



December/January 2015

In this month's issue:

- Ashley Interviews Eric Skyler
- Judo News from Around the Country
- Upcoming Events



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President's Message



UNITED STATES JUDO ASSOCIATION

909-985-0486 (Office/Fax) • 909-702-3250 (Cell) • gary@usja-judo.org



Gary Goltz, President

January 1, 2015

We just completed a very successful year which culminated with the best attended Winter Nationals since its inception 9 years ago. Over 700 competitors made their way to greater Los Angeles for this event. This included my good friend Tom Gustin, a big USJA leader from Wisconsin who wrote an article about his trip for this issue of Growing Judo.

As we begin a new year, it's a good time to reflect on what we do and why. Judo is an Olympic Sport that requires discipline, tenacity, and the ability to get back on your feet even after losing an important match in front of your peers, parents, and instructors. The ultimate goal of judo is to continuously improve your character in order to be a better contributor to your team and to society in general.

At the root of judo are these two principles as stated by our founder, Dr. Jigoro Kano who was revered as a foremost educator in Japan:

- Seiryoku Zenyo - to make the best use of your power
- Jita Kyoei - to go forward together with your opponent

These basic values found in judo will accompany practitioners beyond the dojo to wherever they go in life. To this end, your USJA is dedicated to providing the necessary support in terms of accreditations, sanctions, insurance, and central-

ized communications to help facilitate the practice of judo in our country.

Our theme for the new year is to reinvent ourselves for the 21st Century. While we are still financially in the black and our membership has been steady, we need to focus on how to get more new feet on the mat. Our technology still appears to be at the head of the pack, however it is still in need of updates. Our election process also needs reinvigorated so that viable candidates are readily available. For this reason we will be launching a Nominating Committee in our ongoing hunt for quality volunteers.

The positive cooperative relationship between the USJA and USJF through our Grassroots Judo™ partnership is continuing to move forward. We have also been working closely with USA Judo on a mutual strategy to stimulate the growth of judo in our country. I'm very encouraged by the willingness of the top leadership of the other judo organizations to focus on the overall objective again which is, how to get more new feet on the mat!

We are pleased to announce the release of our new USJA Judo Technical Manual and Study Guide with Senior Rank Promotion System which you can read about in this issue of Growing Judo.



President's Message



UNITED STATES JUDO ASSOCIATION

909-985-0486 (Office/Fax) • 909-702-3250 (Cell) • gary@usja-judo.org

Thank you for the continued hard work that so many of you put forth each and every day to improve American Judo. On behalf of the USJA Board of Directors, it is our pledge to uphold the values and integrity of the USJA by making sure every dollar of our membership's money is allocated in the best possible manner to achieve our worthy goal.

Remember to mark your calendars that our next USJA/USJF Junior Nationals is this coming July in Indianapolis and our 10th Anniversary Winter Nationals in December in greater Los Angeles.

Please give us your feedback and let us know your ideas. In closing, I want to wish all of you the very best and hope to see many of you in the new year.

Yours in Judo,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary".

A large, semi-transparent watermark of the Growing Judo USJA logo is centered on the page. It features two children in judo uniforms and the text "GROWING JUDO" and "USJA".

USJA



Life Membership Offer

★ ★ ★ LIMITED OFFER ★ ★ ★

We are pleased to announce that the USJA Board of Directors has decided to kick start the new year by offering our **Life Membership** which normally sells for \$400 for \$250. This will include our newly released USJA Judo Technical Manual and Study Guide with Senior Rank Promotion System which sells for **\$50**.

The offer will be valid till March 31st of this year.





Regional Coordinator's Message

USJA Family, we need your help! There are several regions across the United States that are in need of a representative of USJA for supporting Judo, clubs, and events. These regional coordinators are vital in spreading information on tournaments, clinics, scrimmages, trainings, and events. They are crucial in supporting the clubs in their region with questions, advice, and assistance. I remember starting a new club, the struggles that I experienced would have been much easier if there were a representative in my area that could have been available. The Regional Coordinators can build Judo stronger all across America if we get all of the help we can. The stronger USJA and Judo become, the more abundant resources, clinics, tournaments, teaching materials, and support will be available. USJA is a huge family of clubs, the more we step out and support the whole family of Judoka, the stronger we all become. If anyone is interested in volunteering some time and becoming a USJA Regional Coordinator please feel free to call me or email me.

(417)438-6460
just-rescue@cableone.net

Justin L. Weston
USJA Regional Coordinator Chair
Christ's Community Judo
Joplin Mo

A large, faded watermark of the USJA logo is centered on the page. It features the same shield emblem with the two children and the text "GROWING JUDO" at the top and "USJA" in a large, bold font at the bottom.

USJA



Regional Coordinator's Committee

The Regional Coordinators Committee is an essential group within the USJA and they are in many cases the main point of contact for a lot of our club leaders and members. They also help facilitate articles for Growing Judo, tell people about announcements, policy changes, as well as get the word out on clinics, tournaments and other local events. As a result of the important role this committee plays in the scheme of things, John Paccione who is a current USJA Board Member and Treasurer has suggested to me to find someone who can devote the time necessary to cultivating this group to its fullest potential. To this end I've decided to ask Justin Weston to move over as Chair of our Development Committee and take over this role from John. Please congratulate Justin on assuming this major position within our organization. Over the next few weeks he will be reaching out to our existing Regional Coordinators as well seeking to fill the numerous vacancies throughout the country. As for the Development Committee the Vice Chair Dave Goodwin has agreed to take on the role of Chair of this Committee. He is among the most outstanding fund raisers I've seen in all my travels to USJA Clubs. I'm sure he will continue to do a great job. Brian Money (no pun intended) has agreed to step up to the role of Vice Chair.

Please join me in wishing these individuals the best of success in their endeavors, thanks.

Gary Goltz,
USJA President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary".

A large, semi-transparent watermark of the USJA logo is centered on the page. It features the same shield emblem with two children and the text "USJA" in a large, bold, white font on a dark blue background at the bottom.



Professional Judo Committee Formed

The USJA recognizes that there are many different reasons that people run Judo programs. Just like there is a need and place for those who want to run community based programs there is also a need for full-time, professional judo instructors who run commercial, for-profit judo programs. With this in mind the USJA is pleased to announce the formation of the Professional Judo Committee.

The mission of the Professional Judo Committee is to gather, create, and distribute information and resources that are beneficial to those individuals wanting to open new schools or transition existing programs into full-time, paying, commercial martial arts schools. Members of the Professional Judo Committee are individuals with a proven track record of managing professional, for-profit schools. These individuals share resources and ideas that have proven successful in their own schools and are available for seminars and small group training sessions with you and your assistant instructors for a nominal fee.

Call for Committee Members:

We are actively seeking qualified volunteers to serve on this committee.

The criteria is as follows:

Should be Active USJA Club Leaders (Black Belt Level) who currently run a successful for-profit judo program.

Must be willing to share their thoughts, ideas and strategies with other coaches in the interest of helping to grow Judo in the US.

Must be willing to provide seminars/small group training to interested coaches in their region.

If you think you have what it takes and are willing to play an active role in the formation of this new Committee please respond to this message with some basic info on yourself and your school/program, thanks.

Please e-mail replies to:

James Wall

wallmartialarts@att.net

225-612-0934

Gary Goltz,
USJA President

USJA



Our NEW USJA Clubs!



Murrieta Valley Judo

(Class C)

Head Instructor: Glenn Wakelin
Email: wakelin222@hotmail.com

Location: Murrieta, CA
Phone: 951-675-3278

Newly Certified USJA Coaches

Congratulations to our Newly Certified USJA Coaches

- ★ Emilio Claudio, Long Island Judo Martial Arts, Port Jefferson Station, NY
- ★ John Guerriero, Long Island Judo Martial Arts, Port Jefferson Station, NY
- ★ Konstantin Kulagin, School of Hard Knocks Judo Club, Spring, TX
- ★ Paul Morrison, Karl Geis Ryu Judo and Aikido, Houston, TX

USJA



New USJA Life Members

Special thanks to these new Life Members for their commitment to the USJA

- ★ **Greg Dean**, Emerald City Judo, Redmond, WA
- ★ **Sophia Seva'aetasi**, Monterey Judo Club, Monterey, CA
- ★ **Kiva Gabrielle Huxen**, Philadelphia Judo Club, Philadelphia, PA
- ★ **Thomas Martin Garcia**, School of Hard Knocks Judo Club, Spring, TX
- ★ **Jason Eckhardt**, School of Hard Knocks Judo Club, Spring, TX

USJA Donors



We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the following individuals for their generous support of the United States Judo Association

- ★ **Andrew Connelly**, School of Hard Knocks Judo Club, Spring, TX
- ★ **Allen E. Johnson**, Emerald City Judo, Redmond, WA
- ★ **Stanley S. Seidner**, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu/Judo, Austin, TX
- ★ **Miguel Lopez**, Kioshikan Dojo INC, Cary, IL
- ★ **James D. Williamson**, Kazoku Judo Family Gentle Way, Norwich, CT
- ★ **Richard A. Place**, Northern Lights Judo and Jujitsu, Negaunee, MI
- ★ **Randall Silsby**, Judo-No-Kata at Univ. Buffalo, Amherst, NY



My Trip to the 2014 Judo Winter Nationals™



The USJA-USJF Grassroots Judo™ Winter Nationals™ was held in the great Los Angeles area at Azusa Pacific University. Sensei Os Millan, an IJF "B" referee from Madison, Wisconsin invited me to tag along with him. Once I agreed, I receive a welcome note from USJA President Gary Goltz. Gary also invited both of us to be guest coaches at his dojo Monday evening following the tournament that weekend.

We arrived at the Ontario Airport and were picked up by my niece. She drove us to the Red Roof Inn. This facility was one of the listed hotels Judokas could reserve. As we found out later, a number of referees were lodged there. After we got our room and unpacked, we called Gary and volunteered our services.

Saturday morning we got a ride from a referee leaving the hotel to attend the 7:30 a.m. referee meeting. During the meeting, it was announced anyone that does not have a CARE system radio would have buy one. It was explained that the CARE systems would be enforced 100%.

There was one caution of concern: The referee teams had to stay vigilant when working their mat. The reason? The judges with radios would be watching the referee calls and could together overrule ref's call just as if it were coming from the traditional two corner judges.

At one point, a referee working a match had problems with his radio. There was some kind of interference. I discussed this issue with an IT guy. He indicated that sometimes frequencies that are close in number and vicinity can create communication disruptions but it's rare this happens.

Vice Chair of the Referee Commission, Sensei Frank Morales, reviewed rule changes and penalties. He emphasized the word "immediately." Referees did not hesitate handing out shidos. There were over 40 referees at the meeting, and each mat had 6-9 referees working in rotation. This included Gary Takemoto who is slated to represent the US at the 2016 Olympics in Brazil.



My Trip to the 2014 Judo Winter Nationals™

During a match, I noticed each referee was professional in attitude and held a "stone cold" facial expression. There was no smile or roll of the eye. There was only professionalism.

Making sure competitors are taken care of, there were two EMT's Aegis Ambulance and four doctors from Chino Medial Center on hand. Most common injuries were bloody noses and cuts. With over 700 competitors fighting for top billing, only the best were mat side to mend the wounds.

The CARE system did prove valuable. At one point, there was a review by the referee, two judges, and the head referee at the mat. The correct player left the mat as the correct winner.

Some coaches were upset with a referee call. It turned out that some of the coaches had not reviewed the new rule changes that went into effect. This becomes embarrassing for coaches as well as competitors. Just to make coaches and competitors happy, even seasoned referees make errors. One referee was still using an old rule until his team of judges caught it and corrected him. It is important that everyone keep current with changes.

The entrance to the shiai area contained a number of vendors peddling their merchandise. Around the corner was Sensei Hal Sharp, and the actor Bo Svenson among the judo icons at the tournament. Sensei Sharp was selling his new junior book. His cubical was also the staging area for taking pictures of the winners.

Overall, the event ran like clockwork. The Goltz Judo team oiled all the gear and any errors or breakdowns went unnoticed. I was impressed with every element of this event, and will look forward to assisting again in some capacity. With the new CARE system, maybe I can become the computer guy that can run the computer that will help determine who the real winner is. Of course when a big ippon is scored, everyone always knows who that is!



The National Coaching Clinic with nearly 40 participants



My Trip to the 2014 Judo Winter Nationals™



USJA President, Gary Goltz at opening ceremonies



Dr. Ronald Allan Charles presenting his National Awards Committee report during the open USJA Board of Directors meeting. Dr. Charles' received a certificate for building the USJA's first Gold Star Club with over 300 Active Members!



My Trip to the 2014 Judo Winter Nationals™



Over 700 competitors from the US, Mexico, and several other countries line up





My Trip to the 2014 Judo Winter Nationals™



Action photos by Gary Wagstaff



My Trip to the 2014 Judo Winter Nationals™



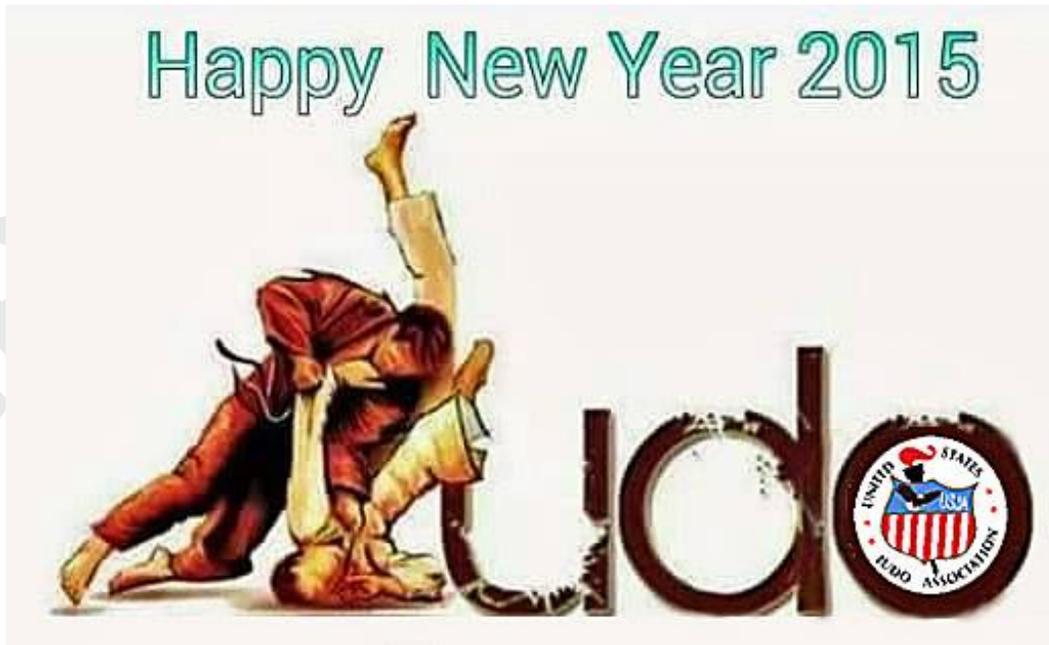
OJ Soler, Os Milan, Tom Gustin, and Gary Goltz



Workout at Goltz Judo following a successful tournament



My Trip to the 2014 Judo Winter Nationals™



Picture of Dr. Ronald Allan Charles receiving Gold Star Club Charter from President Goltz



My Trip to the 2014 Judo Winter Nationals™





Judo News from Around the Country

Clinic in Madison





Judo News from Around the Country

Clinic in Madison





Judo News from Around the Country

Clinic in Madison



USJA



Judo News from Around the Country

Ogden Referee Clinic 11-14





Judo News from Around the Country

JMJC Open



Glenville, NY - Over 50 athletes from all over the Northeast attended the 16th JMJC Open developmental event hosted by the Jason Morris Judo Center over the weekend. The event is geared toward developing athletes by getting them more matches in a relaxed fun environment to feel comfortable competing. This addition featured some of JMJC's top local athletes including, Brad Bolen (NYAC), Chad Dukes, Joe Martinez, Burnt Hills High School Graduates, Zeal McGrew & Eric Skylar and Shenendehowa High Junior, Cam Shanahan who all won their respective divisions. The event included competition for kids as young as 4 years old to those in their 40's. The 16th edition of the JMJC Open was a family affair as, Randi & Dani Morris not only shined in the competition they received their first promotions as they earned their white/yellow belts. They are the twin daughters of USA Judo legends, Teri Takemori and 4x Olympian & NYAC Hall of Famer, Jason Morris.





Sensei Toshikazu Okada

Freebudo article by Toshikazu Okada on Master Tsunetane Oda

Edited by Alessio Oltremari, Hal Sharp, and translated by Gary Goltz using Google

Introduction

If one thing has characterized my life it has to be my love of Judo. I have lived many years outside of Japan because of my job, but even when it was difficult I always found a way to practice. Judo has given me the will to overcome hardships and to bring out the best in me. I have had many senseis and still to this day try to study how to make the most of every day at the Kodokan. But there was a sensei that had been particularly important to me and who has deeply influenced the way I feel about and practice Judo. That was Master Tsunetane Oda.

It has given me much happiness to discover that Master Oda is well remembered and that many people still question me on his life. My friends have asked me to write something, therefore, I am happy to relate some of my memories. It should be noted that while Tsunetane is his proper name, his preferred name in Japan is Joine but the Kanji is the same.

Early History

Master Oda was born in 1892 in the part near the center of the island of Honshu. The exact place of his birth was Yamanashi Ken, a relatively small prefecture. It is in one of the forests near Mt. Fuji. At the age of 17 in 1909, Master Oda began to practice Judo while attending the Advanced School in Numazu. The next year he entered the Kodokan, where his extraordinary abilities in Judo were revealed. In 1911 he had already obtained the rank of 1st Dan.

In those days the Kodokan practice of Katame Waza, the techniques of controlling a fight on the ground, was not emphasized. Many Katame Waza techniques were considered minor and of less importance. The love of scoring an Ippon (full point victory) by a Nage Waza, a throwing technique, has always been at the core of Judo. Generally it was impractical to practice Katame Waza because most Dojos were small and crowded. More often today Ne Waza is the common term used to describe grappling techniques or groundwork.

Master Oda clearly took a contrary approach. Although his Nage Waza was of the highest level, it was his concentration on Katame Waza that he became known for. As one of the more promising students of Jigoro Kano, Master Oda gradually changed Kano's view of the importance of Katame Waza. Master Oda felt that Katame Waza should be fifty-percent of judo since all fighting starts standing and ends on the ground.

Kano granted him permission to carry on his research on this subject which subsequently became the Katame Waza of Judo as we know it today. Kano who held Master Oda in high esteem sent him to teach at several schools and universities in Japan. What Master Oda taught his students has endured in terms of the effectiveness of his techniques.

One memorable incident happened around 1930. Master Oda was sent to teach at the Advanced School in Tokyo which is today Tokyo University. After his arrival at the school, his students soon excelled at Katame Waza. At a team competition against another university, his students who were not black belts defeated the other team who were all black belts. This showed the value of Katame Waza to the judo community. Oda's system was nicknamed "Joine-Ryu Ne Waza".



Sensei Toshikazu Okada

Ko Sen Judo's Formation

Master Oda then teamed up with Isogai Hajime, the famous 10th Dan who formed the foundation of the Ko Sen Judo. Unfortunately for reasons mentioned earlier Ko Sen Judo with its focus on Ne Waza was not politically well thought of by the Kodokan as well as the Japanese Ministry of Education.

Following its reorganization in 1943, the Japanese scholastic system definitively stopped the practice of Ko Sen Judo in the school system. This resulted in Ko Sen Judo moving out of the main stream of Judo in Japan.

Master Oda took 25 years to publish his first book, "Koshita Judo Wa Sushume" ("You Progress This Way in Judo") which is focused on Katame Waza. Ten years after it was published a draft of his more complete work, "Judo Taikan" consisting of over 1400 pages in two volumes, one on Nage Waza and one on the Katame Waza was completed. Many years later in 1948, on the occasion of his promotion to 9th Dan, Master Oda published his third edition of "Koshita Judo Wa Sushume".

My Experiences

I began to practice with Master Oda at Rikkyo University in Tokyo, during the early 1950's and still remain fascinated by his bravado. Master Oda was a relatively small man with a normal physique. He was a person of gentility, generosity and exceptional sensibility. I tried to understand his techniques by engaging myself to the maximum. Perhaps he understood my passion which is why Master Oda invited me to practice at his Dojo. At the end of each day at the university I would go to Master Oda's Dojo where many Judokas would join us. The mat was so crowded that we had to do randori in rotations. When the practice would end it was usually late at night and would be very cold outside and snowing. Sometimes we would stay at the Dojo to have supper then read Master Oda's book "Judo Taikan" and sleep on the tatamis.

Master Oda continued to teach to at the Kodokan and several universities in Tokyo. I remained under Master Oda's tutelage for many years practicing 3 times a day. Often I would accompany Master Oda to the Kodokan as well as the Dojo at Sugamo Prison. The prison was not far away from Kodokan in a secluded area. It housed many high officials of the Japanese armed forces held by the American's after World War II. The policemen inside had organized the Dojo of the prison so that Master Oda could teach them daily. Sensei Takamura 9th Dan and expert in Ashi Waza worked out there where he would display his strong skills in Randori. He was an intimate friend of Sensei Oda's along with Yoshimi Osawa and Nakano Shozo, also 9th Dans who were also regulars at the Sugamo Prison Dojo. When the Judo practice was finished, various groups would arrive in order to participate in the Aikido class, taught by its founder, Shihan, Morihei Ueshiba. He too was a good friend of Master Oda.

After our workouts at the prison, I would go to supper with Master Oda carrying his Judogi over my arm. It is a Japanese custom for students to carry the gi of their sensei as a sign of deep respect. Students are expected to be on time for practice, clean the Dojo, etc. One very cold night Master Oda had me sleep in a small room that was warmer. The next morning I discovered that he had slept in the cold dojo because I slept in his room.

Conclusion

Judo for me is a practical approach to life. A dedicated Judoka should strive to practice Randori and Kata their whole life. This is the true Way of Judo. As young people we can Randori strong and with lots of energy. When we get older we can continue to Randori but must do it



Sensei Toshikazu Okada

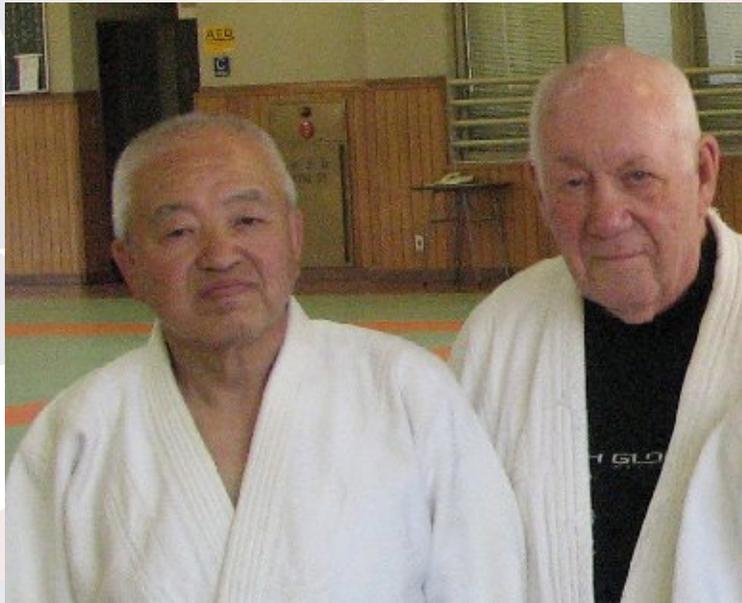
it more softly. When an older Judoka gets over powered by a younger person in Randori he can switch to using Katame Waza as developed by Master Oda and often prevail.

It is said, while young Judoka can easily move like rabbits, older Judoka move like turtles but can still survive using Katame Waza.

Master Oda died from a serious disease on February 11, 1955, however his legacy will live forever at the Kodokan and Judoka worldwide. I continued to practice Ko Sen Judo with Master Hirata, its last great exponent until his death in 1998.

About the Author

With sadness I must report that on December 20, 2014, Sensei Toshikazu Okada, 7th Dan, passed away at the age of 80 in Japan. He was the last descendent of Sensei Tsunetani Oda, 9th Dan, who was one of the early founders of Kosen judo. Oda was an absolute genius in newaza, having developed a comprehensive system of movements and techniques on the mat. Okada gave newaza clinics in Europe, Middle East and the USA. Below is a photo of Okada and myself in 2007.



Fortunately at that time I was able to make a video of all of his techniques (140) which was distributed as a DVD. In the near future I plan on making this DVD available through Amazon as an upload or DVD-on-demand through my teacher's foundation, www.judo4teachers.com. Attached is an article written by Sensei Okada on Sensei Oda. Please do not let the techniques of Okada and Oda fade away.

Respectfully,

Hal Sharp, 9th Dan



Friends and the Dojo



PHILIPPE MOROTTI (b.1960)

Born Stockholm, Sweden to a French Mother and Italian Father.

Began Judo in 1972.

Head Coach and Sensei at Hollywood Judo Dojo, Los Angeles since 2010.

Responsible for the advanced training and competitors at Hollywood.

Multiple Swedish National and Scandinavian Champion

USA Judo National Coach License

USJF Master Coach License

ISSA International Personal Trainer License

Many years ago, I was told that we make friends when we are very young. This has turned out to be only partially true. The friends that I made in my younger years were mostly from Judo. Only because I spent all off my time at the Dojo (much like now in my older years ;)...

As a child I was very timid, something hard to believe for those who know me today. As an immigrant child, and by nature being very different from other children, I also had a hard time fitting into society. Thanks to my Judo Dojo at the time, I began making friends.

Traveling to Stockholm earlier this year, I saw these friends again for the first time in 30 years. We sure looked older, there's little escape from that. But our voices sounded the same, and our memories instantly brought us back to our younger years. Our reunion was personal, which brings you a feeling of being alive. And a feeling of belonging somewhere in this world.

Friendship has no agenda. Friendship comes naturally. When people have something in common and laugh together, a bond is formed. It is a bond that stands the test of time. In my life the Judo Dojo has always created a platform for friendships.

I believe that the Dojo creates a deeper connection between individuals for many reasons. We train hard for many hours, we often drink and dine as a group, we compete and celebrate as well as suffer losses together. We learn from each other's differences, and equally important - we accept those differences. We stick together.

This is called a personal experience. Not something that you learn from books or computers.

I have also had the good fortune of making friend in my adult life outside of Judo. These great people have become my brothers and sisters and my extended family.

For today's teenagers, the give and take of friendship seems to be conducted in abbreviated snatches of cellphone texts and instant messages, or through Facebook.

While some of it has its place in the working world and is a helpful tool in communicating, it has unfortunately changed the way young people befriend each other.

Research shows that teen's age 12-17 send 50 or more text messages a day, and one third send more than 100 a day. American children age 8-18 spend on average more than 7 hours a day using some sort of electronic device.

At Hollywood Judo we are not only blessed for our inter action on the tatami. We are equally blessed for the friendships that we form and for the cultural and very personal exchange that takes place every time that we come together....

Best Wishes of Good Health and Great Friendships in 2015!



Professional Judo Committee Formed



James Wall with USJA President Gary Goltz

I began my Judo journey almost 20 years ago. It wasn't long before I discovered a love for teaching and when my instructor asked me to take over the Judo program at our school I jumped at the opportunity. I was a young Shodan at the time and had absolutely no idea of what I was doing when it came to actually running a program. Sure I could do Judo and I had a decent tournament record but how was I supposed to grow a program? How did I retain the people that did come in? Should I teach kids the same way I taught adults? Should I raise rates or lower them? So many questions that needed to be answered.

I spent several years trying to find people who could answer these questions for me. I attended camps and seminars. I visited Judo clubs in every city that I traveled to. I asked tons of questions. I met a lot of great people and saw a lot of great Judo techniques but the answers that I so desperately needed remained elusive. I was shocked to discover just how many other Judo coaches were struggling with the same questions that I was. No one that I was able to find was really running a large, successful program in a commercial location. There were a few large programs but they were pretty much all in large cities and ran either for free or at very low prices.

About 11 years ago I opened my own school and began to really look for ways to grow it. My dream was to someday be able to make it my full-time occupation. It took a lot of research and a lot of trial and error but about 2.5 years ago I finally recognized my goal of becoming a full-time martial arts instructor. I currently have just a tad over 130 students in my school. I also have two Affiliate programs each with about 12-15 students.

I realize that there are many different reasons that people run Judo programs. Without question there is a need for those individuals who wish to run free or very low-cost, community based programs. Likewise, in this modern world, there is also a need for full-time, professional Judo instructors who run commercial, for-profit Judo programs. Becoming a professional Judo instructor should be a viable and achievable career path for those Judoka who wish to pursue it. With this in mind I am pleased to announce the formation of the USJA Professional Judo Committee.

The mission of the Professional Judo Committee will be to gather, create, and distribute information and resources that are beneficial to those individuals wanting to open new schools or transition existing programs into full-time, paying, commercial martial arts schools. Members of the Professional Judo Committee will be individuals with a proven track record of managing professional, for-profit schools. These individuals will share resources and ideas that have proven successful in their own schools. They will also be available for seminars and small group training sessions for a nominal fee.

With the formation of this new Committee we are in need of qualified individuals to serve as members. At this time we are looking for 5-7 individuals who meet or exceed the following criteria:

1. Be an active USJA club leader holding the rank of Shodan or higher.
2. Currently running a successful, for-profit Judo program.
3. Willing to share their thoughts, ideas, and strategies with other coaches in the interest of helping grow Judo in the US.
4. Willing to provide seminars/small group training to coaches in their region.



Professional Judo Committee Formed

If you feel that you meet the criteria for this exciting new Committee and are willing to help in its creation please email James Wall with a brief Bio of yourself and some information about your school or program. Be sure to include info on your school's location and number of active students.

Send your information via email to:

James Wall

wallmartialarts@att.net

225-612-0934

Video Tour of Dojo

www.wallmartialarts.com





Christmas Judo Camp



Christ's Community Judo had our first ever Christmas Judo Camp on 12-29-14. There were about 50 attendees. The camp started at 9 a.m. and ended at 5 p.m. First we started with warm-ups and exercises then we bowed in. Throughout the day we had lots of healthy snacks. We also practiced hold downs, escapes and throws. Then we did educational games such as Monkey on the Back, Judo Zombie Game and the Belt Retrieval Game. When it came time for lunch we chose from a variety of health choices. At the end of the camp we had a throw competition. The winners were Rylan Childers, Allison Rickey and Jeff Prosser. We also had two campers of the day which were Taylor Moore and Alexys Jiminez. Also, we all got certificates of completion awards. Last, we bowed out. I cannot wait for next year's camp!

Carly Devins, 14yrs old
Christ's Community Judo
Joplin, Mo





University of Bridgeport B.A. in Martial Arts

How would you like to earn your degree in Martial Arts and spend your life doing what you love? It's possible at the only accredited college in the United States that grants a baccalaureate degree in Martial Arts.

The University of Bridgeport, in scenic Bridgeport Connecticut has an ongoing program in their College of Public and International Affairs that has graduated hundreds of employment ready students that can assume positions as diverse as Dojo instructor / owners to federal agents. Many students go on to obtain an advanced degree and are employed in sports foundations and government planning.

The Major requires 59 to 63 semester credit hours in the program core and 12 to 16 hours in a concentration such as Judo, Tae Kwon Do or Tai Chi, among others. A total of 120 credits is required for graduation and 21 may be in free electives with the balance being composed of liberal arts credits.

The Core Credits consist of course in Martial Arts history, psychology, communications, Buddhism and Taoism among others. Other possible core courses can be in management, health sciences and criminal affairs.

The University of Bridgeport is an international, doctoral-intensive comprehensive university that offers innovative degrees from undergraduate through doctoral. The school is located in Bridgeport Connecticut on 50 acres fronting the Long Island Sound and is easy driving distance of both New York and Boston.

Sources within the Dean's office informed me that there are approximately 50 to 60 students in the program at any given time. Advanced standing is offered to those attending the school with a background and experience in the martial arts with particular emphasis placed upon students entering who are ranked as a black belt in one or more of the disciplines.

Contact:

University of Bridgeport International College

126 Park Avenue, Carlson Hall

Bridgeport, CT 06604

203.576.4965

martialarts@bridgeport.edu

USJA



Ashley Interviews Eric Skyles



How many times per week do you do judo? For how many hours?
I do judo 6 days a week, about 2 hours per day, 4 hours during the summer and winters.

What did you have to give up to get where you are now?
I had to leave my friends and family back home to move 250 miles to train at the JMJC National Training Center.

What would you do differently if you could start over now?
I would've put forth more effort into practice when I moved to the JMJC.

What is your favorite gi brand?
I love wearing the Fuji gi's, anything else is weird to wear.

What are your goals as a judoka?
My goals currently are to make the Jr World team, and medal at Senior Nationals. In the long run I hope to make a World and Olympic team.

What is something funny that happened during one of your matches?
One of my funniest moments has to be fighting Bobby Lee, and during the first 15 seconds I go for an o uchi gari, miss, and hit him in his soft spot. Every time I see Bobby, he always tells me to watch my o uchis.

What is your proudest and most disappointing moment in judo?
One of my proudest moments has to be beating the #1 seed at the Dallas Invitational, shooting me into the semi finals.
One of my disappointing moments has to be losing to a purple belt in the 2014 President's Cup, a match I could've easily won.

How do you prepare for a tournament?
I usually prepare for a tournament 2 weeks early, I increase my water intake, and start running more. Practices become more focused on throws and how to get myself out of tough situations.

How has judo changed over the years?
Judo over the years have become more focused on attacking, mostly to steer clear of attacking penalties. Judo today is based around drop seoi nage, which is an attacked based more on avoiding the penalty than actually attacking.



Ashley Interviews Eric Skyler



What advice would you give to a person just starting out in the sport?

When a person first starts out they should try and soak as much information as they can. Fighting should be taught later when the student understands all he or she has been taught.

Tell me about your judo experience:

What is your most fond memory of judo?

My most fond memory is visiting the JMJC for the first time, thinking this would be my place to train for the olympics from there on out.

If you could have changed one thing about your past judo career what would you have changed?

One thing I would change is focus more on judo at an early age, instead of jumping from to sport in school which didn't help out in the end.

I am a 14 year old girl, who is a blue belt. What advice would you give me to improve my judo? (Don't just say "train hard")

My advice to improve your judo is to go all your judo practices, learn everything there while you can, and practice hard.

If someone wanted to get intouch with you (autographs, pictures, posters, etc.) how can they do that?

I'm available through facebook, email, or a visit up to the JMJC.



Ashley Hall's Bio



My name is Ashley Hall. I am a 14 year old blue belt, and have been doing Judo since I was 8. Before that I did kickboxing. I am in 9th grade. My goal is to be a national champion and teach Judo on the side.



USJA Promotions



Congratulations to the following individuals on their achievements:

JUDO

Shodan

- ★ Thomas Martin Garcia
- ★ James Hutton

Nidan

- ★ Christian A. Borne
- ★ Charles C. Hurd
- ★ Robert C. Young
- ★ Jason Eckhardt
- ★ Carina Marks
- ★ David Gowers
- ★ Jeremy R. Williams

Sandan

- ★ William R. Chapin
- ★ Ian M. Gerrard
- ★ Tiago Goncalves
- ★ Thomas W. Connor
- ★ Steven Duncan
- ★ Robert G. Sisson

Yodan

- ★ Ernie R. Henson

Rokudan

- ★ Allen E. Johnson

Schichidan

- ★ Russell D. Burke



USJA Promotions



Congratulations to the following individuals on their achievements:

Hachidan

JUDO

★ Tadashi Hiraoka

Shodan

JUJITSU

★ Edward G. Chears

★ Charles L. Wallace

USJA

Current USJA Membership Statistics:

Active Annuals: 6,649

Active LM's: 1,327

Total Active USJA Members: 7,976



From our friends at



Twenty-Six Year Old Who Was One Pound at Birth Discovers Blind Judo Foundation With Dreams Of Becoming A Judo Paralympian

A young boy born four months premature and weighing in at one pound becomes blind. With a strong, encouraging family background, Edgar excels at multiple talents with visions of becoming a Judo athlete after discovering the Blind Judo Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to enhancing and empowering the blind and visually impaired through the sport of Judo – a truly amazing story of triumph.

Edgar Cabachuela, now twenty-six years old, entered the world four months premature. Sufficient oxygen at this critical age and weight is imperative for survival, but it does have a draw back. Edgar was given too much oxygen and became blind.

Fortunately, Edgar has loving parents and a family who welcomed him to the world and were ready to support him along his journey. His parents wanted Edgar to grow up “normal” and therefore enrolled him in sighted schools that provided understanding, encouragement and support for a blind student among the sighted.

As reported by this author in a previous piece, the epidemic of bullying raised its head, permeating the school, playground and environs of this impressionable student. It was not easy for Edgar but, like so many other students exposed to bullying, he had friends who were going to be his defenders while building their own relationships with him.

At two years of age, Edgar started showing his musical talents by singing and mimicking singers such Whitney Houston and those he heard on the radio and television. His family was delighted to see such talent starting to show up at such an early age, but it wasn't just a passing interest.

Today, Edgar continues blossoming with all forms of music and musical instruments. He currently sings and plays in a Mexican-style band, playing base-guitar and the ukulele, entertaining others with his personality and musical talent.

After high school, Edgar attended the Southern California Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles. Here, Program Director and Head of the Braille Music Division Richard Taesch provided direction and encouragement for the further developing of his musical skills. Placido Domingo, famed as one of The Three Tenors, personally encouraged Edgar to dig deep down in his soul and bring out his musical talent.

Edgar wanted more and ultimately was accepted to the Colburn School of Performing Arts, the “Julliard School of the West” says Edgar. Colburn was created to provide gifted, college-aged instrumental musicians with training from a renowned faculty and access to professional-level performance opportunities. The Conservatory is a nationally accredited, degree-granting program and the nation's only music school to offer full scholarship support, including room, board and tuition to all students.





From our friends at



Working on his physical skills and after a short introduction to Tae Kwon Do, Edgar felt he wasn't gaining the skills and enhancements he expected. After contacting Blind Judo Foundation co-founder Ron C. Peck, Edgar was introduced to the President of the US Judo Association (USJA), Sensei Gary Goltz and Sensei Walter Dean. Sensei Goltz introduced Edgar to Industry Sheriffs Judo Club and its instructor, Sensei David Matute.

Edgar, with the help and support of other Judoka (Instructors and athletes), is starting his new journey of dedication and training on the road to reaching for the coveted Black Belt in the sport of Judo with hopes of becoming a US Paralympian. Be sure to check out Edgar's Facebook page and keep an eye out for this talented Judoka.

About us:

The Blind Judo Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization that introduces and trains blind and visually impaired children, young adults and returning blind and visually impaired military men and women in the sport of Judo. Supporting our blind athletes to train, travel and compete relies upon tax-exempt donations.

All members of the Blind Judo Foundation are volunteers. A select few of our elite athletes go on to represent the USA as members of the US Paralympic (not to be confused with Special Olympics) Judo Team. Check out the Foundation and our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/BlindJudoFoundation> or by contacting Ron C. Peck at roncpeck@blindjudofoundation.org and 1-425-444-8256





Upcoming Events

Renraku Waza & Proper Gripping Strategies Clinic

We had all positive feedback from the last Clinic. So we are going to continue with the Gripping Strategies for excellent Tachi Waza & Combination Techniques.

Event Type: Clinic
Start Time: 01/17/2015 9:30 AM
End Time: 01/17/2015 2:30 PM
Competition: Junior, Senior
Level D Local: Regional
Sanction(s): 15-004

Club Name: Judo Gym Madison/Campeon Elite
Contact: Osmil Millan
Location: Judo Gym madison
Address: 1115 South Park St.
City: Madison
State: WI
Zip: 53715
Phone: 608-577-8728

Tachiwaza And Newaza For Shiai

This event is for Senior and junior Judoka of all levels. It is the night prior to the 9th Annual Gulf Coast Judo Tournament.

Event Type: Clinic
Start Time: 01/23/2015 6:00 PM
End Time: 01/23/2015 7:30 PM
Competition:
Level D Local: Local
Sanction(s): 14-101

Club Name: GULF COAST JUDO
Contact: James Hunt
Location: Gulf Coast Judo
Address: 3420-D Bienville Blvd
City: Ocean Springs
State: MS
Zip: 39564
Phone: 228-806-8125

Ninth Annual Gulf Coast Judo Open Tournament

Open to members holding current USJI, USJF or USJA cards. There will be awards in the form of trophies for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place as well as Spirit Awards. Come and join us to improve your skills, have fun and learn.

Event Type: Tournament
Start Time: 01/24/2015 9:30 AM
End Time: 01/24/2015 7:00 PM
Competition: Junior, Senior, Master
Level D Local: Regional
Sanction(s): 14-102

Club Name: GULF COAST JUDO
Contact: James Hunt
Location: St. Alphonse's Catholic School
Address: 411 Washington Ave
City: Ocean Springs
State: MS
Zip: 39564
Phone: 228-806-8125



Upcoming Events

2015 Arizona State Open Judo Championship

All divisions are determined at time of weigh-ins and are subject to modification based on entries. Thanks to those of you that come out and volunteer your time to run Arizona Judo Tournaments!

Event Type: Clinic
Start Time: 02/06/2015 6:00 PM
End Time: 02/07/2015 6:00 PM
Competition: Junior, Senior, Master
Level D Local: Regional
Sanction(s): 14-078

Club Name: Tucson Dojos
Contact: Steven Owen
Location: Highland Lakes School
Address: 19000 N 63rd Avenue
City: Glendale
State: AZ
Zip: 85308
Phone: 602-430-5361

20th Annual Gentle Ways Judo Kangeiko

Guest Instructor: Sensei Guy Hagen. Enjoy a day of training and learning under Sensei Borgen's former student. Come help us celebrate 20 years of Gentle Ways Winter Training.

Event Type: Clinic
Start Time: 02/07/2015 8:00 AM
End Time: 02/07/2015 5:00 PM
Competition:
Level D Local: Regional
Sanction(s): 15-003

Club Name: Rough Rider Judo Club
Contact: Jeff Ficek
Location: Red River Dojo
Address: 1335 Main Avenue
City: Fargo
State: ND
Zip: 58104
Phone: 701-227-8710

Yuuki no Shiai - Contest of Courage

The Riverside Youth Judo Club has over 20 Judo Students with developmental disabilities. The club has seen incredible results with these students who study & practice Judo. We welcome all to this Scrimmage at our club. Volunteers will be on-site to work.

Event Type: Clinic/Competition
Start Time: 02/21/2015 10:00 AM
End Time: 02/21/2015 1:00 PM
Competition: Junior, Senior
Level D Local: Local
Sanction(s): 14-106

Club Name: Riverside Youth Judo Club P.A.L.
Contact: Brian Lee Money
Location: Riverside Youth Judo Club
Address: 10530 Magnolia Ave. #B
City: Riverside
State: CA
Zip: 92505
Phone: 951-353-7118



Upcoming Events

Stevens Point Junior Tournament

Registration & weigh-in 9:00 to 10:00 AM - Competition starts 11:00 AM - Awards: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Medals and ribbons for 4th and up.

Event Type: Clinic
Start Time: 03/07/2015 9:00 AM
End Time: 03/07/2015 5:00 PM
Competition: Junior
Level D Local: State
Sanction(s): 15-001

Club Name: Stevens Point Judo Club
Contact: Thomas Gustin
Location: UWSP Quant Gym Room 154
Address: 2100 Main Street
City: Stevens Point
State: WI
Zip: 54481
Phone: 715-343-0665

Grants Pass Judo Club/RCMA Annual Tournament

This Event marks the 22nd Annual Judo Tournament hosted by Grants Pass Judo Club and River City Martial Arts. Don't miss it! Come join us and have fun, compete and improve.

Event Type: Tournament
Start Time: 04/18/2015 8:00 AM
End Time: 04/18/2015 6:00 PM
Competition: Junior, Senior, Master
Level D Local: Regional
Sanction(s): 14-092

Club Name: River City Martial Arts/Grants Pass
Contact: Daniel Dawson
Location: North Valley High School
Address: 6741 Monument Dr
City: Grants Pass
State: OR
Zip: 97526
Phone: 541-761-8081
Website: <http://www.rcmadojo.com>

Greatest Camp on Earth

Looking for the competitive edge in 2015? Come join us and learn from some of the very best in the Country! Take your Martial Arts to the next level at Camp this summer.

Event Type: Clinic/Competition
Start Time: 07/02/2015 8:00 AM
End Time: 07/04/2015 6:00 PM
Competition:
Level D Local: National
Sanction(s): 14-093

Club Name: Carolinas American Judo Assoc
Contact: Patrick Szrejter
Location: TBD
Address: 2246 Stevens Mill Rd
City: Matthews
State: NC
Zip: 28104
Phone: 704-336-5778
Website: <http://www.greatestcamp.com>



Upcoming Events

Gateway Invitational Judo Tournament

This is the 5th Annual Tournament for the Gateway Invitational. Come join us, learn and improve your skills.

Event Type: Tournament
Start Time: 09/19/2015 8:00 AM
End Time: 09/19/2015 6:00 PM
Competition: Junior, Senior, Master, Kata
Level D Local: Regional
Sanction(s): 14-099

Club Name: White Dragon Judo
Contact: Derick Ulysses Wellman
Location: Overland Community Center
Address: 9225 Lackland Ave
City: Saint Louis
State: MO
Zip: 63114
Phone: 314-223-9398



USJA



More upcoming events

January

- 17th Saturday - Inter Club Fury Night, Ontario*

March

- 7th Saturday - CHP Club Scrimmage, Claremont

May

- 24th Sunday - Ryoku Tournament, Las Vegas

June

- 20th Saturday - Sensei Gary's Birthday Club Scrimmage, Claremont

October

- 10th Saturday - Dr. Z Inter Club Scrimmage, Claremont

December

- 4th Friday & 5th Saturday - USJA/USJF Coach Clinic & Winter Nationals™, Azusa

USJA



New USJA Judo Technical Manual and Study Guide with Senior Rank Promotion System

It's here!

The new **USJA Judo Technical Manual and Study Guide with Senior Rank Promotion System**

It's been three years in the making and the new USJA Judo Technical Manual and Study Guide with Senior Rank Promotion System, is now complete. The new Guide has gone through multiple versions, re-writes and editing and has been unanimously approved by your Board of Directors and the USJA Promotion Board.

The new Guide has a completely updated promotion system that will look familiar but has fundamental changes that every senior member needs to know about and every member needs for their upcoming senior promotions. There are changes in testing standards and test content as well as time in grade requirements with reduced TIG for those who are extremely active with our organization.

The new Guide is a departure from the manual that we have used for nearly four decades. It has a new cover, the paper is a thick coated stock enclosed in a soft permanent binding that is 3-hole punched for use in standard 3-ring binder. This is so when updated pages are created, they can be downloaded from our website and simply inserted into your new Guide.

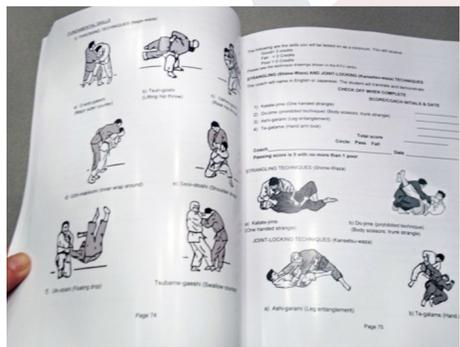
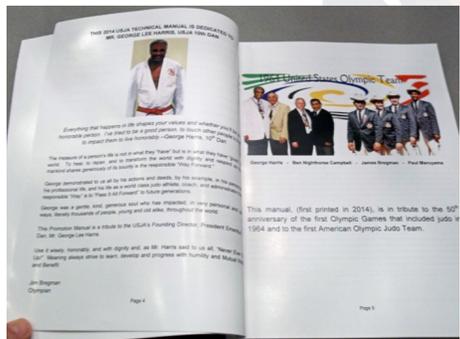
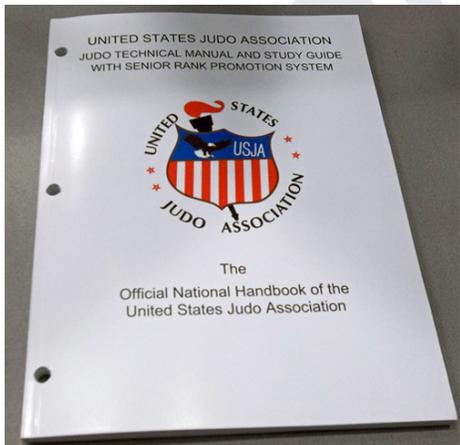
We anticipate adding a new Junior Guide & Manual in the near future and so both of the books can be neatly stored together in a single 3-ring binder.

Each book is serial numbered beginning with 000001 and will continue through the numbers as they are printed. Only a limited number of books have been ordered for immediate release (1 through 125) and so the lower numbered books will be considered first editions and will gain in value through the years.

The revised promotion system will become permanent on March 15, 2015 and until that time; the current system will still be accepted. After March 15, 2015, the old system will no longer be accepted for senior promotions and will be returned to the member for re-processing. A new Request for Promotion (RFP) form will be posted to the download page of the USJA website in the next two weeks, the new RFP will strictly conform to revised and updated system.

Certified Rank Examiners (CRE) of all levels will be expected to obtain a copy of the new Guide and familiarize themselves with every aspect. Each Certified Rank Examiner will then asked to update their certification with the purchase the manual. The re-certification process will be addressed in detail with a subsequent notice from the Promotion Board.

We have arranged for book numbers 126 and over to be digitally printed on demand and sent to the member that requests it directly by the printer and for that reason; the USJA will not incur inventory charges. All orders for the books over 125 will take an extra few days to ship from the printer and so you should anticipate a longer period to receive the books ordered on the print on demand schedule.





New USJA Judo Technical Manual and Study Guide with Senior Rank Promotion System

Order your copy from our on line store or by calling the USJA office today. The regular price is \$50 which includes shipping, thanks.

USJA Board of Directors:

Gary Goltz, President
Marc Cohen, Vice President
John Paccione, Treasurer
Dave Goodwin, Secretary
Sparky Bollinger, Director
Michelle Holtze, Director
Brian Money, Director

USJA Promotion Board:

Ernie Smith, Chairman
Walter Dean, Vice Chair
Gary Monto, Secretary
Dr. Ronald Allan Charles
Jesse Goldstein
Sanders Ishisaka
Hayward Nishioka
Lynn Roethke





USJA New Certified Rank Examiner (CRE) Program

Walter Dean, 9th Dan, Vice Chairman, Promotion Board Upgrade to Advanced Revised January 11, 2015

All current CREs must upgrade before March 30, 2015.

The USJA Judo and Technical Manual and Study Guide with Senior Rank Promotion System (the new Guide) contains many changes regarding promotions and advances to the CRE program. It is important that all current and future CREs understand and follow the Guide. Current CREs are extremely important to the new promotion system and are considered experts with that system. They are the ones to whom candidates often look for advice and assistance.

All CREs wishing to examine and sign off others under the new system need to become familiar with new requirements in the Guide. This is considered an upgrade to advanced, not simply an update, because of the changes and need to closely adhere to new procedures. Some changes to becoming a CRE are outlined below. One example: One no longer can receive the highest rating -- Master Certified Rank Examiner (MCRE) just because one has a certain rank. New MCREs will now require rank of 7th dan. Also there are progressive steps to raise one's CRE level; it is not automatic. Current CREs can upgrade at their level or equivalent level.

If you are already a CRE at any level, you are grandfathered in at that or the equivalent level, providing you complete the new application and follow the upgrade procedure.

Each person wishing to upgrade either completes an actual promotion for someone to the rank of 1st dan or higher using the Guide and new system, OR if you are unable to perform an actual test using the Guide by March 30, 2015, you may complete a sample RFP as though you actually tested someone.

So to upgrade, using the Guide, you test the candidate; ensure that the Recommendation for Promotion is complete; review the documentation; make sure that the candidate meets all Guide conditions; and verify that those signing off hold proper credentials. Only then may a CRE sign off someone's RFP. This will be enforced for all promotions.

You must mail the completed CRE application, the individual's completed test, your passport photo, and the renewal fee to upgrade to advanced CRE. You will receive a new certificate and date, unless you hold a MCRE rating, which does not expire.

What is the need for updating/upgrading? Since the promotion system has changed considerably, all CREs need to be familiar with the new system and ensure that candidates meet requirements outlined in the Guide. CREs are vital to the implementation of the new promotion system described in the Guide.

Upgraded CREs will be listed on the website along with judo rank, CRE level, and contact information for those needing assistance. This list will also be published periodically in Growing Judo.

All CREs must have a copy of the USJA Judo and Technical Manual and Study Guide with Senior Rank Promotion System.

What are consequences for not upgrading? After March 30, 2015, you will not be able to sign off recommendations for promotion since the old promotion system will be obsolete. Further, those not upgrading will not receive CRE promotion points.

To Upgrade to Advanced CRE

Follow the procedure in the USJA Technical Manual and Study Guide with Senior Rank Promotion System (Guide) and see above.



USJA New Certified Rank Examiner (CRE) Program

There's a discount if you order the USJA Technical Manual and Study Guide with Senior Rank Promotion System (Guide) and pay for your upgrade at the same time. If you place your order by February 15, you receive the upgrade with your new certificate plus the Manual for \$60, plus shipping and handling.

If you order after February 16 but before March 30, 2015, the cost to upgrade will be \$70, plus shipping and handling.

Those who do not upgrade by March 30, 2015, will no longer be grandfathered in, will enter as someone just starting the program, and will be required follow the procedure in place at full price. Further, they lose the ability to earn promotion points until they reapply.

Forms will be ready within a few weeks, but you should order the Guide as soon as possible
New CRE Procedure becomes effective January 11, 2015.

Once someone reaches the rank of yodan or higher, they become eligible for a CRE rating after they can demonstrate understanding and ability to follow all of the requirements of the promotion procedure. This program allows those individuals meeting requirements to examine others for rank promotions with less restriction. Normally you must have a rank two levels above the candidate's; CREs do not have this restriction.

There are three levels: Certified Rank Examiner (CRE), having rank of 4th dan or higher, who can examine those one rank below theirs. National Certified Rank Examiner (NCRE), 5th dan or higher who has been a CRE for two years or more, authorized to examine and sign off up to their own rank; and Master Certified Rank Examiner (MCRE), 7th dan or higher who has been a NCRE for three years or more, who can examine and sign off up to one rank above their own rank. Regardless of your rank, you cannot skip levels and must spend the required time at each level to advance. The CRE subcommittee and chair of the Promotion Board may approve special consideration to those with significant experience.

CREs are permitted to examine and sign off promotions equivalent to their rank status. For example a MCRE with a rank of 7th dan could sign off as one of the recommenders up to and including the rank of 8th dan (one rank above their own), and a 5th dan NCRE could sign off up to 5th dan (equal to their rank).

Any CRE who does not examine, review or sign off for promotion at least one person per year at any level or host or teach a clinic is subject to either losing their certification, being downgraded to the next level, or being put on probation until they meet this requirement. A CRE on probation for one year or more must reapply and meet all requirements.

At certain times, such as but not limited to changes in the promotion system, a CRE of any level must document for the Promotion Board their ability to conduct promotion tests and/or review and evaluate using the newest promotion form and system. When requested, at renewal or advancement, a CRE will either forward two most recent promotions they have examined or produce two sample promotions using the latest form and documentation. Another option is to attend a CRE clinic.

To remain valid, all CREs must maintain their background screening and USJA active membership. All CREs (except MCREs) must renew every four years

NOTE: It is strictly prohibited for a CRE or anyone, including a coach/sensei, to sign off anyone they do not examine, witness testing, or for whom they do not verify promotion documentation. This is an ethical violation. Do not ask anyone to bend rules, because such a judoka being signed off is equally in violation.



USJA New Certified Rank Examiner (CRE) Program

What are new requirements going forward to become a CRE?

- 1 You complete either a promotion test or sample RFP to show you are familiar with all requirements in the new Guide. You also agree to follow all requirements in the Guide.
- 2 You must have the latest Guide and use this performing the duties of a CRE.
- 3 If your USJA annual or Life Membership with Sustaining LM expires by more than 90 days or your Background Screening by more than 30 days, you are considered inactive, dropped from the program, must re-apply under current conditions.
- 4 During a period of inactivity you cannot sign off or receive promotion points as a CRE.
- 5 New applicants or those renewing after Mar. 30, 2015, must start at the lowest level and progress based on time in that level. You are no longer automatically granted a level based on rank. Although exceptions are possible, they are not automatic and require justification in writing and approval by the CRE subcommittee and the Promotion Board chair.
- 6 You must examine, review or sign off for promotion at least one judoka per year at any level or host or teach a clinic. Otherwise you could lose CRE certification and be placed of probation or downgraded.
- 7 There are three levels of certification: Certified Rank Examiner (CRE); National Certified Rank Examiner (NCRE); and Master Certified Rank Examiner (MCRE) [which now requires a minimum rank of 7th dan].
- 8 You must hold a USJA annual or Life Membership with active Sustaining LM and valid Background Screening.
- 9 All CREs must re-new every four years, with the exception of MCREs.

USJA



USJA Scholastic Judo Committee Formed

The relationship of judo and its place in a school based setting can be traced back to the founder, Jigoro Kano. Since that time, there have been school based judo classes in America and around the world. The USJA is going to revisit the role of judo in America's elementary, middle and high schools. With this in mind, the USJA is pleased to announce the formation of the USJA Scholastic Judo Committee.

The purpose of this committee is two-fold. First, to examine the role of judo in the lives of school aged children and teens. Areas to be examined include recruitment and retention, individual learning styles, instructional methods, the role of the family, and external variables that impact student interest. Secondly, the committee will examine the process of developing partnerships with elementary, middle and high schools with suggestions for implementing judo in local schools in the spirit of "mutual welfare and benefit". This will include a review of curricula, certification, funding, liability, mats, intramural leagues and in-service training.

Deliverables include a position paper with policy recommendations for review by the USJA Board of Directors. The work of the committee during the first year will be primarily by telephone and email.

Experience has shown us that kids that are in judo are better students, have better attendance, fewer encounters with law enforcement, less of a likelihood to be involved with substance abuse or bullying. This is not an accident. The values and behaviors we help kids with are referred to as "protective factors that promote resilience", by researchers.

Call for Committee Members:

Raymond Conte of the St. Mary's institute Judo Club in New York has agreed to serve as Chair. He brings many years of Administrative experience in children's judo and continues to teach children, including his own grandchildren, in a school based setting.

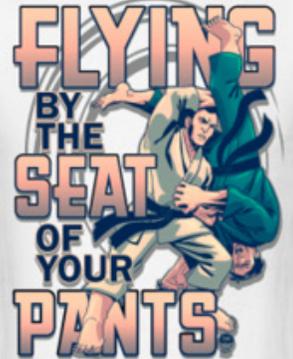
We are actively seeking qualified black belt volunteers with current or prior experience teaching judo to children grades K-12 in a public, private or parochial school. We are also seeking black belts that are currently employed as school teachers in schools where judo is not currently available.

If you have experience in either or both of these areas, and would like to help kids, please contact Raymond Conte, Committee Chair at smijudo@gmail.com, thanks.

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