



# Shufu Judo Yudanshakai Shufu Shimbun

(in memory of Malcom Hodges, Shufu's original editor of Shufu Shimbun)



## April 2025



### Upcoming Events:

April 5 – Ken Tamai Memorial Judo Championships – Beltsville MD

SAVE THE DATE –May 4 (Date change) - Takemori Clinic with Hatsuyuki Hamada at Sport Judo

### Follow Shufu Judo Yudanshakai

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/shufujudo>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ShufuJudoYudanshakai>

Twitter/X: <https://twitter.com/ShufuJudo>



Shufu Judo Yudanshakai continues to rebound following the COVID pandemic. The judo community suffered a lot during the pandemic since judo is a contact sport. Overall membership dropped significantly. Many clubs had to shut down completely and were not able to reopen. However, Shufu Judo Yudanshakai remains strong due to many loyal judokas and the commitment to keep judo growing. In 2021 our membership had dropped to 248 and in 2022 we were at 341. As of April 1, 2025, we have 27 registered dojos comprised of 577 members, of which 146 are dan ranked judoka, 209 are senior judoka and 373 are junior judoka. The current top five clubs by membership are Arlington Judo in Arlington VA, Hui-O-Judo in Beltsville MD., College Park Judo in College Park MD, DC Judo in Washington DC. And Dale City Judo in Dale City VA

Shufu Judo Yudanshakai would like to congratulate the following judoka on their rank promotion

Ken Baranowski – St Francis of Assisi Judo/Dale City Judo - Shodan to Nidan

Percy Johnson – Trident Martial Arts/ Dale City Judo – Shodan to Nidan

Michael Harrison – Williamsburg Judo – Confirmation to Yodan

Roy Englert Jr. – Washington Judo Club – Rokudan to Shichidan

Michael Tad Nalls – Washington Judo Club - Rokudan to Shichidan





## Planning ahead for 2025: Please Save the dates

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| TBD             | Spring kata series – Nage no Kata – Charleston SC (Free event)         |
| <b>April 5</b>  | <b>Shufu Ken Tamai Memorial tournament at DeMatha – Hyattsville MD</b> |
| April 6         | NCJA College and High School championships – Durham NH                 |
| April 6         | Neil Adams Clinic at Sport Judo – Springfield VA                       |
| <b>April 12</b> | <b>Shufu Promotional – North at Tokai Budokai in Mass.</b>             |
| (Apr 11-21)     | Spring Break – Easter is Apr 20)                                       |
| Sun., April 13  | Garden State Championships – Wayne, NJ (USA Judo Point event)          |
| Apr 24-27       | USJF Spring meetings – Miami, FL                                       |
| May 4           | Battle at the Square – New Rochelle NY (USA judo Point Event)          |
| <b>May 4</b>    | <b>Takemori Clinic with Hatsuyuki Hamada at Sport Judo</b>             |
| May 10          | South Carolina State Championships – Charleston SC                     |
| May 10          | Angelo Parisi Clinic at Sport Judo                                     |
| May 24-25       | USA Judo Senior Nationals – Birmingham, AL                             |
| June 1          | Kozen clinic at Harrisburg BJJ with Nick Depopolo                      |
| June 19-21      | Greatest Camp on Earth – Charlotte, NC                                 |
| June 20-22      | USA Judo Junior Olympics – Bedford Park, IL(USA Judo Point event)      |
| June 28         | USJF Kata conference – Bosie Idaho                                     |
| July 5-7        | America Cup – Honolulu, HI (USA Judo Point event)                      |
| July 10-15      | Royal Caribbean Cruise – NY to Bermuda                                 |
| July 13-19      | Kodokan Summer Kata courses – Kodokan - Tokyo Japan                    |
| July 19-20      | USJF Summer Nationals – Honolulu, HI                                   |
| July 23-30      | US Open Judo – Ft Lauderdale, FL (USA Judo Point event)                |
| Aug 9           | New York Veteran Open Championships – New York NY                      |
| Aug 9           | New York Open Judo Championships – New York NY                         |
| Aug – TBD       | David McFall kata clinic – Sport Judo, Springfield VA                  |
| Aug 23          | East Coast Kata Championships – College Park, Maryland                 |
| Aug 23          | Veterans Open, Charleston SC   |
| Sept 7          | North American Judo Championships – Wayne, NJ                          |
| ?? Sept 13      | Veterans Open – Chicago (USA Judo Point event)                         |
| Sept 21         | Liberty Bell Classic – Philadelphia PA                                 |
| Sept 27         | Suncoast Warrior – Port St Lucia, FL (USA Judo Point event)            |
| Oct 3-5         | San Jose Open- San Jose CA (USA Judo Point event)                      |
| Sun., Oct 12    | Morris Cup – Scotia, NY  |
| Sun., Oct 19    | Samurai Judo Championships - Ridgefield, NJ                            |
| Sat. Oct 25     | Judo Kai Fall Shiai – Fairfield, NJ                                    |
| <b>Nov 8</b>    | <b>Shufu Fall BOD/BOE/Promotion – Beltsville, MD</b>                   |
| Nov 22          | Dallas Open – Irving, TX (USA Judo Point event)                        |
| Nov 23          | USA Judo Presidents Cup. – Irving TX (USA Judo Point event)            |
| Dec 5-7         | Winter Nationals – Asuza, CA (USA Judo Point event)                    |



## Event recap - Novice Referee Clinic at Arlington Judo club.

Sharon Landstreet, IJF A International referee, hosted a Novice Referee Clinic at the Arlington Judo Club on Saturday, March 1, 2025. This referee clinic was targeted for pre-teen to adults who were interested in learning the how to referee. The clinic covered the contest rules and referee basics. The attendees were able to get hands-on experience refereeing mock matches. This clinic was both educational and fun for those new to refereeing.



I am sharing a folder with all of you that has the slides I presented, the slides that were presented at the Rules Clinic in Jan with the new rules for this Olympic Cycle, the SOR (IJF Sport and Organizational Rules), IJF Technical Seminar Key Points document from the IJF Rules Seminar in Istanbul

this past December, Names of Judo Techniques document and a video called 40 Judo Techniques in 5 minutes with Superstars.

With the SOR - starting on page 116 is the referee related information and information on signals.

I also found a link on the USJF page for Referee Hand Gestures - that is listed below. It will show many common hand gestures but not a complete list. Please ignore the penalty for fingers inside the Gi since that is allowed now.

If you are interested in testing for local referee certifications - I can do this at most local tournaments in the Maryland and Virginia area. Below is information for the next two judo tournaments - one in VA and one in Maryland. Smooth comp links are listed as well.

Just send me an email if you want to be tested. It will entail you refereeing at a tournament and being observed as to how you do with refereeing matches. You can wear your white judo Gi or a referee uniform

For testing for Regional Referee Certification - we can do this also at a local event and at the Virginia Open that we hold each year. Just let me know if you want to test for Regional Referee License and I can provide some additional details. You will need a referee uniform to referee.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Thanks again for attending the clinic and hope to see you soon at a judo tournament or clinic in the near future.

Thanks,  
Sharon

Link to the Novice Referee Google Folder:



<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1c2TkMMbWpddVu2RB991hCd7odBXimNIId?usp=sharing>

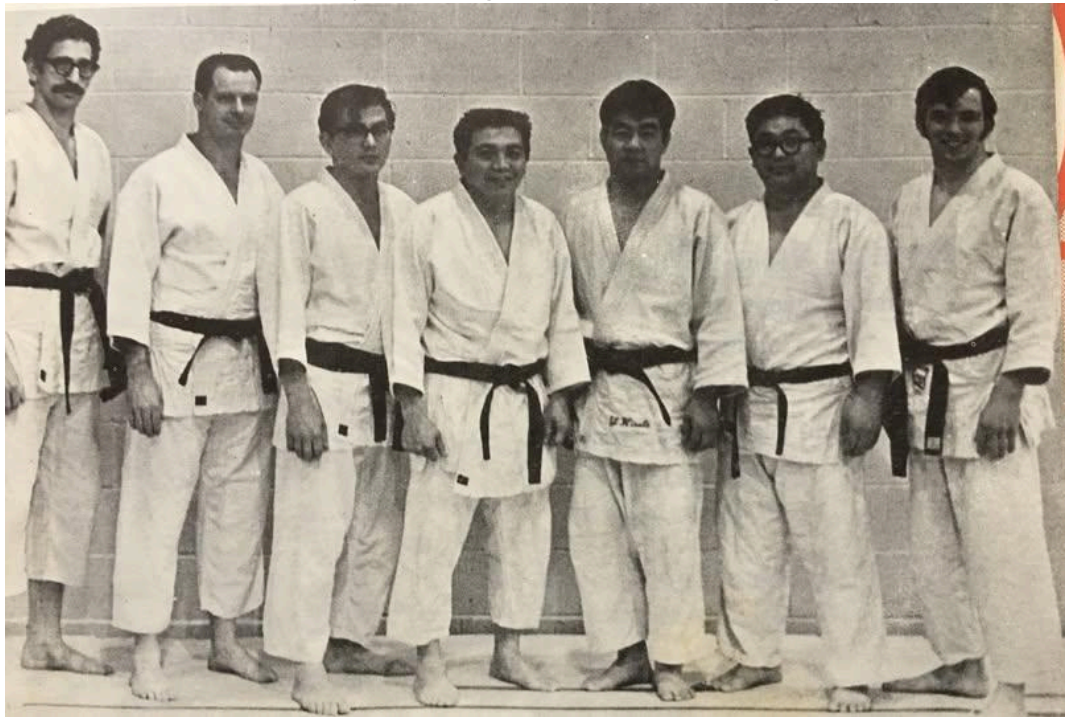
[Referee Hand Gestures | United States Judo Federation](#)

[Referee Hand Gestures - United States Judo Federation](#)

Waza-ari. Waza-ari: shall raise one of their arms sideways to shoulder height with the palm of the hand facing downwards. The waza-ari gesture should start with the arm across the chest, then sideways to the correct finishing position.

[www.usjf.com](http://www.usjf.com)

Photo Flashback – can you recognize these Washington Judo Senseis??



(Here is my best guess circa 1970? – Dan Woodhead, Ray Vaughn, Edwin Takemori, Jimmy Takemori, Yoshiaki Hirata, Ken Tamai, Charles Medani)

**WE NEED YOU!**



We need you!! –Part of judo is Jita Kyoei – mutual welfare and benefit. Judo is a wonderful community of giving people who share a common interest. Each one of us has unique talents and resources that we can share. In order for judo to grow and develop we need your assistance. How can you help judo? What can you do to make a difference in your dojo or in the judo community? What do you love about judo, your club, the experience? How has judo impacted your life? Please share your thoughts, feelings, and suggestions with us.

## Event recap - James Rivera Memorial Judo Tournament @ St Francis of Assisi on March 22



St Francis Judo and Dale City Judo hosted the **Jim Rivera Memorial shiai** on Saturday March 22 at St Francis of Assisi gym in Triangle VA. The tournament Director was Ken Baranowski. Sensei Baranowski did an amazing job both running the event.

Dale City Judo was proud to honor the life and contributions that Jim Rivera made to the judo community. Sensei Rivera's son and daughter in law came and spoke on behalf of the family. They thanked everyone for attending and honoring sensei.

The event had over 120 judoka from 25 regional clubs compete and medal in 30 divisions. The fastest Ippon was by Grayson Zia in just 5 seconds. The top three teams were High Noon, Wall2Wall and St Francis of Assisi

Past Shufu Judo Yudanshakai President Roy Englert Jr stated Jim Rivera was the quintessential quiet contributor. He did so much for his family, his students, his dojo, his SGB, his Yudanshakai, and the national and international organizations and events. Two favorite memories — among many — are the 2005 Senior Nationals in Virginia Beach and the 2015 World Police & Fire Games in Fairfax. At each, the Riveras provided hospitality for the officials without being asked and without being reimbursed. They simply gave and supported because they chose to give and support.

Thank you to all of the referees, technical officials and volunteers who made the event happen. Thank you to all of the judoka and parents who supported the event.



College Park Judo Club & Hui-O-Judo Beltsville

# Ken Tamai Memorial Judo Tournament

Saturday, April 5, 2025

**Site:** DeMatha Catholic High School, 4318 Madison St, Hyattsville, Maryland, 20781

**Sanctioned by:** United States Judo Federation Sanction Number: 25-04-??

**Tournament directors** Kevin Tamai (703) 622-6861 and Kurt Tamai (301) 537-5836

**Schedule:** 8:30 Opening (NO ONSITE REGISTRATION)

9:00 - 10:00 (Est time) Kata Competition

9:00 - 1:00 (est time) Junior/Masters Competition

1:00-4:00 pm (est time) Senior competition

Note – times are only estimates- check smoothcomp app after divisions are posted. It is a dynamic system that will adjust times

|                               |                    |                       |                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Fees:</b> Registration Fee | Early (by 3-15-25) | Standard (by 3-29-25) | Late (After 3/29-25) |
| Shiai Division                | \$40               | \$50                  | \$60                 |
| Kata (per person per kata)    | \$25               | \$30                  | \$40                 |

## ALL REGISTRATION AND WAIVERS DONE VIA SMOOTHCOMP

[Ken Tamai Memorial Judo Championships - Smoothcomp](#)

**Eligibility to compete:** A current USA JUDO (USJI), USJF, USJA, membership card MUST be presented at registration along with the signed LIABILITY WAIVER and non-black belt certification.

**Contest Rules:** Current IJF contest rules will govern EXCEPT no chokes for 12 years old and younger. No arm locks for 16 years old and younger during Junior competition. Any attempt to perform any technique with the intent to injure the opponent as determined by the officials on the mat will be an automatic hansoku make. Concussion policy will be utilized. Judokas diagnosed with a concussion will not be allowed to continue competing. The CARE system will be used based on availability of CARE equipment. The competition area is 7meters by 7meters with 3meter of safety area and 4 meter between completion areas. No Kansetsu waza in junior divisions. No Kansetsu waza in any novice divisions. Kansetsu waza is allowed in advanced senior divisions.

**Referees and technical officials** – if you are able to volunteer your time as a referee, technical official, mat helper, please inform the tournament director so we can verify the amount of volunteers we have. Thank you plaques and awards are provided for volunteers.

**Referee Certification** Testing for local and regional referee certification is available upon request. Candidates should contact the chief referee prior to the event.

**Elimination System:** Modified Double elimination system will be used on divisions with more than 5 people. Winner of loser bracket will get to fight loser of winner bracket for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Smaller divisions of 5 or less will use a round robin point system. Understand it is possible win all your matches and still not get 1<sup>st</sup> place.

**Note:** All female competitors are required to wear a white tee shirt. Blue belts or gis must be worn by the blue competitor and white gi must be worn by the white competitor. (blue gi and white belt is not allowed for the white competitor). Competitors must BRING YOUR OWN white belt and blue belt. Belts will be available for purchase at the shiai. Please contact the tournament director if you cannot meet this requirement. All junior matches will be 3 minutes. Senior matches will be 4 minutes.

**Awards:** Trophies will be given for first, second and third place in each division. A team trophy will be awarded for the top Junior Team, and Senior Team. Team points will be awarded as 5 points for 1st place, 3 points for second place and 1 point for third place. Outstanding Junior and Outstanding Senior Judoka will also be awarded. Any first shiai judoka will receive an award – see Sensei Tamai.

## Divisions

### Juniors

|           |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |          |     |     |          |  |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|----------|--|
| Age 5-6   | 40  | 43  | 46  | 52  | 55  | 60  |     |          |     |     |          |  |
| Age 7-8   | 40  | 44  | 48  | 52  | 56  | 61  | 66  | 78       |     |     |          |  |
| Age 9-10  | 49  | 56  | 63  | 70  | 77  | 88  | 92  | 99       | 106 |     |          |  |
| Age 11-12 | 58  | 65  | 72  | 79  | 86  | 93  | 100 | 107      | 114 | 121 | over 121 |  |
| Age 13-14 | 71  | 79  | 87  | 95  | 103 | 111 | 119 | 127      | 135 | 143 | 151      |  |
| Age 15-17 | 110 | 121 | 132 | 145 | 161 | 178 | 198 | over 198 |     |     |          |  |

Seniors will be divided between novice (Sankyu and below) and Advanced (Nikyu and above)

|               |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |          |  |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|--|
| Seniors       | 121 | 132 | 145 | 161 | 178 | 198 | 220 | over 220 |  |
| Sr Women      | 99  | 106 | 114 | 125 | 139 | 154 | 172 | over 172 |  |
| Veteran Male  | 121 | 132 | 145 | 161 | 178 | 198 | 220 | over 220 |  |
| Veteran Women | 99  | 106 | 114 | 125 | 139 | 154 | 172 | over 172 |  |

Kata Novice (3 sets), Advanced (all sets per kata)

Nage-No-Kata, Katame-No-Kata, Ju-No-Kata, Goshin Jitsu, Kime-No-Kata

Special kids Nage no Kata - three throws.

### NOTES:

\* The tournament director reserves the right to alter or change any division to establish a more equitable competitive division. Divisions with less than 3 people may be moved to the next bracket up.

\*\* DOJO Weigh In: Judoka can weigh in at their dojo with the coach/sensei submitting the certified weights. Judoka MUST make their specified weigh division. Sensei/Coach must be a certified coach or instructor through USJA, USJF, or USA Judo.

\*\*\* Division Lists and/or Brackets will be posted to the Web site on Friday, March 4





Photo Courtesy of Chuck Medani

## Shufu Yudanshakai President Miki Takemori report from BOD meeting

- 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.

G. 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, “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 Judo Yudnashakai – Board of Examiners Report - Kevin Tamai, Chairman**

- I. Current Promotions by Shufu BOE
  - a. Percy Johnson – Trident Martial Arts - Nidan
  - b. Ken Baranowski – Dale City – Nidan
  - c. Michael Harrison – Williamsburg Judo - Yodan
  - d. Roy Englert Jr – Washington Judo – Shichidan
  - e. Michael Tad Nalls – Washington Judo - Shichidan
- II. Old Business discussion - Visiting dojos and promoting good will, Dan form 20 and paperwork submissions, reduction of BOE members, Filling out form 20 and missing info (Kudos to Karen and team) , Shufu high dans, USJF higher dan consideration, junior promotional matrix,
- III. New Business – Help with new dojos, proposal Shufu BOD to change Shufu meeting dates to January and June, Miki Takemori – request to change classification of Veterans class, Miki Takemori Request to change kata/shiai points, Mike Landstreet requests for changes for IJF Academy.
- IV. Please zoom in to the Shufu North Promotion on April 12 – Miki/Kevin to send link
- V. Date of next Shufu Central promotional – plan for November 8 2025. location: Beltsville Community Center

*Photo Courtesy of Chuck Medani*

**Proposals submitted to BOE**

**Attachment #1 – Miki Takemori proposal #1**

Promotional Guidelines Adjustment Proposal #1

The World Veteran’s Championships have become a much larger and respected event and a judoka, who has won or placed in that Championship should be awarded a higher promotional classification from “D” to “C”. (Exception – if there are less then 5 competitors in a division then the status of the judoka remains “D” classification.)

**Attachment #2 – Miki Takemori proposal #2**

The Senior Promotional guidelines information and Form 20 do not state the same thing. The guidelines for “D” level competitors state (on page 6 for Competitor classifications), it states shiai and/or kata points. On Form 20 it states specifically that a judoka can only count shiai points or kata points. To encourage kata competition participation, points for kata competition as well as shiai towards promotion.

**Attachment #3 - Michael Landstreet proposal to accept IJF Academy**

Motion : An IJF Academy graduate with the USJF rank Shodan thru Yodan who successfully passed the demanding IJF Academy written and practical examinations certifying as IJF rank Instructor, may have the USJF examination process Nidan thru Godan waived. Candidates shall still be required to perform their respective kata and meet all other promotion requirements.

Rational: The IJF Academy is a joint venture between the Kodokan and the International Judo Federation. A high level of knowledge and proficiency has already been proven by taking over a dozen challenging written examinations and demonstrating satisfactorily one hundred techniques plus kata under rigorous scrutiny for certification. IJF Instructors are required to regularly recertify. For detailed information go to <https://academy.ijf.org/>

## Shufu Judo Yudnashakai Kata Committee Report by Diane Jackson



*Photo Courtesy of Chuck Medani*

- ▶ 2025 Senior Nationals – Birmingham, AL
  - ▶ Cash prize for 1<sup>st</sup> place for Open and U23 divisions that have 2 or more teams.
  - ▶ Kata Tournament on Sunday, 10 or 10:30 start
  - ▶ Kata meeting on Friday afternoon
  - ▶ Check-in Friday and Saturday
  - ▶ Itsutsu and koshiki PLUS Same divisions / categories
    - ▶ Open / Senior – 7 katas
    - ▶ U23 / Junior – 5 katas
  - ▶ Sr. Nationals is qualifier for USA team for PJC Championship (in USA in summer 2025) and IJF World Championship (possibly Paris in November 2025)
- ▶ 8/16 (sat) – [1<sup>st</sup>] Eastern US Kata Championship
  - ▶ USJF intent to be developmental for both athletes and judges
  - ▶ USJF members, who place first in a contested division, can apply for Fuduka Scholarship as prize money
  - ▶ first place Divisions by age and by skill level
  - ▶ Age:
    - ▶ Many younger categories... under 12, under 15, under 18, under 23, Open
  - ▶ Skill level
    - ▶ Open (full kata)
    - ▶ Novice (partial kata – 1 or 3 sets)
    - ▶ Little Samauri division – 3 throws of Nage (Uki otshi, Uki goshi, Okuri Ashi Harai)
- ▶ Andre Parent kata clinic
  - ▶ Potential for this summer

### Upcoming Events with Kata:

- ▶ 4/5 – Ken Tamai Memorial Tournament – Kata and Shiai, Hyattsville, MD [Tamai](#)
- ▶ 4/ 6 – NCJA College and High School Championships, Durham, NH, University of New Hampshire HR [Smoothcomp](#)
- ▶ 4/13 – Garden State (New Jersey) Championship (kata and shiai), Wayne, NJ [Garden State](#)
- ▶ 4/12-13 - French Kata tournament- IJF kata circuit – Reims, FRN
- ▶ 5/ 3 – Seattle Dojo Tournament (kata and shiai), Bellevue, WA
- ▶ 5/ 3 – Annual NE Kata Festival – U of New Hamp, POC: Ken Durand
- ▶ **5/24-25 – Senior Nationals, (kata on Sunday) Birmingham, AL**
- ▶ 6/14 – [1<sup>st</sup>] Central US Kata Championship, Chicago, IL, POC: Eiko Shepherd
- ▶ 6/19 - 20 - USJF/USJA Summer Nationals shiai and kata, Honolulu, HI
- ▶ 6/ 27 – 29 – USJF Kata Conference, Boise, ID
- ▶ 7/ 12 – 19 – Kodokan Kata summer course (Saturday to Saturday).
- ▶ Summer – PJC Kata Championship and Veterans, in the USA
- ▶ 8/16 (sat) – [1<sup>st</sup>] Eastern US Kata Championship, DC area, POC: Diane Jackson
- ▶ 8/17 (Sun) – Koshiki no kata clinic with David McFall, POC: Diane Jackson
- ▶ 8/23 (Sat) – Texas Annual Kata clinic,
- ▶ 9/20 – (Sat) Liberty Bell, Whole lotta kata and shiai, Philadelphia, PA
- ▶ 10/12 (Sun) – Jason Morris Cup – Kata and Shiai, Scotia (Upstate), NY
- ▶ September/October/November – IJF World Kata Championship, location tbd

**Shufu Judo Yudnahskai Referee Report by Sharon Landstreet- Chair of Shufu Referee Committee**  
**Referee News April 2025**

Here are some highlights of Referee Related News

Shufu IJF Rules Clinic was held on January 12, 2025 with Mashbat Burhbat as special guest clinician. The clinic was presented in person at Sport Judo, and we also provided a zoom link so the clinic could be watched virtually. We had over 59 people attend in person and virtually. We had attendees from over 27 judo clubs and from over 12 different states via in person and zoom.

Novice Referee Clinic was held March 1<sup>st</sup> in Arlington. Dick Hugh helped as a clinician. 21 people attend with 9 of them being 18 years old and younger. We reviewed Rules, Referee Tools, Signals and had mock matches so everyone could have some practice being a referee. Feedback was provided on the refereeing of the mock matches. Several folks also helped run the care system and scoreboards for the mock matches.

Recent Referee Certifications:

**Local Referee Certification**

- Brandon Wang
- Ryan Devitt
- Olayiwola Oladipo

Our referees are traveling in our regional area, around the country and around the world

Referee Certification opportunities are/will be offered at James Rivera Memorial Judo Tournament on March 22 and the upcoming Ken Tamai Memorial Judo Tournament on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks,  
Sharon Landstreet



*Photo Courtesy of Chuck Medani*





## **USJF Scholarship opportunities**

[Scholarships Resources | United States Judo Federation](#)

**Academic Honors** - The USJF through the Academic Honors Society Committee would like to recognize students at the elementary, grade, middle and high school level who are excelling at their studies and citizenship. Please download a form to learn more about applying for recognition.

- [Elementary-Grade School Application](#)
- [Middle School-Junior High-High School](#)

**Athlete Scholar of the Year** - On behalf of the USJF Athlete-Scholar of the Year Committee (ASOY), thank you for continuing your educational opportunities and creating options for yourselves. It is a sincere desire of United States Judo Federation that you continue to open doors to opportunities and to be life-long learners and Champions of Character. It is USJF pleasure to award this financial assistance as a token of appreciate for your hard work and dedication.

### **Academic honors - Academic Honors Society**

Recognizing students at the elementary, grade, middle and high school level who are excelling at their studies and citizenship.

### **George Balch Scholarship- George C. Balch Scholarship Fund**

To honor George Balch, donations flowed in to the USJF scholarship account in his name. This program has become one of the largest scholarship funding sources in USJF.

### **Elizaebth Lee Scholarship - Elizabeth Lee Scholarship**

The Elizabeth Lee Scholarship was established by by Mrs. Ernie Nishi and Mr. Noboru Saito to encourage female judoka to attend Joshi Judo Camp and/or to further their training and development in Judo.

### **Hayward Nishioka Scholarship - Hayward Nishioka Scholarship**

The Hayward Nishioka College to Career Scholarship was established in 2016 by Nancy Washburn to honor Sensei Nishioka's desire for encouraging judoka college students to promote judo in the future in their chosen career.

### **John Osako Referee Fund - John Osako Referee Fund**

The John Osako Referee Fund was established to provide financial aid to aspiring PJU Regional, IJF Continental, and IJF International level referees.

### **Keiko Fukuda Scholarship - Fukuda Scholarship**

The Keiko Fukuda Judo Scholarship was established by Professor Fukuda to encourage female judoka to continue their formal education and/or to further their training in Judo.

### **Tamo Kitaura Referee Development grant - Tamo Kitaura Referee Development Grant**

The grant has been established to provide financial assistance in support of the development and growth of USJF referees.

### **Noboru Saito judo Development Grant - Noboru Saito Judo Development Grant**

The purpose of the grant is to provide funding and support for worthwhile judo developmental projects which may impact a judo participant's personal development onwards to include an indirect activity which may impact judo's growth in North America.

### **Joseph Fitzsimmons Scholarship Fund - Joseph J. Fitzsimmons Scholarship Fund**

This Scholarship is named after Joseph J. Fitzsimmons, M.D. in honor of the years of service he has provided overseeing USJF events.

### **How can I support any of the Scholarship Funds?**

You can make a donation of any amount with your annual membership registration. See the membership form.

You can contact Executive Director Robert Fukuda at the USJF National Office to make a gift by check at any time.

- U.S. Mail: United State Judo Federation  
P.O. Box 338  
Ontario, OR 97914
- Telephone: 541-889-8753
- Make checks payable to: United States Judo Federation
- Make a note in the memo field indicating “donation” and “the name of the scholarship”

You can check whether your employer matches charitable gifts, and if so, see whether your gift to USJF can be matched within your company’s guidelines. (This may involve sending some paperwork from your company’s giving program to the National Office, where the staff will be happy to process it.)

### **Is my donation tax deductible?**

The United States Judo Federation is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

### **How are the funds managed?**

The scholarship funds are held as part of the USJF Endowment Funds, which means that your gift will not be spent out, but will generate interest that will help to fund scholarships year after year – making a lasting contribution to judo.

Contact: [✉ Robert Fukuda](mailto:Robert.Fukuda@usjf.org)

for further information



We recommends that any minor athlete of USA Judo to take a **free Youth Athlete or Kids Training** offered by the U.S. Center for SafeSport These resources include courses for children of preschool age to high school and are designed as an introduction for minor athletes and their parents or other caregivers to understand the importance of positive, welcoming environments in sports, where misconduct like bullying or abuse is less likely to happen, and to know where to report abuse,

should it occur.

Each course is hosted on [athletesafety.org](http://athletesafety.org) and requires parental consent in order to complete registration. Parents are asked to register on behalf of their child by creating an account.

### **All youth modules can be accessed at no cost.**



We also recommend that **any parent of a USA Judo athlete** take the free Parent’s Guide to Misconduct in Sport offered by the U.S. Center for SafeSport. This free 30-minute online course is designed for parents of athletes of all ages. The course explains the issues of misconduct in sport and helps parents ensure their children have a positive and safe sport experience.

Please note that this course is an additional resource provided to parents and does not serve as a replacement for the required SafeSport training for those who USA Judo mandates it for.

Let's focus on Continuous Learning and Improvement for a moment. Often referred to as "Kaizen," lies at the heart of Judo's philosophy. It embodies the idea that growth is a never-ending journey, and there is always room for enhancement and improvement on the side of the athlete, coaches, and referees. In Judo, we understand that mastery is an elusive goal, and the path to improvement is paved with dedication, practice, and willingness to learn from both successes and failures. This principle extends beyond the dojo, encouraging practitioners to apply the same mindset of perpetual improvement to all aspects of life. Kaizen teaches us that even the smallest positive changes, consistently applied, can lead to remarkable progress over time. It's a reminder that in our pursuit of excellence, the journey itself is as valuable as the destination, and the process of self-improvement is a lifelong endeavor. It's up to us as Coaches in Judo to practice Kaizen and continuously learn for the betterment of our dojos.



<https://amzn.to/3LewOme> AMAZON.COM

**[Gemba Kaizen: A Commonsense Approach to a Continuous Improvement Strategy, Second Edition](#)**



**[USJF – Learning portal](#)** - Please visit the USJF for great teacher and educational resources

[Teaching Resources | USJF Education Portal](#)

Please visit the USJF website for more great information. There is a section on contest rules and referee education [Contest Rules and Referee Education | USJF Education Portal](#)

**[Contest Rules and Referee Education | USJF Education Portal](#)**

### **CONTEST RULES AND REFEREE EDUCATION**

The USJF Contest Rules and Referee Education is presented in five modules. Module 1 is for parents, Modules 1- 2 for coaches and referees, Modules 1-2 3; local referees, in addition to Modules 1-2-3, 4 and 5 increase in detail and complexity for judokas, coaches, and regional referees. At the conclusion of the Modules 4 and 5, you will have formulate a solid foundation of the contest rules.

**[Summer Nationals in Honolulu Hawaii](#)**

Welcome to

# HAWAII

July 19 & 20, 2025

Doors Open to Public 8:00 AM  
Tournament starts at 9:00 AM

TOURNAMENT SITE | HAWAII CONVENTION CENTER

Visit: <https://smoothcomp.com/en/event/18416>

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Early bird registrations<br>16 Feb - 20 Apr | \$90.00  |
| Normal registration<br>20 Apr - 22 Jun      | \$110.00 |
| Late registrations<br>22 Jun - 04 Jul       | \$150.00 |



Check in registration with your Smoothcomp ID  
and your USJF, USJA, USA, or IJF card.

## Diane Jackson – Shufu Yudanshakai Kata Corner

Are you introducing and teaching your junior judoka kata? We are introducing a new junior nage no kata with just 3 throws – uki otoshi, uki goshi and okuri ashi barai. We are encouraging all junior judoka enhance their judo experience by learning and competing in kata. As they develop, they can move to the first three sets and continue to develop. Shiai is not for all judoka. Kata is an excellent opportunity to grow.

Please spread the word and encourage participation at this Kata-only tournament in Northern New Jersey on March 9 (Sun) Northern New Jersey Kata Tournament  
<https://allthingsjudo.smoothcomp.com/en/event/20638>

Open - Nage, Katame, Ju, and Goshin  
Novice - Nage (3 sets) and Katame (2 sets) - non-black belts  
Tournament director: Ramon Hernandez  
Head Kata judge: Diane Tamai Jackson



*Photo Courtesy of Chuck Medani*



## Save the dates

- April 5 – Ken Tamai Memorial Judo Championships – Hyattsville MD – kata and shiai competition. Special Junior nage no kata division.
- June 28 – USJF Kata Conference – Bosie ID
- July 11-13 – Joshi Camp at San Jose
- July 13-19 – Kodokan Summer kata courses
- Aug TBD – David McFall Koshiki no kata clinic – College Park MD
- Aug TBD – East Coast kata Championships – College Park MD

Kata is a great opportunity for all levels and ages of judoka - whether you are starting to learn kata, need it for a promotion, or a current competitor, everyone will increase their judoka knowledge and understanding.

In judo, kata is more than just a choreographed performance for demonstrations or a requirement for promotions. Let me shed some light on its significance:

1. Teaching Tool: Kata serves as a teaching tool, allowing practitioners to delve deeper into the intricacies of judo techniques. It provides a structured framework for learning and understanding fundamental principles.
2. Learning Tool: By practicing kata, judoka gain insights into historical aspects of judo that are preserved only within these prearranged sequences. Some of these elements involve techniques that are no longer allowed in competitive judo due to safety concerns.
3. Demonstration Tool: Kata showcases the essence of judo. It emphasizes safety, precision, and control. When performed well, it demonstrates the artistry and mastery of techniques.
4. Tradition and Heritage: Kata helps maintain the rich tradition of judo. It connects practitioners to the roots of the martial art, ensuring that valuable knowledge is passed down through generations.
5. Innovation and Ideas: Kata isn't static; it evolves. It serves as a platform for developing new techniques and exploring creative variations.

Remember, practicing kata is as essential as randori (free practice) or competing in tournaments. It deepens your understanding of judo beyond what books, articles, or videos can provide. So, embrace kata—it's more than just a duty; it's an opportunity to enhance your judo journey

**How can you help Shufu Yudanshakai and the USJF?** Each person in judo has something to offer to help judo to grow. Judo is founded on Jita kyoei- mutual welfare and benefit. What talents, skills, resources or time do you have? How can you help judo to grow in your area? Is there an opportunity to start a new club in your community or school?

**Koka Kids** - For judo coaches, you can find supporting visual teaching material over at the Koka Kids Coaching Library. Here's the link to see everything so far.

<https://kokakids.substack.com>



Each week, they are adding new content, and already there are over 50 judo throws, holds, combinations, drills and fun games to download.

<https://kokakids.substack.com>

How it works, is you will need to sign up. you can choose either the free account or paid account. The paid account is, as these things generally are ... better!



The paid subscription allows you to download everything in the archives, and every week you will receive by email a new technique with visuals you can download and print and use at your dojo.

### **SHAPE America**

The USJF Development committee has align its Jr Rank Requirements with America. SHAPE America is our national standards framework for K-12 Physical Education that defines what a student should know and be able to do at each developing physically literate individuals who have the knowledge, skills and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthy physical activity.

We are the ONLY Judo organization with professional educators comprised of University Professors, Secondary and Elementary Credential Teachers and Academic School Principals with the expertise to develop such a program. Visit our USJF “Koka Kids” page, <https://www.usjf.com/koka-kids/> and enjoy the interaction.



SHAPE  
stage of

For decades, judo has been teaching us several of these important life values. These values are present in each judo lesson all around the world, where we learn and teach our judo community about **Courage, Respect, Modesty, Friendship, Honor, Sincerity, Self-control and Politeness**. Let the values of our sport inspire you to stay strong and positive!

- **Courage:** Doing what is right
- **Respect:** Respect the people around you and the community we live in.
- **Sincerity:** To seek the truth and express honestly - Be honest with yourself and with others.
- **Self-control:** To have power over yourself and your greatest challenges- Keep calm and think before you act.
- **Politeness:** Our greatness comes from how we treat others
- **Friendship:** It’s the purest human feeling. We are all learning together. We are all different, from different countries, have different cultures and different backgrounds. We are all equal. We help each other as much as we can and treat everybody as you would treat yourself and as you would love to be.
- **Modesty:** We are more than ourselves - Each one of us is a champion. Together we are strong. Each person on this planet contributes to a better future for all of us. Stop and think about all these people around you who are contributing to a better world. Take a moment to thank them for all of their hard work and dedication.
- **Honor:** Be true to your word and your principles - Even in adversity, we must stick to our values. We It continue our lives with strong and healthy spirits.

Always remember, that the strongest mottos of judo are: ‘Mutual aid and benefit’ and ‘Maximum efficiency’. We need to apply these principles every day. Only then will we find our ‘DO’ (way) in these difficult moments. Let’s work together and bring our values to life. Our Judo values will help keep us strong, while helping us to grow and develop.



The IJF Academy’s next semester of the Undergraduate Certificate as Judo Instructor (UCJI) online course is now open for enrollment. Please email [Austin.Leath@usajudo.us](mailto:Austin.Leath@usajudo.us) and [Connor.Jenkins@usajudo.us](mailto:Connor.Jenkins@usajudo.us) by February 6, 2025, if you are interested in signing up for the online course. Information regarding curriculum, fees, and requirements may be found [HERE](#).

The online course will start on March 3, 2025 and is due to end on July 6, 2025. The fee for the online course is \$900 and will be paid to the IJF directly by approved applicants.

As a reminder, starting September 1, 2024, you must have the Level 1 Instructor, the Undergraduate certificate Judo Instructor (UCJI), or the Master Coach certification to coach in IJF Grand Prix, Grand Slam, Masters, World Championships Seniors Individual and Mixed Teams and Olympic Games.

Starting January 1, 2026, you must have either the Level 1 Instructor, the Undergraduate certificate Judo Instructor (UCJI), or the Master Coach certification to coach in IJF World Championships Cadets Individual and Mixed Teams and World Championships Juniors Individual and Mixed Teams.

## Completed events:

THE COMPOUND JUDO CLUB PRESENTS

# SHOHEI ONO

2X OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST (2016, 2020)  
3X WORLD CHAMP (2013, 2015, 2019)  
5X GRAND SLAM CHAMPION  
ASIAN CHAMPION (2018)



HTTPS://SPARKPAGES.IO/CART/2/?  
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2-DAY JUDO SEMINAR  
4X SEPARATE 2HR SESSIONS  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY

## MARCH 8-9, 2025

SESSION 1: 10:00AM-12:00PM  
SESSION 2: 2:30PM-4:30PM

- 1HR OPEN RANDORI AFTER
- EACH SESSION

THE COMPOUND FIGHT HOUSE  
12210 PLUM ORCHARD DR  
SUITE 207  
SILVER SPRING, MD 20904

| EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEE<br>(BY FEB 16, 2025) | NORMAL REGISTRATION FEE: |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1X SESSION: \$97                                 | 1X SESSION: \$107        |
| 2X SESSIONS: \$175                               | 2X SESSIONS: \$197       |
| 3X SESSIONS: \$237                               | 3X SESSIONS: \$277       |
| 4X SESSIONS: \$297                               | 4X SESSIONS: \$347       |



### **\*\* Kata Competition**

March 9 (Sun) Northern New Jersey Kata Tournament

<https://allthingsjudo.smoothcomp.com/en/event/20638>

Open - Nage, Katame, Ju, and Goshin

Novice - Nage (3 sets) and Katame (2 sets) - non-black belts

Tournament director: Ramon Hernandez

Head Kata judge: Diane Tamai Jackson

LOCATION: North Jersey Judo, 246 Wanaque Avenue, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442

ELIGIBILITY: US COMPETITORS: Must be a current member of USA Judo or ATJA. Online membership available for USA Judo on day of tournament.



Exciting news! We are thrilled to announce that the legendary Shohei Ono will be giving a seminar at SportJudo on March 15th, 2025!



2x Olympic Champion  
3x World Champion  
5x Grand Slam Champion  
2x Grand Prix Champion

## MARCH 15, 2025

3pm-5pm

Registration:  
\$95 cash in person to





Shohei Ono is one of the most accomplished judoka of all time, with a career that speaks for itself: 2x Olympic Champion, 3x World Champion, 5x Grand Slam Champion, 2x Grand Prix Champion

His dedication to excellence and unmatched technique have made him a true icon in the world of Judo, and now YOU have the chance to learn from him directly! This seminar is a rare opportunity to gain insight from one of the sport's greatest and elevate your skills to new heights.

Whether you're looking to improve your technique, refine your strategy, or simply be inspired by one of the best in the game, this seminar is for you.

Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity—make sure to secure your spot by paying cash at SportJudo! Spots are VERY limited!

## UPCOMING EVENTS



2025 NCJA College and High School Championships

Join us April 6, 2025 on the University of New Hampshire's beautiful campus for the 2025 National Collegiate Judo Association College and High School Championships

Venue

UNH Hamel Recreation Center, 5 Edgewood Rd, Durham, NH 03824

Check-In, Weigh-in, and Tentative Event Schedule

Saturday April 5

Check in and weigh in 4-6 pm.

Referee meeting 6 pm.

NCJA meeting 7 pm.

Division Draws 8 pm.

Sunday April 6

Facility to open at 7 am.

Kata to begin at 8 am

NCJA College Novice Championships to begin directly after kata.

NCJA College Elite Championships to begin directly after College Novice Championships

Awards ceremonies will immediately follow all collegiate divisions.

High School Novice and Elite Championships will begin directly after collegiate awards ceremony.

PLEASE WATCH SMOOTHCOMP TO ENSURE YOU ARRIVE IN TIME FOR YOUR MATCHES

### **2025 Garden State Judo Classic Now D-Level Tournament**

When: Sunday, April 13, 2025

Where: Wayne PAL, 1 PAL Drive, Wayne, NJ

**USA Judo D-Level Point Event JUNIORS & SENIORS**

**Team Divisions**

**Men's Black & Brown Belt Mixed Team Tournament 66kg, 73kg, 81kg, 90kg, +90kg**

**Men's Novice Team Tournament 66kg, 73kg, 81kg, 90kg, +90kg**

**Register Here:** <https://allthingsjudo.smoothcomp.com/en/event/20166>



The week of the Garden State Judo Classic we have Olympic, World and European Medalist Neil Adams coming back to the New Jersey/New York area to do a Master Class Series. Please use the link below to register and don't miss the opportunity to be on the mat with a legend.

### Neil Adams Master Class Series

#### When & Where:

- Thursday, April 10, 2025, 7pm – 9pm at Tech Judo, 1 High Tech Way, Secaucus, NJ 07094
- Friday, April 11, 2025, 7pm – 9pm at IJC Martial Arts, 28-20 120th Street, 2nd Floor, Flushing, NY 11354
- Saturday, April 12, 2025, 10:30am – 12:30pm at Cranford JKC, 107 S Avenue West, Cranford, NJ 7016
- Monday, April 14, 2025, 7pm – 9pm, Colton Brown Training Center, 10 Community Place, Warren, NJ 07059
- Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 6:30pm to 8:30pm Jason Morris Judo Center, 584 Saratoga Road, Glenville, NY 12302
- Wednesday, April 16, 2025, Kano Martial Arts, 149 West 27th Street, New York, NY 10001

Register Here: <https://smoothcomp.com/en/event/22398>

Any questions please contact:

Saro Balagezyan

Email: [balagezyan@gmail.com](mailto:balagezyan@gmail.com)

Phone: 917-830-4985

Ramon Hernandez

Email: [ramon@northjerseyjudo.com](mailto:ramon@northjerseyjudo.com)

Phone: 201-206-2705



Dates  
April 17th - April 30th

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COST  
\$2,500

\*Flight ticket to Japan NOT included in price\*

-Airport in Tokyo, Japan is HND (Haneda)

### Japan Trip 2025

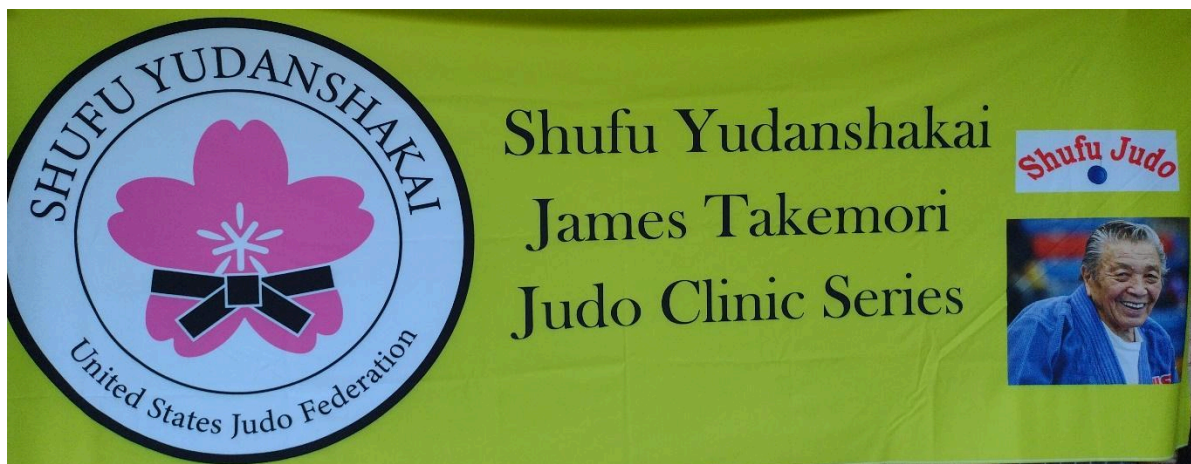
We would like to announce our next judo trip to Japan! Join us to take a two-week trip through multiple cities such as Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima, and more! We will train judo with high level teams, site see historic locations,

and enjoy the beauty of Japan in the springtime!

This trip will also have the special opportunity to see the All-Japan Judo Championships!!

The trip will be from April 17th-April 30th. We will have a limit of 20 spots available. If you are interested, please let me know as soon as possible!

Contact us for more information and reservations: [sasakijudousa@gmail.com](mailto:sasakijudousa@gmail.com)



Fellow Judoka,

Hamada-Sensei is a legendary judoka. In his day, he won gold at the 1981 Asian Games and then represented Japan in the 1984 Olympics. He coached the great, Ryoko Tani who medaled at 3 Olympics (2 gold and 1 bronze) and the rest of the Japan women's team. Hamada-Sensei has taught at the Kodokan, the National Institute of Sports and Fitness, and is the technical director of the Tre Torri Judo Camp in Italy. He'll be traveling to Washington DC where he'll lead the James Takemori Clinic on May 4th at SportJudo. This is a very rare opportunity to study with one of the most important judo coaches. If you are serious about judo, then you won't want to miss this opportunity.

Registration is available on the Shufu website and you can sign up on the day of the clinic.

Thank you,

Miki Takemori, Takemori Committee and President of Shufu Judo Yudanshakai



# Building Tomorrow's Heroes!

**Brian Olson** 4X Olympian, Bronze Medalist 1997 World Judo Championships, 2X Pan American Games Camp

**Lynn Roethke** 1988 Olympic Silver Medalist, 1992 Olympian, Pan-Am Gold Medalist, Black Belt Hall of Fame

**Ryan Reser**, 2008 Olympian & PanAm Champion

\* **Adult /Youth Classes:** Judo, BJJ, kata, coaching, refereeing & more.

\***Children's Classes:** techniques, drills, games, snow, snacks, superhero party, ninja challenge & pool party.



**HEROES** everyday people changing the world with:

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Discipline   | Integrity   |
| Respect      | Self-esteem |
| Self-control | Compassion  |

**Kata World Champions:** Jeff Giunta & Heiko Rommelmann, Jr.

**International Referee:** Mike Takata

**Plus** many national instructors listed on [GreatestCamp.com](http://GreatestCamp.com)



**Register today!**

**June 19, 20 & 21  
2025**

Wingate, NC, in the greater Charlotte area

**Greatest Camp on Earth!!! [www.GreatestCamp.com](http://www.GreatestCamp.com)**

## Embark on the Ultimate Judo Cruise Experience Aboard Royal Caribbean's Liberty of the Seas – July 10-15, 2025

Judo fans and enthusiasts, get ready for the adventure of a lifetime as Royal Caribbean's Liberty of the Seas sets sail from New York to Bermuda from July 10 to 15, 2025, for an extraordinary Judo training and vacation experience like no other. This 5-day immersive journey combines world-class judo instruction with the luxury and excitement of a premier cruise experience, offering travelers a unique opportunity to train with Olympic judo instructors, gain insights from nutritionists, and work with peak performance mindset experts – all while soaking in the scenic beauty and vibrant culture of Bermuda.

### World-Class Judo Instruction at Sea

Participants of all levels will have access to high-caliber judo training led by Olympian instructors renowned for their expertise and experience on the global stage. Multiple sessions will be held throughout the cruise, giving judo enthusiasts a rare chance to refine their skills, deepen their understanding, and train in a unique, engaging environment. With sessions tailored for various skill levels, each guest can enjoy personalized instruction and witness firsthand the transformative impact of training alongside judo's elite.

### Enhance Your Mind, Body, and Spirit

To support overall wellness and performance, guests will benefit from onboard experts, including nutritionists and peak performance mindset coaches. This holistic approach ensures participants leave the cruise with not only enhanced judo skills but also valuable knowledge in nutrition, self-care, and mental resilience – essential tools for high-level athletes and everyday fitness alike.



## **Luxury Amenities and Fine Dining**

The Liberty of the Seas offers a variety of fine dining options, vibrant bars, and exciting entertainment, giving passengers the perfect blend of relaxation and activity. Savor delicious cuisine from world-class restaurants and unwind with amenities such as pools, spas, fitness centers, and more. From catching a Broadway-style show to relaxing by the pool, the ship provides plenty of opportunities to relax and connect with other judo enthusiasts in an unforgettable setting.

## **Discover Bermuda's Charm**

The cruise will dock in Bermuda, where participants can explore the stunning beaches, crystal-clear waters, and welcoming local culture. Passengers will have time to enjoy Bermuda's world-famous beaches, warm sunshine, and friendly people, adding a unique cultural experience to this one-of-a-kind training adventure. There will also be ample opportunities to network, make new friends, and create memories with fellow travelers who share a passion for judo and adventure.

## **An Experience for Everyone**

Whether you're an advanced judo athlete or new to the sport, this judo cruise offers an inclusive, engaging experience for all. With a rich itinerary of training sessions, workshops, and recreational activities, it promises to be a transformative and unforgettable journey, merging the thrill of high-level instruction with the relaxation and luxury of a Royal Caribbean cruise.

## **Booking Information**

Space is limited for this exceptional judo cruise experience. Secure your place today and prepare for an adventure filled with world-class training, luxurious amenities, and the breathtaking sights of Bermuda. For more information and to reserve your spot, please email us at: [Info@mindcoachsystem.com](mailto:Info@mindcoachsystem.com)

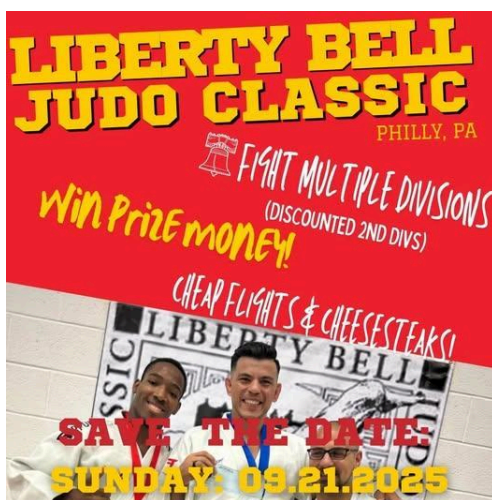
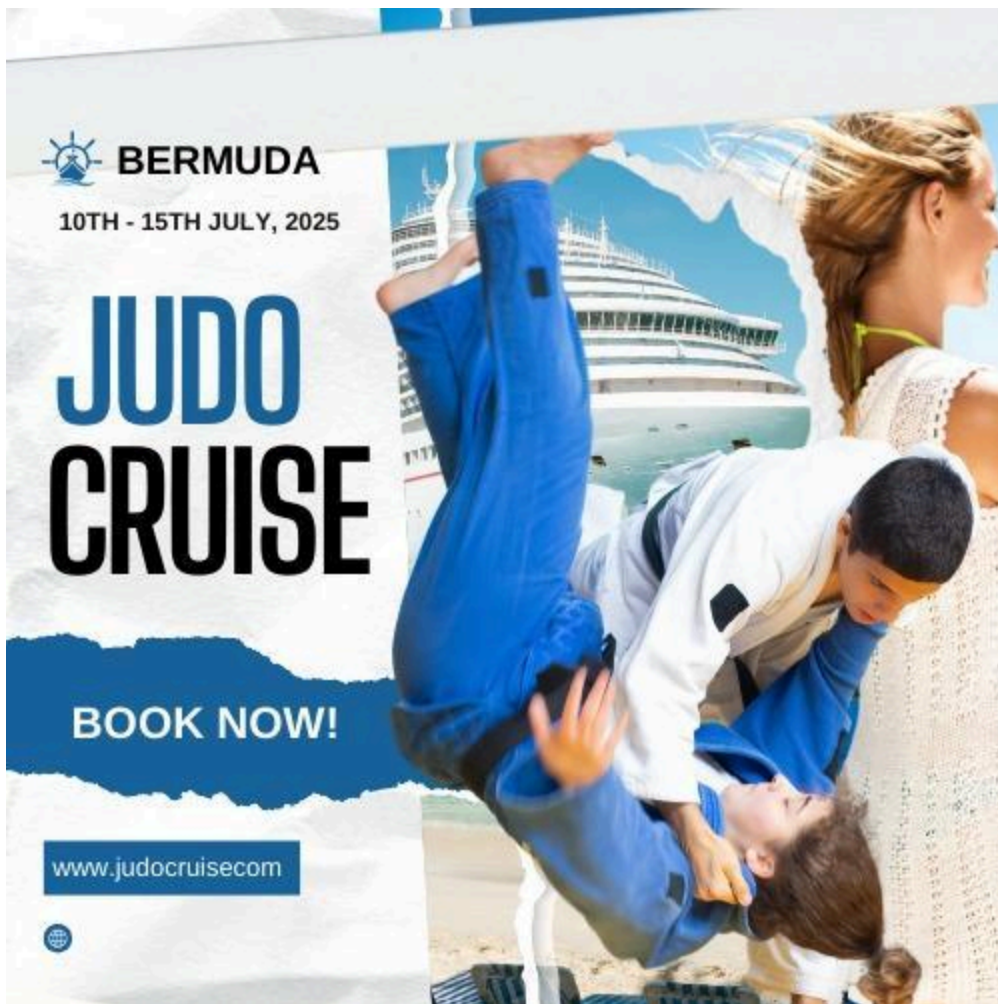
Join us for this rare opportunity to train, relax, and explore – all aboard the Liberty of the Seas from July 10-15, 2025. Don't miss out on the ultimate judo experience!

For press inquiries, please contact:

**Adam Kripke & David Loshelder**

*Judo Cruise - Event Organizers*

**Phone: +1 (412) 407-7112 | Email: [info@judocruise.com](mailto:info@judocruise.com) | Website: [www.judocruise.com](http://www.judocruise.com)**



### Liberty Bell Judo Classic

Be sure to save the date- Sept 21, 2025 - the Liberty Bell Judo Classic. Join us in Philly to find out why after 37 years, we continue with the reputation of being well run, putting competitors first, and always looking to improve our event.

New venue.

Prize money. More people = more money.

Fight multiple divisions.

Kata.

Large novice divisions.

Save the date and come find out why cheesesteaks are just part of the great weekend! Smoothcomp details coming this spring.

**USA Judo Senior Nationals** - USA Judo is pleased to announce the 2025 Senior National Championships will be held in Birmingham, Ala., May 24-25. The shiai competition will be held on Saturday, May 24 with the Kata Nationals on Sunday, May 25. The tournament is expected to draw more than 600 participants.

"We are excited to head to Birmingham for next year's Senior National Championships," said USA Judo CEO Keith Bryant. "Birmingham has established itself as a premier sports event destination, and we know our members will enjoy the event, venue and all the nearby entertainment options." The competition will take place at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex (BJCC), Alabama's largest and foremost event, convention, and entertainment center, with facilities all on one campus. It includes a 45,000-seat stadium, 15,500-seat arena, 220,000 square feet of exhibition space, and 4,000 seats in two theaters—all under one roof. Two hotels, the Sheraton Birmingham and Westin Birmingham, are part of the complex, which also includes the Uptown Entertainment District, City Walk, TopGolf and the brand-new Coca-Cola Amphitheater, opening in summer of 2025.

"We are absolutely thrilled to welcome the 2025 USA Judo Senior Nationals to Birmingham," said John Oros, President & CEO of the Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau. "This prestigious event will showcase incredible athletic talent while giving participants and fans the opportunity to experience our city's rich history, vibrant culture, and signature Southern hospitality. As a premier destination for major sporting events, Birmingham has a proven track record of hosting world-class competitions, and we are excited to continue that tradition by partnering with USA Judo. We look forward to rolling out the mat and providing an unforgettable experience for everyone attending."

In 2024, Birmingham was ranked No. 3 in the nation for sporting events, among cities without a "Big Five" professional team, by the Sports Business Journal. The city has hosted international and national events like the 2017 National Senior Games, the 2022 World Games and the 2024 Transplant Games of America, and will host the 2025 World Police and Fire Games and the 2029 National Senior Games. "In addition to the hosting of Senior Nationals, USA Judo looks forward to expanding our partnerships in the Birmingham area by collaborating with the Lakeshore Foundation, an Olympic and Paralympic Training Site, to assist with USA Judo's Paralympic pipeline, creating Judo in Schools & Communities programs in the Birmingham area, and establishing a USA Judo P3 Police Training Program in concert with the upcoming 2025 Police & Fire Games being hosted in Birmingham." Additional details regarding hotels, registration and tickets will be shared in the coming months on the USA Judo website and social media channels.

#### ABOUT USA JUDO

A 501-c-3 non-profit organization based in Colorado Springs, USA Judo is the National Governing Body for the sport of judo in the United States. USA Judo serves more than 10,000 members annually, including athletes, coaches, referees, volunteers and supporters. A proud member organization of the International Judo Federation, the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee and the International Blind Sports Association, USA Judo's mission is to enable all U.S. athletes to achieve sustained competitive excellence in domestic and international judo competition, and the promotion and growth of the sport of judo in the United States.

#### ABOUT THE GREATER BIRMINGHAM CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

The Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau (GBCVB) is the official tourism and marketing organization for Birmingham and Jefferson County. Established in 1969, the non-profit agency generates positive economic impact by positioning the Greater Birmingham Region as a premier destination for conventions, sporting events, and domestic and international leisure travel. Birmingham and its neighboring municipalities welcome more than 3.96 million visitors each year, generating \$2.52 billion in economic impact. Learn more at [inbirmingham.com](http://inbirmingham.com)

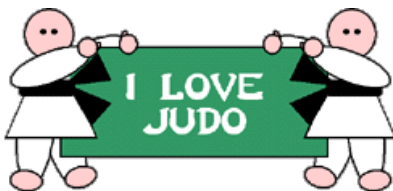




## Club Updates from Shufu Judo Yudanshakai –

- Has your dojo started back to live in-person practices? Send us a write up about your club.
- **Please Share news about your club with us. Send us news, photos, and events.**

Develop Yourself to Your Fullest Potential So That You and Others May Live Harmoniously



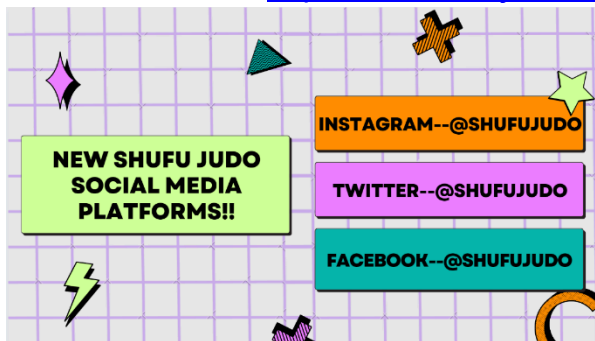
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Visit the website at <http://www.shufujudo.org>



JUDO IS THE WAY OF THE HIGHEST OR MOST  
EFFICIENT USE OF BOTH PHYSICAL AND MENTAL ENERGY.  
THROUGH TRAINING IN THE ATTACK  
AND DEFENCE TECHNIQUES OF JUDO,  
THE PRACTITIONER NURTURES  
THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL  
STRENGTH, AND GRADUALLY  
EMBODIES THE ESSENCE OF  
THE WAY OF JUDO,  
THUS THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE  
OF JUDO DISCIPLINE IS TO BE  
UTILISED AS A MEANS OF  
SELF PERFECTION AND THENCEFORTH  
TO MAKE A POSITIVE  
CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY

-JIGORŌ KANŌ  
1860-1938

