



USA Judo Uniform Sanctioning Procedures

Overview

The Amateur Sports Act of 1978, passed by the United States Congress provided the authority for each sport to have its own governing body. USA Judo was organized as the National Governing Body (NGB) for Judo in the United States. The existing amateur judo sports organizations USJA and USJF were both made group A members of USA Judo at that time. USA Judo is a member of the United States Olympic Committee, the Pan American Judo Union, and the International Judo Federation.

A sanction is primarily a mechanism of identifying that an event is covered by insurance. The sanctioning program is designed to:

- 1) Provide liability insurance for the event,
- 2) Protect the amateur status of athletes participating in Judo events by verifying membership
- 3) Provide minimum standards for conducting an event. This document describes the sanctioning program, and gives details of how to apply for, obtain, and fulfill the obligations of a sanction.

Who Sanctions Judo Events?

In addition to individual and “at-large” members, USA Judo is composed of the following member “Groups” or organizations:

- 1) Group A: USJF and USJA
- 2) Group B: These are the State Governing Bodies (SGB) for Judo in each State and the District of Columbia. Most states have an active Group B. Organization. The SGB’s govern Judo on the State level under USA Judo’s guidance.
- 3) Group C: Organizations which conduct National Sport Programs. Examples are the National collegiate Judo Association and the Marine Judo Association.

USA Judo organizes and sanctions National Championships and other national and International Judo events, many of which are used as partial criteria for selection of teams which represent the United States in events like the Senior World Championships, Junior World Championships, the Pan American Games and the Olympic Games. Only members of USA Judo are eligible to participate in such events. Currently these events are the Senior National Judo Championships, National Junior Olympic Judo Championships, National Ladder Tournament, US International Invitational Judo Championships, US Junior, Juvenile, and Youth, International Invitational Judo Championships and Trials to select teams to represent the United States in international competition. In general events open to USA Judo members only are:

- 1) Events funded wholly or in part through the United States Olympic Committee or special funding.
- 2) point tournaments.



3) Olympic Festivals.

USJF, USJA and the SGB's also have authority to issue sanctions and do so for local, statewide, and regional events. In 1984 USA Judo, USJF and USJA and the SGB's agreed that all sanctioned Judo Tournaments, except for those listed above, will be OPEN events. This means that all members of USA Judo, USJF or USJA are eligible to participate in such events, regardless of which organization sanctions the event. USA Judo will also issue sanctions to Judo organizers located in an area which does not have an active State Governing Body.

Terms and Conditions for Sanctioned Events

This administrative body issues sanctions for Judo events. A sanction is a confirmation that insurance applies. Representatives cannot attend individual tournaments and clinics. Therefore, this body will not assume the function of directing, policing, or overseeing the individual operations and procedures of these events. It is understood that each tournament and clinic site is different and presents unique problems concerning administration, officiating, mats, equipment, competitors, and divisions, etc. However, the Tournament or Clinic director, in consideration of receipt of the sanction agrees to abide by these terms and conditions to the fullest extent possible.

1. All Sanctioned events must be amateur judo events only.

Sanctions will only be issued for Judo events. Events that combine Judo, Ju-Jitsu and other Martial Arts Competition in the same venue shall not be sanctioned. This insurance coverage available to the individuals, club, and event organizers is limited to the sport of Judo.

2. All Sanctioned or Co-Sanctioned or co-sanctioned events will be open (except for tournaments excluded by the 1984 agreement.)

A. All events sanctioned will be open to members of USA Judo, USJF, and USJA
B. A Current membership card or proof of registration from USA Judo, USJF and USJA will be required to participate and must be displayed to the registration personnel at the time that the contestant registers. If an individual cannot produce their current membership card or proof of current membership, they must purchase membership in USA Judo, USJF, or USJA in order to participate. When the application for membership and appropriate fees are submitted to the respective National Office, and if prior membership is confirmed, the individual's membership fee will be refunded to them. Otherwise, the application and fee will be processed and a new membership card will be issue.

3. All Participants must be registered members.



All US Participants must be members of USA Judo, USJF or USJA. If your event is open to foreign participants, they must be members of their National Governing Body (NGB) for Judo as recognized by the International Judo Federation (IJF). All US participants must have membership insurance in effect with their parent Judo organization which includes a minimum limit of \$25,000.00 in excess accident medical benefits. **THIS IS AN INSURANCE COMPANY REQUIREMENT AND FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY AFFECT THE LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THIS EVENT AND YOU'RE RIGHT TO OBTAIN FUTURE SANCTIONS.**

Procedures must be established to check membership of all participants. Participants will be allowed to register as a member prior to the start of any sanctioned event. These membership registrations will be covered by excess accident medical insurance for Judo. The official conducting the event must send all new membership to the national office within **FIVE** days of the completion of the event. This is important to confirm insurance coverage. No membership registration may be taken once registrations have closed. A tournament official must verify that all membership registration procedures are followed for any new membership issued at the event.

Membership and current insurance may be verified by the individual's current membership card or by official rosters issued by USA Judo, USJF or USJA National Offices. Although membership insurance is optional for life members, it is mandatory for all who participate in sanctioned events in accordance with our insurance company requirements. Therefore, current insurance must be verified for all life members who participate in the event.

4. Properly Designed Entry Form

A properly designed entry form must be used. The entry form must contain at a minimum:

- Adequate space for participant's personal information.
- Ability to record verification of current membership and insurance.
- Categories of competition (Junior, Senior, Masters, Team, Shiai, Kata, etc.) including eligibility requirements for each category.
- Divisions within each category: age, age-weight, weight only, skill level (white, brown, black belts ect..), If divisions are to be combined together or split up based on the age and or weight range of the entrants, state this in a prominent place.
- The elimination system to used (Single, Double, Modified Double, Repechage, Double-Repechage, Pool ect.)
- The schedule of events, including registration, weigh-in, roll call, and competition times.



- Any IJF rules that are modified for local or regional competition.
- Sanction number (s) and name (s) of the organization (s) issuing the sanction.

5. Warning, Waiver and release of Liability Clause

The standard release jointly approved by USA Judo, USJF and USJA and their respective insurance companies must be signed by all participants (unless an alternate release has been specifically approved). This release may be made part of the tournament entry form or it can be signed separately. In the case of minors, it must additionally be signed by their parents or legal guardians. Our insurance company requires the Tournament or Clinic Director to retain the signed release for 5 years after the completion of the event and if necessary, provide the insurance company with this document in the event of a participant injury claim resulting in a suit against the insured (s). If the event is open belt competition, i.e. weight class only, the entry form should require a black belt coach's certification.

6. Contest Rules of the international Judo federation (IJF) are to be followed for all sanctioned events.

This is required by the IJF. If there are any rules, planned deviations or exceptions to the standard rules other than for unique safety considerations at local events, they must be approved prior to the date of the event. Co-sanctioned events may require rule modifications to be in compliance with that organization's standards.

NOTE: It is standard procedure in the United States that contestants competing in junior divisions up to and including 12 years of age are not allowed to use Shime-waza. All senior divisions are normally permitted to use Shime-waza and Kansetsu-waza juniors who elect to enter senior divisions must understand that they do so at their own risk and should be allowed the use of Shime-waza and Kansetsu-waza.

7. Adequate mats should be provided.

Regulation size contest area should be used. If sufficient mats are not available, then the smaller ones should be used for junior competition. The safety zone on the outside border of each contest area and between adjacent contest areas should always be of regulation size. The mats should be firm under foot, have property of absorbing sufficient shock, and have a surface that is non/binding and free of folds and gaps. All mats should be inspected before competition or practice begins.

8. Adequate emergency medical facilities and personnel should be provided.

A medical doctor or other certified first aid personnel should be in attendance at all tournaments. A medical area with emergency supplies and ice should be provided. The



telephone number of the local ambulance service and the location of the nearest hospital should be known. (ESTABLISH AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL PROCEDURE).

9. Qualified mat officials should be used.

Certified referees should be used on every mat. If a sufficient number of certified referees are not available, then one certified referee should be assigned to supervise each mat area.

10. Additional equipment and facilities.

The following additional equipment and facilities are recommended for all tournaments: Each contest are should be equipped with scoreboards that are visible to the spectators facing the scoring tables, stopwatches for both contact time and Osea-Komi, gongs or bean bags for indicating ending time, red and white flags for the judges, and red and white belts (sashes) for the competitors. A suitable head table and public address systems should be available. Every attempt should be made to create a restricted area for the competition. A restricted area (s) is that area limited to players, officials and other authorized personnel. The general public should be restricted from this area.

11. Minimum standards

These guidelines are established as minimum standards. Any action taken by the Tournament Director to improve or enhance the quality of the tournament and provide a greater level of safety for the participants and spectators is highly encouraged.

12. Tournament report

FIVE days after the competition of the event, a report should be filed will all of the Sanctioning Authorities. This report shall include the "Report of Sanction Event" form as well as copies of the "Injury Report" form with a copy of the entry form, and waiver and release form for each injured person. Failure to follow this procedure could jeopardize future sanctions.

13. Forwarding of Membership registrations and Monies

With FIVE days after the completion of the event, all of the membership registration forms and money collected should be forwarded to the National Office.

Address for submitting sanction application



USA Judo One Olympic Plaza Suite 505 Colorado Springs, CO 80909	Sanction Fees: Up to 100 Participants \$50.00 101-500 Participants: \$75.00 501 and Above Participants \$100.00
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Requirements and Application Procedures for Obtaining a Sanction

National and International Events:

USA Judo the National Governing Body for Judo issues sanction for National and international events. The events are held under IJF rules, with limited modifications granted for Junior and Masters Categories. Only the National Governing Body and State Governing Bodies (SGB) may host these events. SGB's wishing to host this type of event must present a "bid" proposal to USA Judo giving details of their plans. Once USA Judo grants the SGB the right to host a National or International event, the SGB must enter into a contractual agreement with USA Judo and apply for a sanction. Details of bid procedure and the tournament contract are given in the USA Judo's Code of Operation.

Local/State/Regional Events

USA Judo, SGB's, issue sanctions for local, state and regional events held in their jurisdiction.

Application for Sanction from USA Judo and SGB

Only registered judo clubs may apply for a sanction. To receive a sanction a properly completed and signed Application for Sanction, draft copy of the entry form, draft copy of the general information sheet, draft copy of the waiver and release form, and appropriate administrative fee, must be submitted at least TEN Days prior to the event. The entry form, the general information sheet and the waiver and release form will be reviewed for accuracy, completeness, conflict with the other events, and compliance with all other sanction requirements. If there are problems, the club officials will be informed of any modifications that are required. When the entry form, the general information sheet, and the waiver and release form are in full compliance with the sanction requirements, the sanction application is properly completed and signed, and appropriate fees are paid a sanction will be issued and liability insurance coverage will be in effect.

The sanction number (s) and name (S) of the sanctioning authorities shall be printed on the entry form when it is distributed to the public. A final copy of the entry form as well as any corrected forms that are distributed to the public must be submitted to each of the sanctioning authorities for their permanent records. The applicant agrees to abide by all the terms and conditions for sanctioned events. These terms and conditions are listed below, and are attached to the sanction application. They will be provided once again to the organizers when the sanction is issued.



Limited Modifications:

Sanctions may be issued for events which have the following modifications to the UJF rules:

Safety zone Size:

The IJF requires a safety zone of at least 3 meters on the outside border of the contest area and at least 4 meters between contest areas. This rule was adopted in 1994 to account for the mat work rule change which allowed contestants to continue in mat work until both are completely outside of the contest area. For local events where creating such a large safety area is impossible because of venue size restrictions, lack of available mats, or for other reasonable causes, organizers may conduct their event using pre-1994 mat work rules and safety zone sizes, provided that the tournament information clearly states that such a modification will be in effect at the event.

Shime- and Kansetsu-Waza Age Limits:

It is standard procedure in the United States that contestants competing in Junior divisions up to and including 12 years of age are not allowed to use Shime-waza (chokes) or Kansetsu-waza (arm locks). Contestants competing in junior divisions up and including to 16 years of age are not allowed to use Kansetsu-waza. All senior divisions are normally permitted to use Shime-waza and Kansetsu-waza. Juniors who elect to enter senior divisions must understand that they do so at their own risk and should be allowed the use of Shime-waza and Kansetsu-waza. Event organizers may also limit the use of Shime-waza or Kansetsu-waza in novice-only divisions in the interest of safety.

Event Organizers must specify in the sanction application and on the event information sheet if any of the above or other rule changes will be in effect at the event.