

UNITED STATES JUDO FEDERATION, INC.  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Saturday, April 6, 2024, 1:30 pm

Hyatt Regency Dulles, Herndon, VA.

Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Registration of Delegates

**I. CALL TO ORDER, SEATING OF DELEGATES - 1:31 pm Eastern**

- A. Welcome by the Chairperson

**II. MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED SINCE OUR LAST MEETING**

**III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

- A. Additions/Corrections to Agenda - MSP

- i. Correction of the year on the agenda
- ii. Old business: 2nd reading of change from Women's Committee to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEI)
- iii. 2nd Reading: By-law At large club association with PC and BoE guidance
- iv. Disengagement with USJA

**IV. MINUTES FOR REVIEW & APPROVAL**

- A. Minutes from October 27, 2023 - MSP

**V. REPORTS**

- A. President

- i. Organizational Strategy:
  - a. Long and Short term goals and objectives
  - b. Change the culture (embrace, acknowledge new challenges, reward)
  - c. Provide better services (improve sanctions, Smoothcomp integration, and standardize age group and divisions)
  - d. Current membership (8,813 as of 3/31/24) and new membership programs coming
- ii. Leadership Transition
  - a. Emphasize on communication, collaboration and problem solving
  - b. Navigate Challenges
- iii. Committee Appointment: Scholarship Committee - Gene Nakashima, Chair and Special Needs Committee - Bryan Matsuoka, Chair
- iv. Risk Management
  - a. Excess Medical Insurance/3<sup>rd</sup> Party Insurance
  - b. \$4.00 Excess Medical for USA Judo member
  - c. USJF By-law Revision Update
  - d. Reaffirm No Double Knee Drop Seoi-nage, 12 yrs. Old younger
  - e. Background checks for Dojo Head Sensei
  - f. Breach of Endowment Trust By-laws Term Limit
  - g. YDK - Tournament Directors

- B. Program Development

- i. Development Director: Josh Kindelberger
  - a. Jr. Rank: Study Guides that integrate USJF Jr. rank requirements and Koka Kids resource

created by committee of Janet Johnson, Julia Tsutsui, Ben Ott, Jennifer Badertscher, and Krista Steele

b. Sr. Rank: Janet Johnson asked for input from the body about senior rank requirements, pointed out spelling/format so it matches the Kodokan/IJF.

- i. Hudson expectations - know approximately  $\frac{2}{3}$  of Gokyo No Waza by Shodan and completely by Ni Dan
- ii. 50th State - introduction to/complete basic Gokyo No Waza by Ikkyu
- iii. Informal poll - All of Gokyo No Waza by Shodan or developing during early dan
- iv. Shared the rank requirements at this point, but asked people to give feedback and input

C. Financial Report - Rome Acopan Jr., Treasurer Update: Fiscal Year 2023-2024 - See published report

D. Executive Director - Robert Fukuda, CEO discussed successor \$4 USA Judo participation fee and the effort of the National Office staff to work with other organizations/entities to make sanctions happen more smoothly

E. Board of Examiners Report - Takeda, Chair - See BoE report

- i. **Motion:** Approve Ju Dan promotion of Hayward Nishioka by unanimous consent - **MSP**
- ii. **Motion:** Approve and accept Board of Examiners report - **MSP**

F. Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement Award - Neil Simon, Chair

- i. Low application/nomination of HoF and LAA candidates so considering moving nominations to every other year.
- ii. Lack of funding for committee and outcomes
- iii. Class of 2024 LAA: Frank Morales, Eric Spears, James Murray, Karen Whilden, and Fran Vall
- iv. Hall of Fame 2024: Roy Englert, Francis Glaze, Ted Nalls, and Edwin Takemori
- v. **Motion:** Accept nominations of HoF and LAA - MSP (one abstention)
- vi. President's Recognition: Maurice Allan, Robert "Bobby" Donaldson, Mike Landstreet, Mayer & Shelia Max, Sgt Major E. L. Brshimanturn & Masisha Mayfield,

G. Appointments

- i. Gene Nakashima – Scholarship Committee Chair
- ii. Parliamentarian – Chase Morinaka

## VI. BOARD RATIFICATION OF ACTIONS OF THE CORPORATION SINCE

**PREVIOUS MEETING - Motion:** Accept all reports, actions and appointments - **MSP**

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. **2nd Reading - Motion:** Rename the Women's Committee to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEI) - **MSP** (One abstention)

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Motion:** Reaffirmation of NO Double Knee Drop Seoi-nage in USJF sanction tournaments for 12 yrs. old and younger. - **MSP**

- i. **Rationale:** USJF Medical Committee agrees with continuing this policy.

B. **Motion:** Standardize USJF Age Group and Weight Divisions

- i. **Rationale:** Standardizing Smoothcomp USJF Age Group and Weight Divisions will facilitate the processing of tournament sanctions. **-MSP**
- ii. **Clarification:** this standardization is for registration and then tournament directors will have the discretion to make adjustments in order to create final pools.

**C. Motion:** Required Background checks for all club senseis renewing their USJF Charter Club Membership - **MSP**

- i. **Rationale:** Overall, mandatory background checks for club sensei's help create a safer and more accountable environment within the USJF community, promoting trust and confidence among its members.

**Motion** - USJF covers cost of senseis' background check - No second, motion dies

**D. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading - Motion:** The United States Judo Federation (USJF) will introduce a recurring monthly membership priced at \$9.99, effective from the start of the fiscal year 2025, which begins on September 1, 2024. Furthermore, all short-term memberships will be discontinued - **MSP**

**E. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Motion:** Increase regular membership from \$70 to \$80. The additional \$10 will contribute to USJF Scholarship Grant for Education program benefiting both the competitor and non-competitor. - **MS, does not pass**

Amendment - \$5 goes to scholarship grant and \$5 goes to general fund.

- i. The USJF Scholarship Grant for Education objective is to cultivate a strong collaboration between the USJF Charter Club Sensei and their students.
- ii. The USJF through their Charter Club sensei will grant scholarship(s) to their competitor and/or non competitor members who have demonstrated a strong sense of responsibility in shaping their own path to future success. The sensei acknowledges that the foundation for planning their student's educational future can be laid early on during their judo studies.

- **Rationale:** Program to increase membership in the USJF by providing another reason to belong to the USJF.

**F. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Motion:** USJF By-Law Revision

- i. First Reading: USJF By-Law revision, "Red" edits are to be deleted, "Blue" edits are revisions.

**Motion:** Refer revisions of by-laws to committee to be reported back in October

**G. Motion:** Election of All Endowment Trustees to be in alignment with ET By-Laws term of office - **MSP**

- i. 2 members to 4-year term (only for this election)
- ii. 3 members to 2-year term
  - **Rationale:** In this scenario, electing two individuals for a four-year term (in only this election cycle) and three individuals for a two-year term is done to ensure continuity and stability within the committee. By staggering the terms, the committee can maintain a balance of experienced members while also allowing for some turnover and the infusion of new ideas and perspectives.

**H. Motion:** Reconsider the motion of By-law At Large club association with Promotion

## Committee and Board of Examiners guidance - **MSP**

**I. Motion: 2nd reading** - By-law At Large club association with Promotion Committee and Board of Examiners guidance - **MSP**

**J. Motion:** Engage in notice with USJA due to recent allegations involving a sensei who was banned by all three organizations and US Center for Safesport and USJA accepting involved dojo into their organization - **MSP**

**I. Election of Board of Director Officers** -

- i. President: Mitchell Palacio
- ii. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Joshua Kindelberger
- iii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Chase Morinaka
- iv. Secretary - Christopher Reid
- v. Treasurer - Rome Acopan
- vi. Board of Examiners Chair Person - Mac Takeda

**Motion:** Accept by unanimous consent - **MSP**

**I. Election of Promotion Committee**

- i. Election of Chair - Kevin Tamai
- ii. Vice Chair - Eric Spears
- iii. Secretary - Richard Nakatsu
- iv. Motion to renominate 5
- v. President will appoint two new
- vi. **Motion:** Accept by unanimous consent - **MSP**

**K. Election of Endowment Trustees - **MSP****

- i. Election of Endowment Trustees – 2-year term
  - Election of All Trustees
    - 2 members to 4-year term (only for this election)
    - 3 members to 2-year term
      - Rationale: In this scenario, electing two individuals for a four-year term (in only this election cycle) and three individuals for a two-year term is done to ensure continuity and stability within the committee. By staggering the terms, the committee can maintain a balance of experienced members while also allowing for some turnover and the infusion of new ideas and perspectives.
  - ii. Proposed slate
    - Four-year terms: Tom Sheehan and Eric Spears
    - Two-year terms: Bryan Matsuoka, Salvador Cruz, and Ed Hanashiro
  - iii. **Motion:** Accept by unanimous consent - **MSP**

**L. Future Spring & Fall Meeting Location**

- i. Yudanshakais interested in having the Spring or Fall meetings
  - 1. Fall 2024 Las Vegas, Nevada, Thursday, 10/31/24 to Saturday, 11/2/24
  - 2. Spring 2025 - Florida State? April/May 2025

- 3. Fall 2025 - ???? October/November 2025
- 4. Spring 2026 - Shufu? April/May 2026

## **IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Sunday, Clinic with Neil Adams
- B. Special Meeting: USJF Budget Teleconference
  - i. August 4, 2024

## **X. ADJOURNMENT - 4:01 pm Eastern**