

UNITED STATES JUDO FEDERATION BOARD OF EXAMINERS
FALL MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, November 8, 2025
8:00 am to 10:30 am

Sunset Station Hotel Casino, Henderson, Nevada

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER, SEATING OF DELEGATES: QUORUM 0821 HRS

25 YDKs: 21 voting eligible, 16 ydks represented; 16 – voting: 50th State, Central Coast, Daiheigen, Florida, Florida State, Hawaii, Hokka, Hudson, Intermountain, Konan, Nanka, Niagara, Northwest, Pacific Southwest, San Joaquin, and Shufu
50 max votes: 35 – votes represented, quorum met. 15 – votes unclaimed

Delegates:

Matsuo Takeda/Chairperson	Robert Brink/50 th State	Edward Hanashiro/50 th State
Sharlyne Palacio/Central Coast	Davin Tillman/Central Coast	Dr. David Matsumoto/Daiheigen
Bryan Matsuoka/Daiheigen	Dr. Alberto Fernandez/Florida	Pedro Kolychkin/Florida State
Gerardo Tello/Florida State	Dr. Richard Nakatsu/Hawaii	Lauren Yoshida/Hawaii
Dr. Harvey Takeda/Hokka	Dr. Anthony Catanese/Hudson	Robin Rosenthal/Hudson
Dr. Bevin Daglen/Intermountain	Joshua Kindelberger/Intermountain	Christopher Reid/Konan
Thomas Sheehan /Konan	Keith Chu/Nanka	Gary Goltz/Nanka
Janet Ashida Johnson/Niagara	Chase Morinaka/Northwest	Calvin Terada/Northwest
Ronald Suggs/Pacific SW	Hannah Tsutsui/San Joaquin	Dr. Larry Tsutsui/San Joaquin J. Miki
Takemori/Shufu	Kevin Tamai/Shufu	

Observers:

Rome Acopan Jr., Michelle Burlison, Alexander Campo, Hector Estevez, John Floyd, Dr. Charles Medani, Hayward Nishioka, Eric Spears, Kristopher Watanabe, Terri Waibel, and Robert Fukuda

II. WELCOME BY CHAIR- Matsuo Mac Takeda

- Addition to agenda by Promotion committee: Motion to reduce time and grade junior Shodan requirements. Reduce 2 years to 1 year. Motion by David Matsumoto.

Moment of silence for all who have passed.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA. November 8, 2025, in Henderson, Nevada

- Motion Kevin Tamai. 2nd ? Passed with addition of Junior Shodan promotion requirement proposal by the Promotion Committee under new business.

IV. APPROVAL OF April 25, 2025 MINUTES – Miami, Florida (Attachment 1 -Promotion committee minutes)

- Motion Tom Sheehan. 2nd Kevin Tamai. Passed as written.

V. PROMOTION COMMITTEE REPORT OF MEETING.

- Kevin Tamai, Chair Report

- 1 shodan, 1 nidan, 10 godan and rokudan, 4 shichidan. All passed.
- Form 20 (some yudanshakai are using the old form) Personal reflection essays: a lot of applicants did not submit.
- Josh K: Task force to investigate promotion requirements if time and grade criteria for junior Shodan is reduced to 1 year.

Motion to approve report: accepted. Brink motion. Josh 2nd.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Special Needs Judo Program report by Miki Takemori. She will be providing an update on what her committee has accomplished. Fall and balance, taisabaki, solo kata and autism spectrum disorder will be discussed on how Judo will help Special Needs individuals.
 - Autism spectrum disorder: Serena Gutridge. Module almost complete.
 - Alex Campbell: IT background. Will help with implementing the modules online
 - January 10, 2026, Riverside Judo Club: Pan American Adaptive judo event. Brian Money.
 - Falls and Balance: Chris Watanabe Fresno Judo Club.
 - 10-week program 1x/week
 - Taisabaki
 - C Palacio.
 - Solo kata and body movement
 - Parkinson's module
 - Ready for publishing online.
 - Casey Pedro: pediatric crawling, walking, balance
 - Takemori interest in starting a USJF program involving pediatrics
 - Mission statement: Provide USJF membership educational opportunities and help judo grow.
 - Contact for additional information or inquiries: mtakemori@aol.com
 - Teachers' Committee: request to place special needs and adaptive judo to be placed into the Teacher's Committee.
 - Motion to accept report. Approved.
- Self-Defense Committee Report on the progress of the Self-Defense Certification-Chair Neil Simon
 - Mitchell Palacio: Mitchell took on the task of revising the Self Defense module.
 - Current self-defense committee will continue to have input on revisions. Tentatively complete module by the Spring 2026 USJF national meeting.
 - Self Defense Certification: Remain active.
 - Motion to accept report: Approved.
 - It was mentioned that Chair Neil Simon was ill.
- Move to Board of Directors to amend the start date for the annual membership increase \$80 to \$90

to September 1, 2026

- Amend the start date to September 1, 2026.
 - Family membership/Life membership: Needs discussion in BOD.
- EXCO will form an Ad Hoc Committee. According to our President, the committee has not convened yet.
Postpone until the Fall meeting since it is a by-law change.
 - Motion (Rome): open for discussion
 - Keep smaller Yudanshakai involved in USJF organization. Provide opportunity to have a voice in USJF; provide opportunity to vote.
 - Fall November 2025: Discuss a change to bylaws.
 - Continue discussion at the BOD.
 - Motion accepted and passed to move to the BOD.
 - Chris Reid, Alex Campo, Hannah Tsutsui on the committee. Will present at the Spring USJF National Meeting.
- Report from Janet Johnson on the move to amend the USJF Senior requirement matrix. She was to receive any inquiries on the revision/questions regarding USJF Senior requirement matrix. The inquiries were to be sent to Janet at Judojanet@gmail.com. Janet did not receive any inquiries on the revision/questions on the USJF Senior requirement matrix.
 - Update white to Godan senior promotion rank requirements.
 - Online for review pending motion to pass final updates at November 2025 meeting.
 - Kata's requirements have changed for the promotional ranks.
 - If approved by the Board of Examiners, the promotional handbook must be revised.
 - Josh: no feedback since Spring Meeting on promotion senior requirement matrix. Will present to pass amend USJF Senior requirement matrix at 2026 Spring meeting.
 - National office will email and distribute the Promotion Senior Requirement Matrix for review.
 - Motion to table until Spring 2026. Motion accepted.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- Motion to update the USJF Rank Requirement Recommendation Handbook Section VI page 1 of 21 with the two changes from the last BOE meeting. First one was the changes to the promotion fees. Second one was the D, Veterans & Kata change. BOE passed both changes. Tom Sheehan.
- Motion accepted.

Reason: The USJF Rank Requirement Handbook needs updating the website to provide members with the latest information.

- Promotion Committee bullet points: David Matsumoto
 - That USJF Promotion Committee will provide clear and precise promotion guidelines and a checklist for promotion applications
 - Further, that prior to the next USJF PC meeting, the USJF PC will conduct seminars with all YDK Promotion Committee chairs and all other interested parties concerning the application requirements.
 - Further, USJF PC members will be assigned as advisors to YDKs that do not have representation on requirements and procedures.
 - Further, that an announcement be made to all members of the USJF, YDK presidents, and YDK promotion committee chairpersons that the USJF PC may no longer consider for promotion incomplete or untimely submitted application at their semi-annual meetings effective the Spring 2026 meeting.
 - Motion to recommend to the BOE
 - That the USJF PC will develop and disseminate clear and concise guideline and a checklist for promotion applications
 - Further, that prior to the next USJF PC meeting, the USJF PC will conduct seminars with all YDK promotion committee chairs and all other interested parties concerning the application requirements.
 - Further, that USJF PC members will be assigned as advisor to YDKs that do not have representation on the USJF PC, and to other YDKs who request so, to advise concerning promotion application requirements and procedures.
 - Further, that an announcement be made to all members of the USJF, YDK presidents, and YDK promotion committee chairpersons that the USJF PC may no longer consider for promotion incomplete or untimely submitted applications at their semi-annual meeting effective the Spring 2026 meeting.
 - DISCUSSION: Ed Hanashiro: Concerns that Form 20 is the sole basis on promotional decisions. Kevin Tamai states that purely based on Form 20 on recent promotions would not have passed only based on Form 20. Additional discussions and information provided during the Promotional committee was considered.
 - MOTION TO ACCEPT: 1 abstention. 1 nay. Motion passed.
- Addition to agenda by Promotion committee: Motion to amend promotion requirement for junior shodan: reduce time and grade junior Shodan requirements. Reduce 2 years to 1 year. Motion by David Matsumoto.
 - Decline in Shodan promotions since COVID years. Increase in Godan and up promotions.
 - Goal of increasing Shodan promotions
 - Minimum age 14 years old. Time and grade 1 year non-competitor/competitor. Competitor 6 months 5 points. Competitor 3 months 10 points. Batsugun 5 ikkyu opponent wins.
 - 2x/week practice minimum
 - No changes to moral and good character
 - No changes to kata requirements: Nage no kata 3 sets

- Modified kata 3 techniques per set (3 sets); choice of technique, 1 side only. Determined by instructor and student.
- Motion by Takemori: to separate the modified kata requirements from the Junior Shodan requirements.
 - Accept motion to amend junior shodan promotion requirement to separate the modified kata requirement. Motion accepted.
- Approved the Junior Shodan requirement in principle without the modified kata requirements.
- Ad-Hoc Committee was formed to look at the modified kata requirements for junior Shodan requirement recommendation. The members of the Ad-Hoc committee are Chair Janet Johnson, Frances Glaze, Diane Jackson and Karen Nagai. They will be making a report at the Spring Meeting.

VIII. **NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION**

- May 8, 2026, at Honolulu, Hawaii
- Motion and second to adjourn. Motion accepted. 10:30am

