbun:
 - Kevin does a tremendous amount of work
 - Honor of Malcom Hodges
 - Advertise or Request things: gi, mats, etc.
 - To add name - contact: George A (black belt list); Kevin, D. Jackson
- X. Other Discussion
 - Ken Tamai memorial– senseis please turn in weigh-ins starting today. Today is last day, 6:00 pm for regular registration

- Shout out to Ken and George – St Frances event and honor of Jim Riviera.
- XI. Motion to Adjourn: D. Hugh. Second: _D. Jackson. PASS
- End Time: 2:24pm

Attendance:

In person:

Miki Takemori, President
Mike Landstreet, Vice-president
Kevin Tamai, Board of Examiners chair
Gaiv Tata, Treasurer
Diane Jackson, Secretary
Karen Whilden, Rank Registration
Tad Nalls
Dick Hugh
Edwin Takemori
Dan Smith
Robert Winston
Terrance McPartland
Margie Kettl
Leah Fisher
R. Wayne Brown
Kurt Tamai

On-line:

Greg Gobel
Karl Tamai
Roy Englert Jr
Pam Hinkle
Dr. Medani
George Antoniou
Eric Spears
Robert Hunt
Briane Greene
Percy Johnson
Ken Baronowski