

UNITED STATES JUDO FEDERATION BOARD OF EXAMINERS  
MEETING

Tuesday, November 12, 2024  
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Fall Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada at Golden Nugget Hotel and  
Casino

**AGENDA**

I. CALL TO ORDER, SEATING OF DELEGATES

Delegates:

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Observers

II. WELCOME BY CHAIR- Matsuo Mac Takeda

Moment of silence for USJF Judo members that have passed.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR November 12, 2024

IV. APPROVAL OF April 6, 2024, MINUTES – Hyatt Regency Dulles, Herndon, VA ([Attachment 1](#))

V. PROMOTION COMMITTEE REPORT OF MEETING

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Special Needs Judo Program report by Miki Takemori. She will be making an update on what her committee has accomplished.
2. Self-Defense Committee Report on the progress of the Self-Defense Certification-Chair Neil Simon
3. Newaza Tournament Rules use Report by the Yudanshakai's. Keep it on agenda and follow Canada's rules for newaza tournaments. Any updates?
4. Incorporate all actions from the 2016 to current BOE meeting minutes approved by the Board of Examiners which are equivalent to by-laws into a separate section. The by-laws equivalents will be posted on the website. Currently in the BOE section of the website but needs a second reading for Spring 2023. Approved for second reading at the 2023 fall meeting. It was approved by the BOD at the Fall Meeting. Did the equivalent to the by-laws been worked out to put it into a separate section?
5. Motion to change and clarification on form 20 by Tom Sheehan.
  - Fix box 9 on page one so the YDK can endorse their electronic signature to the form. Has this

been fixed by the NO?

- Can a candidate count more than one dojo that they teach at regularly as either a head instructor or assistant instructor? Has this been fixed by the NO?
- On the website the teacher certificate list only has National certification listed. No master or assistant instructor? Per Karen Wildren Sensei. Has this been added to the website?
- Can a candidate claim being a Vice Chair of the BOE or Promotion Chair of the YDK. Seeing that they are elected by YDK Board of Examiner. Has this been worked out?

6. Task Force – Look into the voting Authority of YDK and smaller YDKs who do not have voting authority. An Ad Hoc Committee will be formed by the EXCO. Has the Ad Hoc Committee been formed? According to our President, the committee has not convened yet.
7. Ad hoc Committee was established by the Chairperson Mac Takeda to investigate the current Class “D” Kata point system for promotion and look at the current requirements. Also, the committee will investigate the “D” classifications and veterans. The report will be written and given by Chair Tom Sheehan. The other members are Hector Estevez, and Kevin Tamai. **(Attachment 2)**

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Motion: USJF Development Certification Standardized Fee Structure

- **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)

2. **Motion:** 1st reading -To raise annual registration fee from \$70 to \$80 per year, commencing on September 1, 2025.
  - **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 fee of similar sports organizations. (Rome Acopan Jr., Treasurer)
3. **Motion:** 1st reading - To raise dan promotion fees for Nidan and higher.
  - **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)
4. **Motion for the BOE by Sensei Hayward Nishioka**
  - **Rational:** The Motion is one that should be considered and digested over a long period of time. This is an important decision. Here are some things to consider.
    - Aligning with the IJF essentially means aligning with USA Judo. "Remember 2006 when we were hurried into a decision that found us cutting the main branch of a tree on which we stood." Once cut, there was no way to take a vote to turn around and glue the branch back if the decision was faulty." Today we share along with the athletes that get very little support, we get no voice, no vote, no participation.
    - We force our athletes, and non-athlete members to join USAJ in order to get our promotions. I know this is the way it used to be anyway, but that was under a different leadership model. What will happen if they raise the prices of our participation, pay?!
    - It will be difficult to increase our leadership needs in the future. Look at the ways high dans impacts our leadership. There are leadership roles that require certain rank levels. The promotion committee is an example. How many high ranks do we have that qualify? They have to have the rank, plus the funds, plus the interest, plus the time. Even now the interest in rank is waning. We have world and Olympic champions who are only shodan. Many have no aspirations after the competitive years are gone. What then? When less and less judoka see sense in the attainment of higher ranks?
    - This is mentioned here because we should keep statistical information on who is what rank, and what is needed for them to get to the next rank.
    - In the early days of judo it was fairly easy. Win 5 in a row and go to the next rank or win 10 points of the same rank and go to the next. Now because of our social conditions here's what you do.
    - Of course you must be a member in good standing.
      - Get a background check.
      - Get a Safesport certificate.

- Get a Heads-Up certificate.
- In some cases First Aid/CPR certificate
- A kata certificate for Nage no kata.
- At what point will this committee think of either simplifying the job or increasing the positive values of getting dan ranks 1-5 and 6 through 10. At least start thinking about what good can come of getting a black belt. Just a thought to leave you smiling with Nancy's grandson is 12 and is taking his black belt test in Taekwondo. Some of the requirements mentioned was a 5 mile hike, demonstration of techniques, sparring, and contesting. This happens over a 6-week period. Yes, it's different. Yes, the black belt originated with judo. What I wanted to show is that there must be something positive that comes about from the elevation of rank. What will it be for USJF?

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION. TBD

X. ADJOURNMENT



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