

## USA JUDO Public Statement

Recently various individuals have made internet postings and commentary regarding allegations of misconduct by Mr. Fletcher Thornton, a director, officer and official of USA Judo. These matters pertain to incidents alleged to have occurred in 1977, 1978 and 1979. Assertions have been made that USA Judo has not given these matters appropriate attention.

USA Judo takes these matters very seriously, including the circumstances of those who have made the allegations, of those who have commented upon them, and of Mr. Thornton.

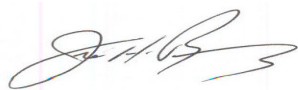
The United States Olympic Committee took note of the allegations and requested a response from USA Judo. USA Judo has reported on these matters to the USOC.

USA Judo legal counsel was directed to review the matters, including the background of how USA Judo has addressed these matters in the past.

Based on that review, it is evident that:

- (a) An Ad Hoc Committee was appointed in 1982 by then USA Judo President Frank Fullerton to investigate the allegations. The Ad Hoc Committee received a variety of information during its investigatory work in 1982 and 1983, including as provided to it in an in-person hearing held in October 1982 at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs at which time individuals were allowed to meet with the Ad Hoc Committee and to provide information.
- (b) In March of 1983 the Ad Hoc Committee sought to have the persons who brought forth the complaints against Mr. Thornton regarding the incidents to provide further and verifying information. The individuals declined to do so.
- (c) In April 1983 the Ad Hoc Committee reported to the USA Judo Standard and Certification Committee that under the circumstances it could not recommend any action based on the investigation due to unconfirmed allegations, modifications to the allegations, the lack of any testimony by an eye witness or participants and the failure by the individuals involved to cooperate with the Ad Hoc Committee. The Ad Hoc Committee recommended dismissal of the charges.
- (d) The Standard and Certification Committee concurred with this recommendation, which it reported to the USA Judo Board of Directors at its April 21, 1983 annual meeting. The USA Judo Board of Directors accepted this recommendation. Therefore, the matter was dismissed.
- (e) There is no evidence that the persons who brought the complaint against Mr. Thornton relative to the incidents in 1977-1979 objected to the dismissal or sought any further relief.
- (f) There is no evidence that any complaints regarding the incidents in 1977-1979 were filed with the police or other public authorities by the persons who filed the complaints with USA Judo.
- (g) The allegations against Mr. Thornton pertaining to the 1977-1979 incidents have arisen periodically since 1983 and the dismissal in 1983 has been reviewed by the USA Judo Law and Legislation Committee on several occasions, most recently in 2005. The consistent conclusion has been that, due to the dismissal and lack of any appeal in 1983 or subsequent years, the matter was resolved in accordance with procedural due process.

Therefore, USA Judo has determined that it should not at this time affirmatively pursue these allegations further. However, complaints filed with USA Judo under the provisions of Article 14 of the USA Judo Bylaws, which provisions require that complaints be under oath, will be processed in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw Article 14 and allow a hearing panel to administer matters as required and appropriate.



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