



Coaching Education Overview and Guidelines

We'd like to let everyone know about some recent changes with the committee. Mike Szrejter is the new committee chairman and Ed Thibedeau is the new vice chairman. Jason Morris was recently appointed as International and National Advisor to the committee.

In order to simplify the overall program the different levels of certification have been revised. The basis for these changes and requirements detailed below are to ensure a quality national program for our members. In order to ensure quality we must have some form of Quality Assurance in place to monitor our training programs.

Certifications are required for many different jobs and activities today. Doctors, lawyers, dentists, first responders, realtors, and many other jobs or activities require training and certification. Many of us have to complete a certain amount of training for our regular jobs each year just to keep up with the advancing technology we work with. This is true of judo and coaching too. Just as judo techniques have evolved since 1882 so too have our teaching methods. Would you have a surgeon operate on you without him knowing the latest best practices?

We have accepted for many years that referees and judges need to keep learning and keep up to date with rule changes/interpretations, etc. That is the same direction and philosophy the Coaching Education and Certification Committee took a few years back - "Continuing Education".

There may be many different reasons to require and seek certifications. Two of the most common reasons are to ensure people meet a defined minimum standard and to ensure a uniform system of performing an activity. Our goal right now is to offer a standardized training format across the country, conducted by approved clinicians. This will ensure we are all on the same page; similar to our standardized promotion criteria.

USJA offers a path for continuing education in the field of coaching for those who wish to pursue that avenue of judo. There are no mandatory requirements that force people to get certified. It's not just about getting certified, it's more about learning new methods of instruction, as well as, reinforcing and validating your current methods. Certification should be looked at as a testament to your effort at improving your coaching skills.

In addition to the formal courses offered by USJA, the USOC requires all coaches to complete the SafeSport online program. You can access this program at www.SafeSport.org

Coach Certification Requirements are as follows.

Complete SafeSport course – certificate of completion must be submitted with Coach Certification Request form

Complete Background Screening check – Submit proof of background check with Coach Certification Request form

Be current member with active insurance

Note: In order to maintain coach certification annual or sustaining life membership must be in force, along with a current background screen. Coach certification will become invalid at the time any of these requirements are not met.

The three primary levels of training and certification represent a progression in studying and learning the art of coaching. They do not represent any specific criteria such as local, regional, national. The first level is an introduction to coaching and teaching methods, with emphasis on teaching in the dojo. The second level expands on the first with more emphasis on training for competition. Finally the third level is for those of you who wish to learn about teaching judoka who may have aspirations for higher levels of competition. A few of the topics covered are; nutrition, sport psychology, and training cycles.

We also have a level called Master Coach. This is an honorary award given to select coaches who have displayed exemplary skills as a coach in their efforts to advance the knowledge and abilities of judoka. Recognition as a Master Coach is at the discretion of the Coach Education and Certification committee.

Coach Certification Requirements			5-14-14
LEVEL	1	2	3
MINIMUM RANK	SANKYU	SHODAN	SHODAN
INITIAL CERTIFICATION	Attend Coach Education clinic conducted by approved Coach Ed. Course instructor.	Attend Coach Education clinic conducted by approved Coach Ed. Course instructor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate ability to instruct - Provide simple lesson plan - Discuss ethics and expected coach behavior - Demonstrate age & skill appropriate training techniques - Level 1 for at least 1 year 	Attend Coach Education clinic conducted by approved Coach Ed. Course instructor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate ability to instruct - Provide detailed lesson plan - Show ability to analyze judo performance - Level 2 for at least 2 years
CERTIFICATION RENEWAL	- Instruct minimum of 50 hrs. per year.	- Instruct minimum of 100 hrs. per year	- Instruct minimum of 100 hrs. per year
OR			
RECERTIFICATION (Lapse in previous certification)	Take Level 1 course again	Take Level 2 course again	Take Level 3 course again

Cross Reference of Old USJA Level Names to New Level Numbers (New/Current at top)		
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Assistant Coach	Coach	National Coach
Club / Dojo Coach	Coach	National Coach
E	D	C
I	II	III

Coach Education and Certification Clinics

USJA does not randomly hold or schedule these clinics. Clinics are scheduled when requested by any of our members. A nominal clinic fee should be adequate to cover the clinician/course instructor's travel expenses. Course instructors volunteer their time to teach these clinics, often taking vacation time to do so. They are not compensated in any way by USJA.

Coach Education Course Instructors

One of our major goals is to have qualified, certified, and approved course instructors strategically located around the country so our members and course instructors don't have to endure extended travel and expense to attend a clinic. To that end we are looking for several people to become course instructors. Below are the basic requirements to be considered for a course instructor.

Provide resume of personal, professional experience and training that shows experience teaching and presenting seminars, lectures.

Attend Course Instructor workshop

Maintain current JA membership including insurance coverage and background check

Have completed levels 1, 2, & 3 of "Approved Course"

Certified by USJA as a Level 3 Coach

Notify Coach Ed. Committee when planning a clinic

Ensure every Coach Ed. clinic is a JA sanctioned event

Agree to present "Official Approved Course" as a minimum

Provide list of all clinic attendees and course critique to Coach Ed. Committee

Agree to present at least one (1) clinic annually

Note: Course instructors are expected to maintain their coach certification which requires annual or sustaining life membership to be in force, along with a current background screen. Approval to teach our courses and coach certification will become invalid at the time any of these requirements are not met.

If anyone is interested in becoming a course instructor you may contact Mike Szejter mikesz@bellsouth.net or Ed Thibedeau ET@ArkansasGoshinkan.org

Please feel free to contact Mike or Ed with any concerns or comments about the program or if you wish to host a Coach Education clinic.