

Kata Committee Report

November 3, 2018

Summary: Shufu continue to show great strength in kata on the local, national, and world level in 2018. Future goals include increasing participation in youth, brown belts, and lower ranked black belts, and also expanding further our pool of local judges and instructors.

Report on Activity:

- On September 22 the Faye Allen Kata Championship was hosted by DC judo. The Tournament and clinic continue to grow. This year there were three competition categories: International, Advanced and Novice. Grading was conducted according to the IJF evaluation criteria. For this tournament the scoring was by the highest average score, meaning that performances of different kata were grouped in the same category. This was done in order to foster a competitive spirit among participants. Shufu is fortunate to have two continental level and several national level qualified judges to grade the five kata competed at the tournament, but we are interested in increasing the number of judges to facilitate the increasing interest in kata competition in Shufu. A clinic in Nage No kata, led by Karen Whilden followed the event and focused on the needs of the players based on analysis of their tournament performances. Practice and attention to taisobaki and ukemi by many participants was a theme.
- The IJF World Judo Kata championship was held on October 15 -16, in Cancun, Mexico. The US delegation consisted of 10 teams, 4 candidate judges, 3 current IJF judges, and team manager. Half (50%) of the world competition teams were from Shufu! These players included
 - Karl Tamai / Diane Jackson (Ju no kata);
 - Lisa Capriotti / Robert Gouthro (Kime no kata);
 - Wayne Lifshitz / Rahmon "Monty" Burton (Goshin jitsu)
 - Doug Newcomer and his partner (Katame no kata);
 - Theodor Schwalm / Brent "Bruno" Smith (Ju no kata).

Three United States teams made it into the finals this year, a first since the tournament was taken under the auspices of the IJF. Two of these three teams were from Shufu: Karl/ Diane placed 6th and Rob/Lisa placed 6th. This was a historic achievement as well as foundation for future growth and success.

- Upcoming Events:
 - Itsutsu no Kata clinic December 2, hosted by Steel Judo. Lead clinician: Fran Vall.
 - Shufu Sensei Edwin Takemori is schedule to lead a Nage no Kata clinic in Cary, North Carolina on November 10th, assisted by Lisa Capriotti and Robert Gouthro as demonstrators.
 - Kata at local tournaments, including the Samurai Slam on November 3rd.

- Continued open mat kata workouts at Steel Judo, hosted by Jeff Steel and organized by Margie Kettle.

Goals:

- Broaden Shufu representation at high level tournaments:
 - Revised participation criteria for the PJC Kata Championships and the IJF Kata World Championships make these tournaments more accessible to younger and less experienced judoka. Recent novice and advanced participants at the Faye Allen tournament could be encouraged to pursue national level participation and mentored to this goal.
- Increase our pool of certified judges and qualified teachers:
 - Despite great strength in this area compared to many yudanshakai nationally, continued growth and development of judges and teachers is imperative to maintain our knowledge base and replace future retirements.
 - Continued training and development on the IJF Kata Judging standards will facilitate success of local players on the national and international level.