

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

Saturday, April 26, 2025, 9:00 am  
Miami, Florida

AGENDA

NOTE: Each Yudanshakai president is to certify to the USJF Secretary (c/o the National Office) the identity and address of each Yudanshakai Delegate and Alternate to the Board of Directors.

***Building Our Communities through Judo Values***  
- *friendship, honor, courage, self-control, humility, respect, perseverance* -

Registration of Delegates

**I. CALL TO ORDER, SEATING OF DELEGATES** (Executive Committee acts as a committee on credentials)

- 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

**IV. MINUTES FOR REVIEW & APPROVAL**

- A. Minutes:

- i. February 4, 2025
- ii. November 12, 2024

**V. REPORTS**

- A. President

- i. Parliamentarian – Joshua Kindelberger
- ii. “USJF - A New Era of Change”
  - “Paradigm Shift”
  - Our history
  - The Role of Yudanshakai
  - Insights and Understanding our Customer Base
  - The Importance of USJF Branding
- iii. Referee Development
  - Appointment of new USJF Referee Chairperson, Dr. Diba Mani
- iv. Website - Update
  - Tournament Directors Resources Page
- v. Accept the Standards Recommendation on Mr. Hurd Promotion to Shodan
  - Exco Approved

- vi. Strategic Planning
  - Motion before: asking is it important to know where USA Judo status
  - Looking for pro bono service to facilitate
  - Survey: what do the new younger generation want from the organization
  - Ad hoc committee – 10 members
- vii. Leadership Transition

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- 2nd Vice President, Chase Morinaka will conduct the corporation's business.
- B. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Joshua Kindelberger
  - i. Update
- C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Chase Morinaka
  - i. Update
- D. Secretary – Chris Reid
  - i. Sanctions
- E. Financial Report
  - i. Rome Acopan Jr. Treasurer
  - ii. Update: Fiscal Year 2024-2025
  - iii. Endowment Trust
- F. Hall of Fame/Lifetime Achievement - Neil Simon
  - i. Lifetime Achievement Award – Class of 2025
- G. Board of Examiners
  - i. Promotion Committee – Kevin Tamai, Chair
  - ii. Takeda – Chair
- H. Executive Director
  - i. Update

**VI. BOARD RATIFICATION OF ACTIONS OF THE CORPORATION SINCE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- A. Accept all reports, actions and appointments.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. **Motion:** 2nd reading -AMENDED - 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 fee of similar sports organizations. Current revenue levels are no longer sufficient to cover rising operational costs, program needs, and inflation. This adjustment is necessary to ensure the organization's financial stability and prevent deficit spending in fiscal year 2026 and subsequent years. (Rome Acopan Jr., Treasurer)
- B. **Motion:** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)

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- Nidan - \$180
- Sandan - \$230
- Yodan - \$250
- Godan - \$280
- Rokudan - \$300
- Shichidan - \$350
- Hachidan - \$400
- Kudan - \$525
- Judan - \$550

C. **Motion:** 2<sup>nd</sup> reading - Revoke the standing rule of returning the surplus funds back to the Endowment corpus. And instead go through the Finance Committee.

- To formalize the historic practice of retaining surplus funds in the operating funds. 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)

D. **Motion** 2<sup>nd</sup> reading - To have the monthly registration fee of \$9.99 have \$2.50 of that fee as a rebate to the Yudanshakai.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Motion: Approve the Hall of Fame/Lifetime Achievement Committee as a USJF Standing Committee. (Mitchell Palacio, President)

B. **Motion:** Discussion on whether it's essential to understand the current status of USA Judo prior to initiating the USJF Strategic Planning Process. (Mitchell Palacio, President)

C. **Motion:** The establishment of the USJF Charter Club Scholarship Program, designed to support and benefit the club membership, will provide financial assistance to athletes within the USJF network. This program aims to help ease the financial burden on members while promoting participation and development in the sport. A dedicated USJF webpage will be created to acknowledge the amount received by each club from the USJF Charter Club Scholarship Program, ensuring transparency and recognition. The program is overseen by the Scholarship Committee. (see USJF Charter Club Scholarship Program Supplement) (Mitchell Palacio, President)

D. **Motion:** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Increase individual membership fee from \$80 to \$90 after January 1, 2026

- Rational: The USJF would raise the annual registration fee for individual members to \$90, aligning it with the minimum fee charged by comparable organizations. This adjustment will help fund the USJF Charter Club Scholarship Program which will ease the financial burden on members while promoting participation and development in the sport. (see USJF Charter Club Scholarship Program Supplement) (Mitchell Palacio, President)

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- E. **Motion:** Should a Yudanshakai for a Hall of Fame and/or Lifetime achievement Award decide to have a celebratory dinner and/or action, the proceeds from the dinner and/or action will be used to off-set expenses and costs for the awards. Additional monies beyond the expenses should go into the Hall of Fame Account for future awardee expenses. (Neil Simon, Chair – HoF/LAA)
- F. **Motion:** The Hall of Fame Committee is requesting that the BoD alter last meeting's vote for moving the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Presidential Recognition Awards from an every-other year schedule to an Annual schedule. The Hall of Fame Award will remain a semi-annual award. (Neil Simon, Chair – HoF/LAA)
- G. **Motion:** Allocate \$30,000 from the reserves to facilitate the marketing and branding of the USJF Summer Nationals. (Mitchell Palacio, President)

**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. 2025 USJF Nationals - Honolulu, Hawaii – Update
  - i. Nathan Lee, 50<sup>th</sup> State President
- B. **Future Fall & Spring Meeting Location**
  - i. Yudanshakai interested in having the Spring or Fall meetings
    - Fall 2025  
Las Vegas  
October/November 2025
    - Spring 2026  
Honolulu, Hawaii - JBBH  
Late April/May 2026
    - Fall 2026  
Las Vegas  
October/November 2026
    - Spring 2027 - Intermountain  
Location: Boise, Id.  
April/May 2027

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**XI. REMINDERS**

- A. All committee members and other interested USJF members are welcome to attend USJF committee and board meetings. USJF meetings are open. Committee Chairpersons and Yudanshakai Presidents should, as a matter of course, routinely communicate all USJF meeting schedules and related National Office information/notices to all dojos.
- B. In accordance with the USJF by-laws, the deadline for member agenda item requests is 45 days prior to the meeting.