



USA Judo Uniform Sanctioning Procedures Overview Revised 3/29/2022

The Amateur Sports Act of 1978, passed by the United States Congress provided the authority for each sport to have its own governing body. USA Judo was organized as the National Governing Body (NGB) for Judo in the United States. The existing amateur judo sports organizations USJA and USJF were both made group A members of USA Judo at that time. USA Judo is a member of the United States Olympic Committee, the Pan American Judo Confederation, and the International Judo Federation.

A sanction is primarily a mechanism of identifying that an event is covered by insurance. The sanctioning program is designed to:

- 1) Provide liability insurance for the event.
- 2) Verify membership of athletes participating in Judo and Brazilian Jujitsu events.
- 3) Provide minimum standards for conducting an event. This document describes the sanctioning program, and gives details of how to apply for, obtain, and fulfill the obligations of a sanction.

Who Sanctions Judo/Brazilian Jujitsu Events?

In addition to individual and “at-large” members, USA Judo is composed of the following member “Groups” or organizations:

- 1) Group A: United States Judo Federation (USJF), United States Judo Association (USJA), and American Traditional Jujutsu Association-Judo Division (ATJA).
- 2) Group B: These are the State Governing Bodies (SGB) for Judo in each State and the District of Columbia. Most states have an active Group B organization. The SGB’s govern Judo on the State level under USA Judo’s guidance.
- 3) Group C: Organizations which conduct National Sport Programs. Examples are the National Collegiate Judo Association and Washington State Interscholastic Judo Association.
- 4) USA Judo organizes and sanctions National Championships and other National and International Judo events, many of which are used as partial criteria for selection of teams which represent the United States in events like the Senior World Championships, Junior and Cadet World Championships, the Pan American Games, the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. Only members of USA Judo are eligible to participate in such events. Currently these events are the Senior National Judo Championships, National Junior Olympic Judo Championships, National Presidents Cup, and Youth National Championships which may select teams to represent the United States in international competition. In general, events open to USA Judo members only are:
 - A. Events funded wholly or in part through the United States Olympic Committee or special funding.
 - B. USA Judo National events as mentioned above
 - C. Point tournaments (must be a current member of USA Judo to receive points and be placed on the national roster)

Other organizations, including those identified as Group A members also have authority to issue sanctions and do so for local, statewide, and regional events.

Terms and Conditions for Sanctioned Events

This administrative body issues sanctions for Judo and BJJ events. A sanction is a confirmation that insurance applies. USA Judo sanctioning representatives are not able to attend all individual tournaments and clinics. Therefore, USA Judo cannot assume the function of directing, policing, or overseeing the individual operations and procedures of these events. It is understood that each tournament and clinic site is different and presents unique problems concerning administration, officiating, mats, equipment, competitors, or divisions, etc. However, the Tournament or Clinic director, in return for being awarded the sanction, agrees to abide by these terms and conditions to the fullest

extent possible.

All USA Judo Sanctions will be awarded ONLY for judo and jujitsu (BJJ) disciplines:

Sanctions will only be issued for Judo and BJJ events. Events that combine other Martial Arts Competition in the same venue shall not be sanctioned events. This insurance coverage available to the individuals, club, and event organizers is limited to the sport of Judo and BJJ.

All Sanctioned events will be open to members of USA Judo:

All events sanctioned by USA Judo will be open to members of USA Judo.

- A. Due to agreements in place between USA Judo, USJF and USJA, with respect to any sanctioned event by USA Judo, USJF or USJA, any event sanctioned by any of these three entities will be open to members of USA Judo, USJF or USJA. In such events a current membership card for proof of registration from USA Judo, USJF and USJA will be required to participate and must be displayed to the registration personnel at the time that the contestant registers. If an individual cannot produce their current membership card or proof of current membership, they must purchase membership in USA Judo, USJF, or USJA in order to participate. When the application for membership and appropriate fees are submitted to the respective National Office, and if prior membership is confirmed, the individual's membership fee will be refunded to them. Otherwise, the application and fee will be processed.

- B. Due to the agreement in place between USA Judo, ATJA (American Traditional Jujitsu Association- Judo Division) and any event sanctioned by USA Judo will be open to USJA, USJF, and ATJA members. In such events a current membership card for proof of registration from USA Judo, USJA, USJF, or ATJA will be required to participate and must be displayed to the registration personnel at the time that the contestant registers. If an individual cannot produce their current membership card or proof of current membership, they must purchase membership in USA Judo, USJF, USJA, or ATJA in order to participate.

When the application for membership and appropriate fees are submitted to the respective National Office, and if prior membership is confirmed, the individual's membership fee will be refunded to them. Otherwise, the application and fee will be processed.

- C. Participants must be a member of USA Judo to participate in the Youth National Championships, Senior National Championships, NCA Collegiate Nationals, National Junior Olympic Championships, and the National Presidents Cup, and all other events conducted under an international sanction.

All Participants must be registered members:

All U.S. participants must be members of USA Judo or be a member of an organization that USA Judo has entered into an open tournament agreement. If your event is open to foreign participants, they must be members of their National Governing Body (NGB) for Judo as recognized by the International Judo Federation (IJF). All U.S. participants must have membership insurance regardless of membership type, in effect with their parent Judo organization which includes a minimum limit of \$25,000.00 in excess accident medical benefits. **THIS IS AN INSURANCE COMPANY REQUIREMENT AND FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY AFFECT THE LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THIS EVENT AND YOU'RE RIGHT TO OBTAIN FUTURE SANCTIONS.**

If your event is open to foreign participants, they must be members of their National Governing Body (NGB) for Judo as recognized by the International Judo Federation (IJF). An approval letter must be received by the respective International Federation by the USA Judo National Office. This approval letter will show as proof that the athlete is in good standing with their Federation which includes amateur status and insurance coverage. Contact the USA Judo national office for more information.

Procedures must be established to check that each participant is a member of a judo organization having insurance coverage that has been approved by USA Judo. Participants will be allowed to register as a member of USA Judo prior to the start of any sanctioned event. These membership registrations will be covered by excess accident medical insurance for Judo/BJJ. The official conducting the event must send all new USA Judo memberships to the national office within **FIVE** days of the completion of the event. This is important to confirm insurance coverage. No membership registration may be taken once registrations have closed. A tournament official must verify that all membership registration procedures are followed for any new membership issued at the event.

Properly Designed Entry Form:

A properly designed entry form must be used. The entry form must contain at a minimum:

- Adequate space for participant's personal information.
- Ability to record verification of current membership and insurance.
- Categories of competition (Junior, Senior, Veterans, Team, Shiai, Kata, etc.) including eligibility requirements for each category.
- Membership type accepted (USA Judo, USJA, USJF, and ATJA).
- Divisions within each category: age, age-weight, weight only, skill level (white, brown, black belts etc.). If divisions are to be combined or split up based on the age and or weight range of the entrants, state this in a prominent place.
- Waiver form that at a minimum lists USA Judo.
- The elimination system to be used (Single, Double, Modified Double, Repechage, Double-Repechage, Pool etc.).
- The schedule of events, including registration, weigh-in, roll call, and competition times.
- Any IJF or USA Judo rules that are modified for local or regional competition.
- Any BJJ rules that are modified for local or regional competition.
- Sanction number (s) and name (s) of the organization (s) issuing the sanction.
- Appropriate undergarments must be worn by all athletes. Female athletes shall wear under the jacket either, a plain white or off-white tee-shirt, with short sleeves, long enough to be worn inside the trousers, or a plain white or off-white leotard with short sleeves. The white Tee-shirt should be round necked. No marking can be visible when the judogi is done up.
- Statement stating that any athlete needing to change clothes/judo gi should do so in a restroom, locker room or other area specifically designated for changing. Signage should be placed in the venue outlining this policy. A template is attached for your use on the last page.

SafeSport Policy/Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy:

Event directors are required to post and notify all adults of the following policy:

I, a prospective or current member/licensee/participant of USA Judo or USA Judo event agree to abide by and be bound by the applicable USA Judo Bylaws, Code of Conduct, competition rules, SafeSport rules, and MAAPP policies and procedures promulgated by the U.S. Center for SafeSport as they may be amended from time to time. I agree to be subject to the jurisdiction of the U. S. Center for SafeSport and agree that any sanctions imposed by the Center extend to my participation in all USA Judo events or activities and may be posted publicly and include information regarding the misconduct involved. The USA Judo SafeSport Handbook can be found at www.usjudo.org.

USA Judo defines "regular contact with minors" as meaningful or direct contact or oversight with minors that would be considered frequent, repeated or consistent. By way of example, an adult who will often assist with coaching/leading classes including minors would be considered "regular contact" with minors and is required to complete the SafeSport Online Training/Certification Course.

An adult who may "drop in" to coach and/or practice with minors on occasion would not be considered frequent, repeated or consistent and would not need to complete the SafeSport Online Training/Certification Course. In the spirit of the moral code of judo, USA Judo requires adult members to self-certify whether or not they considered having "regular contact" with minors based on the aforementioned description. If an adult member is unsure whether or not they have "regular contact" with minors, USA Judo encourages those individuals (and their clubs) to err on the side of caution and complete the SafeSport Training and Certification. USA Judo, in cooperation with USA Judo Clubs, as the right to randomly review and assess members who may have regular contact with minors and require compliance if/when considered necessary by USA Judo Leadership. The USA Judo SafeSport Handbook can be found at www.usjudo.org.

Full range policies of the MAAPP guide can be found at <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Judo/MAAPP>.

Warning, Waiver and Release of Liability Clause:

The standard release approved by USA Judo, and its insurance company must be signed by all participants. This release may be made part of the tournament entry form or it can be signed separately. In the case of minors, it must additionally be signed by their parents or legal guardians.

Our insurance company requires the Tournament or Clinic Director to retain the signed release for 5 years after the completion of the event and if necessary, provide the insurance company with this document in the event of a participant injury claim resulting in a suit against the insured (s). If the event is open belt competition, i.e., weight class only, the entry form should require a black belt coach's certification. USA Judo must be included on all waiver forms.

Contest Rules of the International Judo federation (IJF), BJJ or any rules modifications by USA Judo to be followed for all sanctioned events:

If there are any rules, planned deviations or exceptions to the standard rules other than for unique safety considerations at local events, they must be approved prior to the date of the event.

Adequate mats should be provided:

Regulation size contest area should be used. If sufficient mats are not available, then the smaller competition area can be used for junior competition. The mats should be firm under foot, have property of absorbing sufficient shock, and have a surface that is non/binding and free of folds and gaps. All mats should be inspected before competition or practice begins. For more information regarding mats see the section titled, "Mat/Safety Area Dimension".

Adequate emergency medical facilities and personnel should be provided:

A medical doctor or other certified first aid personnel must be in attendance at all tournaments. A medical area with emergency supplies and ice must also be provided. The telephone number of the local ambulance service and the location of the nearest hospital should be known.

Qualified mat officials should be used:

USA Judo current certified referees must be used on every mat. Current certification includes current referee certification, SafeSport certification, clean background screen, current concussion certification and current USA Judo membership. All referees must be checked for current certifications prior to working the event. If any of the aforementioned requirements are lapsed/non-existent, the referee cannot be allowed to work the event.

Additional equipment and facilities:

The following additional equipment and facilities are recommended for all tournaments: Each contest should be equipped with scoreboards that are visible to the spectators facing the scoring tables, stopwatches for both contact time and Osaе-Komi, gongs or bean bags for indicating ending time, and blue and white belts (sashes) for the competitors, if blue and white gi is not required. It is recommended that for senior level categories, a blue and white gi is mandatory. A suitable head table and public address systems should be available. Every attempt should be made to create a restricted area for the competition. A restricted area(s) is that area limited to players, officials and other authorized personnel. The general public should be restricted from this area.

Minimum standards:

These guidelines are established as minimum standards. Any action taken by the Tournament Director to improve or enhance the quality of the tournament and provide a greater level of safety for the participants and spectators is highly encouraged.

Tournament report:

Within FIVE days after the competition of the event, a report should be filed with the Sanctioning Authorities. This report shall include the "Report of Sanction Event" form as well as copies of the "Injury Report" form with a copy of the entry form, and waiver and release form for each injured person. The event director is required to keep all copies of participant's entry forms and signed waivers for no less than five (5) years. Failure to follow this procedure could jeopardize future sanctions and may result in increased future sanction fees.

Within FIVE days after the completion of the event, all membership registration forms, and money collected should be forwarded to USA Judo's National Office.

Address for submitting sanction application

<p>USA Judo 1 Olympic Plaza Colorado Springs, CO 80909</p>
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<p>Fees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-USA Judo point event: \$75.00• Point event with 1 point category: \$550.00• Point event with 2 or more point categories: \$600.00 <p>4</p>
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Requirements & Application Procedures for Obtaining a Sanction

National and International Events:

USA Judo, the National Governing Body for Judo in the United States, issues sanction for national and international events. The events are held under IJF and BJJ rules, with limited modifications granted for Junior and Veteran Judo Categories. Only the National Governing Body and State Governing Bodies (SGB) may host these events. SGB's wishing to host this type of event must present a "bid" proposal to USA Judo giving details of their plans. Once USA Judo grants the SGB the right to host a National or International event, the SGB must enter into a contractual agreement with USA Judo and apply for a sanction.

Local/State/Regional Events:

USA Judo, SGB's, issue sanctions for local, state and regional events held in their jurisdiction.

Application for Sanction from USA Judo and SGB:

Only USA Judo current registered judo or jujitsu clubs may apply for a sanction. To receive a sanction, a properly completed and signed Application for Sanction, draft copy of the entry form, draft copy of the general information sheet, draft copy of the waiver and release form, and appropriate administrative fee, **should be submitted at least thirty days prior to the event**. The entry form, the general information sheet and the waiver and release form will be reviewed for accuracy, completeness, conflict with the other events, and compliance with all other sanction requirements. If there are problems, the club officials will be informed of any modifications that are required. When the entry form, the general information sheet, and the waiver and release form are in full compliance with the sanction requirements, the sanction application is properly completed and signed, and appropriate fees are paid a sanction will be issued and liability insurance coverage will be in effect.

The sanction number(s) and name(s) of the sanctioning authorities shall be printed on the entry form when it is distributed to the public. A final copy of the entry form as well as any corrected forms that are distributed to the public must be submitted to each of the sanctioning authorities for their permanent records. The applicant agrees to abide by all the terms and conditions for sanctioned events. These terms and conditions are listed below, and are attached to the sanction application. They will be provided once again to the organizers when the sanction is issued.

Important Policy Points:

All sanction applications must be in our national office 10 days before the actual event is held. All sanctions must be accompanied with a payment for USA Judo sanction (see forms for amounts).

- State organizations in good standing with USA Judo may continue to issue and collect event sanction fees. However, it is the responsibility of the State Organization to have the sanctions in the National Office no later than 30 days prior to the event together with the corresponding national fee.
- Failure to have a sanction form and payment in the National Office no later than 30 days prior to the event will void any insurance coverage of the event, and the State Organization will assume all liabilities associated with this action.
- USA Judo will accept sanction application forms directly from member clubs or other event organizers and will issue the proper sanctions. All sanctioned events by USA Judo will be posted on its website no later than 5 days prior to the event being held.
- The first Certification of Insurance to third parties for sanctioned events can be secured free of charge from the National Office if requested prior to 10 working days of the event. Additional Certificates may be obtained for an additional fee of \$10.00 per certificate. If Certificates are requested with less than 10 working days, there will be a charge of \$50.00 for processing.

Limited Modifications:

Sanctions may be issued for events which have the following modifications to the IJF rules:

Mat/Safety Area Dimension:

All USA Judo Sanctioned Events except National Championships, and Events with International Participants (see below for more information):

- Allowed for all categories, minimum of 6 x 6-meter competition area.

- A 3-meter safety area for all categories between mats and outside perimeter is required*.

All USA Judo Nationals Championships:

- All categories: competition area must be 8 x 8 meters minimum.
- USA Judo National Championships must have a 4-meter safety area between mats.

Events with International Athlete Participation/International Federation Participation:

- Competition and safety areas for USA Judo Sanctioned Events with international participations will be determined through discussion with event organizers and USA Judo during the sanctioning process.
- Pan American Judo Confederation & International Judo Federation rules will apply for PJC & IJF Sanctioned Events.

Shime- and Kansetsu-Waza Age Limits:

It is standard procedure in the United States that contestants competing in Junior divisions up to and including 12 years of age are not allowed to use Shime-waza (chokes) or Kansetsu-waza (arm locks). Cadet age categories (15yrs to 17 yrs.) contestants competing are allowed to use Kansetsu-waza. All senior divisions are normally permitted to use Shime-waza and Kansetsu-waza. Juniors who elect to enter senior divisions must understand that they do so at their own risk and should be allowed the use of Shime-waza and Kansetsu-waza. Shime-waza or Kansetsu-waza in novice-only divisions is prohibited.

Event Organizers must specify in the sanction application and on the event information sheet if any of the above or other rule changes will be in effect at the event.

Co-Ed Categories:

Are allowed for ages up to and including 10 years of age, as of the event date.

Religious Headgear:

As the national governing body for the sport of judo in the United States, USA judo is responsible for the safety of judoka and creating and abiding by rules that protect the safety of competitors to the extent possible.

USA Judo has determined that it will review requests to wear religious headgear during competitions on a case-by-case basis.

The main points of consideration for these requests are as follows:

1. Can the wearing of headgear, religious or any other kind, create a safety issue for the individual wearing the headgear and/or his/her opponent?
2. Does the wearing of the headgear give the person wearing it an unfair advantage or disadvantage?
3. Is the desire to wear headgear by an athlete due to their religious practice(s) or due to the advice of a medical doctor for safety purposes?

If the answer to questions #1 and #2 is “no” as determined by USA Judo, and the answer to question # 3 is “yes”, USA Judo will allow the wearing of headgear.

Again, USA Judo will review headgear requests on a case-by-case basis and reserves the right to not allow headgear of any kind if the safety of any athlete may be put into jeopardy by the wearing of headgear or for any reason deemed as detrimental to the sport of judo in the United States.

Questions:

Contact Corinne Shigemoto

USA Judo

719-201-6176 Corinne.shigemoto@usajudo.us



OFFICIAL WEIGH IN PROCEDURES

USA Judo National Events & Approved USA Judo Point Events

The guidelines below are to be followed for all USA Judo National events and all awarded point event categories:

SCALES

- USA Judo will provide the official digital scales for USA Judo National Championship events. The appropriate point event director will provide scales for their event. The scales should register in kilograms of weight.

WEIGH-IN

- During Unofficial Weigh-In's, ALL scales will be designated as PRACTICE SCALES
- During Official Weigh-In's, scales will be designated as OFFICIAL SCALE and UNOFFICIAL SCALE in each room.
- Determination of OFFICIAL SCALES: The scale that registers the lowest weight will be chosen as OFFICIAL SCALE
- The scales will be available at the tournament headquarters 24 hours prior to official weigh-ins.
- During Official Weigh-In, NO one is allowed on the official scale unless they are officially weighing in for their category.

PROTOCOLS

General Protocols for all Weigh-In's:

- Athletes presenting themselves for weigh-in may undress down to:
 - For males, briefs or boxer shorts, t-shirts, bathing suits
 - For females, bathing suits, under pants and bra and/or tee-shirt/leotards
 - Naked weigh in is NOT ALLOWED*

*to compensate, an additional .1kg will be allowed, i.e., for the 44kg weight, the limit will be 44.1. This is a clothing allowance only and the 0.1kg will only be added to the true weight.

- The scale must register a static standing weight.
- Once an athlete steps onto the scale, a weight must be registered.
- An athlete may not step off the scale until a weight is registered.
- An athlete may stay on the scale for a reasonable amount of time.
- All athletes, with the exception of open weight category must register a weight.
- Staff/volunteer must ensure that the scale registers zero weight before the athlete gets on the scale.
- No one may touch an athlete while an athlete is weighing in, i.e., lift hair, etc. The athlete must stand alone with no contact with any person or object such as a table, furniture, etc.
- For events that are sanctioned by IJF or PJC or trial categories, athletes must weigh in within the official category and are not allowed to be over the category or under the category. For example, an athlete weighing 52 kg may weigh 48.1 kg up to 52 kg.
- After weighing in, if athlete is under 12 years of age, an adult/parent/guardian must initial next to the weight.
- If an athlete shows up late to weigh-in, the **Tournament Director** is to be called.

PERSONNEL

- Male staff and female staff only will be allowed in the gender-appropriate weigh-in rooms or areas
- A minimum of two observers must be always present in the weigh in rooms
- A minimum of one volunteer/referee must serve in a supervisory position in each room that has current SafeSport Certification and clean background screen on file with USA Judo.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to make all final decisions regarding weigh-ins.



OFFICIAL WEIGH IN PROCEDURES For USA Judo Sanctioned Events

The guidelines below are to be followed for all USA Judo sanctioned events except for USA Judo National events and all awarded point event categories:

SCALES

- Scales to be provided by the respective event director. The scales should be digital.

WEIGH-IN

- During Unofficial Weigh-In's, ALL scales will be designated as PRACTICE SCALES
- During Official Weigh-In's, if multiple scales are available, they should be designated as OFFICIAL SCALE and UNOFFICIAL SCALE in each room.
- Determination of OFFICIAL SCALES: The scale that registers the lowest weight will be chosen as OFFICIAL SCALE
- If only one scale available during official weigh-in, athlete should state prior to stepping on if they are testing their weight or if they are officially weighing in. If officially weighing in, that weight will be recorded for event purposes.

PROTOCOLS

General Protocols for all Weigh-In's:

- Athletes presenting themselves for weigh-in may undress down to:
 - For males, briefs or boxer shorts, t-shirts, bathing suits
 - For females, bathing suits, under pants and bra and/or tee-shirt/leotards
 - Naked weigh in is NOT ALLOWED*

*to compensate, an additional .1kg will be allowed, i.e., for the 44kg weight, the limit will be 44.1 for any categories using true weight divisions. This is a clothing allowance only and the 0.1kg will only be added to the true weight.

- The scale must register a static standing weight.
- Once an athlete steps onto the scale, a weight should be registered.
- An athlete may not step off the scale until a weight is registered.
- An athlete may stay on the scale for a reasonable amount of time.
- All athletes must register a weight.
- Staff/volunteer must ensure that the scale registers zero weight before the athlete gets on the scale.
- No one may touch an athlete while an athlete is weighing in, i.e., lift hair, etc. The athlete must stand alone with no contact with any person or object such as a table, furniture, etc.
- For events that are sanctioned by IJF or PJC or trial categories, athletes must weigh in within the official category and are not allowed to be over the category or under the category. For example, an athlete weighing 52 kg may weigh 48.1 kg up to 52 kg.

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**ALL ATHLETES SHOULD
USE APPROPRIATE
RESTROOMS, LOCKER
ROOMS OR SPECIFICALLY
DESIGNATED CHANGING
AREAS WHEN NEEDING
TO CHANGE CLOTHES OR
JUDO GI'S**