UNITED STATES JUDO FEDERATION BOARD OF EXAMINERS SPRING MEETING 2026

Friday, May 8, 2026

8:00 am to 11:30 am

Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii

MINUTES

25 YDKs: 21 voting eligible, 16 yudanshakais represented

16 – voting: 50th State, Central Coast, Chicago, Daiheigen, Florida State, Hawaii, Hokka, Hudson, Intermountain, Konan, Nanka, Niagara, Northwest, Pacific Southwest, San Joaquin, Shufu

51 max votes:

34 – votes represented, quorum met

17– votes unclaimed

Delegates:

Matsuo Takeda/Chairperson

Robert Brink/50th State; Edward Hanashiro/50th State; Serena Gutridge/Central Coast; Davin Tillman/Central Coast; Ann Berends/Chicago; Eiko Shepherd/Chicago; Brent Goodall/Daiheigen; Dr. David Matsumoto/Daiheigen; Alexander Campo/Florida State; Scott Morifuji/Hawaii; Lauren Yoshida/Hawaii; Dr. Harvey Takeda/Hokka; Robin Rosenthal/Hudson; Bret Gertje/Intermountain; Noble Morinaka/Intermountain; Christopher Reid/Konan; Thomas Sheehan/Konan; Janet Johnson/Niagara; Rod Conduragis/Northwest; Calvin Terada/Northwest; William Caldwell/Pacific SW; Dr. Larry Tsutsui/San Joaquin; Hannah Tsutsui/San Joaquin; Kevin Tamai/Shufu

Observers:

Aaron Castillo, Dr. Steven Isono, Dr. Diba Mani, Gene Nakashima, Rolann Regidor, Terri Waibel, Robert Fukuda

- CALL TO ORDER SEATING OF DELEGATES: 8:19 AM Quorum
- WELCOME BY CHAIR- Matsuo Mac Takeda

  Moment of silence for all who have passed.
- ADOPTION OF AGENDA. May 8, 2026, Spring Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii
    - ACCEPTED WITH NO CHANGES.
- APPROVAL OF November 8, 2025, Fall Meeting Minutes – Henderson, Nevada
    - APPROVED AS WRITTEN
- PROMOTION COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT- Chair Kevin Tamai.
    - APPROVED AS READ
- UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. The Special Needs Committee has been divided into two subsets that both fall under the Teacher Committee. Miki Takemori chairs the Physical/Balance Committee and Janet Johnson chairs the Neurodivergence Committee.

1. Parkinson and Falls/Balance presentation will be covered by Alex Campo. PARKINSON MODULE IS COMPLETED
2. Neurodivergent/Autism spectrum disorder presentation by Serena Gutridge ASD MATERIALS PRESENTED.

b. Self-Defense Committee Report on the progress of the Self-Defense Certification- Chair Joshua Kindelberger. Self Defense program will be presented at the Spring Meeting in Hawaii. CURRENTLY IN PROCESS, WILL TAKE 6 MONTHS REBUILD. ADJUST THE PROGRAM TO BE FOCUS ON APPLICATION OF SELF DEFENSE. COMMITTEE IS UNDER REBUILD AND SEEKING MEMBERS TO ASSIST IN THE PROCESS

c. Promotion Committee Tasks. CURRENTLY ALL TRAINING TASKS FOR FILLING OUT THE FORM 2O ARE ON HOLD UNTIL FORM 20 REVISIONS ARE ALL COMPLETED. NEXT FALL 2026 PROJECTED TO HAVE FORM 2O COMPLETED.

1. Further. That prior to next USJF PC meeting, the USJF PC will conduct seminars with all YDK Promotion Committee chairs and all interested parties concerning the application requirements.

2. Further, USJF PC members will be assigned as advisors to YDKs that do not have representation on requirements and procedures. and to other YDKs who request so, to advise concerning promotion application requirements and procedures.

3. 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.

4. That the USJF PC will develop and disseminate clear and concise guidelines and checklists for promotion applications.

5. Further, that prior to the next USJF meeting, the USJF PC will conduct seminars with all YDK promotion committee chairs and all other interested parties concerning the application requirements.to YDK that do not have representation on the USJF PC. And other YDKs who request so, to advise concerning promotion application requirements and procedures.

6. Further, that USJF PC will be assigned as advisor concerning promotion applications and procedures.

d. EXCO formed an Ad Hoc Committee. The committee members appointed were Chris Reid, Alex Campo and Hannah Tsutsui. Since the change to keep smaller Yudanshakai involved in the USJF organization by giving them a vote is a bylaw change, it must be approved by the Board of Directors. The Ad Hoc Committee will present their report at the spring meeting in Hawaii.

1. PASSED WITH AN AMENDMENT TO HAVE A 4 YEAR TRIAL PERIOD TO SEE IF GIVING THE ONE VOTE PROVIDES MORE PARTICIPATION AT THE NATIONAL MEETINGS. THIS WILL NOT AFFECT THE PROMOTION AUTHORITY FOR THE YUDANSHAKAI.

e. 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.

1. The matrix for white to Godan senior promotion rank requirements is being posted online.

2. Please note that Kata requirements have changed for the promotional ranks.

3. If approved by the Board of Examiners, the promotional handbook must be revised.

4. Josh: no feedback since Spring Meeting 2025 on promotion senior requirement matrix. Will be posted online.

MATRIX ON WEBSITE BUT A WORKING DOCUMENT ONLINE WITH ONGOING REVISIONS. M/S TO BRING IT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR DISCUSSION.

f. 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.

g. Rational: Decline in Shodan promotions since COVID years. Increase in Godan and up promotions. Goal of increasing Shodan promotions

h. Criteria:

1. 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.

i. 2x/week practice minimum

1. No changes to moral and good character

2. No changes to kata requirements: Nage no kata 3 sets

3. Modified kata 3 techniques per set (3 sets); choice of technique, 1 side only. Determined by instructor and student.

j. Motion by Miki Takemori: to separate the modified kata requirements from the Junior Shodan requirements. Accepted with motion to amend junior shodan promotion requirement to separate the modified kata requirement. Motion accepted.

k. Approved the Junior Shodan requirement in principle without the modified kata requirements.

l. Ad-Hoc Committee 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 2026 Meeting.

M/S TO ACCEPT THE MODIFIED KATA REQUIREMENTS WITH THE AMENDMENT TO NOT INCLUDE BATSUGUN.

NEW BUSINESS

a. The concept presented at the Fall meeting is about replacing the junior award trophies at the Summer Nationals with traveling banners that every participant could take advantage of for photo opportunities highlighting the morals and values of the USJF.

   Rationale: The awards previously given are nearly impossible to select in an unbiased, truly worthy way and be able to be presented in a timely manner at the tournament. Nobody on the JYDS wants to try to make the trophy selections again.

   FORWARDED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR APPROVAL SINCE CHANGE IN USE OF FUNDS.

b. **Motion:** To adopt a minimum instructional (Teacher) certification (current) requirement for promotion eligibility within the United States Judo Federation for the rank of Sandan and higher.
   a. Effective upon approval and implementation by the USJF Promotion Committee, all candidates seeking promotion to Sandan or higher must possess and maintain, at minimum, a valid USJF Teacher Certification (or equivalent certification recognized by the USJF Promotion Committee) in good standing at the time of application and promotion review.
   b. The purpose of this requirement is to promote instructional competency, uphold national teaching standards, reinforce athlete safety and risk management principles, and ensure that senior-ranked judoka demonstrates continued commitment to the educational and developmental responsibilities associated with Advanced rank.

   REFERRED TO PROMOTION COMMITTEE T0 REVIEW AND EVALUATE THIS MOTION. A REPORT WILL BE GIVEN AT THE 2026 FALL MEETING

c. Ms. Berends will be addressing the BOE and will provide information and updates on KDCS progress, new/upgraded programs etc.

   SHE PROVIDED THE INFORMATION ON KATA CERTIFICATION, TESTING, JUDGING, FEES AND POINTS FOR PLACING IN THE COMPETITIONS.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

- Las Vegas
- Meeting date to be determine.

- **ADJOURN**