



GRASS ROOTS JUDO ©
From the Desks of

Neil Simon
USJF President

Jim Webb
USJA President



August 8, 2008

LETTER OF SUPPORT

In September our national governing body, USA Judo, will be conducting their first elections to determine who will be seated on their relatively new Board of Directors. This is truly a historic occasion as this will be the first time that American judo leadership will have the opportunity to vote for their representative. The elections will be held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

In order to register and be able to cast a vote at the September 25, 2008 National Assembly there are several steps you must take:

- First, you must be a current member in good standing of USA Judo.
- You must choose and may only vote in one category at the elections. Those categories are: athletes, Group A, Groups B & C, referee, and coach.
- Your registration form must reach the USA Judo National office by Tuesday, August 26. **This time is fast approaching!**
- You must physically attend the meeting in Colorado Springs

There are some steps to qualifying to vote in a certain group.

- The people voting for the Group A position will be chosen by the USJA and USJF – so unless you have been contacted, please choose another category.
- To vote for the athlete representatives, you must be an elite athlete that has represented the USA in the Olympic Games, Pan American Games, or World Championships in the last ten years or are on the current senior elite roster.
- Those voting for the Group B & C representatives will be chosen by their respective organization.
- Those voting for the coach representative must be a certified USA Judo coach.
- Those voting for the referee representative must be certified by USA Judo as a referee.

The At-large representative will be selected by the current USA Judo Board and the Independent Directors will be chosen by the nominating committee.

It is important to note that you cannot vote by proxy and must attend the meeting in Colorado Springs. With the price of travel escalating this is a real sacrifice for most of us – but we firmly believe that this is a very important election and that the future of American judo will be determined.

As a service to our members, and to the judo community, we have established a web site where those running for the board are able to express their point of view and also provide USJF and USJA members with their ideas on how they will support Grass Roots Judo. The web site can be found at:

<http://natterit.com/gotjudo/index.php?page=usajudoelec>

With recent changes at the International Judo Federation and the sport of judo constantly evolving, and the challenges we face in our country, we believe this to be a critical time for American judo. We wish USA Judo the best of luck in choosing the right leadership for the future of our sport. We would also like to encourage every judo leader to take part in this historic election.

So please do not delay. Register your intent to vote with USA Judo and make plans to make your voice heard in this important election.

Sincerely,



Neil Simon



Jim Webb