



# UNITED STATES JUDO ASSOCIATION

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## USJA SANCTIONING PROGRAM

**Purpose and Policy:** The purpose of the USJA Sanctioning Program is to encourage more tournaments and other events in every state and in every region of our country, and to provide more opportunities for USJA members to participate. It is a simple fact that without tournaments, judo does not grow. More tournaments are needed to produce future champions. For our children and for all competitors, we must see to it that at least two tournaments are held in every state or region every month. These do not have to be large events - they can be held right in your own club to start. Small tournaments grow into large and popular events. If you do not presently host regular tournaments, start out small and watch your attendance grow!

In accordance with Section 206 of Title II of the Amateur Sports Act of 1978, any amateur sports organization that conducts competition for its members only shall have exclusive jurisdiction over such competition. Consequently, to run a USJA tournament or any other event, exclusively for USJA members, all you need is a sanction.

In addition to the provisions of the Amateur Sports Act of 1978, the United States National Governing Body (NGB) for judo, the United States Judo, Inc. (USJI) provides authority for open events in which members of the United States Judo Association (USJA), United States Judo, Inc. (USJI), and the United States Judo Federation (USJF) are all eligible to participate. USJA members can participate in any open tournament or event sanctioned by the USJA, USJI, or USJF and is covered by their USJA medical insurance for Judo.

USJA policy is to conduct open events so that members of all national judo organizations can participate. We believe this to be in accordance with the fundamental ideal of "Mutual Welfare and Benefit" as expressed by Dr. Jigoro Kano, the founder of judo. The USJI has also ruled that all of its tournaments, other than their national and international events, would be open to members of the USJA and USJF. There are now more open tournaments than ever before.

The USJA sanctioning program provides \$1,000,000 general liability coverage for your tournament or clinic officials. This coverage is explained further in this publication. The provisions of our policy require that all U.S. participants be members of the USJA, USJI or USJF, and that they have membership insurance that includes excess medical benefits. USJA Life Members must have USJA membership insurance in effect for this purpose. If a tournament is open to foreign competitors, they must be current members of their National Governing Body (NGB) for judo as recognized by the International Judo Federation (IJF). It is your responsibility as a USJA tournament clinic director to see that these provisions are complied with at your sanctioned event.

Participants can pay their USJA fees and register as USJA members prior to the start of any sanctioned event (USJA, USJF or USJI), and be covered by USJA accident insurance for judo. The tournament director must send all new memberships to the USJA National Headquarters within five (5) days of the completion of the event. Any accidents or injuries sustained at the event that require medical attention must be reported when the new memberships are submitted. No new USJA membership registrations can be accepted once an event has begun.

**USJA Application for Sanction:** Only USJA Chartered Clubs (five or more members registered with the USJA) can apply for an exclusive USJA sanction. Non-chartered clubs may apply for a USJA co-sanction in conjunction with a sanction from their parent national judo organization (USJI or USJF) by sending a copy of your approved sanction to the USJA Headquarters with your sanction.

To receive your sanction, you need to fill out the USJA Application for Sanction Form and send it to the USJA National Headquarters with the sanction fee for each event. The USJA will approve your sanction only if Section 4, Number 4, on the application for sanction form is complied with, or no sanction will be issued. Your application for sanction must be received by the USJA in advance of the scheduled date of your event for your sanction and liability coverage to be in effect.

**Standard Release:** All participants, their parents and guardians, as appropriate, must sign the Warning, Waiver, and Release of Liability provided by the USJA, USJF, and USJI (unless an alternate release has been specifically approved for the event). This release may be made part of your tournament entry form, or it may be signed separately. It has been developed especially for sport participation, and its reliability has been proven many times in court case precedents. It is furnished to you free of charge for your protection. It is the responsibility of the tournament/clinic director to retain the signed release, and if necessary provide the Insurance Company and the USJA with this form in the event of a participant bodily injury claim resulting in a suit against the insured.

**USJA Liability Coverage for Officials:** All officials (including non-member volunteers) in USJA sanctioned events are covered by our \$1,000,000 general liability policy without any additional fee or charge. Note that in dual-sanctioned events (sanctioned by more than one judo organization); this coverage will be coordinated with the policy limits of the other judo organization(s).

**Certificate of Liability Insurance:** Each USJA Chartered Club, upon request, receives a Certificate of Liability. This proof of coverage extends to all USJA sanctioned events for which a sanction number is reserved prior to the start of the event. For this reason, the USJA will not normally forward a separate certificate of liability insurance for an individually sanctioned event unless such a certificate is requested for a specific reason.

**Additional Insured:** Certificates of Insurance naming an additional insured for the base \$1,000,000 liability coverage will be issued upon request. Except in certain circumstances, there is no charge for these certificates. If a charge will be necessary, you will be advised in advance and be required to remit payment (wire transfer to USJA or our insurance broker) before the certificate will be released. Circumstances where a charge will be imposed: Event facility or other contract requires certain insurance provisions not already in the USJA policy, requirements for which the insurer must charge a premium, a certificate must be re-issued for any cause not the fault of USJA or its insurance representatives.

**Promotion for Your Event:** Your USJA sanctioned tournament can be listed on the USJA Web Site, under "Event Listings", provided to you free of charge. Your application for sanction includes information on camps, certification clinics and tournaments (for referee, coach and examiner certification), so be sure to include this information in your sanction request. For this reason, you should sanction your events and post them to the USJA Web Site well in advance. The USJA will also do its best to publicize larger events and their results in our electronic magazines *American Judo and Growing Judo*. Please send your results and tournament photos to the USJA National Headquarters for this purpose.

*The USJA continues to bring you the best possible sanctioning program at the lowest possible cost.*